

MEDIA RELEASE

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Glossy Black-cockatoo recovery program saved by sponsorship

The future of an endangered bird on Kangaroo Island is now more secure after much-needed sponsorship for the Glossy Black-cockatoo Recovery Program.

A \$72,500 sponsorship from Kangaroo Island Plantation Timbers is a lifeline so the program can continue for the 2017-18 financial year.

The funding, through the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board, allows the recovery team to continue to protect the bird and its habitat.

KI is the last refuge of SA's Glossy Black-cockatoo, which was once widespread across the Fleurieu Peninsula and Mount Lofty Ranges.

The recovery program has been in place for more than 20 years, and surveys show positive results: numbers increased from 158 in 1995 to 373 at the last census.

KIPT Managing Director John Sergeant said the Glossy Black-cockatoo was an important species for Kangaroo Island as well as the State and the program was in danger after government funding ended in June.

"We have a significant number of nesting and feeding sites near our plantations," Mr Sergeant said. "In keeping with our commitment to the KI environment, we are pleased to support a program that is highly valued by the community."

With support from the Friends of the Glossies group, the program hosts community planting days for the birds' food - drooping she-oak - and installs artificial nesting boxes.

Presiding Member of the KI NRM Board Richard Trethewey said the program had begun to wind down before sponsorship was confirmed.

"In line with our recent commitment to seek alternative funding sources, the KI NRM Board is promoting a funding prospectus to encourage investment into the program," Mr Trethewey said.

"KIPT has responded to this urgent call for investment and we are very pleased they have generously committed to support the program for this financial year. We are keen to work with KIPT as it moves towards establishing a forestry industry and we encourage other corporate and private investors to follow their example."