



FY25

IMPACT REPORT



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Message from our CEO

Over the past year, against a backdrop of extreme weather, heartbreaking disease, and alarmingly persistent habitat loss, the WIRES community stepped up; assisting, rescuing, and protecting more native animals than ever before.

With koalas predicted to be extinct in the wild in NSW by 2050, we continued our close support of the Sydney Basin Koala Network – a leading voice for koala conservation across the region. Alongside calling for urgent safety upgrades on the deadly Appin Road and helping deliver a new National Park under the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan, the Network is driving broader advocacy to protect habitat, improve connectivity, and secure a future for Sydney’s koalas.

Through our long-term partnerships with Landcare Australia and the Queensland University of Technology, we also supported new technologies to monitor and protect vulnerable koala populations. You can read about the WildSeek Project on page 14.

We were also grateful to receive an additional Wildlife Ambulance, funded by the NSW Government’s Community Building Partnerships program, to support dedicated koala rescues across Campbelltown and the Macarthur region.

Across the nation, and in response to increasingly frequent extreme weather events, we continued to support hundreds of local wildlife groups – coordinating and distributing disaster relief during the Grampians bushfires in Victoria and throughout the Northern Rivers region following Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

Of course, the rise in wildlife rescues brings a growing need for specialised

rehabilitation facilities to give native animals the best possible chance of returning to the wild.

This year, we were proud to establish the Mullyang Wildlife Centre, dedicated to raptor rehabilitation, and to open the Native Animal Recovery Centre in collaboration with Randwick Council in Sydney – a purpose-built facility enabling our East Branch volunteers to provide the highest standard of care for recovering wildlife.

As the financial year drew to a close we also launched the WIRES Veterinary Training Hub, testament to the extraordinary work of Dr Tania Bishop, who has long championed the need for wildlife-specific training for Australian veterinarians and their teams. You can read more on page seven.

As always, this lifesaving work for wildlife has only been possible thanks to the continued generosity of our supporters, the work of our Board and staff, and of course to the 24/7 dedication of our WIRES volunteers – who remain the very backbone of all that we do.

On behalf of the many thousands of native animals who got their chance to thrive in the wild once more; we are very grateful.



Leanne Taylor,
CEO WIRES



WIRES acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognises their connection to native wildlife. We pay respect to their Elders past and present.



Tony Corry – Koala



ABOUT US

WIRES is Australia's largest wildlife rescue organisation. We've been rescuing and caring for sick, injured and orphaned native animals since 1985 and our mission is to actively rehabilitate and preserve Australian wildlife – and inspire others to do the same.



The WIRES Wildlife Rescue Office is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year



Every day, WIRES receives hundreds of urgent rescue requests



WIRES supports around 4,000 volunteers to help rescue and rehabilitate native animals



We have a growing team of **Emergency Responders** with fully equipped Wildlife Ambulances



We support trusted environmental organisations across Australia to improve outcomes for native wildlife

