



Greg Aplin MP
Member for Albury

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$199,500 IN LOCAL RESTORATION GRANT FUNDING

Albury City Council and Murray Local Land Services will receive \$199,500 in NSW Government Grants for the Wagirra Trail Murray River Restoration Project and habitat enhancement for threatened squirrel gliders in Burrumbuttock respectively, Member for Albury, Greg Aplin announced today.

The funding grant is part of the NSW Government's Restoration and Rehabilitation Grant Program, which encourages and enables organisations to protect, conserve and restore the state's environment.

"These grants will help protect and preserve our local environment for future generations," Mr Aplin said.

"Funding of the Wagirra Trail Murray River Restoration Project will assist construction of the 14 kilometre Wagirra Trail (a walking and cycling trail) to coincide with exclusion of livestock for 12 kilometres of Murray River frontage. Weed control and re-vegetation activities will provide major improvement to water quality in the Murray River. This work will be conducted by the Wagirra Trail Team who are an all Aboriginal land management and construction team."

"Murray Local Land Services is delivering the Burrumbuttock Squirrel Glider Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) in collaboration with agency and community partners, to secure the long-term viability of the vulnerable squirrel glider population. This proposal adds value to the LAMP, aiming to enhance grassy box woodland habitat patches to improve suitability for squirrel gliders and other woodland fauna by installing nest boxes, planting and/or installation of tree guards to protect paddock trees, pruning and ecological thinning of historical revegetation sites and selective introduction of individual food resource trees to existing remnants or revegetation sites."

More than 50 grants were awarded across NSW with 25 going to community groups and 27 to state and local government agencies for a range of habitat and ecosystem restoration projects.

NSW Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton said this year's grants enabled local groups to undertake important conservation work to improve the health of the state's rivers and wetlands, control invasive species and conserve our threatened native plants and animals.

"The NSW Government has been supporting local organisations conserve the state's diverse bushland, wildlife and heritage for more than two decades through this program," Ms Upton said.

For more details visit: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/restoration.htm>

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