



Jason Wood MP
Federal Member for La Trobe

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$2.4 Million for Environmental and Bushfire Reduction community grants in the Dandenongs

Local community groups, the Country Fire Authority and collaborative partnerships in the Dandenongs have the opportunity to apply for a share in over \$2 million through the Dandenong Ranges Environmental and Bushfire Reduction Community Grants were launched today by Federal Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt, and Member for La Trobe, Jason Wood.

The grants will provide funds to local groups and partnerships in the Dandenongs to undertake important work to reduce the impact of pest animals, improve the habitat through native plantings, and reduce the fuel load by removing woody weeds and other invasive plants.

There are three types of grants available, including:

Small Projects - under \$10,000 for short term, smaller projects

Medium Projects - up to \$50,000 for longer-term projects delivering multiple activities across 1 or more years

Large Projects – greater than \$50,000 for projects that plan to address multiple threats or issues in a staged process over several years at a landscape scale

Minister Greg Hunt and local MP Jason Wood explained that this project is part of a 3-year, \$3 million commitment within the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme for wildlife recovery, weed management and bushfire fuel reduction in the Dandenong Ranges which is being coordinated by the Port Phillip & Western Port Catchment Management Authority.

“The National Landcare Programme is helping communities across Australia to undertake important local projects. “The Dandenongs are a vital part of Melbourne’s tourism industry with a thriving community. This program aims to address some of the fire risk issues that concern visitors and locals, while improving the biodiversity of the Dandenongs.” said Minister Hunt.

“This \$3 million initiative has a number of components. In addition to the community grants project that we have launched today, a \$450,000 project to remove the threat of Wandering Trad and other weeds delivered by the Community Weed Alliance of the Dandenongs is already underway” said local MP Jason Wood.

For more information on the Dandenong Ranges wildlife recovery, weed management and fuel reduction project, contact the Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority on 8781 7900.

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