



**TOGETHER
WE'RE CREATING
A WILDER FUTURE**



About WIRES

WIRES is Australia's largest wildlife rescue organisation. We've been rescuing and caring for sick, injured and orphaned native animals for over 37 years, 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 co-ordinates 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.



Spotted-tail quoll

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WIRES acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land and recognises their connection to native wildlife. We pay respects to their Elders past and present.





Koala © Josh Bergmark

Message from the CEO

If you'd told me, back when I was a child, that many of Australia's most iconic species would be facing extinction by the time I was an adult, I'd have been heartbroken. Perhaps you would have been too.

And yet that's where we find ourselves today.

Australia has one of the highest rates of mammal extinction in the world.

For over 200 years, we've lost two of our unique species every decade. Over the last few years alone, the koala, greater glider and hairy nose wombat have all entered the endangered list. How is this possible?

Their predicament is not just the result of climate fuelled catastrophic events like bushfires – although our best estimate is that 3 billion native animals were killed or displaced during the 2020 Black Summer alone. It's flooding, it's drought and heatwaves. It's introduced predators and diseases, pesticides, and invasive plant species. It's the relentless clearing of landscapes to make way for human infrastructure and human activities.

But if we humans have caused the problem, we are also our best and only hope for a solution.

For the last 37 years, ordinary people with a determination to create change have stood in the breach for native animals that suffer. Together, we've provided rescue, rehabilitation and recovery, 24 hours a day, every single day of the year. **We know this makes a critical difference for native species, and we're determined to do more.**

WIRES has a network of passionate supporters willing to make considerable investments to ease suffering right now, and work to prevent further loss of species for the future. Their support drives effective, scalable programs that:

- Provide Emergency Rescue and Response for vulnerable, injured and displaced wildlife, particularly during disasters.
- Skilfully rehabilitate rescued native animals for a return to the wild.
- Support Australia's habitats and species for sustainable preservation and recovery.

I hope you'll find a program within this prospectus that inspires you to join our ranks. Your investment will leave a lasting legacy not only for Australia's native animals today, but for those who dream of a better world for wildlife tomorrow.

With hope and determination,



Leanne Taylor
Leanne Taylor,
CEO WIRES

A better world for wildlife

Since 1985, many Australians have shared WIRES vision of a world where native animals are safe in their natural environments. They've supported our work as volunteers and donors in their thousands, believing in our vision and our mission.

But today, we need to invest in rigorous programs on a scale we've never seen before. Why?

Because our world is changing, and we must change with it.

The Black Summer Bushfires of 2019/20 created Australia's worst ever wildlife disaster and shone a powerful spotlight on the work of WIRES.

- Over 18 million hectares of land was burnt, including some of our most valuable habitats.
- Koala populations were decimated, with as many as 60,000 koalas lost.
- An estimated three billion native animals were killed or displaced.

WIRES received an outpouring of financial support from the community in the aftermath of this tragic event. The \$90 million donated has been distributed, allocated and committed through an **Emergency Fund** to provide scalable rescue and relief to vulnerable native animals; supporting their recovery and rehabilitation and preserving their habitats.

Distribution of Emergency Fund

STAGE 1: \$12M (13%)	STAGE 2: \$41M (41%)	STAGE 3: \$37M (46%)
Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency response to optimise welfare outcomes for native animals • Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation requirements for additional wildlife food and equipment • Habitat and species recovery projects in areas impacted by fires and drought 	Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing national rescue and rehabilitation capacity • Improving emergency wildlife response capability • Supporting long-term species and habitat recovery projects 	Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving emergency rescue and response for wildlife nationally • Increasing national wildlife rescue and rehabilitation capacity to optimise long-term welfare outcomes • Supporting species and habitat preservation and risk reduction
94% Expended 6% Committed	20% Expended 80% Committed	100% Committed

We're proud that to date, less than 8c per dollar has been used for essential program management and administrative costs.



Eastern grey kangaroo and joey

Our mission is to prepare for a difficult future

Australia is experiencing more frequent and extreme weather. In times of drought, it is not uncommon for native animals to need rescuing from starvation. They and their infants experience dehydration and severe malnutrition, and most don't survive. We're now witnessing similar starvation events after prolonged heatwaves and flooding.

At the same time, Australia is conducting devastating levels of land clearing. Forced into urban and semi-urban areas, native animals are increasingly vulnerable to encounters with domestic animals or becoming roadkill. The loss of habitat drives higher population density in limited areas, driving competition for resources and accelerating the spread of disease.

