





# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO AND CHAIR

This year we further developed our five national programs to address Australia's greatest environmental challenges by strategically addressing knowledge gaps and pursuing innovation and technology.

We have set bold 2030 goals to ensure our work makes a significant contribution to global conservation and restoration targets. 2018 marks our first step toward reporting our impact against these targets, which you will see in this report. We maximise our impact and accelerate the delivery of our programs by working in partnership with research institutions, practitioners and industry groups across a diverse range of disciplines. As a testament to our collaborative approach and alignment with global targets, this year Greening Australia won three out of four nominations for the Banksia Foundation Sustainability Awards - awards that are a barometer for progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Australia.

Our drive to achieve globally significant impacts has been matched by growth in our international supporters and partnerships including new US supporters the Tiffany & Co. Foundation, Patagonia, Paul M Angell Family Foundation, the Disney Conservation Fund and a new partnership with BioCarbon Engineering based in the UK.

Growing an organisation in our sector is not without its challenges but we know we do not have time to stand still, nor can we wait for our future to be handed to us. In 2018, we continued to make excellent progress on our objectives and execution of our strategies. Our path to scale is underpinned by a focus on efficiency, effectiveness, and the highest levels of accountability. We have been fortunate to be able to invest in the key elements of this during the past twelve months that will lead us to achieve long term sustainability including safety culture and performance, implementation of a new enterprise resource planning system "Dynamics NAV" and growing our brand.

This year we commenced the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). We do this not as a gesture, but because Indigenous knowledge and engagement is central to the work we do across Australia. We look forward to completing the RAP in 2019.

We thank you for your contribution to Greening Australia and for sharing in our vision for healthy and productive landscapes where people and nature thrive.



**Brendan Foran** CEO



Gordon Davis Chair





# IT'S MORE THAN A TREE

Greening Australia has been restoring and conserving Australia's unique landscapes for over 36 years and is focused on tackling Australia's greatest environmental challenges.

# These include:

- Saving the Great Barrier Reef
- Taking Action on Climate Change
- Reversing the Decline of our Threatened Species
- Supporting Traditional Owners aspirations for **Restoring Country**
- Creating Sustainable Cities for People and Wildlife
- Supporting Regenerative Agricultural and Forestry Systems

These environmental challenges are not unique to Australia and the solutions must be delivered in a global context to make the biggest impact. To ensure that Greening Australia is contributing to global objectives, we have aligned our 5 new national programs to initiatives including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Agreement, the Global Bonn Land Restoration Challenge and the International Convention on Biological Diversity.

Through partnering, learning and sharing knowledge with leading organisations and initiatives from around the world, Greening Australia works to apply the latest science, research and innovations to land restoration programs in Australia.

From drone technology and industrial-scale seed production areas to blue carbon and environmental DNA monitoring, Greening Australia is embracing a new era of land restoration techniques to help us achieve our ambitious 2030 goals.

# **Our National Programs**



# **OUR 2030 GOALS**



500,000,000

Native plants established



330.000

**Habitat restored (hectares)** 



1,300,000

Tonnes of carbon sequestered per annum



Flagship threatened animals conserved



2.000

**Gullies restored (hectares)** 



1,000

Wetlands restored (hectares)



6,600

Landholders engaged



100

Indigenous partnerships



3.000

Indigenous trainees



12,500

Volunteers involved



50-80%

Improvement in Reef water quality



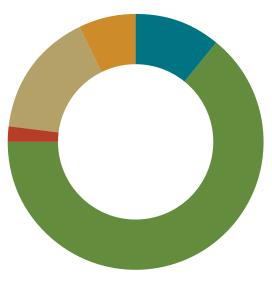
# THIS YEAR'S FIGURES

# WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM



- 37% Australian Government
- 34% Business
- 16% State Government
- 7% Regional Natural Resource Management group
- 3% **Local Government**
- 3% Philanthropic donors

# WHERE OUR MONEY GOES



- 64% Great Southern Landscapes
- 16% Nature in Cities
- 11% Reef Aid
- 7% Tasmania Island Ark
- 2% Thriving on Country

# **OUR IMPACT IN 2018**



4,017,102
Native plants established



6,800

**Habitat restored (hectares)** 



21,514

Tonnes of carbon sequestered per annum



14

Flagship threatened animals conserved



**Gullies restored (hectares)** 



Wetlands restored (hectares)



