



**WESTERN PORT  
BIOSPHERE**  
RESERVE

*Growing connections  
for sustainability*

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**9 April 2015**

## **Growing Connections works with our partners**

Land restoration and re-vegetation will be the focus of nine new partnerships with community partners of the Western Port Biosphere Foundation.

“We will see 189 hectares of bush land enhanced and 32.3 hectares of land re-vegetated this year” Mr Duncan Malcolm, Chair of the Western Port Biosphere Foundation said. “We are delighted to be renewing contracts and establishing new partnerships with community groups to get this important work done.”

Nine new contracts have been signed with community partners to care for and improve habitat within the Biosphere Reserve. The contracts are with Bass Coast Landcare Network, Cardinia Catchment Landcare Group, Cardinia Environment Coalition, Cardinia Shire Council, the Habitat Restoration Fund, Mornington Railway Preservation Society, Phillip Island Nature Park, and Toomuc Creek Landcare Group.

Benefits of the work being done by community partners include weed control, management and re-vegetation of land which connects habitats.

The Growing Connections project has overseen 668 hectares of habitat protection and 72.5 hectares of re-vegetation since 2012. In this time 58,200 individual plants, comprising 128 different species, have been planted.

The Growing Connections projects bring people together to foster conservation. This is one of the main goals of the Western Port Biosphere.

Growing Connections is supported by the Australian Government.



**Australian Government**



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