Jason Wood MP
Federal Member for La Trobe

MEDIA RELEASE

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La Trobe To Benefit From $3 Million Budget Boost For Dandenong Ranges

Victoria's Dandenong Ranges will receive $3 million in the 2014-15 Federal Budget to control weeds, reduce bushfire risks and help wildlife recover.

"The tall forests, fern gullies and scenic hills of the Dandenong Ranges, east of Melbourne, are home to rich and rare plant and animal life as well as a growing population," said Jason Wood MP.

"The Australian Government is delivering on its election commitment to the people of La Trobe to help protect the Ranges and explore its heritage with a $3 million grant."

This initiative will be coordinated by the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, in partnership with other local community groups which will be funded to undertake the environmental works.

A local steering committee comprising local community groups and relevant government agencies will oversee the Authority's work over the next three years to deliver:

- $2.4 million for fire and weed management;
- $450,000 for on ground works to manage the Wandering Trad;
- $150,000 to establish and deliver Indigenous cultural demonstrations, language lessons and local tours.

"The Dandenong Ranges is one of the world's most fire sensitive locations and is affected by weeds such as the Wandering Trad, a highly invasive weed that forms dense mats that smother native vegetation and destroy habitat for native animals," said Jason Wood MP.

"The programme will also improve community awareness of traditional Indigenous practices in the Dandenong Ranges."

"Support for the Dandenong Ranges programme is an important part of the Coalition Government's commitment to a healthier environment and is central to the Government's vision for a stronger Australia."

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