

Media Release

\$100,000 awarded to help save our Aussie species

24 July 2017: Saving the iconic koala and emu in New South Wales are the aims of two recently funded volunteer projects focusing on tackling the issue of endangered species.

Destruction and encroachment of native habitats by humans, feral animals, and introduced plant species has contributed to 161 species now classified as endangered. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of thousands of Australians, there is hope for saving our treasured animals from extinction.

In 2017, \$100,000 was awarded to 10 Landcare groups to undertake habitat restoration projects across Australia. The funding was made possible via Landcare Australia's Workplace Giving Program, which works in partnership with 23 businesses across the country, including Telstra, Qantas, and Konica Minolta.

The two grant recipients located in NSW were awarded \$10,000 each: Port Macquarie Landcare Group, and Bungawalbyn Landcare.

Port Macquarie Landcare will undertake a project to protect Australia's threatened koalas. The project will restore habitat across 5.4 hectares of riparian bushland, closing the gaps in critical green corridors and helping koalas to live and move safely in suburbia. It will link rehabilitated riparian bushland upstream through Macquarie Nature Reserve directly to Kooloonbung Nature Park and Lake Innes Reserve.

"Loss of habitat is a key threat to koalas in the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council area. Koalas are now more likely to become unhealthy or die from chlamydia, dog attacks or motor vehicles," said Julie Ho of Port Macquarie Landcare Group.

Bungawalbyn Landcare will undertake a project to enhance habitat and reduce threats to the endangered north coast emu population in the Bungawalbyn catchment of northern NSW. Weed control and assisted regeneration practices will restore emu habitat and improve strategic access trails for emus across the landscape. Coordinated feral animal control programs will reduce threats to young and nesting birds, whilst engaging landholders.

"As part of a collaborative effort with other land managers, we aim to increase habitat, reduce threats and inform future management of the species," said Sharyn Lafontaine of Bungawalbyn Landcare.

Landcare Australia's Workplace Giving Program is an easy way for employees to contribute to charity from pre-tax income. It also helps businesses enhance their reputation, actively engage their employees, and make a positive impact on the community. Visit

<https://landcareaustralia.org.au/workplace-giving/> for more information. For a full list of the grant recipients visit: <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/news/habitat-restoration-grants/>

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About Landcare Australia

Landcare Australia is a not-for-profit organisation with a vision of all Australians actively caring for the land and water that sustain us. For over 25 years, Landcare Australia has worked collaboratively with federal, state and local governments, corporate partners and sponsors, and individuals, to build capacity for the Landcare community to better manage Australia's crucial land and water assets.

Landcare Australia delivers hundreds of projects annually through the volunteer efforts of local community groups, Indigenous groups, and the more than 5,400 Landcare and Coastcare groups that make up the Landcare movement.

www.landcareaustralia.org.au