

Egg-sighting news at Hogwash Bend

The shy and vulnerable Regent Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus*) has moved into Hogwash Bend near Waikerie for the breeding season and is hopefully ‘getting down to business!’

Nature Foundation SA has teamed up with the SA Regent Parrot Recovery Team, Gerard Community Cultural Rangers and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder to improve the parrots’ habitat to encourage them to breed.

We are delivering a small volume of Commonwealth water for the environment to help save the bird’s favourite nesting trees, the River Red Gum, and to improve the condition of native ground covers that the birds feed upon.

The SA Regent Parrot Recovery Team’s Kevin Smith said, “Regent Parrots nesting at Hogwash Bend have gradually declined from 47 nesting pairs in 2010 to just 17 pairs last year. The use of water for the environment to maintain the health of riverine ecosystems is vital if we are to provide the opportunity for this endangered species to breed and survive into the future.”

President of Nature Foundation SA Jan Ferguson OAM said the Water For Nature program targets specific areas to arrest the deterioration of river health.

“The continuing dry conditions are putting increasing pressure on vulnerable flora and fauna species, making it critical that we work together to ensure we use water in an efficient and targeted way to save what we can.”, Ms Ferguson said.

“Nature Foundation SA has been working on community-driven projects in the Riverland since 2008. At Hogwash Bend we are being assisted by the Gerard Community Rangers. The Rangers are helping to deliver this water and monitor the response. The Regent Parrot Recovery Team will also be monitoring the area to watch for Regent Parrots.

“Our watering activities operate under the same licence conditions as other water licence holders and we report on all of our activities and water use to Commonwealth and State governments.

The water is being delivered with the use of pumps and sprinklers. The pumps will operate on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the spring months.

“It is important to us to strike a balance between the enjoyment of campers at Hogwash Bend, and delivering this important project to help save this stunning bird. We thank campers for their cooperation.

“Since 2012 Nature Foundation SA has enjoyed a partnership with the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder to work with local irrigators, landholders and community groups to deliver more than 12,000 megalitres to 90 different locations and coordinated watering across 17 complexes in the Murray Valley covering up to 26 different vegetation communities in 12 habitat types.

Nature Foundation SA is supported by the Australian Communities Foundation through the Rana and Alan Fund.

Find out more about Water For Nature at:

<https://www.naturefoundation.org.au/conservation/water-for-nature>

About Nature Foundation SA:

Over the past 38 years Nature Foundation SA has invested in conserving, restoring and protecting South Australian landscapes to ensure nature survives and thrives in our magnificent state. We do this by:

- restoring unique habitats and revitalising damaged ecosystems
- saving threatened species
- revitalising wetlands and floodplains along the River Murray with environmental watering
- working with local communities
- funding conservation research projects
- encouraging environmental education and citizen science
- nature-based tourism and geotourism on our Nature Reserves

Fast facts:

- Nature Foundation SA has helped protect over 1.1 million hectares of South Australia and is currently working on protecting the next 1.1 million!
- Over 400 post-graduate student grants awarded by Nature Foundation SA continue to yield amazing work and attract wonderful, bright minds to nature science.
- Our Water For Nature Program has delivered more than 12,000 megalitres of environmental water to help revitalise nearly 90 River Murray wetland and floodplain sites.
- Nature Foundation SA manages six Nature Reserves with significant conservation value. This land protects threatened species, builds wildlife corridors and provides a base from which scientific studies can be undertaken.

Media contact:

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