FY 2024/25 HIGHLIGHTS

Wildlife RESCUE CALLS

234,585

Rescue calls to the WIRES
24/7 1300 Rescue Line

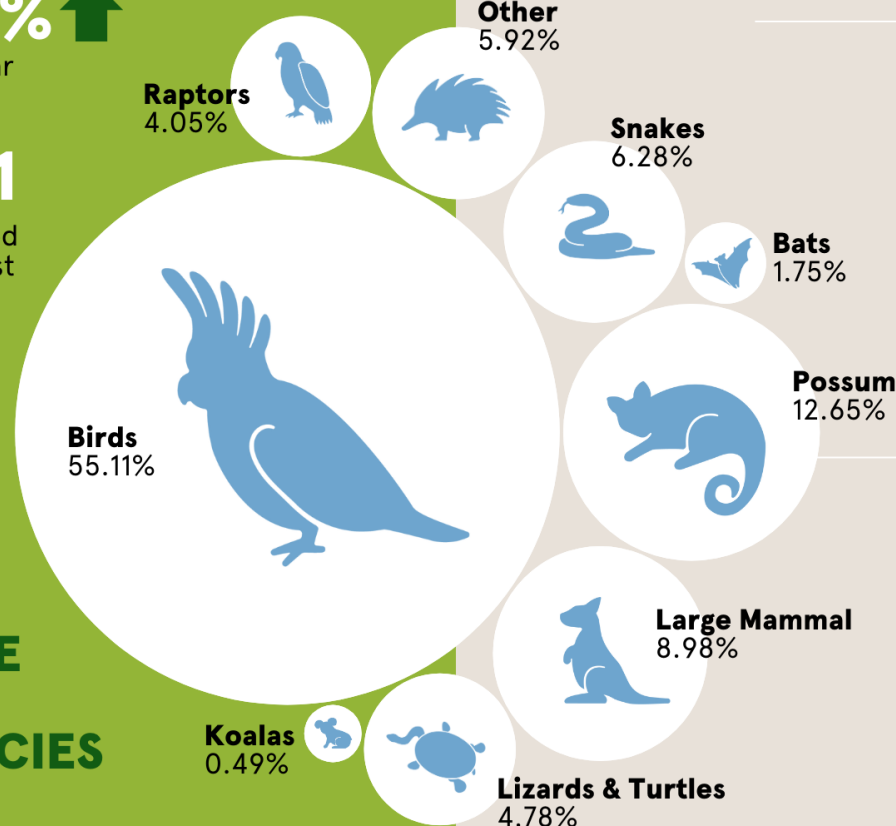
+18.6% ↑
from last year

19,571

Calls received
in our busiest
month



RESCUE CALLS BY SPECIES



163,776
**Animals assisted
across WIRES**



2,194

Total WIRES training
Courses completed



2

**WIRES Wildlife
Centres**
opened and
operational



68

Projects funded across
Australia through
**WIRES National Grants
Program**

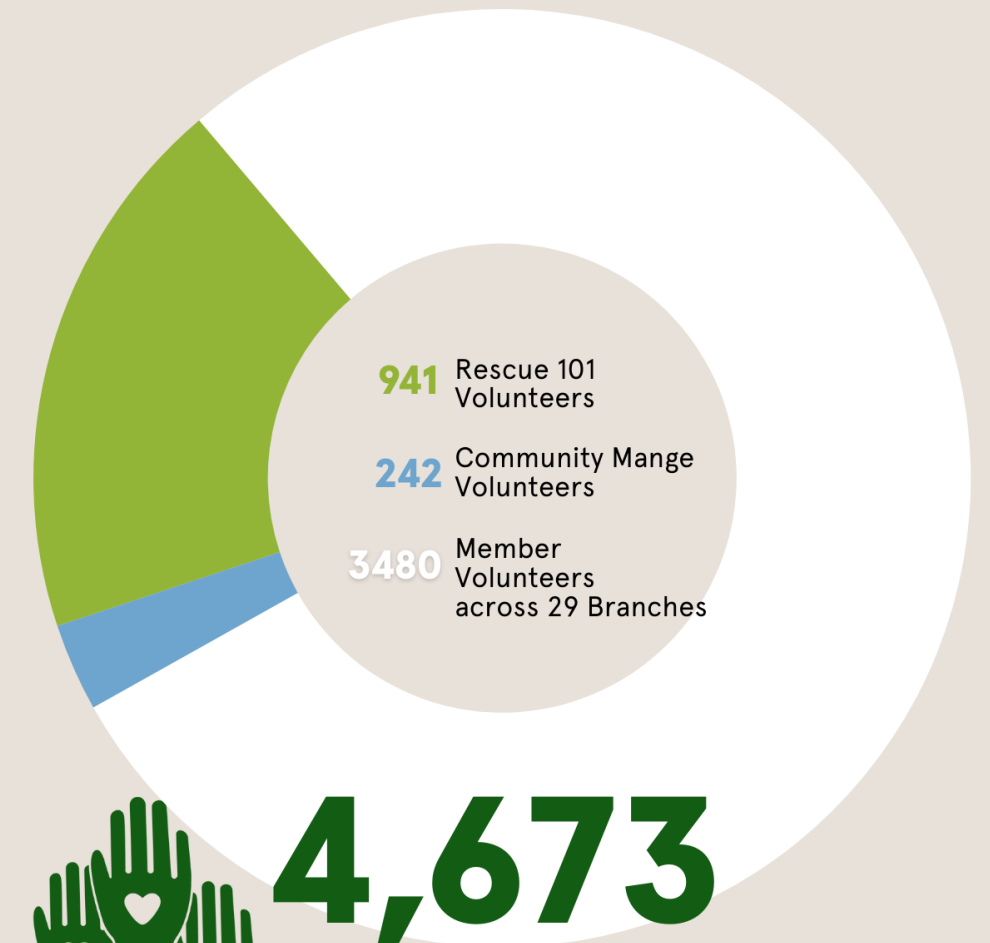


452

Vets work with WIRES
to assist native animals in need

338

Enrolments across Australia and
internationally to
WIRES Veterinary Training Hub



4,673
VOLUNTEERS



6,703

volunteers using the XMatters
app, connecting wildlife
rescuers and carers

32.8%

of these volunteers
represent 18 external
organisations
in NSW, ACT, QLD, SA
and TAS



8

**WIRES Wildlife
Emergency Responders**
driving 6 Wildlife Ambulances
make up our rescue vehicle fleet
and travelled over **270,000 kms**

100

Trained Volunteer Emergency
Responders across NSW

FY 24/25

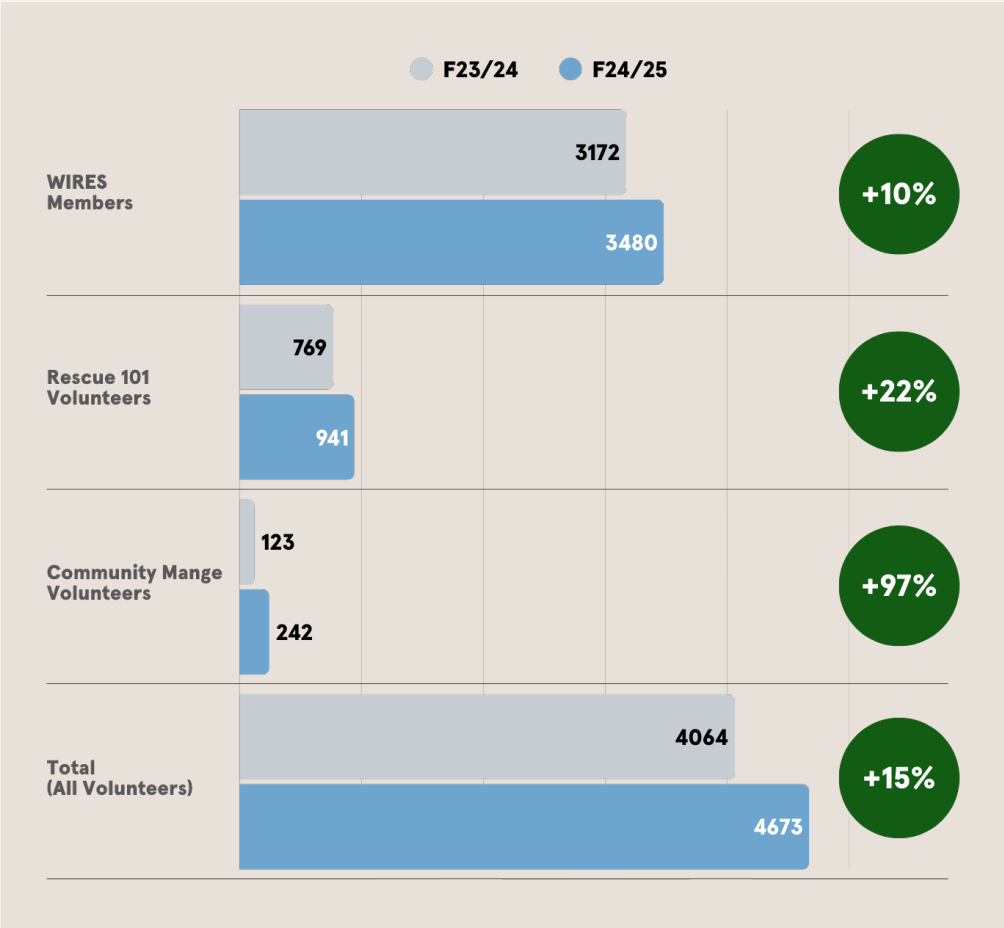
VOLUNTEERS

We are deeply grateful for the compassion, resilience and commitment our volunteers bring to wildlife every day.

THE VITAL IMPACT OF WIRES VOLUNTEERS

WIRES manages a passionate and growing community of over 4,000 volunteers who play a critical role in the rescue and rehabilitation of native wildlife across Australia. These dedicated people work around the clock, every day of the year, to save animals that would not survive without their intervention.

From skilled rescuers and rehabilitators to wildlife transporters, foliage gatherers, pouch makers, and administrative or fundraising helpers — our volunteers contribute in diverse and meaningful ways. Many also assist with habitat restoration through tree planting and maintenance of wildlife food sites.



Support for WIRES volunteers includes covering 100% of wildlife food costs, providing subsidised training, 24/7 rescue assistance, and partnering with the Black Dog Institute to provide free mental health support.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

In October 2024 **Leoni Byron-Jackson**, from our Northern Rivers branch, was awarded Centre for Volunteering Northern Rivers Senior Volunteer of the Year & overall Volunteer of the Year for the region, recognising her over 20 years of service with WIRES.

She was a **founding member of the WIRES Northern Rivers Branch**.

During her time with WIRES, Leoni has **personally assisted over 3,000 animals**, held a number of leadership roles, and through her mentorship and community work, built a collaborative and effective network for wildlife in the region.

Graph to show the increase in volunteer numbers year on year



From the left: Gemma Rygate CEO The Centre for Volunteering, Cr Sharon Cadwallar, Leoni Byron-Jackson, Geoff Provest MP.

HONORING JANELLE

In November 2024 the Board granted **Honorary Life Membership to Mid South Coast (MSC) Member Janelle Renes**, recognising her 8 years of service & leadership.

Janelle directly rescued and cared for **over 600 animals**, completed **32 WIRES courses** covering all species, served on the Mid South Coast Committee for **6 years** holding various positions such as Branch Secretary, Branch Chair,

Vice Chair and Bird Coordinator. Janelle’s significant influence on the culture and success of the Mid South Coast Branch was defined by her leading the Branch through some challenging periods, including the devastating 2019/20 bushfires, and providing inspirational leadership and mentorship in the WIRES community.

In devastating news, in July, after a long fight with cancer, Janelle passed away. We remain grateful for her years of service to wildlife and her community.



DEDICATION TO WILDLIFE AWARDS

In 2025, WIRES expanded its awards program to further **recognise excellence across the volunteer network**. There are 3 different tiers — Members, Rescue 101, and Community Mange Treaters. We recently added the **Wombat Warrior Award**, introduced to honour exceptional contributions to wombat conservation.

To mark **World Vet Day**, WIRES also launched the Wild for Vets Awards, enabling Members to formally acknowledge the vital role veterinarians play in supporting wildlife rescue and care.

Janelle Renes holding a rescued joey.

TRAINING

With over 200,000 calls for wildlife rescue and advice each year, the need for skilled responders has never been greater. In FY25, WIRES continued to grow its training footprint – supporting new volunteers, upskilling existing carers, and collaborating with external organisations to build broader wildlife care capacity.

