

Wingecarribee Shire is fortunate to have an exceptionally diverse range of native wildlife, plants and ecological communities.

Unfortunately our unique, native wildlife and bushland areas are under constant pressure from threats such as weeds, feral animals, bushfire, clearing, cars, urban encroachment, drought and climate change.

Through the Environment Levy, Council supports the conservation of wildlife and bushland through a number of programs:

- **Habitat for Wildlife** (residential and small lots)
- **Land for Wildlife** (rural properties and large lots)
- **Vegetation Conservation Program**
- **Southern Highlands Koala Conservation Project**

The focus of these programs is on conserving wildlife & bushland, sharing knowledge, and creating wildlife linkages through habitat corridors.

Habitat for Wildlife

Habitat for Wildlife is our entry-level program for residential properties.

Benefits of joining include access to free information resources, workshops and a new social network.

Visit the Council's Environment web page to keep updated with new information and activities.



Providing habitat for wildlife in your backyard is easy! It may be as simple as planting native plants in your garden, having a range of flowering plants and seed-producing plants such as native grasses, keeping a bird bath filled with water, creating a pond, keeping hollow logs on the ground and rocky areas undisturbed.

And don't forget to keep your pets contained, particularly at night and when you are away.

Land for Wildlife

Land for Wildlife is designed for people with an area they would like to protect of at least 0.5 ha (just over 1 acre), who are keen to conserve wildlife and habitat on their land.

The program is free to join and includes a detailed property assessment, resources and an attractive sign for your front entrance.



There are currently 90 properties in the Shire involved with the **Land for Wildlife** program, conserving over 2600 hectares of bushland, including rainforest, woodland, forest and grasslands.

It is important to note there is no change to the legal status of properties signed up to **Land for Wildlife** and you can de-register at any time. The registration does not continue if the property is sold, although the landholder is obliged to let Council know if the property changes ownership.

The program provides additional incentives including free practical land management workshops, local plants, nest boxes, farm walks, an occasional e-newsletter and access to a new social network.

Land for Wildlife facilitates get-togethers at localities around the Southern Highlands.



Participants in Council's wildlife conservation programs enjoy terrific workshops and opportunities to meet like-minded people who share an interest in Australian bushland and wildlife.

Vegetation Conservation Program

The **Vegetation Conservation Program** is for private property that has 2 hectares or more of high-value conservation land such as Threatened or Endangered Ecological Communities (EECs) or threatened species, located in priority biodiversity corridors.



These areas of conservation benefit by:

- botanical surveys
- the fencing of stock from sensitive areas,
- the removal of environmental weeds,
- the control of pest animals,
- the encouragement of natural regeneration,
- the provision of alternative stock water,
- the use of local provenance seed for replanting,
- ongoing monitoring

Since commencing in 2004, the **Vegetation Conservation Program** has invested over \$360,000 in on-ground conservation works, in addition to private investment. The program has resulted in the conservation of state and federally-listed Endangered Ecological Communities and protected these remnants from damage and degradation caused by livestock, weeds, and feral animals.



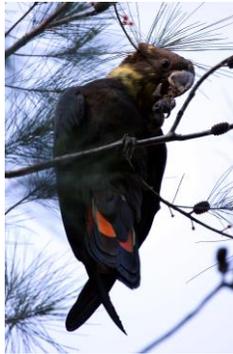
Robertson Rainforest is one of seven protected Endangered Ecological Communities in the Wingecarribee Shire. (Pic courtesy Ford Kristo)

Wildlife Conservation & Citizen Science

It is estimated that there are between 3000 and 4000 koalas living in the Southern Highlands. This figure makes it the largest koala population in southern NSW and represents an estimated 10% of the total number of koalas left in the wild in NSW.



In 2014 and 2018 the *Southern Highlands Koala Conservation* and the *Southern Highlands Platypus Conservation Projects* were established respectively. The overarching goals are healthy, connected, breeding populations in the Southern Highlands in 100 years time.



The *Glossies in the Mist* project was established in 2018 and aims to protect the beautiful Glossy Black-Cockatoo in the Great Western Wildlife Corridor – the only remaining vegetated corridor between the southern Blue Mountains and Morton National Park.

By protecting tree hollows and feed trees (*Allocasuarina* species) within this corridor, it is hoped future generations will be able to see this gorgeous creature flying through the forests of the Southern Highlands for many years to come.

The community is encouraged to report Koala, Platypus and Glossy Black Cockatoo sightings:
Hotline Tel: 4868 0888
Email: Citizen.Science@wsc.nsw.gov.au

Koala on Tourist Road Pic: Daniel Zivko
Glossy Black Cockatoo Pic: Aviceda (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0
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Our wildlife & bushland needs YOU!

Wildlife and bushland conservation is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding things you can do!

For more information on how you can get involved in wildlife & bushland conservation in the Southern Highlands, contact Council on 4868 0888 or visit www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/environment/get-involved

Other groups & organisations involved with wildlife conservation in the Southern Highlands include:

- WIRES Wingecarribee
- Wildlife Rescue South Coast
- BirdLife Southern Highlands
- Australian Raptor Care & Conservation (ARCC)
- Southern Highlands Koala Sanctuary

Wingecarribee wildlife conservation



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