



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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GRANT AWARDED TO RESTORE HUNTER KOALA HABITAT

Environment Minister Robyn Parker and Port Stephens MP Craig Baumann today announced that WetlandCare Australia has been awarded close to \$100,000 by the NSW Government to restore and rehabilitate a crucial koala habitat in the Hunter.

Ms Parker said this project will rehabilitate 40 hectares of forest near the Hunter estuary, part of the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens.

“The Gardens are managed by volunteers to showcase flora, however biodiversity conservation is an important value for the site and this project will rehabilitate 40 hectares of swamp forest that provides food trees for koalas,” Ms Parker said.

“The project will also benefit a number of threatened species such as the Grey Headed Flying Fox, Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot, as well as four threatened plants and a range of orchids.

“The area is part of the Tomago-Stockton-Tomaree sand beds and has excellent connectivity with surrounding bushland allowing movement of fauna and dispersal of flora.”

Mr Baumann also congratulated WetlandCare Australia for their innovative project that will enhance the local environment.

“The NSW Government supports communities to look after their own environment because they have local knowledge and a strong connection to their local area,” Mr Baumann said.

“A dense blanket of Lantana is shading the ground, inhibiting succession of other species and the degradation of habitat is identified as a threat to koala and other threatened species habitats.

“The crucial project is an important investment in the environment and the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens.”

In this round of Environmental Trust Restoration and Rehabilitation program grants the NSW Government has awarded more than \$4 million to 49 projects across NSW.