



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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SPOTLIGHT ON THREE THREATENED SPECIES IN THE SNOWY MONARO REGION

Environment Minister Robyn Parker visited the Snowy Monaro region last week to inspect and participate in conservation and recovery work for three threatened species of koalas, southern corroboree frogs, and mountain pygmy-possums.

Ms Parker released a young male koala that had been injured during January's bushfires in the Monaro. She also unveiled a new corroboree frog display at Jindabyne's visitor centre and participated in pygmy-possum surveys in Kosciuszko.

"These three iconic Australian animals are endangered and elusive, so to participate in these conservation efforts was a real privilege," Ms Parker said.

"Cooma-Monaro Shire Council is making good use of a \$100,000 Environmental Trust grant to draft a koala management plan with help from survey volunteers, landholders, and the Office of Environment and Heritage.

"It was great to witness a thriving population of koalas living in the mountains along the eastern edge of the Monaro plains.

"And it's excellent to see the community, members of the Rural Fire Service, and Office of Environment and Heritage staff working together to manage the habitat."

Ms Parker met with volunteer licensed wildlife carer James Fitzgerald, who nursed the injured koala back to health and oversaw its release.

At Jindabyne, Ms Parker met with staff to discuss their ongoing efforts to save the corroboree frog.

"We now have corroboree frog enclosures at the Jindabyne and Tumut visitor's centres which act as educational displays as well as breeding enclosures," Ms Parker said.

"OEH threatened species officer David Hunter, in collaboration with Taronga Zoo, the University of Melbourne and the Amphibian Research Centre has battled tirelessly to save the corroboree frog from extinction, which is a serious threat due to the worldwide Chytrid fungus epidemic."

Ms Parker also visited the summit of Mount Blue Cow, where she met with OEH staff to participate in pygmy-possum surveys and learn about innovative pest control measures.

“Threatened species officer Linda Broome has been studying mountain pygmy-possums for 30 years with the support of many volunteers,” Ms Parker said.

“These tiny marsupials are vulnerable to cats and foxes and a special trapper works with his dog to remove feral cats around the snow resorts and give pygmy-possums a better chance.

“There is great work happening across the region to help preserve these iconic native species of koalas, corroboree frogs, and mountain pygmy-possums.”

Media contact: John McCormack 0467 731 806

Photos for news media

Koala:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/nswnationalparks/sets/72157633330574143/>

Corroboree frogs:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/nswnationalparks/sets/72157633346169336/>

Pygmy-possums:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/nswnationalparks/sets/72157633346190702/>

Read more about threatened species

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/index.htm>