More than 600 new volunteers completed introductory training in NSW this year, ensuring safe and effective rescue of sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife. Ongoing species-specific sessions and new modules continued to strengthen WIRES’ volunteer knowledge base.

2,194

Total courses attendees

850

Introductory courses total attendees

301

National courses total attendees

444

Rescue and Immediate Care Course (RICC) attendees

WIRES delivers targeted education and practical skills to wildlife carers across Australia, highlights included:

- Fauna Rescue SA Training**
WIRES delivered in-person wildlife first aid training in Adelaide for Fauna Rescue SA members. Led by trainer and vet nurse Charlie, the session covered Workplace Health & Safety, hydration, pain and stress, common injuries, euthanasia, and vet-carer collaboration. Positive feedback highlighted its value in strengthening national wildlife care standards.
- Southern Cross University Vet Tech Training**
WIRES trained 50 vet tech students at SCU through a blended session. Dr Tania Bishop presented on **pain in wildlife**, followed by hands-on handling techniques led by WIRES trainers. **The session introduced future professionals to key welfare principles early in their careers.**

“If WIRES didn’t exist, many animals I could treat and restore to health would have nowhere to go – I would have no choice but to euthanise them.”

Dr Craig Kelly,
Blaxland Veterinary Clinic



Dr Tania Bishop was instrumental in the development and delivery of the Veterinary Training Hub.

VETERINARY TRAINING HUB

In May 2025, WIRES launched the **Veterinary Training Hub**, a free online platform for veterinary professionals and students. By 30 June 2025, the Hub had attracted **338 enrolments across Australia and internationally.**

The hub offers a range of resources including species specific courses addressing clinic fundamentals, housing, husbandry and handling of reptiles, birds and possums, and advanced koala triage and treatment courses.

These offerings are broadening the skillsets and knowledge of vets, supporting improved native animal care.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

WILDLIFE RESCUE OFFICE

WIRES operates Australia’s largest 24/7 Wildlife Rescue Office – a critical lifeline for sick, injured, and orphaned native animals.

Every day of the year, our trained operators coordinate urgent rescues, issue emergency alerts, and connect callers with a nationwide network

of volunteers, vets and wildlife organisations. They also play a vital role in community education, advising the public on wildlife emergencies and how to live alongside native species.



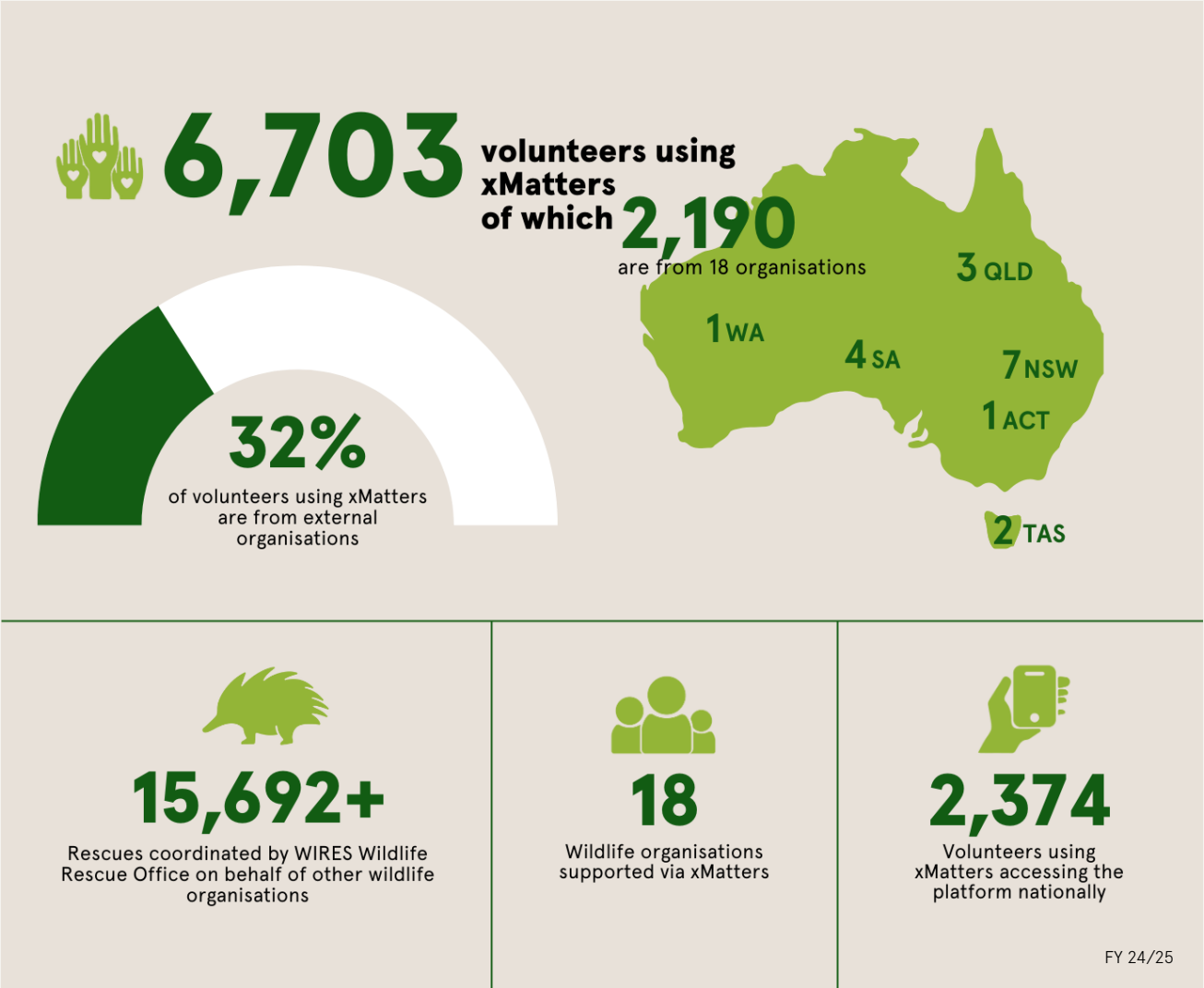
BREAKDOWN OF CALLS BY SPECIES:

MONTH	POSSUM	RAPTOR	BAT	SNAKE	LIZARD & TURTLE	KOALA	BIRD	LARGE MAMMAL	OTHER
July '24	1181	344	226	189	154	46	4270	1277	556
Aug '24	1835	396	174	490	489	83	5863	1289	746
Sept '24	2112	471	121	1044	935	124	8207	1635	1152
Oct '24	1916	784	182	1212	1038	96	11010	1384	1157
Nov '24	1840	906	253	1087	1047	88	12212	1087	1051
Dec '24	1837	643	252	1185	915	77	11264	987	869
Jan '25	1853	619	386	1132	826	60	9618	854	796
Feb '25	1704	541	302	1331	754	37	6400	786	582
March '25	1878	551	336	1097	604	53	6749	935	748
April '25	1674	528	255	803	492	36	5696	1037	775
May '25	1587	445	232	443	360	33	4718	1485	640
June '25	1263	399	123	249	202	63	4093	1651	614

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTING WILDLIFE RESCUE

In FY 25, WIRES continued to strengthen national rescue efforts through the use of xMatters, our rescue communications platform, in partnership with Everbridge, this powerful technology helps streamline rescues, and increase coordination between organisations – enabling faster, more effective outcomes for wildlife.

This technology continues to evolve into a national backbone for wildlife rescue collaboration. As more groups come on board, we look forward to supporting even greater collective impact for Australia’s native species.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Our dedicated Emergency Response Team of 8 responders and 6 Wildlife Ambulances operates across NSW, Tasmania and South-east Queensland, attending the most complex and urgent rescues.