In Spring 2023, calls to our Wildlife Rescue Line jumped 28% compared to the same time the year before. We have a critical need for ongoing resourcing of our Wildlife Emergency Services, including rescue and transport via our growing fleet of Wildlife Ambulances. And we are also investing in large scale, strategic projects to safeguard the long term health and wellbeing of our many unique species. We urgently need supporters willing to invest in these programs, helping us establish a better world for Australian wildlife.



Kookaburra © Adam Stevenson



Sugar glider © Kerryanne Reiners



Eastern grey kangaroo



White-lipped tree frog

Our sustainable program areas

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

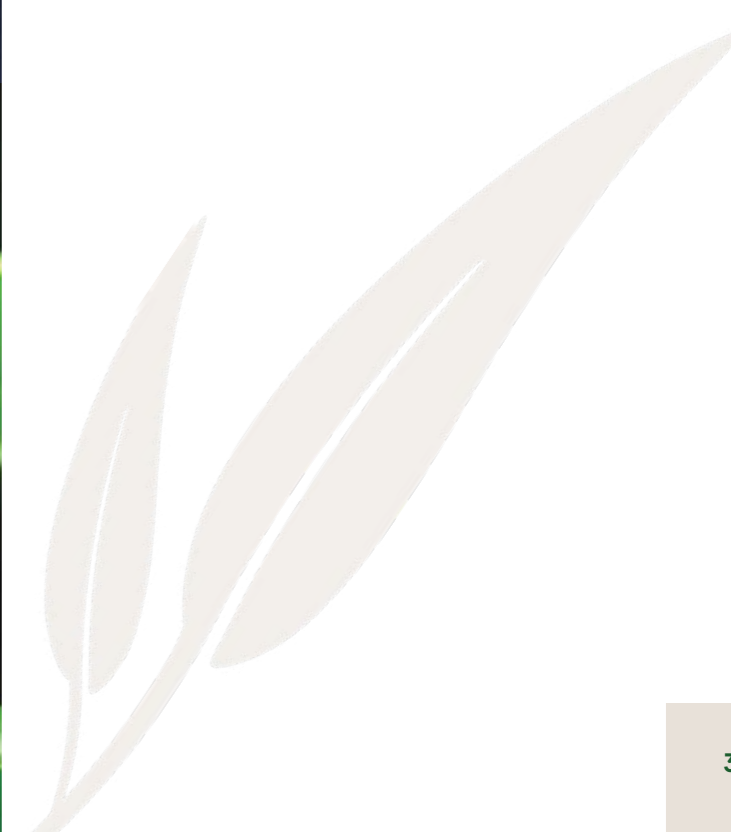
Ensure we keep our Wildlife Rescue Office open 24/7, and resource our growing fleet of Wildlife Ambulances with expert Emergency Responders.

RESCUE & REHABILITATION

Help equip our network of thousands of volunteers to provide best practice care and rehabilitation, so that wherever possible, rescued native animals get a second chance at life in the wild.

RECOVERY & RISK REDUCTION

Support the long-term recovery and conservation of Australian native species and their habitats.



Wildlife Rescue Office

When every minute counts

The largest service of its kind in the world, the WIRES Wildlife Rescue Office is a critical lifeline for sick and injured wildlife.

It operates a designated Wildlife Rescue Line (1300 WIRES) which runs 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, receiving over 180,000 calls annually which results in more than 140,000 animal assisted.

It also plays a vital role in community education; providing information and advice to the Australian public on how to co-exist peacefully and safely with Australian species.

Developing systems that save lives

The WIRES Wildlife Rescue Office also has a unique role in coordinating complex rescue collaborations with a growing network of wildlife organisations, veterinarian clinics and thousands of registered wildlife volunteers across thousands of kilometres.

