



MEDIA RELEASE

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HELPING HAND FOR PORT STEPHENS KOALAS

Port Stephens Koalas has been thrown a lifeline to continue its vital work, thanks to a generous donation by Hunter Water.

Port Stephens Koalas is a volunteer organisation working to preserve the dwindling local koala population by nursing sick and injured koalas back to health. The need for assistance is growing daily, with 11 of the iconic species currently receiving round-the-clock care.

Port Stephens Koalas Secretary Ron Land said the \$35,000 donation from Hunter Water means the organisation can continue to support a full time koala hospital coordinator at its recently opened rehabilitation facility at One Mile.

“The rehabilitation facility is the first step towards our koala hospital, and we expect to treat an estimated 50 koalas there over the next year. We rely on community support like this to survive,” Mr Land said.

“The generosity of Hunter Water means we can continue our important work in preserving the local koala population and ensure sick and injured koalas receive the care they need. Without this funding we would have had to cut critical resources.

“With their recent support to buy our new rescue vehicle and now this donation, Hunter Water is proving to be a true patron of our conservation cause.”

Hunter Water Managing Director Jim Bentley said the donation was part of Hunter Water’s 125th anniversary celebrations, which aimed to support causes the community cares about, and that would also contribute to a more sustainable future.

“We’re proud to provide this support to Port Stephens Koalas to enable their tireless volunteers to continue caring for dozens of koalas each year, whilst further support for a permanent koala hospital is sought,” Mr Bentley said.

“Hunter Water is committed to supporting and promoting environmental conservation, and what better way to do that than by investing in the preservation of a regional icon which is tragically under threat.

“We all have a responsibility to look after our natural environment in all its forms, whether it be wildlife or water, to ensure it is protected for future generations to enjoy.”