



Sid Sidebottom MP ... for a fair go in Braddon

MEDIA RELEASE

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Support to protect World Heritage and vital wetlands

New funding will help to protect the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and a vital wetland on King Island says the Federal Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom MP.

Mr Sidebottom said he welcomed the joint announcement by Ministers Peter Garrett and Tony Burke for two projects in the region under the Caring for Our Country Community Action Grants program.

The King Island Natural Resource Management Group will receive \$20,000 to help farmers use nutrients in a sustainable manner to protect the internationally recognised Lavinia/Sea Elephant Wetland.

“The wetland provides critical habitat for the Orange-Bellied Parrot, and along with other catchments for 12 species listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act,” Mr Sidebottom said.

“The incorrect use of fertiliser can be a real risk to wetlands and with King Island’s high annual rainfall it is recognised as a potential threat.”

The project will target farms for soil tests and provide farmers with assistance to manage their production and nutrients.

It will also help farmers through field days to look at soil test interpretation, nutrient budgeting, timing of fertiliser, wet soil management, water quality and river health.

“This project has the potential to not only help protect a sensitive wetland but also to improve farmers’ productivity and the farm’s bottom line,” Mr Sidebottom said.

Wildcare Inc. will receive \$18,181 for a project based out of Strahan to eradicate weeds, sea spurge and marram from the Wilderness World Heritage Area and adjacent wild coastlines.

Mr Sidebottom said that if left untreated the weeds could be intractable within a few years and continue to invade the coastlines.

“The weeds and sea spurge pose a risk to the Tasmanian Devil and a number of bird species, as well as many other heritage and natural values and must be tackled now.”

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