Responders are highly trained in handling all species — including venomous wildlife — and are equipped with fully stocked Wildlife Ambulances ready for both everyday emergencies and natural disasters.

In FY 25 they travelled over 270,000 kms to deliver critical on-ground support. They are also backed by more than 100 trained Volunteer Emergency Responders across NSW, extending our capacity to respond during crisis events.



TROPICAL CYCLONE ALFRED

WIREs Emergency Response Team deployed two wildlife ambulances to the Northern Rivers region of NSW to support WIREs carers and volunteers with wildlife rescue and transport during Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

The Emergency Response team provided **support to the community** by attending rescues in the region along with transportation between local wildlife carers and veterinary clinics. The wildlife ambulances **assisted volunteers** unable to attend rescues due to being impacted by the weather event.

Wildlife impacted by Tropical Cyclone Alfred included birds, possums, bats and macropods, with bird rescues being the most common due to the high winds and soaking rain.

WIREs Emergency Responder Kyana attending a rescue during Cyclone Alfred in 2025

EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITY IN SOUTHWEST SYDNEY

WIREs secured funding through the **NSW Government’s Community Building Partnerships (CBP)** program to establish a new wildlife rescue vehicle based in South-west Sydney

— expanding emergency response capability in Campbelltown and the Macarthur region, to support better outcomes for koalas in one of the state’s fastest-developing areas.

WIREs Emergency Responder Kimberley with the new WIREs “Koala” Emergency Rescue Van.



WIRES WILDLIFE CENTRES

2025 marked a major milestone for WIRES with the launch of two significant wildlife rehabilitation centres – delivering critical infrastructure for the care and recovery of native animals.

MULLYANG WILDLIFE CENTRE FITZROY FALLS

In 2024, WIRES made a historic step for wildlife conservation by acquiring its first dedicated wildlife rehabilitation site – a significant investment securing long-term access to world-class care facilities.

Located in Fitzroy Falls, the property is home to the **largest free-flight raptor aviary complex in the Southern Hemisphere**, now permanently owned and protected by WIRES.

The centre was the vision of **Peggy McDonald OAM CF**, a long-time WIRES volunteer and raptor specialist. Inspired by global best practice, Peggy spent over a decade expanding the centre’s capabilities with the support of donors and partners.

In consultation with **local Aboriginal Elder Kazan Brown**, the site was renamed Mullyang – the Gundungurra word for Wedge-tailed Eagle.

Following key upgrades, **Mullyang officially opened in April 2025**, providing critical infrastructure to meet growing demand for raptor rehabilitation, which reached 1,737 calls for help last year alone.



Free flight aviaries - providing pre-release fitness exercise for birds of prey that have come into care.



NATIVE ANIMAL RECOVERY CENTRE RANDWICK

The new WIRES Native Animal Recovery Centre marks a transformative step in wildlife rehabilitation, replacing outdated facilities with a purpose-built, state-of-the-art centre. Delivered through a powerful **partnership with Randwick City Council and the NSW Government**, this centre significantly boosts our capacity to care for native animals.

Key features include:

- 9 possum enclosures
- 3 bird enclosures
- A large flight aviary for pre-release conditioning
- Dedicated volunteer rest and work areas
- Ample storage for food, equipment, and supplies

With **improved infrastructure** – including running water, reliable power, and enhanced safety measures – the centre provides a safer, more effective environment for both wildlife and volunteers.

The expanded capacity also allows us to care for a **broad range of species**, including Ibis and other larger birds.

Built with **sustainability** in mind, the centre minimises environmental impact while maximising care quality. More than a facility, it serves as a model for future wildlife recovery centres across NSW and beyond.

WIRES East Branch volunteer Belinda Head showing the newly opened Randwick Native Animal Recovery Centre to Randwick Mayor Dylan Parker, Member for Coogee, Dr Marjorie O’Neill and community visitors.

ADVOCATING FOR WILDLIFE

WIRES is a strong voice for wildlife and the people who care for them. In FY25, we significantly increased our government engagement to advocate for better protection of native species, stronger support for volunteer wildlife carers, and more effective, proactive solutions to reduce wildlife harm.



STRONGER SUPPORT FOR WILDLIFE CARERS

WIRES has met multiple times with the Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment and the NSW Minister for the Environment, calling for urgent action to:

- Support the volunteer wildlife rescue and rehabilitation sector
- Address the growing challenges faced by carers
- Strengthen protections for native species and their habitats

The Hon. Penny Sharpe, ERT team Matthew Godwin and Kimberley Howard.

100+

Engagements with departments and statutory authorities

70

Representations to MPs and Ministers across government, opposition, and crossbench

10+

Participation briefings and workshops

12+

Representations to local councils

10

Formal submissions to government

REDUCING WILDLIFE-VEHICLE COLLISIONS

Roads are one of the biggest threats to native wildlife. WIRES has made direct representations to:

- The Hon. John Graham (Minister for Roads)
- The Hon. Jenny Aitchison (Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)
- The Hon. Penny Sharpe (Minister for the Environment)
- Senior leadership at Transport for NSW

AS A RESULT, Transport for NSW has introduced new mitigation measures, including:

- Additional wildlife warning signage
- Modified wildlife crossings
- Trials of new tech like escape doors

WE CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE for landscape-scale solutions, more connected habitat corridors and wildlife-friendly road planning, including in South West Sydney.

ENGAGING ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

Over the past year, WIRES continued to influence policy and planning across local, state, and federal levels.

KEY SUBMISSIONS MADE IN FY25

- Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Bill 2024
- NSW Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector Review
- Inquiry into the Management of Cat Populations in NSW (and follow-ups)
- Koala Strategy Review & SAIL Nomination for Koalas
- Nature Positive (EPA) Bill 2024
- Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan Guidelines
- Koala-Exclusion Fencing Design Guidelines
- NSW Companion Animals Laws Discussion Paper

RESCUES, REHABILITATION AND RELEASE

Throughout the year, WIRES responded to thousands of rescues, each one important and impactful in its own way. While every animal in care matters, this section highlights some of our favourites rescues that required specialist expertise, collaboration between volunteers, the WIRES team, veterinarians, other rescue organisations and members of the community. These stories demonstrate the skill, dedication, and teamwork that make successful outcomes possible, while also representing the collective effort that goes into every rescue.



AJOONI AND MAZ: A SHARED JOURNEY FROM RESCUE TO RELEASE

In September last year, a mother koala and her joey were found on Appin Road after a tragic vehicle strike. Sadly, the mother did not survive. Her joey, later named Ajooni, weighed **just 600 grams** and was left orphaned and in urgent need of care.

She was taken in by WIRES volunteer Emma, who hand-raised her through the most delicate stages of early rehabilitation. Emma provided round-the-clock support, helping Ajooni build strength, confidence, and the instincts she would one day need to return to the wild.

A few months later, in December, another young koala was found alone

Ajooni and Maz enjoying their freedom.

in Macarthur. Maz, a male weighing **only 2 kilograms**, also required urgent care. Under the guidance of WIRES volunteer Tracey, he began his recovery.

As both koalas progressed, they were paired together—a crucial step in their rehabilitation. **Social interaction is vital** for young koalas, helping them develop behaviours and resilience for survival in the wild. Ajooni and Maz thrived together, learning, growing, and preparing for life beyond care.

In June this year, their journey came full circle. **Ajooni and Maz were released** back into the wild in Appin, within a carefully selected, secluded area that forms part of a protected habitat corridor. This location was chosen not only for its ecological suitability but also for its role in supporting the long-term survival of

koalas in the region. Their release marked more than just the end of their rehabilitation — it was a celebration of life, resilience, and the tireless efforts of WIRES volunteers and supporters. **Ajooni and Maz now roam free** thanks to the dedication of those who rescued, cared for, and championed their return to the wild.