Landholders engaged



33

Indigenous partnerships



**Indigenous trainees** 



8,882

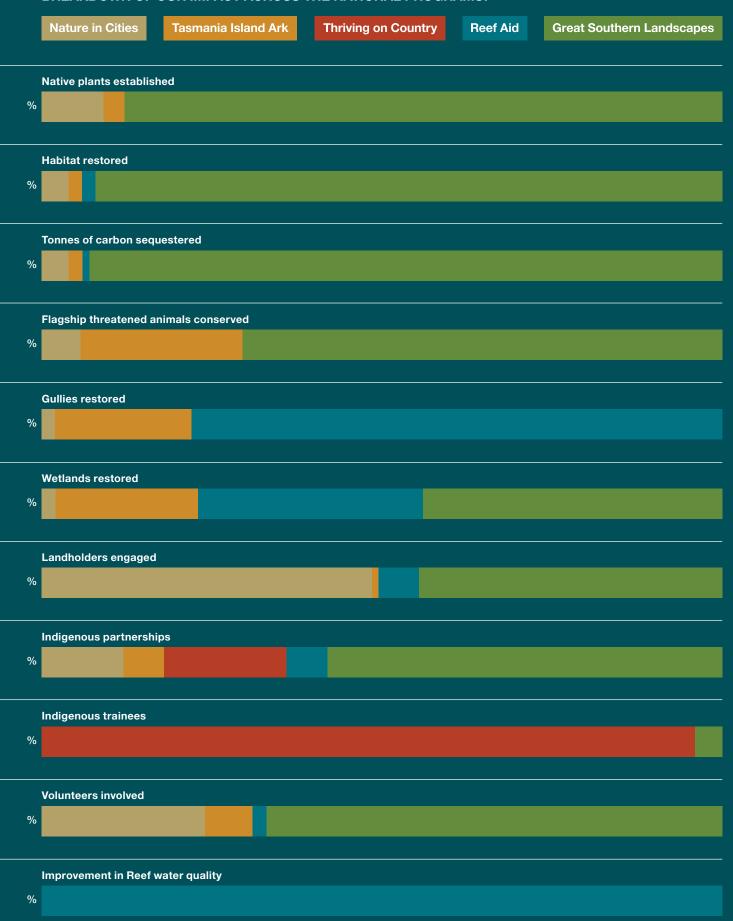
Volunteers involved



50-97%

Improvement in Reef water quality

# BREAKDOWN OF OUR IMPACT ACROSS THE NATIONAL PROGRAMS:













Reef Aid improves water quality on the Great Barrier Reef by working with landholders to rebuild eroding gullies and restore vital coastal wetlands across the catchment.

# **Reducing sediment**

### Water quality breakthrough for the Great Barrier Reef

Greening Australia is continuing to push ecological restoration beyond 'just tree planting'. Reef Aid uses restorative earthworks to reshape erosion gullies in the Great Barrier Reef catchments which are informed by remotely sensed, three-dimensional imagery (e.g. LiDAR) and allows us to match microtopography with prioritisation plans.

In May, results from the first phase of the Reef Aid Innovative Gully Remediation Program at Strathalbyn Station in the Burdekin Catchment demonstrated a 97% improvement in water quality between treated and untreated alluvial gullies flowing onto the Great Barrier Reef. With this success, additional treatments will be completed in 2019 with the most costeffective solution communicated for broad uptake throughout the Great Barrier Reef catchment. By 2030 we aim to prevent over 200,000 tonnes of fine sediment from entering the Great Barrier Reef each year which represents 9% of the total revised fine sediment load reduction required under the Australian Government's Reef Plan 2050.

### Improving biodiversity and water quality

### Restoring and reconnecting wetlands at Fig Tree Lagoon

This year we commenced the construction of a water quality treatment and artificial wetland on eight hectares of land at Fig Tree Lagoon, south of Cairns. In partnership with landholder Lenny Parisi, AccorHotels, and the Mulgrave Landcare and Catchment Group we have planted approximately 10,000 trees to create wildlife corridors between the Mulgrave River and Reef. Retired from sugarcane production due to frequent and persistent waterlogging, Fig Tree Lagoon has the potential to provide more than just valuable habitat. The innovative wetland will create a buffer for sediments and nutrients flowing out onto the Great Barrier Reef and important habitat for coastal wildlife.

