

Louise Sylvan appointed to Bush Heritage Board

CONSERVATION group Bush Heritage Australia has appointed long-term supporter and consumer-protection advocate Louise Sylvan as its newest board member.

An active member and worker in consumer protection nationally and internationally for over 15 years, Ms. Sylvan is well known for her work in enhancing consumer rights in a range of areas such as health, food safety issues, financial services, as well as in competition and consumer policy.

Ms Sylvan has been an active supporter of Bush Heritage Australia for more than a decade. In 1999, a property (Burrin Burrin) which was part of the estate of her late husband Richard Sylvan (environmental philosopher) was donated to Bush Heritage. Eight years later in 2007, Louise herself donated a 55 hectare property in NSW. Today, both reserves form part of the 31 properties owned and managed by Bush Heritage for conservation.

As a board member, Ms. Sylvan will provide strategic advice and support management as Bush Heritage grows its reserve estate and builds its partnerships particularly around Indigenous engagement.

Phillip Toyne, President of Bush Heritage Australia said he was thrilled that such a highly credentialed person and passionate conservationist had joined the board of directors.

“We are very fortunate to have attracted to the Bush Heritage board someone with Louise’s knowledge, expertise and dedication,” he said.

“Her personal support of Bush Heritage Australia over the last ten years is indicative of her commitment to the vision of Bush Heritage – to protect 7 million hectares of land for conservation by 2025.”

Louise Sylvan said, “Bush Heritage has a striking vision for long-term land conservation and protection. Through the wonderful group of Bush Heritage donors and supporters, we are confidently building towards achieving the goal of protecting 1% of Australia by 2025. The unique plant and animal heritage that so defines this country deserves the best in preservation and management expertise that Bush Heritage can provide; helping to grow the committed group of Australians contributors that will enable Bush Heritage to achieve that vision will be my priority on the Board.

Ms Sylvan is currently a Commissioner with the Productivity Commission and has previously been the Deputy Chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). Before that Ms Sylvan was the Chief Executive of the Australian Consumers' Association (ACA) and President of Consumers International.

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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.

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