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MEDIA RELEASE

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ALMOST \$1 MILLION GRANT TO PROTECT THE REGENT HONEYEATER

Environment Minister Mark Speakman today announced a grant of almost \$1 million to four groups to help protect and preserve the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater.

Mr Speakman said the long term goal of the funding was to secure the future of the Regent Honeyeater in the wild, to a point where captive breeding programs are no longer needed.

“Nevertheless, Taronga Zoo remains committed to continuing its captive breeding and release program, if it is necessary to protect the species’ future.”

The four groups are BirdLife Australia, The Nature Conservation Trust, Taronga Zoo and the Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

BirdLife Australia has received almost \$410,000 to conduct surveys, colour-band and release birds into the wild and control native pests that are implicated in the Regent Honeyeaters’ decline.

The Nature Conservation Trust has received more than \$470,000 to secure conservation agreements for properties with vital Regent Honeyeater habitats.

Taronga Zoo has received \$80,000 to extend its successful Regent Honeyeater breeding program.

A fourth group, the Central Tablelands Local Land Services, will restore important woodland nesting areas, as part of the project.

The grant is part of the Saving Our Species Partnership Grants program, which is funded by the NSW Environmental Trust.

The grants program will help the Office of Environment and Heritage’s Saving our Species Program achieve its objective of maximising the number of threatened species that can be secured in the wild in NSW for 100 years.

It is in addition to the \$100 million allocated to the Saving Our Species over the next

five years, and the re-wilding program where the government is re-introducing animals into area where they have been extinct for almost 100 years.

For more information visit:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/savingourspecies/about.htm.