### Minister's Award for the Environment 2018

Reef Aid received the 2018 Banksia Sustainability Awards Minister's Award for the Environment which recognises Australians for their commitment in coming together in partnership to protect and manage the health of the Great Barrier Reef. The Award recognises innovative projects with national significance that inspire others to take action.











**2018 IMPACTS 2030 GOALS** 

64 hectares 2,000 hectares

177 hectares 1,000 hectares

50-97% 50-80%



# **Great Southern Landscapes**













Great Southern Landscapes integrates large-scale restoration, revegetation and carbon sinks into southern Australia's agricultural systems to create habitat for threatened wildlife and build resilient, productive farmlands. One of the world's largest and most ambitious ecological restoration programs, by 2050 we will address climate change by planting 10 billion trees for carbon storage and threatened species habitat.



#### Habitat and wildlife

#### 20 Million Trees

Greening Australia is the largest service provider of the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees Program. The program works across Australia with hundreds of landholders across thousands of hectares to plant native trees, shrubs and understorey plants and support flagship threatened animals and threatened plant communities.

# The Greater Glider takes off in Gippsland's Strzelecki Ranges

In 2018 we launched a new project in the Strzelecki Ranges to expand and relink vital old-growth forest habitat for Australia's largest gliding possum - the nationally threatened Greater Glider. Over the next three years, we will plant over 635,000 trees across 127 hectares of private land to expand the gliders' home range and secure their population into the future. Prior to this project, there were no recent records of Greater Gliders in the Strzelecki Ranges, however, Greening Australia has already registered 25 new records of the species. The restoration of the ranges' wet and damp forests, home to Mountain Ash - one of the world's tallest trees - will benefit a range of other threatened species including the Swamp Antechinus and endemic Strzelecki Gum.

# Carbon

In December 2017, carbon credits from the first five years of growth at Greening Australia's revegetation sites were officially approved by the Clean Energy Regulator. Supported by our social enterprise Biodiverse Carbon Conservation, generating carbon credits from our restoration work will become common practice for all our projects creating a bank of carbon credits that can be sold and used to fund future critical on-ground work. In 2018 we developed new carbon offset partners including Virgin Australia, Sukin, Uniting Communities and the Minister for Environment (South Australia).

# Regenerative agriculture

Greening Australia is developing alternative farming systems by integrating conservation into previously unproductive farmlands. By targeting unproductive areas across Australia, Greening Australia is boosting productivity and natural capital and enhancing the functionality of existing native vegetation by increasing plant cover, providing shade and shelter for livestock, and creating large areas of new habitat for native wildlife. In the right configuration and locations, integrating habitat restoration into farming enterprises not only repairs degraded land but can improve profits through carbon payments, farm forestry, improved pollination and native fodder systems.

### Understanding the financial value of nature on farms

To complement and build on traditional sources of funding for environmental restoration, Greening Australia is actively exploring alternative finance models to enable a restoration economy. We partnered with National Australia Bank to clearly define the value of natural capital to farming enterprises across our Great Southern Landscapes. By quantifying the production value of shelterbelts for sheep farmers, we can start articulating how biodiversity can be valued within economic frameworks.



