

## **1. What is the project and why is it needed?**

RSPCA Queensland has cared for over 42,000 animals in the past year, over half are wildlife patients in dire need of urgent veterinary care. The demands on RSPCA Queensland's services are ever-increasing and the current 24-hour Wildlife Hospital at Wacol is exceeding its current capacity by 400%.

This has created a pressing and urgent need to build a new and expanded facility, one which better delivers critical care to our precious wildlife, prompting us to launch our Wildlife Capital Campaign, Together for Wildlife: our action, their future.

A prime site, centrally located in the Redlands corridor has been secured in the IndigiScapes precinct in Capalaba. Once built, this state-of-the-art facility will bring together cutting-edge technology, international best practice delivering the highest standard of care for injured wildlife. It will also become Queensland's Centre of Excellence for wildlife education and research, providing leadership and knowledge as we collectively tackle the urgent and growing threat to our native animals and help protect them for generations to come.

## **2. What will happen to the injured and sick wildlife in the south-western region of Brisbane and Queensland once the wildlife hospital relocates from Wacol?**

We will continue to accept wildlife at Wacol and triage incoming wildlife from these areas. This will be supported by regular RSPCA Rescue Unit transport to/from the new state-of-the-art wildlife facility ensuring patients receive treatment and critical care as quickly as possible.

### **a. What will happen with the Eumundi facility?**

The Eumundi Centre is a key facility in RSPCA Queensland's delivery of wildlife services across South East Queensland, and will continue to be into the future.

## **3. Where will the funding for the project come from?**

A transformational project of this size requires an investment of more than \$20 million to become a reality. RSPCA Queensland supporters have already contributed an additional \$3m for the specific purpose of building this much-needed Wildlife Hospital and Centre of Excellence. The federal government has also pledged their support in the form of a \$5 million commitment to the new Wildlife Hospital and Centre of Excellence, as part of their Saving Koalas Fund.

To bring this vision into reality we will require substantial community support over and above our normal, regular fundraising. Our Together For Wildlife campaign is now extended to those who have a love of wildlife and want to secure their future.

## **4. When will the new facility be completed?**

We're hoping that we will reach our fundraising target in time to enable the Wildlife Hospital and Centre of Excellence to be built by late 2025.

## **5. Will this project also involve planting koala food tree orchards for feeding koalas in care, and creating rehabilitation areas so that koalas are release-ready before being returned to the wild?**

The project will realise opportunities to plant native flora at the facility with the intent to have easy access to wildlife food and create educational opportunities for visitors. RSPCA Queensland will work closely with the neighbouring IndigiScapes precinct to identify planting opportunities at the project site, throughout the surrounding precincts, and where plantation opportunities might exist in the surrounding region.

## **6. Is RSPCA still accepting wildlife from local vets?**

Yes, we have been working with vets over the past year, around 160 in Brisbane and 10 clinics on the Sunshine Coast, providing education on triage of wildlife patients when they're brought into local vets.

## **7. How is Redland City Council supporting the project?**

Redland City Council will support delivery of the Wildlife Centre of Excellence through the provision of public land, and the opportunity for grants and financial support for eligible costs. This partnership will deliver significant public education and environmental benefits associated with the establishment of a world-class Wildlife Centre of Excellence on Redlands Coast.

## **8. Why are we only hearing about this now?**

The project announcements were timed to align with Federal Government requirements under their grant funding agreement, and to ensure that the announcement aligned with the availability of Minister Tanya Plibersek, The Minister for the Environment and Water to make a formal announcement about the project on Wednesday 8th Nov 2023.

## **9. Who is in the project team?**

RSPCA Queensland will lead the project management and fundraising campaign and assume ongoing administration and ownership of the Wildlife Centre of Excellence. The RSPCA project team consists of Darren Maier (CEO), Skye Jones (Strategic Project Coordinator), Kate Cross (GM Animal Operations), Dr Tim Portas (Wildlife Veterinary Director), Josephine Jordaan (Animal Rescue Manager), Brad Smith (Chief Commercial Officer), Zoe Jacovou (GM Marketing), Jim Green (GM Fundraising), Dr Anne Chester (Chief Veterinary Officer), and Charlie Farrell (Learning and Development Manager), with input from the broader wildlife and rescue team.

Redland City Council will provide technical guidance in the concept planning, execution, and final delivery of the facility.