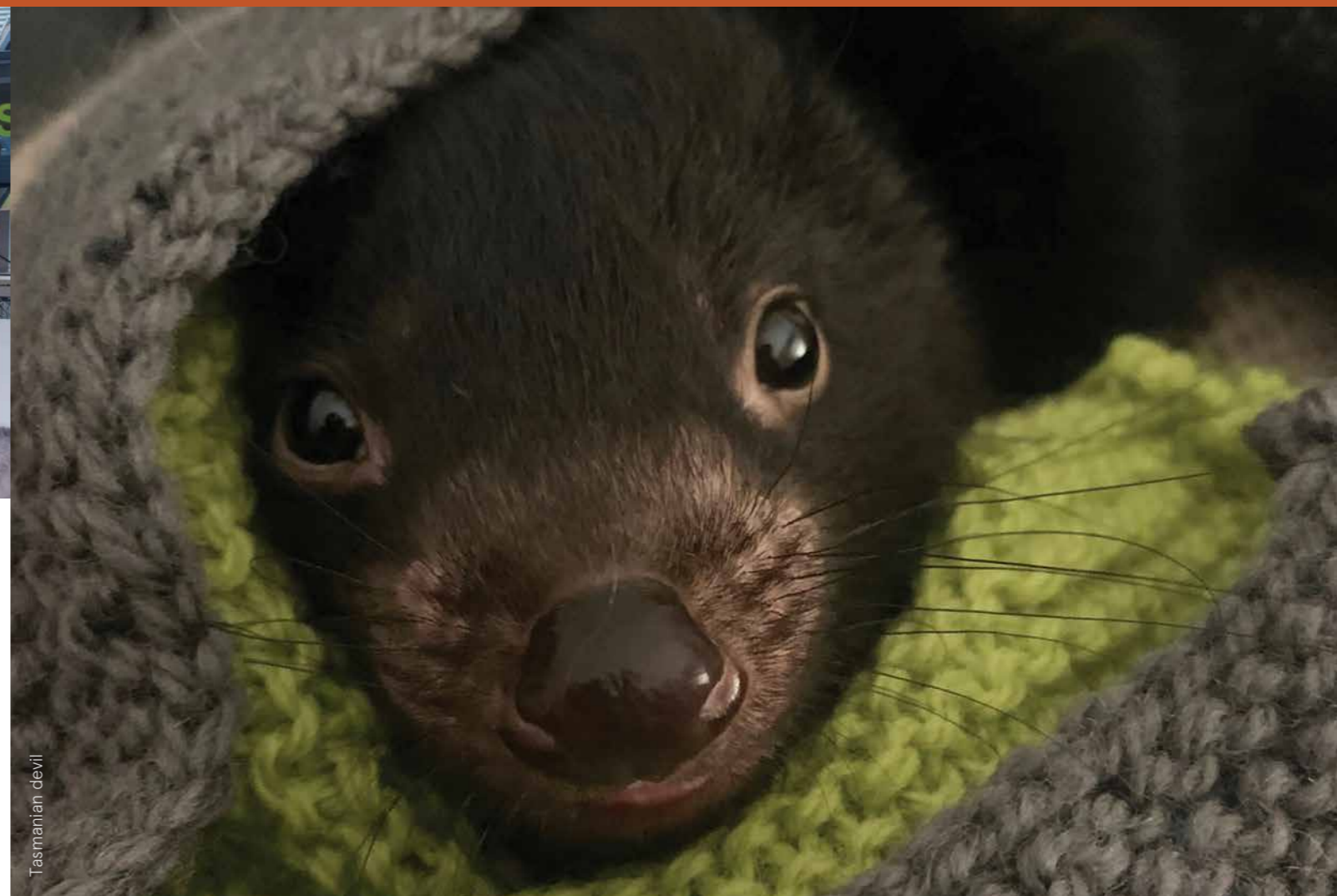
Through our partnership with critical response experts Everbridge, WIRES has implemented a critical rescue communication platform.

This innovative platform utilises cutting-edge technology to swiftly locate, identify, and pair distressed sick and injured native animals with nearby, appropriately qualified rescuers.

The software significantly reduces the time an injured native animal waits before receiving immediate rescue and care; by simultaneously sending hundreds of instant messages to all available and correctly trained rescuers.

Our critical rescue platform has changed our Emergency Rescue Service, substantially increasing the speed, scope, and effectiveness of wildlife rescue for WIRES by allowing more animals to be rescued faster.

WIRES is in a unique position to assist other wildlife rescue organisations across Australia by providing access to the platform, allowing for a more streamlined and efficient approach to wildlife rescue nationally. To date, WIRES has successfully onboarded and trained 17 additional organisations across 4 states to the platform. Sharing the platform's capabilities to empower rescue organisations across Australia has enabled faster response times for wildlife in need. Additionally, requests from wildlife groups to implement this software is increasing.



Tasmanian devil

Wildlife Rescue Office Achievements:

The largest service of its kind in the world.

Wildlife Rescue Line (1300 WIRES) runs 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

We receive more than 180,000 calls a year, resulting in over 140,000 animals assisted.

Last year, WIRES onboarded an additional 17 wildlife organisations onto our critical rescue platform, enabling faster responses for wildlife rescues nationwide.

Wildlife Rescue Office Aim:

OUR ONGOING PLAN: Our vision is to significantly increase the capability and capacity of our integrated emergency response systems, so more wildlife organisations across Australia join the platform, and more native animals get the immediate rescue and care they urgently need.

SUPPORT AREA: Wildlife Rescue Office

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The WIRES Wildlife Rescue Office (WRO) currently operates with an annual budget of \$4 million. We urgently seek annual funding to maintain this large-scale operation, and additional growth funding to upgrade and future proof our processes and systems, making the service robust, and more easily scalable.