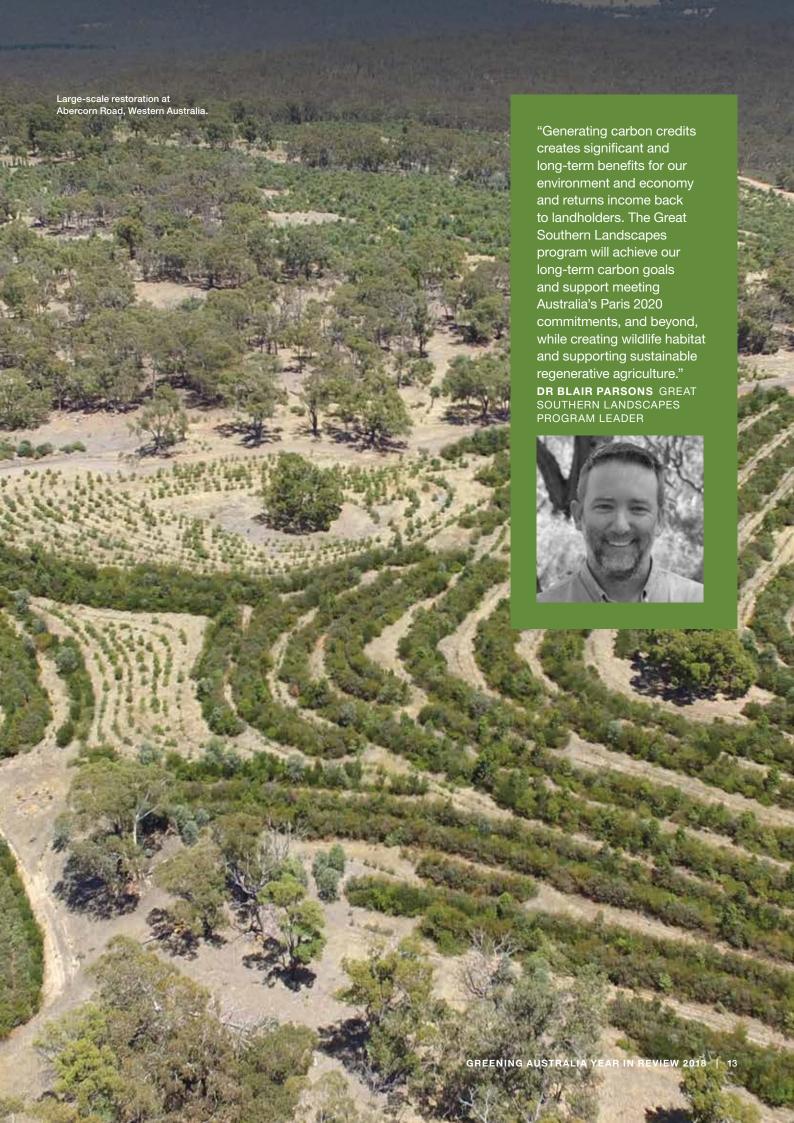








2018 IMPACTS
2030 GOALS







# Tasmania Island Ark















Tasmania Island Ark works with landholders, researchers and the community to relink vital habitat and create a stronghold for some of Australia's most critically endangered animals.



### **Habitat**

# Restoring and reconnecting habitat in the Midlands

Islands play a critical role in conserving global biodiversity. Tasmania is a final refuge for some of the world's most iconic and critically endangered animals - species that are now extinct on mainland Australia, including the Tasmanian Devil, Eastern Bettong, Eastern Quoll and Eastern Barred Bandicoot.

As of 2018, we have completed over 1,700 hectares of on-ground restoration and we are beginning to reverse the decline in quality habitat for threatened species while returning ecosystem function and increased agricultural productivity in a region already experiencing a changing climate.

### Research

# UTAS and Greening Australia - a formal research partnership to reverse biodiversity decline, store carbon and improve farm productivity in Tasmania

For the past decade, Greening Australia has worked with top researchers and PhD students from the University of Tasmania to inform best practice restoration. The research and on-ground partnership takes a multidisciplinary approach across botanical, zoological and spatial sciences to achieve the best conservation outcomes possible. The research findings from the partnership have resulted in:

- An animal-centric approach to planning and restoration which better meets the habitat needs of wildlife.
- Integrating tree provenance trials to better understand and plan for climate change impacts on revegetation sites.
- Improved efficiencies in monitoring restoration effectiveness to guide restoration design using leading-edge remote sensing technologies and drones.
- Incorporating the latest climate science into our long-term planning for revegetation and restoration, ensuring our sites are resilient well into the future as climates continue to change.

# 2018 Banksia Sustainability Awards Finalist

#### - Research and Academia

The scale and impact of the partnership in applied research and large-scale environmental repair led to Greening Australia and the University of Tasmania being finalists in the 2018 Banksia Sustainability Awards - Research and Academia. The Awards recognise programs that are making a significant contribution to the United Nations SDG's and sustainable development.