RESCUE TO RELEASE: A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT SAVES A PELICAN

A critically ill pelican, suspected of botulism, was found unresponsive and out of reach. WIRES volunteer Inga responded immediately, and with the help of the **NSW SES Camden Unit** — who provided water rescue support — the bird was safely contained and transported for urgent care.

The bird was transported to the **University of Sydney's Wildlife Health and Conservation Hospital** where it received IV fluids, pain relief, and intensive monitoring. Over 14 days, it steadily regained strength — standing, swimming, and feeding independently.

Ajooni during her time in WIRES' care

Pelican recovering in Wet Den at the University of Sydney's Wildlife Hospital

Final-year veterinary students, supervised by experienced clinicians, played a hands-on role in the bird's recovery. Once fully recovered, the pelican was collected, transported and released back into the wild by Inga — thanks to the combined efforts of **WIRES Volunteer Inga**, carers, responders, and veterinary professionals the pelican was given a second chance of life in the wild.



WIRES PROGRAMS AND GRANTS

NATIONAL GRANTS PROGRAM

In FY25, **\$793,106** was allocated to **68 projects across Australia**, supporting initiatives in wildlife monitoring, species and habitat preservation, and rescue and rehabilitation capacity building.

WIRES National Grants Program also include **WIRES Special Grants** and in FY25 these were awarded to:

THE MIKLA LEWIS OAM HABITAT RESTORATION GRANT

Bangalow Koalas Inc. (NSW)

Restoring Koala Habitat in Northern Rivers: Restoring 4.4ha of riverbank by removing invasive weeds and planting 2,410 native trees to help build a critical koala corridor. Led by local bush regenerators for long-term wildlife impact.

THE PAT CONNORS AVIAN GRANT

Glossy Black Conservancy (SE QLD)

Mapping Habitat for Glossy Black-Cockatoos: Updating outdated habitat maps for the vulnerable Glossy Black-Cockatoo to inform better planning, protect key areas, and support targeted conservation in rapidly growing SE Queensland.

THE HELEN GEORGE OAM MAMMAL GRANT

Bacchus Marsh Platypus Alliance (VIC)

Protecting Platypuses Through Community Action: Engaging the Bacchus Marsh community—residents, builders, and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups—in education and direct action to protect platypuses from the pressures of urban growth.



NATIONAL GRANTS PROGRAM



MIKLA LEWIS OAM HABITAT RESTORATION & ENHANCEMENT GRANT
Bangalow Koalas Inc, NSW



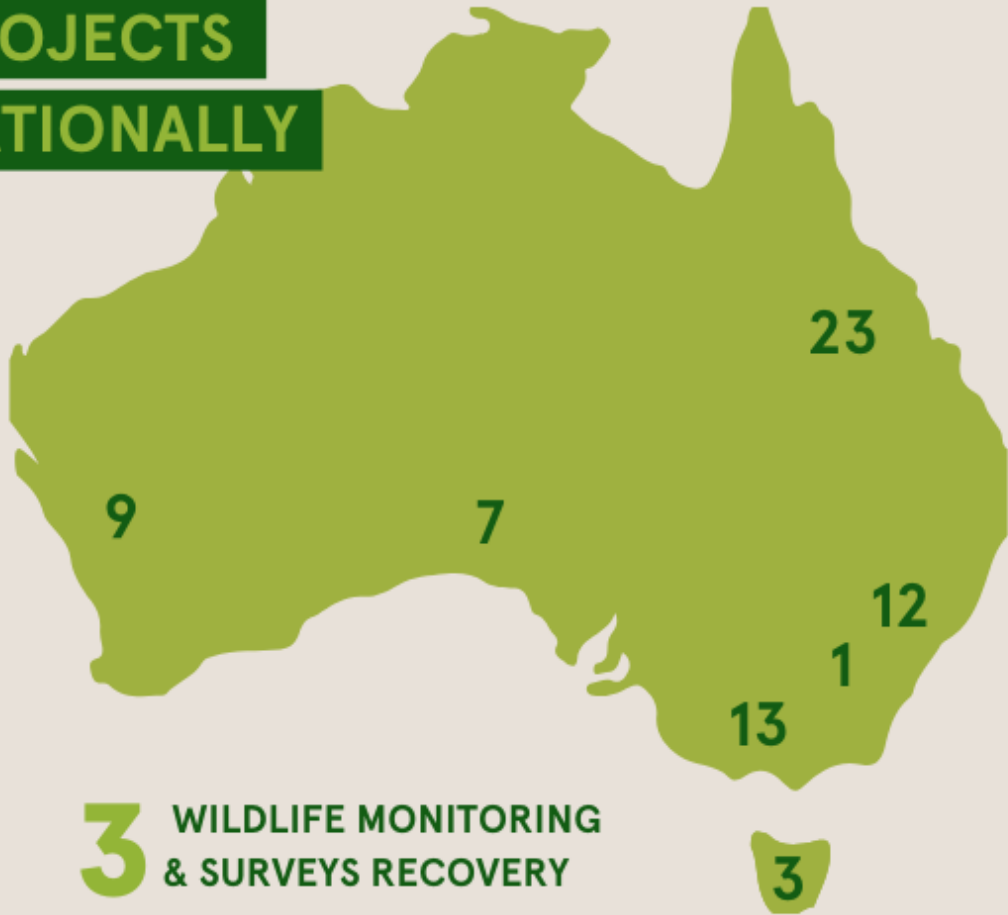
PAT CONNORS AVIAN GRANT
Glossy Black Conservancy Inc. QLD



HELEN GEORGE OAM MAMMAL GRANT
Bacchus Marsh Platypus Alliance Inc. VIC

68

PROJECTS
NATIONALLY



3 WILDLIFE MONITORING
& SURVEYS RECOVERY

8 HABITAT
RECOVERY

1 NEST BOXES &
BURROWS

67 FACILITIES, MEDICAL
SUPPLIES, RESCUE
EQUIPMENT

18 COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT &
EDUCATION

PROJECTS PROTECTING WILDLIFE INCLUDING THREATENED SPECIES

Macropods	18	Wombats	3	Bats	16	Birds	18
Koalas	9	Gliders	4	Other mammals	20	Raptors	6
Platypus	1	Frogs	0	Marine Wildlife	6		

RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

WIRES launched its **Research Grants Program** in 2022, funding 28 projects to **address critical knowledge gaps in Australian wildlife conservation**. One significant project was with Monash University to study the long-term impacts of marine debris on Australian fur seals.

Using drone-based thermal imaging, researchers conducted **54 surveys** at Seal Rocks, VIC, improving entanglement detection and revealing

the **serious health impacts** on affected seals. Satellite tracking uncovered long-distance pup dispersal, emphasising the importance of rescue efforts.

The project also supported knowledge sharing through conferences and international workshops, with publications underway. WIRES' support has advanced local conservation while **contributing to global marine wildlife protection strategies**.



Drones using thermal imaging at Seal Rocks

DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM

The Disaster Relief Program, in partnership with Woolworths, supports wildlife response across Australia during major events that impact native animals. By providing **emergency supplies and equipment**, the program ensures that wildlife carers can respond quickly and effectively when disasters strike.

The Disaster Relief Program delivered urgent aid to three Queensland wildlife groups caring for flying-foxes. This included PPE, rescue equipment, fresh fruit, and high-protein formulas for undernourished pups.

The program also supported wildlife groups coping with the impact of the Grampian Bushfires in Victoria.

