



Scarlet robin

Petroica boodang

Vulnerable

Target: to protect, rehabilitate and enhance suitable woodland habitat and manage these areas to reduce threats affecting the species

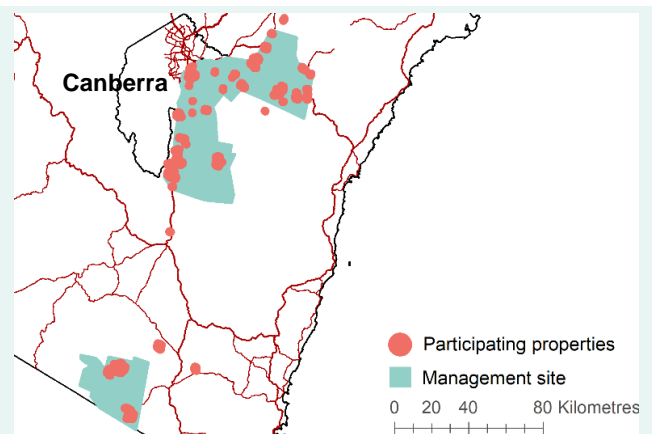
Over the last five years, the Save our Scarlet Robin project has protected 340 hectares of valuable remnant habitat and planted more than 34,800 native plants to improve the habitat condition and landscape connectivity for the scarlet robin (*Petroica boodang*) in southern New South Wales. This work was funded by the *Saving our Species* and Environmental Trust partnership grants and was designed with the specific aims of improving habitat value for scarlet robin (and by association, other threatened woodland birds). This is a long-term goal, and short-term success is measured by the area of habitat that has been improved and the presence of scarlet robins and other woodland birds.

Combined with broad community engagement and awareness raising, the project has funded on-ground actions including stock exclusion fencing, revegetation, weed control and threat monitoring on private land on the southern slopes and tablelands. Monitoring activities are critical to understanding the success of the project, with baseline data collected for all project sites as a starting point. There have been some notable outcomes of the project to date:

- **69** voluntary conservation agreements have been signed, totalling **489 hectares**.
- **34,810** native trees, shrubs and groundcovers have been planted across **149 hectares**.
- **340 hectares** of remnant habitat have been protected from grazing and weeds.

Trajectory: decreasing

The last two to three years of drought and fires have compounded the impact of habitat fragmentation and vegetation on the scarlet robin and other woodland birds. Early observations, post-fire, are that bird sightings are low, and we can take this to mean that numbers may be decreasing. But long-term monitoring is critical to understanding population trends.



Partners

This project is led by South East Local Land Services, with support from the *Saving our Species* program, NSW Environmental Trust and many partners including Landcare.

Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council, Molonglo Conservation Group, Kosciuszko to Coast and Local Land Services have contributed to capacity building, site assessment and project development. Threatened plant species propagation was coordinated by the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan and roadside weed control by Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council. Through the project we have engaged with around 143 primary school students in a range of activities and reached over 900 people with 38 workshop and training events.

What did we find?

The scarlet robin is a highly mobile species that moves between woodlands at higher altitudes in the summer to open grasslands at lower altitudes in winter. This is why habitat connectivity is so crucial for this species. This project has kick started landholders into action to protect and create the habitats that are necessary for scarlet robin and other woodland bird survival. This project has funded 69 individual 'projects' covering several hundred hectares, with each project partnering with a landholder in a 10-year management agreement.

The last few years of drought and fires have compounded the impact of habitat fragmentation and vegetation clearing on the scarlet robin. Early post-fire observations show that bird sightings are low, and we can take this to mean that numbers may be decreasing. However, it's hard to be accurate without long-term monitoring.

Despite drought and fire impacting the on-ground delivery of this project, tangible on-ground conservation efforts have seen huge gains through landholder engagement and the area managed for conservation and revegetation.

The landscape-scale nature of the project and multi-partnered approach has reached a large audience, beyond the funded participants. The project has been received extremely well by the public thanks to broad community engagement and awareness raising. The next steps involve moving into a maintenance and monitoring phase, supporting participating landholders, resurveying sites to determine the effectiveness of our management actions and building on awareness raising efforts.



Male scarlet robin (left) and female scarlet robin (right). Photos: Lachlan Copeland and Jackie Miles/DPIE

Smashing scarlet robin goals!

This project has far exceeded the original project outcomes it set out to achieve.

Outputs	Projected	Achieved so far
Total projects	40	69
Area under agreement	200 ha	489 ha
Fencing installed	50,000 m	56,778 m
Number of plants	10,000	34,810
Remnant area protected	200 ha	340 ha
Area revegetated	40 ha	149 ha

Saving our Species is a NSW Government flagship program delivered by the Environment, Energy and Science Group in the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. To find out more about threatened species in New South Wales and the *Saving our Species* program, visit the [Saving our Species Program webpage](#).