

## Information on the Hollowhog system of in-situ nest boxes (constructed hollows)

The Hollowhog is a unique boring tool that safely and efficiently excavates hollows in living and dead trees with no damage to the living parts of trees beyond the hollow entry point. The tool has been designed to rapidly and precisely remove wood. This tool and technique is unique in that it can create a void of various shapes and sizes up to 600mm by 600mm by 600 mm through a 50 mm diameter entry hole without requiring the removal of large sections of the tree's living tissue or the use of chainsaws as employed in other methods. The tool and accompanying range of entry shape adapters have been specifically designed to create hollows and hollow entrances that mimic natural cavities based on the latest ecological advice and understanding of fauna requirements.

Adapters are used to reduce the 50 mm diameter hollow entry point size to as small a hole as is required to mimic the needs of smaller fauna species. Conversely the tool can be easily used to form larger entry holes to whatever size is required.

The Hollowhog can form hollows in vertical and horizontal directions to suit target fauna and hollow shapes are adapted by the tool operator to suit the size and shape of the trunk or limb into which the hollow is being carved. Additional techniques have been developed to extend hollows to whatever depth is required within a trunk or limb and to tap into existing tree voids and pipes that may be present but without an entry point via which fauna can enter.

Key advantages of constructing hollows over nest boxes include the following:

- The hollows created are more natural, better insulated from temperature extremes, and can be incorporated into existing voids within the tree.
- The hollows will have a longer lifespan and will last as long as the host tree.



Hollow constructed using the Hollowhog system.



Example placement of a constructed hollow.