FY25 IMPACT SNAPSHOT

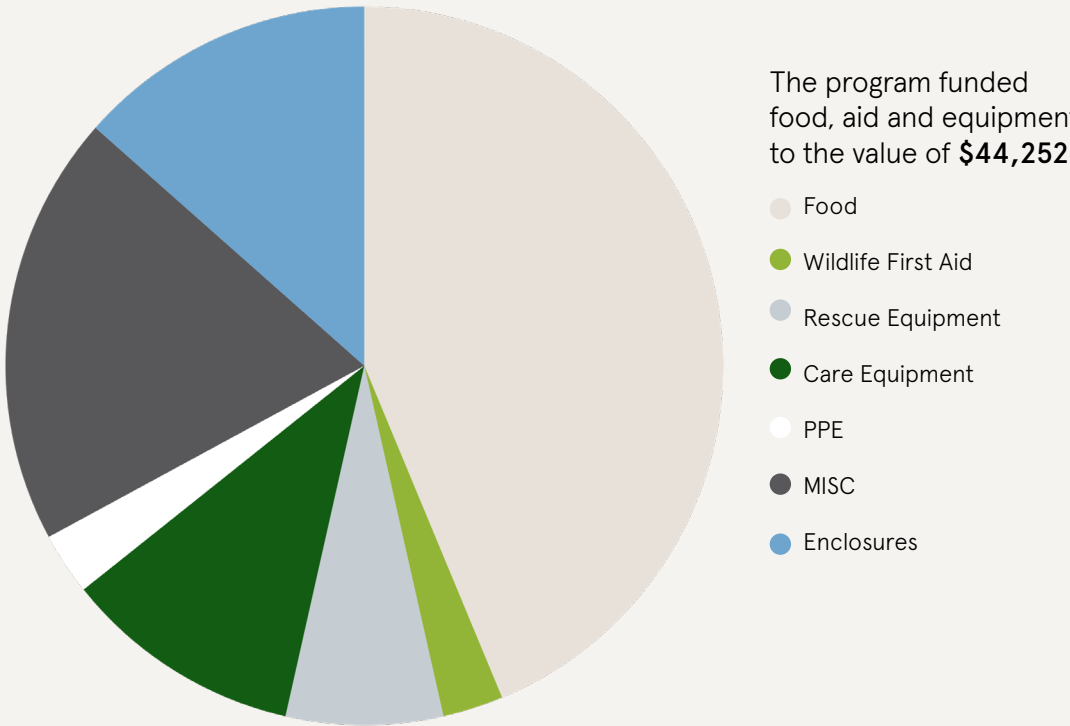
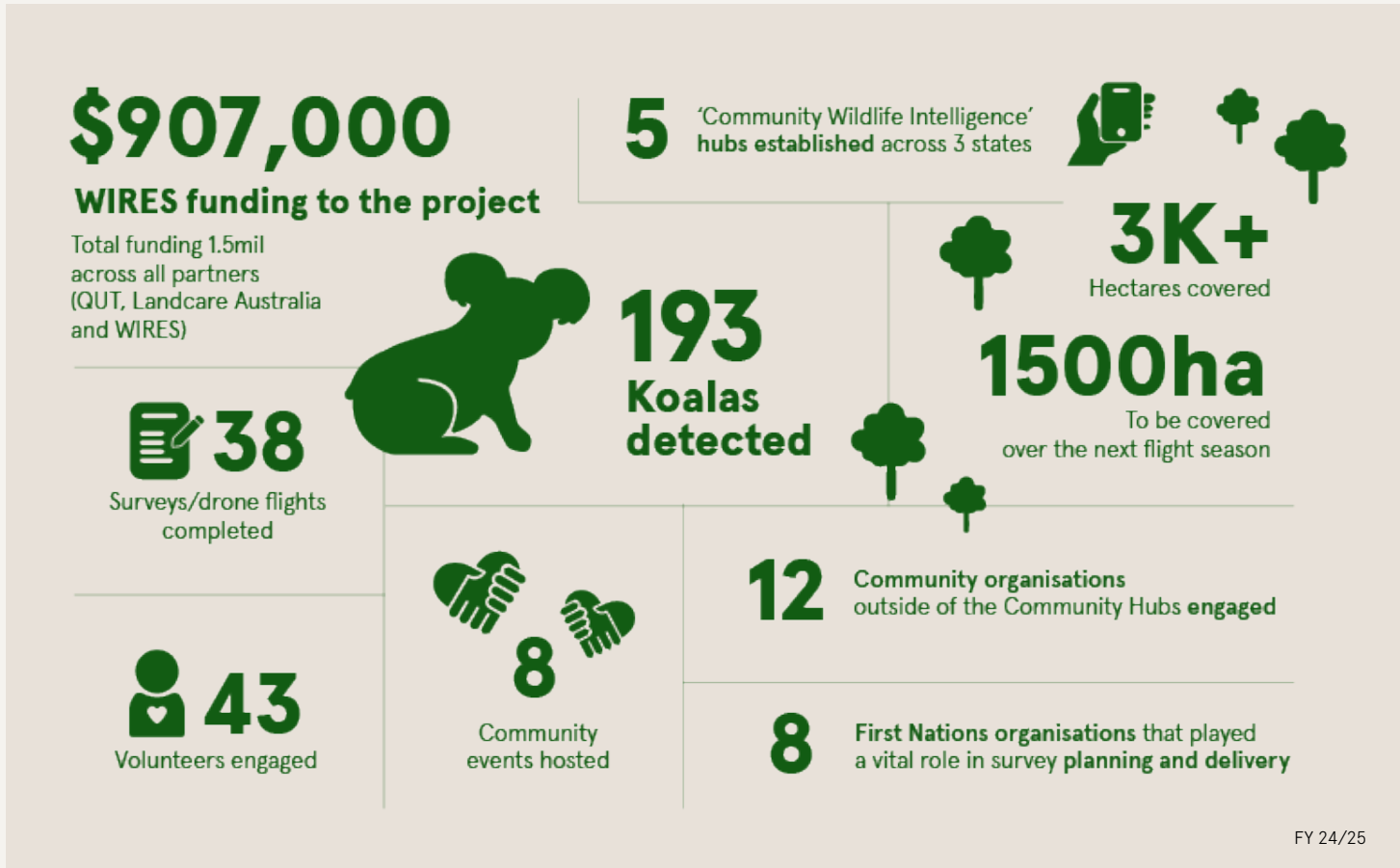
- Supported **12 groups across four states** and territories during **10 disaster events** including the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H7 strain) outbreak, flying fox paralysis syndrome, and severe weather events.

WIRES PARTNER PROJECTS

WILDSEEK is a collaborative project between Landcare Australia, University of Queensland and WIRES to **enhance koala conservation through innovative, community-led monitoring**.

Five Community Wildlife Intelligence Hubs across NSW, QLD, and VIC use **thermal drones to detect koalas in treetops**. Footage is analysed by AI at QUT, enabling rapid, non-invasive surveys across large areas.

WILDSEEK PROJECT SNAPSHOT



WOOLWORTHS AND WIRES FOOD FOR WILDLIFE PROGRAM



Image note: Fruit given as a supplement if needed, however they are encouraged to be supplemented with other items as priority.

WOMBAT MANGE TREATMENT PROGRAM

Sarcoptic Mange is a painful and fatal disease which causes itchy thick skin, infections and affects wombats’ eyesight and hearing. **Mange is the biggest threat to wombats** in NSW and is estimated to be present in 90% of local populations.

In FY25, WIRES received funding from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife as part of a state government initiative to address wombat mange across New South Wales. This support enabled WIRES to educate the public on the impact of mange on wombats and encourage community members in affected areas to become trained mange treaters.

