

Ideas to assist in the conservation of wildlife in the Royal Reserves and surrounding lands

Bob Crombie 26 June 2018

1. Facilitating wildlife movement

Enhancing the wildlife movement corridors servicing Royal National Park

1. Identify the corridors
2. identify and work with all stakeholders: councils, SSEC, FNP, FORNP, NPA, WIRES, NPWS, RMA, SRA, Energy Authorities, local groups, local politicians, local groups such as LIONS, ROTARY, etc and have them involved as much as possible especially developing particular projects
3. Identify the species that will be serviced: ARBOREAL Greater, Yellow-bellied, Sugar, Squirrel, and Feather-tail Gliders; Mountain, Brushtail, Ringtail and Pygmy Possums Phascogales. Koalas, Spotted Quolls at least. All the park wildlife for terrestrial species overpasses.
4. Identify the significance of such corridors for plants
5. Identify key locations of barriers in those corridors and come up with solutions: e.g.
6. Wildlife rope bridges across Lawrence Hargraves Drive (problems with power lines not allowing anything within 3 metres above and below, bridges going across power lines); Wakehurst Parkway, Bertram Stevens Drive, McKell Ave, F6 Freeway, Princes Hwy
7. Converting Cawleys Bridge into a multipurpose bridge servicing human and wildlife needs with rope ladders and raised runways for arboreal animals
8. purpose built wildlife overpasses across the F6 freeway
9. Incorporate wildlife movement needs and connectivity into the Plan of Management for Royal, Garawarra and Heathcote
10. Public education programs
11. Posters

2. Identification and replanting of iconic vegetation into the RRs

Identification and replanting of iconic vegetation into the RRs where its populations have been severely disrupted through man-made influences and disturbances; e.g. replant once common Red Cedars which have been severely logged from the area since the 1820s and notably in the period 1920 to 27 in Royal. Replant once very common tree ferns in as many suitable areas as possible to re-establish their populations markedly diminished by legal and illegal collecting, and deer predation. Others to consider: (once very common in the park and even in the Shire) Stinging Trees (records show that they were hated by the loggers and felled on sight whenever they could.), White Cedars, White Beeches

E.g Red Cedar, White Cedar Stinging Tree, White Beech, Cabbage Tree Palms, Tree Ferns, Elkhorn Ferns, Bird's Nest Ferns,

3. Enhancing, replacing habitat in the reserves

Strongly consider and begin implementing the introduction of nesting boxes of all sizes to service as many species as possible throughout needed areas, e.g. the heavily logged areas of the park, where the hollows to be found in the old trees have been lost due to felling, lightning strikes and burning from increased and hotter fires: south end of Royal from Upper Causeway, Bola Creek valley, National Falls valley and Couranga Brook, Forest Island. The presence of suitable hollows is one of the major limitations of affected species population size and distribution. It is highly likely that the heavy logging of the past has markedly reduced the populations of many species.

4. Bewildering

Begin looking at ways at how wildlife extending their ranges from the park into surrounding suburbs can be facilitated:

1. Identify the species likely to be involved: lots, and have plans for them, pamphlets on how to live with them, etc bewildering and ecoscaping, share experience with local bush regeneration people and councils, e.g. Black Cockatoos (plant casuarinas (make sure have females) and banksias in the surrounding suburbs), Bush Rats, insects, Echnidnas.
2. Connectivity in the suburbs (a big subject with much than can be done. We don't only need rope bridges and nesting boxes in the park and its corridors, we need them in all suburbs as well. Can get many more birds back into suburbs if they could nest there (Rainbow Lorikeets, Pardalotes, etc), Sugar and Feathertail Gliders could establish populations in the suburbs if assisted.
3. Work with surrounding councils on Bewildering their suburbs. E.g. Sutherland Council is currently developing a policy and guidelines for community gardens and bewildering.

5 Education

Run public seminars on Wildlife movement, Bewildering, etc.

Talks

Posters

Pamphlets on all the above

Encourage the use of the term 'bewildering'.