



**Mark Speakman**  
Minister for the Environment  
Minister for Heritage  
Assistant Minister for Planning

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday, 21 August 2015

### **\$600,000 GRANT TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE ORCHIDS**

Environment Minister Mark Speakman has announced a grant of almost \$600,000 to seven groups to help conserve endangered orchids in the Murray region.

Mr Speakman said Murray Local Land Services would lead the project and use the grant to conserve the Sandhill Spider, Crimson Spider and Oaklands Diuris orchids.

All three orchids are listed as endangered under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act*.

“The aim of this project is to ensure that the 15 priority populations of the three orchid species are adequately protected for the future,” he said.

“New orchid populations also will be established using recently developed propagation techniques, new fencing will be installed to manage orchid populations and orchid pollinators will be identified as part of the project.”

Murray Local Land Services will facilitate engagement with schools and communities to raise awareness about the endangered orchids.

Murray Local Land Services also will receive almost \$400,000 to cover the project’s community engagement costs, undertake pollinator surveys, identify orchid translocation sites and coordinate partners to carry out pest and weed control.

The Australian Network of Plant Conservation will receive \$150,000 to propagate orchids and provide advice on reintroduction techniques.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service will receive \$45,000 and work with the Friends of Woomargama community group to coordinate site-based pest, weed and fire management and to provide reporting data.

NSW Forestry Corporation, NSW Trade and Investment’s Crown Lands Division and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, also are project partners.

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

This grants program is in addition to the \$100 million set aside for the Office of Environment and Heritage's flagship Saving Our Species program over the next five years.

The grants program will help the 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.

For more information visit:

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/savingourspecies/about.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/savingourspecies/about.htm)