



*Landscapes for life*

## **Bush Heritage Australia appoints new Regional Reserve Manager for Scottsdale property**

CONSERVATION group Bush Heritage Australia has appointed Peter Saunders as the Regional Reserve Manager for its Scottsdale and Burrin Burrin properties.

Scottsdale Reserve is a unique property of 1328 hectares - just 45 minutes south of Canberra, and north of Bredbo. The property forms part of the Kosciuszko to Coast (K2C) partnership – an initiative established to help landholders reconnect isolated woodlands and grasslands between Kosciuszko and the coastal forests of the Far South Coast.

Mr. Saunders has considerable experience in landscape management and his land management knowledge will help enhance the property's endangered grassy box gum woodlands that are home to many rare birds and reptiles like the diamond firetail finch and the rosenberg's monitor.

Mr. Saunders said he was excited about undertaking the first of his reserve management projects. "Bush Heritage Australia and K2C partners bring a great deal of experience to the project and together can collaboratively offer landholders the best choice in on-ground resources to landholders interested in taking them up," he said.

"Together, we will be making decisions based on the balance that exists between the role of grasses, shrubs and trees in enhancing our declining wildlife habitat, concentrating on reinvigorating the endangered grassland swards. This will start with well timed weed control programs and mitigating the risk of fire."

“Not only will the property itself blossom but it will enable K2C partners to use the property as a base from which to highlight alternative land uses and show by example what landholders can do to encourage good vegetation management.”

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**Editor notes:**

**About Bush Heritage Australia**

Bush Heritage is a national non-profit organisation that protects Australia’s unique animals, plants and their habitats. Bush Heritage achieves this by acquiring and managing land of outstanding conservation value, or by working in partnership with other landowners. By 2025, Bush Heritage Australia aims to own, protect or manage 1 per cent of Australian land.

**About Scottsdale Reserve**

Acquired in 2006, Scottsdale reserve protects endangered grassy box gum woodlands that are home to many rare birds and reptiles along with threatened springs, bogs and temperate grasslands. It has one of the last intact ecosystems on the Murrumbidgee River. On the north-west boundary winds the cool deep pools of the Murrumbidgee River and to the east the historic Bombala-Goulburn railway easement elegantly envelopes the property.

**About the K2C partnership**

K2C is a community partnership established to help landholders reconnect isolated woodlands and grasslands between Kosciuszko and Namadgi National Parks and the coastal forests of the Far South Coast.

Over the past 200 years, the distribution of native grasslands and woodlands throughout the region has contracted considerably resulting in the fragmentation of vegetation and a subsequent loss in habitat for many native animals.

The K2C project has been operating mainly in the Murrumbidgee corridor region for over two years now and K2C partners are working with more than 50 landholders to identify, restore and extend alpine, wetland, grassland, woodland and forest ecosystems between Mt Kosciuszko and the coast (>1200sq km).

K2C partners consist of: Bush Heritage Australia, NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change, Greening Australia Capital Region, Molonglo Catchment Group, Nature Conservation Trust NSW, Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Committee, Friends of Grassland, Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee and Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority.

K2C is one of the five priority areas included in the Great Eastern Ranges initiative. The Initiative is a continental scale project to maintain and improve landscapes along Australia's Great Eastern Ranges and builds on the important work already taken on by partnerships such as K2C.