## **Community and Education**

### Tasmanian youth take a lead on climate change action

In June, Nel Smit, Greening Australia's Education Leader and Toby Thorpe, a Year 11 student at Huonville High School, coordinated the Young Climate Leaders Conference empowering students to become climate leaders. The event bought together over 250 students from 30 schools across Tasmania to take action on climate change.

In December, Greening Australia was represented at United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 24) in Katowice, Poland by Nel Smit and four Tasmanian school students. This year, students participated in Convention negotiations to deliver climate change mitigation and adaptation goals, with a focus on nature-based solutions, healthy ecosystems including forest integrity and carbon-rich ecosystems.











2018 IMPACTS
2030 GOALS



105 hectares 15,000 hectares

350 tonnes 50,000 tonnes

# **Nature in Cities**













To create greener, more liveable cities and urban fringes across Australia, we work with communities, businesses and government to restore natural ecosystems and urban tree canopy cover for wildlife; improve water quality in our rivers and wetlands; and build green corridors to help meet carbon neutral targets and create open spaces for recreation.



### Water

## Rain gardens in Adelaide

Ensuring sustainable and healthy water supplies is core to Nature in Cities. In the Greater Adelaide metropolitan area, we have managed 100 rain gardens over the last two years and applied our knowledge of local plants and their growing requirements to improve the survival rates of plants. These roadside rain gardens form important islands of biodiversity in Adelaide's streetscape and facilitate natural and cleaner water flow and help cool the streets.

# **Protecting biodiversity**

# **Restoring nationally endangered Cumberland Plains Woodlands in Western Sydney**

For over a decade, Greening Australia has developed native seed production techniques and technologies to facilitate the production of vital seed required and restore habitat at scale. Our native Seed Production Area (SPA) on the grounds of Western Sydney University contains over 100 native species of trees, shrubs and grasses that are being used to restore the endangered woodlands and grasslands of the Cumberland Plains. The SPA is one of the sites being used to gauge pollinator activity as part of a multi-faceted pollinator research program focused on protecting bees and other native insect pollinators.

## **People**

# Educating the next generation of nature carers

In 2018, our Canberra office launched the Kickstart my Career program which connects secondary school age Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with country and environment through practical, hands-on learning. In partnership with Icon Water, we launched the "Ngadyung Program" to inspire the next generation of students in the ACT to care for their waterways through the sharing of Indigenous culture.



# **Climate**

# Offsetting carbon emissions for WOMADelaide

For the past 12 years, Greening Australia has partnered with the WOMADelaide Foundation to offset the environmental footprint of the annual music festival through diverse tree plantings in South Australia. To date, 70,000 trees have been planted to establish the forest which will remove an estimated 16,000 tonnes of CO2 from the atmosphere over its 100-year lifecycle. A second forest is now being created on Kangaroo Island to create habitat for Glossy Black Cockatoos.











368,737 25,000,000

256 hectares 15,000 hectares 956 tonnes

50,000 tonnes







# Thriving on Country













Thriving on Country partners with Indigenous communities across Australia to bring together traditional and contemporary knowledge, build skills, increase employment opportunities and support people to get back on country.

# **Restoring country**

### Marlak Niran: Returning Country to Bushland

Since 2008, we have been working with Yaraguia Enterprises Incorporated, a family group of traditional Ballardong Noongar owners to reverse the damage caused by a century's worth of unsustainable grazing at Yaraguia, Avondale Farm east of Perth.

Over the last two years, supported by the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees program, Marlak Niran (Nyungar language for 'Returning Country to Bushland') has established over 240,000 plants on 400 hectares of land to convert Avondale to a healthy habitat node and improve and create habitat for a host of species including the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo.

Oral McGuire, Noongar leader and landholder, is the 2018 recipient of the Chris Jones Environmental Stewardship Award.

## **Rewilding Wardang Island**

Wardang Island, sacred to the local Narungga Aboriginal people and known as Waralti, is located off the western coast of the Yorke Peninsula in South Australia. We work with local Indigenous communities, key partners and researchers on the remote Indigenous Protected Area to establish 150,000 locally native trees and shrubs on 300 hectares of cleared land. This habitat restoration supports suitable nesting sites for Whitebellied Sea Eagles and the reintroduction of Western Quolls and Brush-tailed Bettongs.