LOCATION: National

Emergency Response Teams

An Emergency Service, just for wildlife

WIRES has a dedicated Emergency Response Team (ERT), equipped to carry out our most critical wildlife rescues and respond to high numbers of displaced wildlife during a disaster.

Our highly skilled Emergency Responders are trained in the rescue and care of all Australian species (including the highly venomous) enabling them to support volunteer networks during the most critical and challenging situations. They currently respond to more than 4,500 critical rescues annually.

To increase the effectiveness of our Emergency Response Teams, we have a growing fleet of Wildlife Ambulances strategically positioned along the Australian eastern seaboard and Tasmania. Each is equipped with extensive rescue and medical equipment, medical and first aid supplies, and emergency telecommunications. They are on the road daily, covering vast distances to treat injured, sick and orphaned native animals and transport them to safety.



In March 2023, WIRES ERT expanded their aid to wildlife impacted by the Tambaroora bushfire in NSW's Central West. Teaming up with the NSW Rural Fire Service, they conducted a thorough wildlife rescue operation.

Emergency Response Teams Achievements:

Our current fleet of ambulances work in New South Wales, Tasmania and Queensland.

ERT responds to more than 4,500 critical rescues annually.

ERT travels over 225,000kms every year.

Emergency Response Teams Aim:

OUR ONGOING PLAN: As pressures on our native wildlife increase, so do the demands on our Emergency Response Teams. Our vision is to sustain and expand our Wildlife Ambulance fleet and Emergency Responders so when disasters strike or when a rescue is deemed particularly urgent or critical, vulnerable native animals get the immediate rescue and care they need to survive.

SUPPORT AREA: Emergency Response Teams

FINANCIAL IMPACT: We seek funding to maintain our current fleet annually, plus to expand the fleet and train more Emergency Responders.

To get one new fully equipped Wildlife Ambulance with a trained Emergency Responder on the road, is approximately \$180,000. Costings include:

- The vehicle purchase (Toyota Hiace) and initial service
- Complete fit out with specialist equipment and medical supplies, such as incubators, mobile oxygen converters, acute medications and water tanks.
- Salary costs associated for training and employing one fully trained Emergency Responder per year.

LOCATION: New South Wales, Queensland & Tasmania



Volunteer Support and Wildlife Training

Supporting the backbone of animal rescue and rehabilitation in Australia

WIRES works with more than 10,000 wildlife rescuers and carers across the country, including our own 4,000 New South Wales based WIRES volunteers. Wildlife volunteers work around the clock, every day of the year, providing rescue, rehabilitation and care for wildlife that simply would not survive without their efforts.

Supporting wildlife volunteers is a key priority for WIRES and a vital safeguard for the native animals depending on their expert care.

Our current programs include:

- **Providing specialised training courses** to ensure wildlife rescuers, carers, veterinarians and industry professionals are up to date with the most current information and have access to best-practice rehabilitation methods for all native species. Our WIRES species courses are all developed by wildlife experts and wildlife veterinarians. We currently have 38 different courses available, including introductory and advanced sessions, both online and in-person. Our courses cover species-specific rescue, rehabilitation and care, emergency triage, animal welfare, pain-management, and Emergency Preparedness and Response. They are heavily subsidised, and are often offered free of charge. Our focus is on making sure wildlife carers are equipped to provide rescued native animals with expert rehabilitation and care, for the best chance of survival after release.
- **Wildlife Rehabilitation Support** to provide WIRES volunteers with access to supplementary wildlife food, critical care and infant formulas, rescue and rehabilitation supplies and equipment, and access to specialist vaccinations.
- **National Food Support and Disaster Relief.** Working with our long-term partner Woolworths, WIRES now has a dedicated Food Support and Disaster Relief program to distribute food, supplies and medical aid to wildlife carers across Australia. This relief can be in response to widescale disasters such as flooding and bushfires, species-specific crises including starvation and heat stress events, or localised ecological crises including oil spills.



Flying fox



Platypus

Volunteer Support and Wildlife Training Achievements:

WIRES supports more than 10,000 wildlife rescuers and carers across the country.

In FY2023, over 2,600 wildlife carers completed WIRES courses, including 58 advanced species training courses.

In a recent flood disaster WIRES distributed over 750kg of supplementary wildlife food and specialist formulas in the first few weeks.

Volunteer Support and Wildlife Training Aim:

OUR ONGOING PLAN: As the challenges to our native wildlife intensify, so too does the burden on wildlife carers. WIRES is focused on increasing support for the volunteer wildlife sector in Australia through access to expert training, and the coordination and distribution of food, supplies, aid and relief, particularly during disasters.

