

Media Release

Ingrid Stitt MP

Minister for Early Childhood & Pre-Prep
Minister for Environment



Friday, 14 July 2023

PROTECTING VICTORIA'S BIODIVERSITY AND THREATENED SPECIES

The Andrews Labor Government is backing projects to protect threatened species and safeguard Victoria's unique biodiversity.

Minister for Environment Ingrid Stitt today announced \$14.2 million towards 30 landscape-scale projects across the state which will reduce the impact of pests, predators and weeds, providing improved habitat for native plants and wildlife to flourish.

The projects will protect the biodiversity of Victoria's most iconic landscapes, including the Grampians, the Alps and East Gippsland, while benefiting a range of threatened species, such as the Major Mitchell cockatoo, the Spotted-tail quoll and the Elegant Spider Orchid.

The strategic delivery of the projects is underpinned by the best available science, to ensure they provide maximum benefit for native species and their habitats.

This investment builds on \$18.1 million invested last year to protect native plants and wildlife from invasive species in landscapes across the state, including Barmah, Wilsons Promontory and the Little Desert.

This on-ground action involves tackling weeds and pests, which are placing increasing pressure on ecosystems already under threat from climate change.

Taking action on invasive species is one of the most direct and effective ways of helping biodiversity and giving threatened species the best chance of survival.

Through *Biodiversity 2037* and a record investment of more than \$582 million since 2014, the Andrews Labor Government is delivering the biggest ever investment into protecting Victoria's biodiversity and environment.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Environment Ingrid Stitt

"We are committed to protecting Victoria's biodiversity and safeguarding the future of our threatened species."

"These projects will ensure Victoria's environment is healthy, valued and protected for generations to come."

"The devastating impacts of the bushfires on our wildlife and biodiversity are well known – that's why we are continuing to support their recovery, so they can survive and thrive."