



14 January 2020

***Emergency Wildlife and Habitat Recovery funding
for areas worst hit by bushfires***

Federal Member for Hume Angus Taylor has joined Minister for the Environment Sussan Ley and Member for Wollondilly Nathaniel Smith in Thirlmere to thank Sydney Metro Wildlife Service (SMWS) Chairman, Deborah Kerr and SMWS volunteers for their tireless work during the bushfires and the ongoing care they are providing to injured wildlife.

Mr Taylor said the Government has announced \$50 million for an initial emergency response to wildlife and habitat recovery which will be directed to the those areas worst hit by the bushfires.

“This funding will prioritise care and rehabilitation of injured wildlife, securing threatened species and control of feral predators and noxious weeds after the fires,” Mr Taylor said.

“Sydney Wildlife are a great example of a volunteer run organisation providing an extraordinary service, not just to the community, but also to the wildlife in the Wollondilly and Wingecarribee areas.”

“We’ve been very seriously impacted across this region and injured wildlife is a really significant concern for all of us, so it’s just brilliant to see volunteer groups working so hard and this initial funds will support the work they’re doing.”

Sydney Metro Wildlife Service volunteers Jamie and Wendy Illistom said the support they have been receiving from the local community during this time is fantastic.

“The local vets have been helping treat animals, any time day or night they’ve let us bring in injured animals to have them checked out. Local produce stores have also set up accounts for people to go in and donate money, so that it can be used by SMWS volunteers to purchase feed and supplies for the injured animals. They’ve given us some really good support,” Mr Illistom said.

South East Local Land Services will also receive \$200,000 under the *Wildlife and Recovery Package* to carry out re-vegetation and natural resource management in the region.

The Government will coordinate with organisations across Australia to ensure this funding goes where it is most needed.

Media Contact: Claire Medway – 0437 111 530 / Claire.medway@aph.gov.au