SUPPORT AREA: Volunteer Support and Wildlife Training

FINANCIAL IMPACT: WIRES allocates approximately \$5 million annually to support WIRES volunteers, wildlife rescue organisations and registered carers across Australia.

We urgently seek funding to sustain these current operations, including researching and developing new training courses to improve outcomes for rescued wildlife.

Additional funding will help us significantly expand the complex coordination and distribution of supplementary food, supplies, aid and relief for wildlife carers across Australia, supporting them through increasingly frequent extreme weather events and ecological crises.

LOCATION: National

Building Best Practice Rehabilitation Facilities

Preparing rescued native animals for a successful return to the wild

In 2021, WIRES conducted a comprehensive review of existing wildlife rehabilitation facilities in NSW. The outcome has been the identification of priority areas for new rehabilitation facilities, enabling rescued native animals to access best-practice care and recovery to significantly increase their chances for survival in the wild.

This program includes the funding of smaller scale rehabilitation facilities for registered WIRES carers, and large-scale rehabilitation centres for priority at-risk species including raptors and koalas. For example, whilst the koala is now listed as endangered in Queensland, NSW and ACT, koala facilities across the eastern seaboard remain scarce. Those that do exist often lack vital resources or are located long distances from vet clinics and wildlife carers, adding additional travel stress to sick and injured koalas.

In 2022 WIRES established a Koala Rehabilitation Centre on the grounds of Western Sydney University. The facility is closely located to appropriately trained wildlife carers and veterinarians and has four koala enclosures. In addition, in response to the heat and starvation events that affected flying fox populations across the eastern seaboard in late 2023, WIRES worked with councils, government agencies and local partners to fund large scale pre-release “creche” enclosures in suitable sites. These facilities were extremely important as orphaned and rehabilitated flying foxes need a period in which to de-humanise and learn to fly before release. These enclosures also needed to be within close proximity of established flying fox colonies for their best chance of survival.

We are now focused on establishing a further two dedicated koala rehabilitation facilities near the Campbelltown and Wollondilly regions (each home to critical koala populations) and establishing dedicated rehabilitation facilities for at-risk species including raptors, wombats and marine species.



Koala and joey

Wildlife Rehab Facilities Achievements:

Established the WIRES Koala Rehabilitation Centre at Western Sydney University, strategically located near vets and wildlife carers.

Constructed and established flying fox pre-release facilities in Northern NSW and Centennial Park, Sydney. Positioned near flying fox colonies to maximise long term release, success.

Established large scale project to construct and distribute 75 home-based and mobile aviaries for WIRES volunteers across NSW.

Currently implementing species-specific aviaries and rehabilitation facilities in Hawkesbury, Campbelltown, Southern Highlands, Illawarra, and Northern Rivers areas.

Rehabilitation Facilities Aim:

OUR ONGOING PLAN: These facilities will provide optimal conditions for rehabilitated animals to recover from injuries, regain health, and develop crucial skills such as flying and foraging to increase their chances of survival in the wild. They will also act as important hubs for volunteer carers, vets, researchers and specialists.