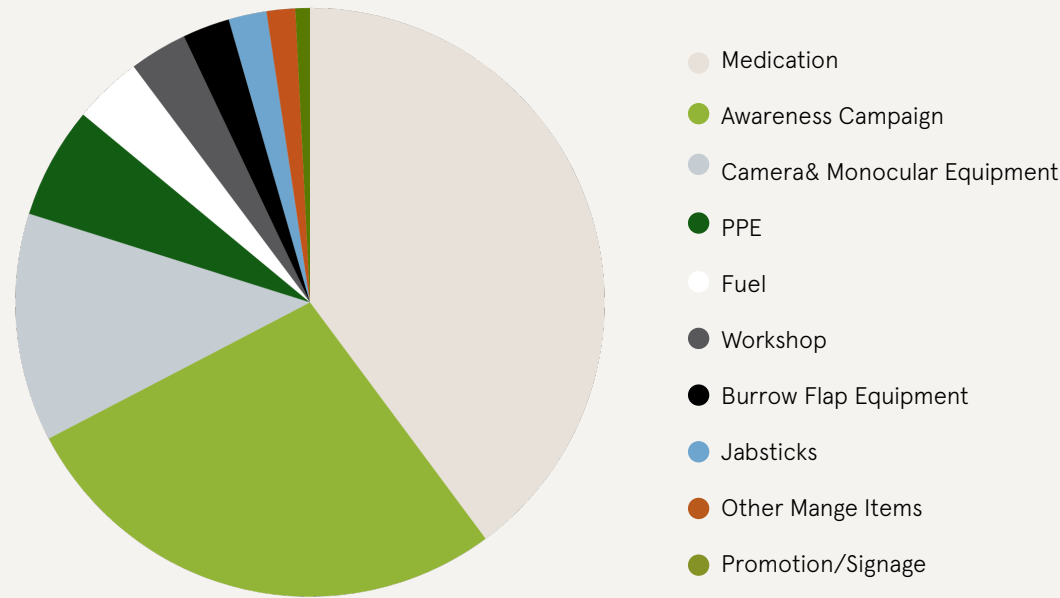
The Wombat Mange Community Treatment program saw a 96.7% increase in volunteer participation. We now have **501 authorised treaters** across the state, significantly strengthening our capacity to respond to wombat welfare needs.

This expansion was critical, as reports of wombat mange rose by **17.5% during FY25**. The increased number of trained volunteers ensures we are better equipped to respond swiftly and effectively, providing essential treatment and care to impacted wombats.



WIRES Volunteer preparing Mange Treatment

FUNDINGS ALLOCATION FOR THE CURB WOMBAT MANGE PROGRAM



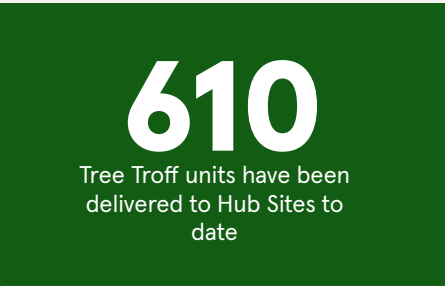
WATER FOR WILDLIFE PROGRAM

During the Black Summer of 2019–2020, prolonged drought and **catastrophic fires destroyed millions of hectares of habitat**, leaving nearly **three billion animals lost or displaced**. The long-term impact on biodiversity remains uncertain, with **119 species**, including the koala, assessed as being at the **highest risk of extinction**.

In response, WIRES partnered with **Dr Valentina Mella and Robert Frend** to **pilot and expand the use of TREE TROFF® arboreal drinkers**. Dr Mella’s research confirmed that koalas and many other native species rely on supplemented water year-round, with demand increasing during hot weather and dry periods. The drinkers have since become

an important tool in **supporting wild populations**, providing safe, accessible water for koalas, gliders, possums, birds, reptiles and frogs across multiple regions.

WATER FOR WILDLIFE FY25 IMPACT SNAPSHOT



Tree Troff water drinker in use

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Corporate Partnerships, Corporate Fundraising, Workplace Giving and Corporate Donations enables us to continue our mission to actively rescue, rehabilitate and preserve Australian wildlife. With the increasingly complex issues and challenges facing our natural world, Australians are looking to the corporate sector to play a more meaningful role in protecting our environment.

PARTNERSHIPS HIGHLIGHTS



WIRES together with Woolworths have established the Food for Wildlife Program. This program includes Rescue Food, Food Support and Disaster Relief.

The Rescue Food Program provides surplus meat, fish, fruit and vegetables from Woolworths stores to Australian wildlife carers to help combat food waste and provide supplementary food for native animals in care.

The Food Support Program is funded through the generous support of Woolworths customers, with proceeds from a range of items going directly to wildlife care. These funds help wildlife carers across Australia give native animals the best possible chance of recovery. By providing

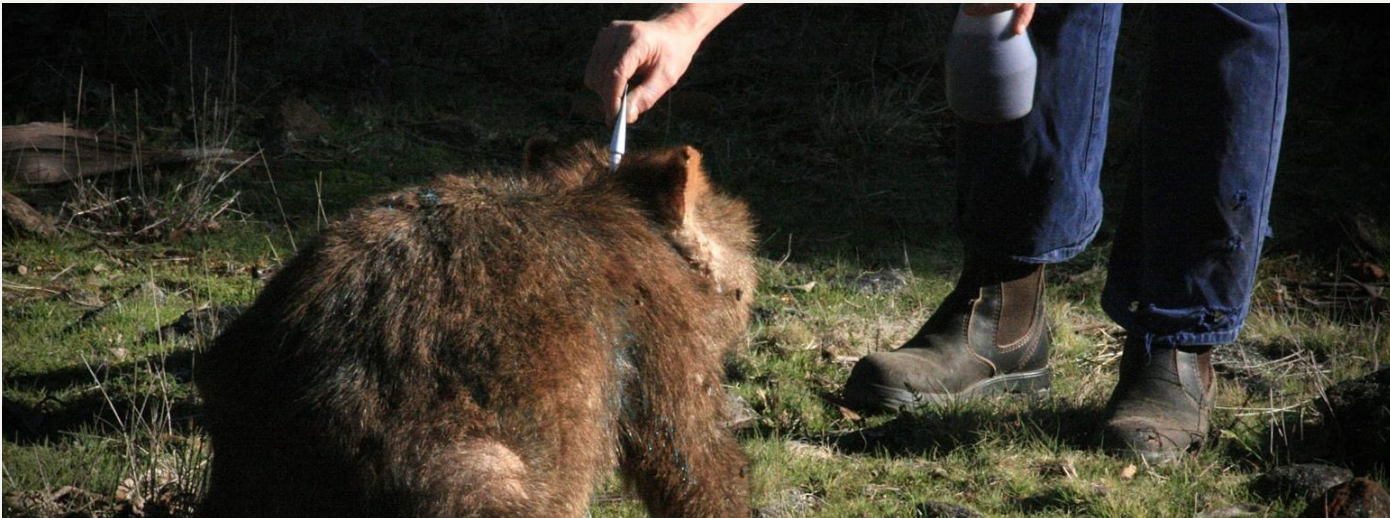
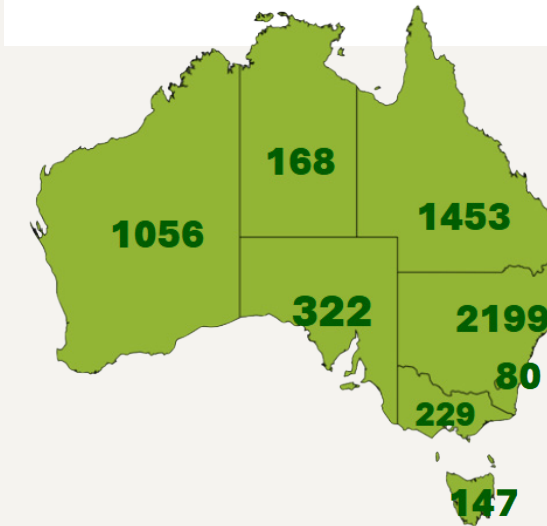
access to specialised wildlife food and formula, the program helps ease the financial burden on carers, especially during the busier spring and summer months when rescue numbers tend to rise.

