

# Petition - Project Black Cockatoo

## Project Black Cockatoo Petition for Support

We, the undersigned, petition for immediate and ongoing support of **Project Black Cockatoo**, an initiative aimed at delivering urgent and essential veterinary services to flood-affected communities and primary producers in Queensland. In times of crisis, veterinary care is as crucial as human medical care, particularly in regions where communities rely on livestock and working animals for their livelihoods.

### Our Petition Highlights the Following:

1. **Immediate Need in Crisis Zones:**

The 2025 floods have rendered many traditional access routes impassable. Project Black Cockatoo uses aircraft to reach isolated communities with veterinary first aid kits, critical consumables, and in-person consultations.

2. **Cultural and Symbolic Relevance:**

The red-tailed black cockatoo is both a cultural symbol of resilience and a personal totem of the project's founder, Dr. Campbell Costello—a rural Queenslander, veterinarian, and pilot who has spent his life serving Australia's most remote postcodes.

3. **Expertise in Remote Service Delivery:**

Drawing on a background in veterinary science, bush medicine, and aviation, Dr. Costello leads a team that uniquely understands the needs and limitations of remote and rural veterinary care.

4. **Collaborative and Strategic Support:**

Project Black Cockatoo coordinates with local councils, the AVA hotline, and remote clinics to ensure cohesive delivery of services like disease surveillance and nutritional support.

5. **Long-Term Goals:**

- **Government-Backed Veterinary Access:** Rural communities cannot sustain regular veterinary services without structural support. Unlike the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which is fully subsidised through taxpayer and charitable funds to provide human medical care, **veterinary services receive zero public funding**—even in times of disaster.
- **Formalising Veterinary Disaster Relief:** Project Black Cockatoo advocates for a formalized and publicly funded rural veterinary disaster response framework. As disasters become more frequent and severe, so too must our preparedness in safeguarding animal welfare, biosecurity, and regional economic stability.

**Call to Action:**

We urge local, state, and federal governments, along with agricultural, animal welfare, and disaster response organisations, to support Project Black Cockatoo. This initiative represents a critical step forward in achieving parity between human and animal health services in rural Australia. A nation built on its animals and livestock must ensure they are not forgotten in times of disaster.

We, the undersigned, affirm our support for this vital project and call for immediate funding, resources, and recognition for veterinary disaster services.

**Signatures:**

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(Print Name, Title/Organization, Date)

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(Print Name, Title/Organization, Date)

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(Print Name, Title/Organization, Date)