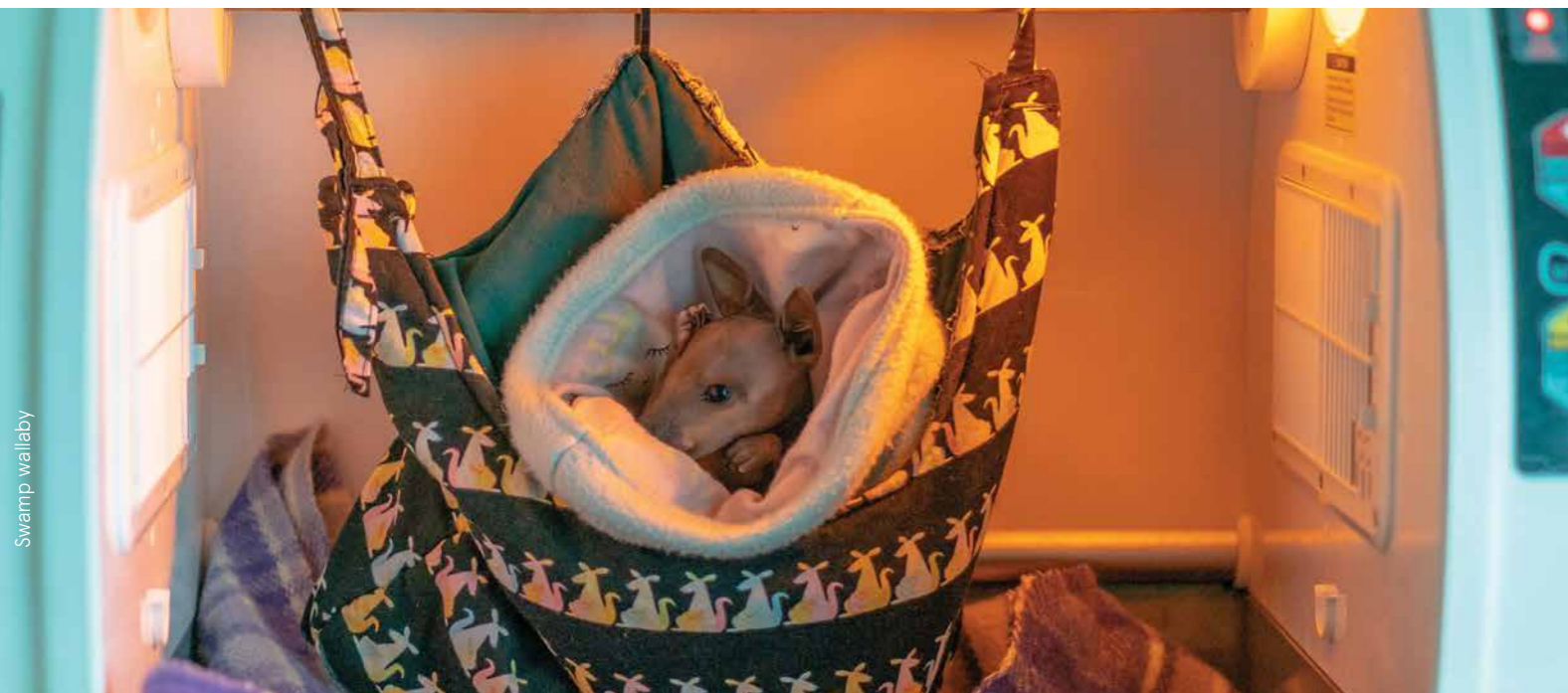
SUPPORT AREA: Establishing Best Practice Rehabilitation Facilities

FINANCIAL IMPACT: A visionary family launched this long-term program with an investment of \$250,000. Significant seed funding has also been committed from the WIRES Emergency Fund.

Funding is being sought to support the complex administrative processes behind securing and establishing best practice facilities across NSW, including architectural plans, DA approvals, establishing long term partnerships, building materials and costs.

Funding into this program area will also support ongoing operations, maintenance, security and where appropriate staffing for WIRES funded facilities, and the provision of specialised care and medical treatment for rehabilitating wildlife.

LOCATION: NSW



Swamp wallaby

WIRES National Grants Program

Supporting national grassroots organisations

In the aftermath of the 2019/20 bushfire catastrophe, and in recognition of the immense and complex challenges facing Australian wildlife, WIRES launched our National Grants Program.

This program supports the work of trusted, often grassroots organisations across Australia that are experts in their specialist fields. These include wildlife rehabilitators, researchers, conservation professionals, citizen scientists and community groups.

Our grants focus on initiatives that deliver tangible, long-term benefits for wildlife and the recovery of their habitats. They target critical knowledge gaps and encourage projects that build the capacity and capabilities of conservation efforts, particularly those with strong elements of community engagement.

Since its inception in 2021, the WIRES National Grants Program has funded over 200 projects and research programs. The program has supported projects spanning research, habitat replanting and restoration, facility upgrades, species population monitoring and the provision of rescue and medical equipment. Our grant recipients range from individual carers to large multi-partner collaborations.

