

Ramping up the fight for Australia's rarest bird

Wednesday, April 28 2021

National not-for-profit [Bush Heritage Australia](#) today announced that the conservation of Australia's critically endangered [Night Parrot](#) has been given a \$300,000 boost by the Queensland government.

There are believed to be between 10-20 Night Parrots at Pullen Pullen Reserve- the Bush Heritage property on Maiawali country in western Queensland. The Night Parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*) is only found in Australia and the only known population in Queensland occurs on Pullen Pullen and surrounds. The Pullen Pullen Night Parrots are the only Night Parrot population in the world subject to ongoing ecological research.

The \$304,500 grant was awarded by the Queensland Department of Environment and Science under its NatureAssist program to fund a number of targeted management actions aimed at protecting the Night Parrot including:

- A Night Parrot ecologist,
- Ecological monitoring equipment such as song meters and camera traps,
- Bushfire prevention work,
- Feral predator control,
- Engaging with the Maiawali Traditional Owners,
- Outfitting Pullen Pullen's' scientific research station.

These actions will build on the current understanding of Night Parrot population numbers, trends and breeding habits, and ensure the ongoing protection of Night Parrot habitat.

Bush Heritage's Executive Manager for the North region, Rob Murphy, said the funding would help to secure the future of this rare and irreplaceable bird.

“Bush Heritage and its partners have committed significant time, energy and resources over the last five years to protecting the Night Parrot. This new funding allows us to continue and expand the vital on-ground conservation work necessary to safeguard the bird and its habitat.”

Queensland Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon said Bush Heritage Australia's work would go a long way to protecting the famous parrot, and that the conservation of wildlife was a critical element of the Palaszczuk Government's \$1 billion investment to protect the environment and create jobs.

“Protections for Pullen Pullen were strengthened in 2020 when the Palaszczuk Government granted it Special Wildlife Reserve status, awarding it the same level of protections as a national park,” Ms Scanlon said.

“The Night Parrot is famous around the world and I'm proud the Palaszczuk Government has been able to support Bush Heritage Australia and Traditional Owners in their efforts to see it thrive.”

Protections for Pullen Pullen grew last year after the Queensland Government granted it Special Wildlife Reserve status, providing national park level protection to private land. The declaration of Pullen Pullen Special Wildlife Reserve was an Australian first.

Pullen Pullen quick facts

- The Traditional Owners are the Maiawali people
- Purchased by Bush Heritage in 2016 after the Night Parrot was discovered in the area in 2013 in what was the first confirmed live sighting of the bird in more than a century.
- Spans 56,000 hectares and provides habitat to a range of other native species including the Plains-wanderer, Grey Falcon, Kowari and Dusky Hopping-mouse.

Night Parrot quick facts

- First recorded by Europeans in 1845, the species had virtually disappeared by the turn of the 20th century. Until the discovery of dead Night Parrots in western Queensland in 1990 and 2006, there had been no definitive records since around 1870.
- The bird is nocturnal, ground-dwelling and builds its nests in hummocks of spinifex grass.
- Its primary threats are inappropriate fire regimes and introduced predators, particularly feral cats.
- Using the results of research conducted on Pullen Pullen, Night Parrots have now been discovered at several locations in Western Australia. Most of these discoveries have been the result of work by Indigenous ranger groups.

[Click here to download high resolution images of Pullen Pullen and the Night Parrot.](#)