



## BUSH HERITAGE AUSTRALIA

### Bush Heritage Australia Chief Executive Gerard O'Neill announcement

Bush Heritage Australia has announced that Chief Executive Gerard O'Neill will be stepping down from his executive role as of November 30, 2018.

O'Neill joined the organisation in 2011. In his seven-year tenure, he has led Bush Heritage through a period of significant growth, including doubling the area of land secured for conservation and the number of supporters. He leaves the organisation in a robust financial position, with the 17/18 revenues having reached a new record.

The President of Bush Heritage Australia, Chris Grubb, said O'Neill had made a long-lasting contribution to the environment through his leadership.

"Gerard's strategic direction, knowledge and deep commitment to advancing the values, vision and mission of Bush Heritage Australia has seen us exceed major organisational goals, and on behalf of the Board, I thank him for his commitment to the cause," said Grubb.

"We have now commenced our search for the role both nationally and internationally. We believe the field will be highly competitive considering Bush Heritage's reputation for being a well-governed and highly effective not-for-profit bush conservation organisation."

O'Neill said he was pleased at the impact Bush Heritage was making on a landscape scale.

"Bush Heritage is simply one of the leading conservation organisations in the country and I'm extremely proud of what we've achieved. Our staff and ecologists are smart, driven and dedicated, our reserves are a safe haven for thousands of unique native species in need of protection, our Aboriginal Partnerships program is very well respected, and our donors are Australians who are committed to making a real difference in this lifetime," said O'Neill.

"It was a difficult decision to step down from the role. I've dedicated my working life to conservation and I'm looking forward to developing further my interests outside of work and a deeper exploration of the Australian bush. I look forward to assisting in this transition period to ensure the new Chief Executive is well-placed to continue delivering our strategic goals and objectives."

The Board have now engaged an executive search agency to begin the search for the new Chief Executive of Bush Heritage Australia and hope to make an appointment by the end of 2018.

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