NARG, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

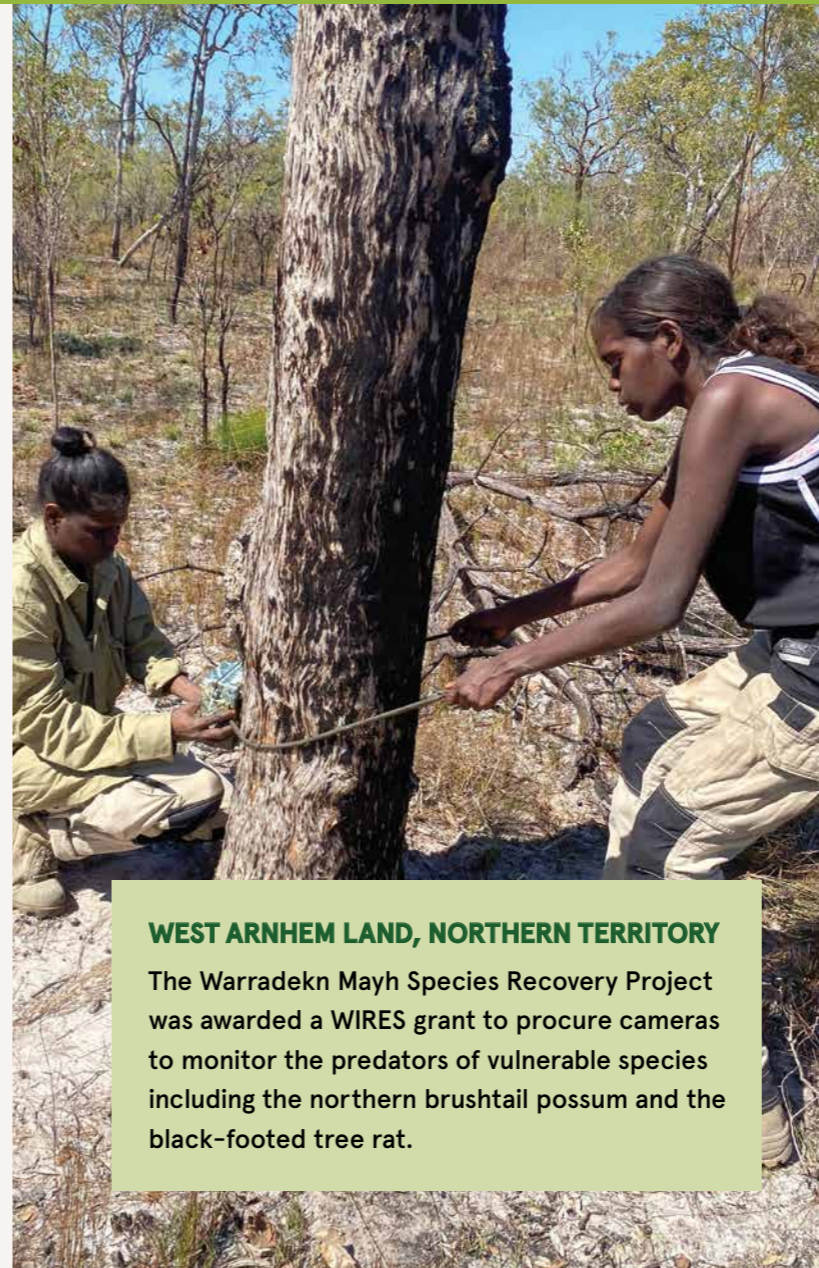
A WIRES Grant funded a rehabilitation enclosure for juvenile black cockatoos. This specialised facility is now supporting the rehabilitation and care of these endangered birds and is providing valuable insights into their family dynamics and social behaviours. Observations within the enclosure reveal the vital role of adult cockatoos in mentoring orphaned young, contributing significantly to our understanding of these threatened species.



Black cockatoo

“We are so buoyed by the outstanding work being done by people across this country. We are seeing innovative and practical solutions to address the multitude of challenges our native animals face Australia-wide. As we roll out this program we are looking forward to seeing measurable positive impacts as a result of the grant recipients’ hard work and collaboration.”

WIRES CEO Leanne Taylor



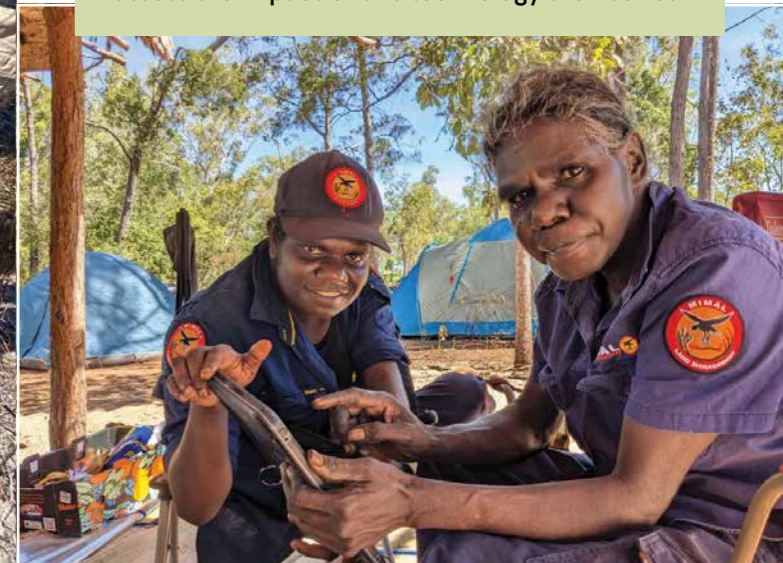
WEST ARNHEM LAND, NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Warradekn Mayh Species Recovery Project was awarded a WIRES grant to procure cameras to monitor the predators of vulnerable species including the northern brushtail possum and the black-footed tree rat.

