

press clip



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**ENVIRONMENTAL WORK**

# New trust looks after fussy bird first

By Kimberley Granger

A new trust has been established to fund innovative projects to improve the natural environment in the capital region.

The Capital Region Landkeepers Trust, which received seed funding from Greening Australia, was launched on Wednesday at the National Botanic Gardens.

It is designed to fund on-ground restoration work, innovative research, education and community engagement activities.

The trust's first funded project will provide food and shelter for the glossy black cockatoo, a specialist eater.

Royalla Landcare chairwoman Maryke Booth said the project was tailored to increase the black cockatoo's population in the region.

"They're listed as vulnerable in NSW and ACT which means if we don't do something now about their habitat and their food source, they're not going to be around," she said.

"If you've ever seen one, they're a magnificent bird.

"They're huge, they're black and they've got this bright red tail."

Ms Booth said Royalla Landcare received \$30,000 from the trust to continue the project.

"That really lets us get those she-oaks across ACT and the surrounding area," she said.

It allows us to propagate them, grow them, plant them out, put tree guards around them which is essential because they're the favourite food of rabbits, hares and kangaroos.

"It really allows us to go forward with the project and get about 10 hectares of area with she-oaks on them."

Trust chairman Peter Davey said its formation had taken a few years to move from concept to reality.

"We're starting off taking small steps and building it over time . . . we're starting from saying we're focused on the capital region, we're focused on community action, we're focused on innovation in scholarship

and research and we'd like to talk to you if you're doing work that's innovative in the capital," he said.

Environment Minister Simon Corbell said it was fantastic to see the private sector contributing to the maintenance and restoration of the bush capital.

The trust, in conjunction with Professor Keith Fifield, has also established the Christine Fifield Scholarship Fund to top-up scholarship grants to selected PhD, masters and honours students pursuing environmental research.



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Royalla Landcare chairwoman Maryke Booth takes time out in the Australian National Botanic Gardens for the Capital Region Landkeepers Trust launch. **Photo: Matt Bedford**