



Rob Stokes MP
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Heritage
Minister for the Central Coast
Assistant Minister for Planning

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 19 August 2014

THOUSANDS OF KILOMETRES OF BUSHLAND PROTECTED

Environment Minister Rob Stokes today hailed the extraordinary efforts of those involved in the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, one of the world's largest conservation partnership projects.

Speaking at the first interstate forum on the program, Mr Stokes said the GER has brought together thousands of people in hundreds of organisations and communities to protect the biodiversity and halt the decline of species along this vast wildlife corridor stretching from western Victoria to far north Queensland.

"Through your many and varied contributions to this project, the GER shows what can be achieved with hard work and passion for our environment," Mr Stokes said.

The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative is a collaborative, cross-border program that sets out to link and restore fragmented habitats along the Great Dividing Range across public and private land.

The GER now covers more than 3600km from western Victoria, through NSW, the ACT and up to far north Queensland more than 200 participating organisations completing a range of conservation projects.

It is Australia's most extensive network of national parks, private land conservation and community habitat projects, formed into a single corridor.

The NSW Government has provided more than \$11 million to support the initiative's ongoing work.

The GER is supported by a diverse range of organisations and individuals including Greening Australia, the Australian Conservation Foundation, Ozgreen, the National Parks Association of NSW, the Nature Conservation Trust of NSW, community groups, local councils, farming groups and indigenous organisations.