



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

Saturday, 14 December 2013

NEW AGE DAWNS FOR NSW'S MOST THREATENED SPECIES

Environment Minister Robyn Parker today announced the NSW Government's new approach to securing the future of 967 threatened species across NSW.

Ms Parker said the new program, *Saving our Species*, aims to protect NSW's most threatened species at risk of disappearing from the wild forever.

"A scientific review of previous efforts has made clear that urgent improvements are required to turn the tide on species loss," Ms Parker said.

For decades the Government's approach has been to add species to a threatened list, and fund recovery actions but I was dismayed to learn that we are unable to determine whether most of the 10,000 actions undertaken in the past decade have been effective.

"Threatened species management is a complex area and our plants and animals are under increasing pressure, especially from habitat loss and the impact of weeds and feral pests.

"The key to our new program is the identification of actions most likely to result in securing vulnerable and endangered plants and animals in the wild for the next 100 years and the ability to prioritise funds and resources towards those actions.

"A more rigorous program, which is managed adaptively, should deliver much better results.

"Another important component is the co-ordination of professional and volunteer efforts in the campaign to protect our native animals and plants.

"A new web portal and internet resources will aim to capture activities undertaken across the state and facilitate sharing of knowledge, successes and failures.

"The NSW Government will invest \$4.8 million in additional funding, on top of our current spending, to supply the first round of priority projects.

"We are calling for all people currently involved in threatened species conservation work to tell us what they are doing via online surveys.

"From here we will work to identify volunteer opportunities and match people to projects in their local area to maximise the number of people involved in threatened species conservation works.

“Almost 1000 plants and animals now listed as threatened, and as a government and as a community we cannot accept the loss of so many plants and animals in NSW from the wild forever.

“The program has been developed in consultation with over 250 threatened species management and biodiversity experts across all levels of government, non-government organisations (NGOs) and the community sector.

“Never has a plant or animal been removed from the threatened species list because of successful conservation efforts. It’s time to change that.”

Ms Parker said the *Saving our Species* program differs from previous efforts by:

- Prioritising projects based on their benefit to the species, feasibility and cost, to help decision-makers and investors make the most effective investments in threatened species conservation;
- Monitoring and adaptively managing the effectiveness of projects so they can be refined;
- Encouraging community, corporate and government participation in threatened species conservation by providing a website and a database with information on project sites and research opportunities;
- Allocating all threatened species to one of six management streams that provide the best outcomes for each species; and
- Providing targeted conservation projects that set out the actions required to save 370 specific plants and animals on locally or regionally managed sites.

For further details visit: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/savingourspecies