

# Living landscapes

The ecology and biodiversity of our parks



**200 years ago**

## **Ancient landforms**

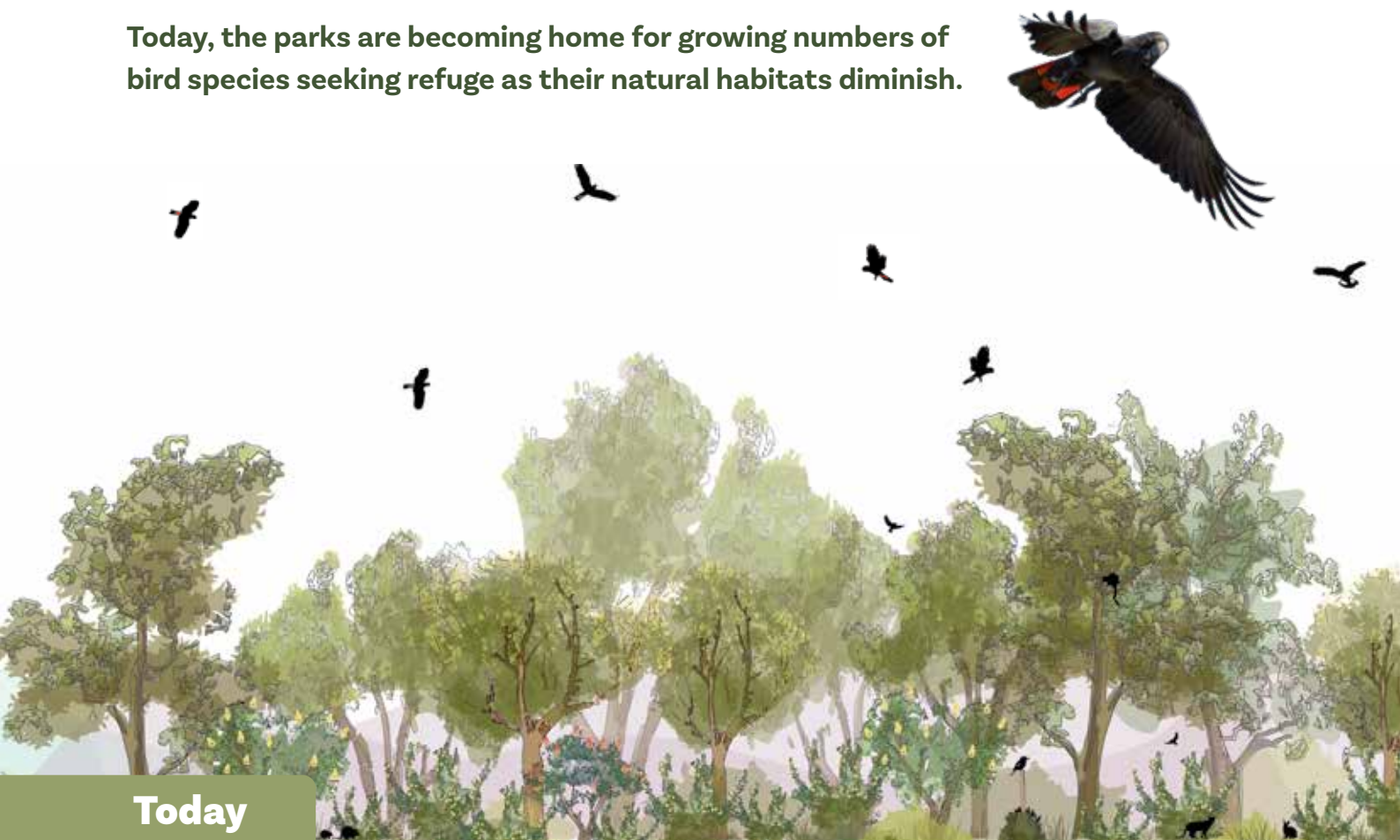
Kings Park and Bold Park lie on the Swan Coastal Plain, a sedimentary basin stretching between the Darling Scarp and the Indian Ocean. Formed gradually over millions of years, the plain's geology changes dramatically from east to west across a span of just 35 kilometres, contributing to Perth's exceptional biodiversity and ecological complexity.

Mount Eliza and Reabold Hill are among the highest points on the central Swan Coastal Plain, rising as outcrops of the ancient Tamala limestone that lies beneath the coastal dunes. This limestone is capped by nutrient-poor, free-draining, yellow sands that reach depths of up to 30 metres in parts of the parks. While these conditions have enabled the evolution of highly unique and resilient flora and fauna, they also make slopes prone to erosion and the bushland heavily dependent on winter rainfall to survive Perth's hot, dry summers.

**In the last 200 years, the parks' remnant bushlands have changed. Large trees, banksias, and native mammals have declined, while smaller, fast-growing plants are more common.**



Today, the parks are becoming home for growing numbers of bird species seeking refuge as their natural habitats diminish.



## Today

### Flora, fauna and fungi

The parks are essential habitat for over a thousand native species. Together, they provide protection for two Endangered and three Threatened Ecological Communities.

#### Kings Park / Kaarta Koomba

- » **6 native mammal species** – including brushtail possums, quendas and bats.
- » **92 bird species** – including the Endangered Carnaby's black cockatoo, vulnerable Red-tailed black cockatoo and the migratory rainbow bee-eater.
- » **27 reptile species** – including lizards like sand goannas and western bearded dragons, and snakes like dugites, and the black-naped snake.
- » **4 frogs** – the turtle frog, motorbike frog, banjo frog and moaning frog.
- » **Over 560 species of insects and invertebrates** – including two Priority 3 trapdoor spider species and the rare scarp snail.
- » **More than 437 different types of fungi** – and counting...
- » **Over 320 plant species**

### Bold Park

- » **4 native mammal species** – brushtail possums, quendas, Gould's wattled bats and White-striped free-tailed bat.
- » **85 bird species** – including the Endangered Carnaby's black cockatoo, vulnerable Red-tailed black cockatoo and migratory species like the fork-tailed swift and osprey.
- » **26 reptile species** – including the black striped snake (Priority 3).
- » **3 frogs** – the turtle frog, banjo frog and moaning frog.
- » **An unknown number of insect and invertebrate species** – home to 43 ant species and the Swan Coastal Plain shield-backed trapdoor spider (Priority 3).
- » **More than 427 different types of fungi** – and counting...
- » **Over 340 plant species**

This resource forms part of our 20-year Master Plan.

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