

A strong voice for our future

BRITTANY LAUGA MP

B Urb Dev (Urb&Reg Plan)(Hons), C.dec

**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL
AND ASSISTANT MINISTER
FOR EDUCATION**



MEDIA RELEASE

11 June 2020

Keppel wildlife carers granted animal care funds

Yeppoon's Cooberrie Park Wildlife Sanctuary in Yeppoon, will receive over \$4000 from the Community Sustainability Action Grants program to help continue providing lifesaving care to sick or injured wildlife,

The grant is part of the Palaszczuk Government's recovery plan: *Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs*.

Member for Keppel Brittany Lauga said 43 wildlife carers or groups across the state would share in almost \$130,000 under a new round of the Queensland Government's Community Sustainability Action Grants program.

"The Wildlife Rehabilitation HQ Inc who is one of the successful recipients of that grants, will utilise funds to provide essential joey milk and food supplements for bushfire affected wildlife." Ms Lauga said.

"Our community welcomes the news of this funding which will enable our carers to continue their tireless work in helping our local wildlife."

Minister for Environment Leeanne Enoch said many factors had impacted Queensland wildlife hospitals and carers, including the bushfires, ongoing drought and COVID-19.

"Many of our carers' networks are at maximum capacity with some unable to take on additional sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife." Ms Enoch said.

"Over 80 applications were received, with 24 individual carers and 19 wildlife care groups successful in gaining funding,

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“These grants will enable carers to continue their tireless work rehabilitating our vulnerable native species.”

Wildlife Rehabilitation HQ Inc carer Kieron Smedley thanked the Palaszczuk Government for the funding which would provide essential joey milk and food supplements.

“This is the first time we have received funding, and it will allow us to continue to provide essential care.

“During the bushfires, we provided care and rehabilitation services for an additional 50 native animals.” said Smedley

“Annually, we provide care and rehabilitation services for about 150 animals, but with the bushfires, we are providing care for more than 200 animals.

“Cooberrie Park has been rehabilitating sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife for more than 50-years and this funding will help us continue to provide this critical service.

“Our main aim is to rehabilitate and release, and there is nothing better than seeing one of our rehabilitated animals going back into the wild.”

This funding is on top of the \$18 million being provided under the Community Sustainability Action Grant program to individuals and community groups for innovative projects to address climate change, protect our unique wildlife and conserve Queensland’s natural and built environment.

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More information on the Community Sustainability Action Grants Program is available at www.qld.gov.au/environment/pollution/funding/community-sustainability.

ENDS

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