The Disaster Relief Program aims to provide a quicker and more efficient response to wildlife affected by natural disasters. To support this program, Woolworths generously provides funding to help wildlife carers with emergency aid in response to major disasters. WIRES administers the funding to projects which focus on regional, state, or national events that impact numerous native animals.



Our Disaster Relief Program provided funding for a 17m rescue pole, enabling Tolga Bat Hospital in QLD to rescue stranded flying-fox pups, that had been newly orphaned after a deadly paralysis outbreak.

Over 5,600 wildlife carers around Australia supported through the Food Support Program



Volunteer administering BRAVECTO Spot On Treatment to a Mange infected Wombat



Sarcoptic mange is one of the most serious threats to wombats, causing immense suffering and often death. It's both a significant welfare and conservation issue, with wombats highly susceptible due to their burrowing behaviour and environment.

Thanks to a valued partnership with BRAVECTO, wildlife volunteers and carers across Australia are now better equipped to fight this disease.

BRAVECTO generously donated 2,000 doses of Spot-On treatment to support wombat care. In FY25, WIRES saw a **97% increase** in people training to become mange treaters, highlighting the growing community commitment to protecting wombats from this devastating disease.

WIRES EXTENDS ITS SINCERE APPRECIATION TO ALL OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

In FY25, WIRES increased its connection with the public by amplifying stories of wildlife rescue and the challenges faced by native species. These stories and informational posts, shared across digital platforms, played a vital role in raising awareness, inspiring action, and fostering empathy for Australia’s wildlife.

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

In April, **670** wildlife lovers laced up their trainers for our first-ever **Walk on the Wild Side**, a **peer-to-peer community event supporting Aussie wildlife**.

Participants took on a personal walking challenge—**50 km, 100 km, or 150 km**—and raised vital funds while

boosting their health and connecting with nature. A private Facebook group fostered daily updates, photos, and camaraderie among walkers.

We can’t wait to Walk on the Wild Side again in 2026!



A few pictures shared online from Walk on the Wild Side participants.

EDUCATING AND ENGAGING THE PUBLIC TO PROTECT KOALAS

In FY25, WIRES increased its commitment to community education and public engagement—especially around the plight of koalas, now predicted to face extinction in NSW by 2030.

Through a series of targeted public information campaigns, we aimed to raise awareness, encourage responsible behaviour, and inspire action. These efforts included:

- **Practical guidance** on what to do if you find a deceased koala
- **Safety advice** for responding to koalas and other wildlife on roads
- **Educational content** on koala breeding season and behaviour

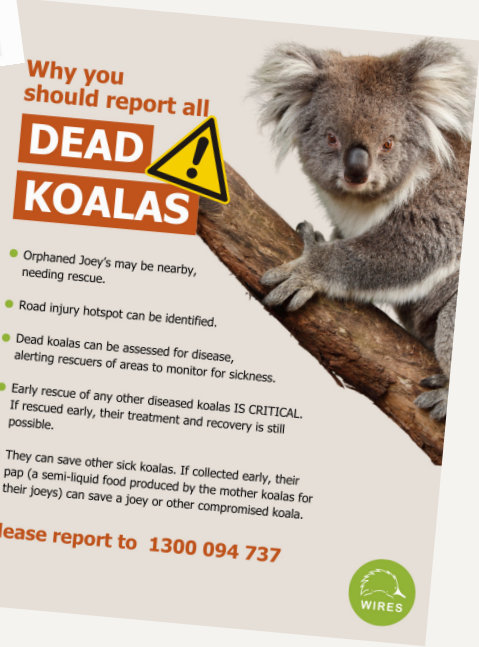
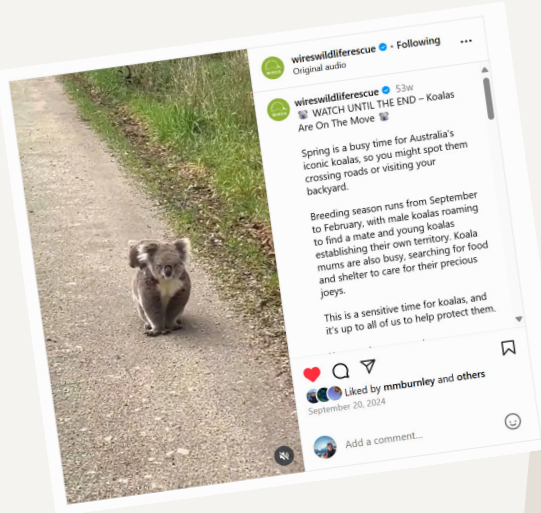
These resources were shared alongside rescue stories to highlight the challenges koalas face and educate the public on how they can contribute to their protection.

Throughout the year, WIRES also **advocated strongly at government level**, particularly for the protection of the **chlamydia-free koala population in South-west Sydney**.

As urban development intensifies, we proposed critical measures such as **safe wildlife crossings**—including on the high-risk **Appin Road**, where multiple koala deaths have occurred. See more on our Government Advocacy on page 11.

A story we shared about a mother koala and joey found on a road resonated with the public, achieving high engagement and amplifying calls for stronger protection of koala habitat and safer infrastructure planning.

At WIRES, education is central to our mission. Through compelling storytelling, practical advice, and strategic advocacy, we continue to equip communities with the knowledge and motivation to protect Australia’s wildlife—especially one of its most iconic and vulnerable species.



PHILANTHROPY

Without the support and generosity of people, the work WIRES does to ensure wildlife get a second chance of life in the wild, would not be possible.

WIRES would like to acknowledge the following generous Trusts and Foundations that supported our vital programs this past year:

FOUNDATIONS

- JMS Family Foundation
- The Smail Family Foundation
- The Lin Huddleston Charitable Foundation
- PB Senn Family Trust
- Savannah Foundation
- The Allen Family Foundation
- S&J Cook Family Foundation
- The Penn Foundation
- Gregg Foundation
- APS Foundation
- The Warren Robert Watkins Charitable Trust
- Penkun Holding Pty Ltd
- RoseAli Foundation
- Elizabeth Bryan on behalf of the EB Endowment
- Nell & Hermon Slade Trust
- Ereshkigal Foundation



LEGACY

We are deeply grateful to our generous benefactors who, over the past year, have created a legacy through WIRES to help safeguard wildlife for future generations.

Thank you to the Estates of the late:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Amy Eileen Riddell | Katrina Maree Laurie |
| Marie Eileen Mitchell-Zeephongsekul | Nora Bajranovic |
| Maxwell Rowland | Muriel Elizabeth Poppelwell |
| Anthony Grant Simmons | Pamela Elizabeth Templeton |
| Joan Vair Jackson | Margaret Joy McKenna |
| Elaine Janet Nash | Suzanne Maree Prendergast |
| Betty Edwards | Barbara Ann Taylor |
| Nancy Minton | Gloria Elma Young |
| Marilyn Anne Bright | Alan Lindsey Winterbotham |
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| Ann Burgess | Jean Valerie Leyendekkers |
| Winsome Ruth Barker | Gloria Rae Sanderson |
| Marcia Mary Jackson | Leanne Maria Grimstone |
| Patricia Margaret Harriott | |





WIRE is committed to growing and improving wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, information and education services, and to protecting and preserving Australian wildlife for future generations.

Our rescue, rehabilitation and release work returns life to the wild and community support makes this work possible.

By donating to WIRE, you are supporting this mission. Gifts of \$2 and over are tax-deductible within Australia. Thank you!

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FINANCIAL UPDATE

WIRE’s FY25 Audited Financial Statements are available via the ACNC Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission website www.acnc.gov.au

