



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

## JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

17 November 2015

### Local Animal Hero and Federal MP Honoured for Contribution to Lion Conservation

Donalea Patman, founder of For the Love of Wildlife and Jason Wood, Federal MP for La Trobe, have today been recognised as Policy and Advocacy Animal Heroes by IFAW's Animal Action Awards, in acknowledgement of their campaign to protect African lions from the barbaric practice of canned hunting.

The Mount Dandenong-based wildlife activist worked tirelessly with her local MP, Jason Wood, to raise awareness of 'trophy hunters' bringing body parts of lions into Australia. Backed by many other wildlife groups, including IFAW, Donalea and Jason succeeded in persuading the Australian Government to ban the import of lion trophies.

Matthew Collis, IFAW's Policy and Campaigns Manager, said: "Donalea and Jason, with the help of internationally respected conservationist and film-maker, Ian Michler, were the driving force behind the federal government's historic decision to ban the import of lion trophies. Australia has stepped up by recognising that we have a responsibility to stop the demand for cruel and unnecessary products from vulnerable species, such as the African lion.

"The ban reflects the Australian public's abhorrence of canned hunting in which lions are reared in captivity and hunted in enclosures. By banning the importation of lion trophies, Australia is no longer complicit in the cruelty of canned hunting," he said.

"IFAW hopes that other countries will be inspired by Donalea and Jason's passionate campaigning and choose instead to recognise the true value in lions and other wildlife is seeing these magnificent animals living free in the wild not hanging from a wall as a trophy," said Mr Collis.

Ms Patman said she was humbled to be recognised by IFAW: "I don't do my work for awards, I do it because I believe Africa's wildlife is under siege. I am incredibly honoured today, thank you so much."

Mr Wood said "Ms Patman has undertaken remarkable work to protect endangered wildlife and I applaud her commitment."

IFAW's Animal Action Awards recognise outstanding achievements in the field of animal welfare.

- Ends -

The award presentation will be taking place 11.30am Tuesday 17 November at the Grants Picnic Ground, Kallista.

About IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare)

Founded in 1969, and active in Australia for over 30 years, IFAW rescues and protects animals around the world. We care for individual animals and deliver effective solutions for the long-term protection of animal populations and habitats. Our work connects animal welfare and conservation, demonstrating that healthy populations, naturally sustaining habitats and the welfare of individual animals are inextricably intertwined. For more information, visit [www.ifaw.org](http://www.ifaw.org).

IFAW Contact: Rebekka Thompson-Jones, Communications and Marketing Manager |  
T: 02 9288 4973 | M: 0401 090 034 | E: [rthompson@ifaw.org](mailto:rthompson@ifaw.org)

Jason Wood MP Media contact: Kaycee Davies | T: 03 9768 9164 | M: 0414 790 252 | E: [Kaycee.Davies@aph.gov.au](mailto:Kaycee.Davies@aph.gov.au)