



**Jason Wood MP**  
Federal Member for La Trobe

## MEDIA RELEASE

15 June 2015

### Environmental and Bushfire Reduction Grants \$1 Million to improve the Dandenongs.

Over \$1 million has been allocated to local community groups, the Country Fire Authority and collaborative partnerships in the Dandenongs through the first round of the Dandenong Ranges Environmental and Bushfire Reduction Community Grants secured by the Federal Member for La Trobe, Jason Wood MP.

Mr Wood was joined by community group, CFA, and local government representatives to officially announce the successful 29 projects.

The grants are being delivered by 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.

These grants are part of a 3-year, \$3 million commitment funded by 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.

Mr Wood said "I wanted to make sure that this Grants Programme took a logical approach to the issue that needs to be addressed here – which is balancing environmental care with bushfire fuel management whilst acknowledging that the weeds that often cause these problems are not bound by fences, or who owns what land."

"That's why I made sure firstly that the application process was as straightforward and as direct as possible for the community groups applying, and secondly that the works carried out as a result of the programme were not limited to public land or particular types of organisations – which all too often is the problem with grant programmes of this kind."

Federal Environment Minister, Greg Hunt said "This program will make a significant difference to the biodiversity of the Dandenongs. It is a step in the right direction, with the future of the environment and community top of mind."

“Improving the Dandenongs is not one person’s job. It can only be done if the community and Government work together to find solutions and take action.”

“This program is unique as it brings together the Australian Government, Victorian Government, Local Government, PPWCMA, environmentally focused organisations and community groups to take action” said Minister Hunt.

For more information on the Dandenong Ranges wildlife recovery, weed management and fuel reduction project, visit [www.ppwcm.vic.gov.au/funding-grants.aspx](http://www.ppwcm.vic.gov.au/funding-grants.aspx) or contact the Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority on 8781 7900.

For more information about the Australian Government’s National Landcare Programme, visit [www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au)

Organisation	Project Title	Funded
Cardinia Shire Council	Wattle Creek Reserve Restoration Project	\$39,140
Chandlers Hill Parkcare Group	Contract Spraying of Areas of Weed Infestation	\$2,050
Friends of Sherbrooke Forest Inc	Rehabilitation of Yanakie Garden	\$10,000
Friends of Ferny Creek Inc	Increase biodiversity in Ferny Creek	\$10,000
Monbulk Landcare Group	Rehabilitation of #9 Holden Rd	\$19,150
Monbulk Landcare Group	Increase biodiversity in Moores Rd splitter	\$10,000
Monbulk Landcare Group	Increase biodiversity in Sassafras Creek	\$10,000
CFA – Belgrave South & Heights	Belgrave South Fuel Management	\$95,000
Friends of Baluk Willam Nature Conservation	Baluk Willam Conservation Program	\$46,000
Selby Friends Group	Selby NCR Bushland	\$15,000
Sherbrooke Community School	Sherbrooke Community School Pest and Fire Reduction Programme	\$36,000
Friends of Hazel Vale Valley Tecoma	Hazel Vale Valley Tecoma --Restoration Project	\$9,990
Southern Dandenongs Landcare Group	Belgrave Rail Trail Weed Eradication Project	\$10,000
Emerald Tourist Railway Board	Puffing Billy Railway Environment Improvement & Bushfire Risk Landscape Project	\$300,000
Friends of Sassafras Creek	Community removal of hazardous cypress trees reducing fire hazard with weeding and revegetation.	\$47,270
Friends of Sassafras Creek Inc	Community working to remove weeds, reduce fuel, encourage regeneration and increase biodiversity in the Sassafras Creek headwaters.	\$47,677
Johns Hill Landcare Group Inc.	WEED CAP – Cardinia Creeks	\$41,160
Johns Hill Landcare Group Inc.	WEED CAP - Avonsleigh Common	\$5,000
StopPitt	Control of Sweet Pittosporum in the Dandenong Ranges	\$41,335

Southern Ranges Environment Alliance	Kalorama, biodiversity, weed and bushfire fuel reduction north west face of the Dandenong Ranges	\$50,000
Southern Ranges Environment Alliance	Cockatoo Creek Vegetation Management Project	\$6,640
Southern Ranges Environment Alliance	Gembrook Community Campaign	\$10,000
Southern Ranges Environment Alliance	Selby Biodiversity Biolink	\$10,000
Agribusiness Yarra Valley	Pest animal control to manage soil erosion and improve native vegetation cover in Silvan-Wandin area.	\$10,000
Holly Hill Community Fireguard Group	Forest Rehabilitation and Fuel Reduction at the Headwaters of Dobson's Creek in Ferny Creek	\$49,500
Sherbrooke Lyrebird Survey Group	Rainforest habitat improvements for breeding Superb Lyrebirds	\$49,600
Friends of Harbury	Land of the Lyrebird	\$16,000
Montrose Environmental Group inc.	Unified Management of Bushfire Hazard and Ecological Assets at Bungalook Conservation Reserves, Kilsyth South	\$22,400
Macclesfield Fire Brigade	Fuel Reduction and Weed Removal in Macclesfield	\$15,000

Total funded \$1,033,912

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