

MEDIA RELEASE

Over \$1 million available for environmental and bushfire reduction projects in Dandenong Ranges

Local community groups, the Country Fire Authority and collaborative partnerships in the Dandenong Ranges have the opportunity to apply for a share in over \$1 million through Round Two of the Dandenong Ranges Environmental and Bushfire Fuel Reduction Community Grants, supported by the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

The grants will enable local groups and partnerships in the Dandenong Ranges to undertake important work to reduce the impact of pest animals, improve the habitat through revegetation and reduce the fuel load by removing woody weeds and other invasive plants. This second round of grants will build on the successful projects undertaken through the first round of the programme.

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

Federal Member for La Trobe, Jason Wood MP, said, "This project is part of a 3-year, \$3 million commitment I made to the Dandenong Ranges. Through the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme wildlife recovery, weed management and bushfire fuel reduction in the Dandenong Ranges 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", he said.

For more information on the Dandenong Ranges Environmental and Bushfire Reduction Community Grants, or to apply, visit <http://www.ppwcm.vic.gov.au/funding-grants/dandenong-ranges-wildlife-recovery-weed-management-and-fuel-reduction-programme/grants.aspx>.

Applications close 5pm Monday 11th April 2016.

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