CENTRAL ARNHEM LAND, NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Mimal Women Rangers were the recipients of a WIRES grant in 2023. They’ve successfully established three 25-hectare feral herbivore enclosures aimed at assessing the impact of invasive species including water buffalo and cows, on the health of savanna woodlands.

Initially, CSIRO conducted ground-based Light Detection and Ranging surveys to establish baseline biodiversity assessments in these areas. Now, the Mimal Women Rangers will use their WIRES grant to acquire their own survey kit and provide training for their rangers to use and assess the impact of this technology themselves.



National Grants Program Achievements:

The WIRES National Grants Program has funded over 200 projects to date, covering wildlife research, conservation, habitat restoration, and rehabilitation.

In 2022, the Program approved 74 projects across seven states and territories, with over half focused on enhancing emergency preparedness and response.

WIRES NGP has increased community awareness and inspired broader community involvement in supporting Australian wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and preservation efforts.

National Grants Program Aim:

SUPPORT AREA: Recovery and Risk Reduction.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: In 2021 WIRES committed to a \$5 million-dollar National Grants Program to be rolled out over five years. Due to its success, we’ve now extended the program until 2030.

Investment into this program will support the innovative work and collaborations of trusted wildlife conservation groups across Australia, in their expert efforts to safeguard, preserve and protect native species and their habitats.

LOCATION: National

Case Study

Our holistic approach helps change the story

When two simultaneous deadly events began impacting flying fox populations on the east coast of Australia – WIRES mobilised fast. As important pollinators of remaining bushlands, our response was urgent from both an animal welfare and biodiversity perspective.

AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The twin heat stress and starvation events, during the summer of 2023, led to a massive influx of malnourished and heat-affected flying foxes needing urgent care, putting a huge strain on WIRES volunteers and wildlife carers across three eastern states.

Our Wildlife Rescue Office were briefed to provide vital community advice on what to do when encountering a flying fox in distress, whilst our Emergency Responders and Wildlife Ambulances were deployed to assist local vets and carers with the high numbers of distressed adults and orphaned pups needing urgent assistance.

Our Incident Management Team contacted all specialist flying fox carers to make sure they were up to date with their vaccinations and specialist training (all funded and provided by WIRES) and, using our specialist communications system Everbridge, were able to send forecasting alerts so field staff could be deployed quickly when temperatures were about to spike.

Flying fox

Spectacled flying fox

Spectacled flying fox



Flying fox © Amir Sezavar



RESCUE AND REHABILITATION

To alleviate the strain on wildlife carers, our Disaster Relief Program, with the support of Woolworths distributed emergency food aid and supplies, including fresh fruit for rehabilitating adults and specialist high protein formulas for malnourished pups in care.

Rehabilitation equipment, temporary enclosures and bat creches were also distributed, and we continue to work closely with local councils to install large pre-release enclosures near established bat colonies.

RECOVERY AND RISK REDUCTION

WIRES Wildlife Vet Dr Tania Bishop continues to lead multi-sector interventions into cooling strategies for wild populations, whilst our National Grants Program is funding research into flying fox populations in NSW and South Australia, and a significant five-year bush regeneration and replanting project for grey headed flying foxes in mid-north NSW.

The critically endangered Spectacled Flying Fox pup pictured above, lost her mother in a heat stress event. She's alive due to urgent interventions and care provided by WIRES veterinarian Dr Tania Bishop.

As with so many of the pressures facing threatened wildlife today, these deadly events were a result of habitat loss and compounded extreme weather events fueled by climate change. The issues are complex, but our holistic, multi-faceted approach is making a measurable difference – and will continue to do so, with your help.



Returning Life to the Wild

At no other time in history has WIRES' mission been more critical for the future of Australian wildlife. For some species, every native animal returned to the wild is a buffer against extinction.

Now is the time to harness our collective power. With supporters like you, we will amplify WIRES unique skillset and emergency services to increase rescue and rehabilitation capacity across the country. We will support our network of volunteer carers, accelerate best practice rehabilitation, fund innovative programs into habitat and species' recovery and continue to support trusted partners across Australia to safeguard precious ecosystems for the decades to come.

Major donations provide vital financial support for critical areas of our work, enabling us to continue our life-saving programs. We know our major donors give to create positive, lasting change and we welcome the opportunity to discuss the funding options that align with your philanthropic focus. Together we can make a profound difference and we welcome your pledge of support to give native wildlife the very best chance of survival.

For more information on the programs highlighted in this book and partnering with us on specific projects, please contact our Philanthropy Manager on 02 8977 3396 or email philanthropy@wires.org.au

Thank you!



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Grey-headed Flying fox