# Indigenous knowledge

# **Building capacity on country using Traditional Ecological Knowledge**

In 2018, Greening Australia entered a formal partnership with the North Australia Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) to scale up the impact and outreach of our Aboriginal Landcare Education Program (ALEP) and embed Indigenous Land Management knowledge into nationally accredited training qualifications on country in three remote areas of the Northern Territory. Delivered on country in first language by community Elders, this unique and bespoke program will create a holistic, inclusive, self-determined approach to remote Indigenous education, knowledge transfer systems and ecological restoration.

# Indigenous enterprise

# Creating an Environmental and Social Enterprise at Mungalla

In 2018, Greening Australia commenced the development of a social enterprise business with the Nywaigi Aboriginal people of Mungalla Station north of Townsville to service the increasing conservation opportunities available in the Great Barrier Reef region. With newly acquired infrastructure and accredited skills in Conservation and Land Management, Mungalla will be positioned to develop the initiative into a self-sustaining enterprise allowing for Mungalla to become a supplier in this niche local plant propagation and planting job services market - where Indigenous employment pathways have been previously limited.









Indigenous partnerships established

2018 IMPACTS	24	33
2030 GOALS	3,000	100

# **OUR AWARD WINNERS**



#### **Cumberland-Dodds Medal: Martin Potts, Victoria**

Martin's wide-ranging strengths and courage to think outside the square has made Greening Australia the 'go-to' restoration organisation in Gippsland. He embeds science in his onground work and actively involves local communities and Traditional Owners in all his projects. Martin's reliability, coupled with his skills and knowledge, have assisted in him becoming a highly valued asset by regional organisations. Martin is an outstanding example of a staff member implementing our vision and mission.



# People and Culture Award: Sam Craigie, New South Wales

Sam has played an integral role in the development of our Western Sydney Seed Production Area. Always one to listen and assist. Sam's ability to build trust and respect with colleagues has been instrumental to the success of our Western Sydney grassland restoration work.



# Volunteer of the Year: Bev Joyce, Victoria

For over six years, Bev has quietly contributed countless hours to our restoration work in the Victorian Volcanic Plains. Bev also attends all our local events where she assists staff with the coordination and mentoring of students in the field. Bev's enthusiasm for Limeburner's Lagoon and for the young people she mentors is infectious and her support serves as an invaluable reminder for our local staff of what makes working for Greening Australia so rewarding.



# New Leader Award: Dr Lynise Wearne, Queensland

Lynise joined Greening Australia in 2016 where she became a key driver of Reef Aid. As a skilled and passionate ecologist, Lynise strives to ensure science is used to achieve maximum results on the ground. While Lynise's nature is to be quiet and modest, she is a relentless leader who will stand up for what she believes is right to maximise our impact and save the Great Barrier Reef. Without Lynise's outstanding contribution, Reef Aid would not be where it is today.



# Tasmanian Government's 2018 STEM Teacher of the Year (Secondary): Nel Smit, Education Strategist

Nel is an environmental education leader in Tasmania and plays a critical role in fostering partnerships with community organisations across the State. Involved with Greening Australia for 30 years, Nel leads the Bushranger Education Program and writes and implements STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) curriculum in nature-based education and climate change. A recipient of the Zayed Future Energy Prize in 2017, Nel works tirelessly to inspire her students and the community to make connections with their surroundings and address environmental solutions. Nel is an outstanding mentor to young scientists and climate leaders of tomorrow and in December 2018, travelled with four students to Poland to participate in the Conference of Youth and COP24.





# **OUR SUPPORTERS**

Greening Australia thanks all of its financial supporters including businesses, philanthropists, governments and investors.

# **Business**

# Officeworks 4

Restoring Australia is Officeworks' long-term commitment to making a positive difference to the environment and communities and was a winner in the Large Business category of the 2018 Banksia Sustainability Awards. Since 2017, the partnership has established 326,000 trees across 650 hectares of land in some of Australia's most vulnerable landscapes.



Bank Australia own a 927-hectare Conservation Reserve of biodiverse bushland in the Western Wimmera Victoria. Greening Australia and Trust for Nature manage the reserve to protect and restore this ecosystem into the future, embedding Indigenous land management. The reserve is home to threatened species including the South Eastern Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo and Diamond Firetail.

# ACCOR HOTELS

2018 marks the 10-year anniversary of our partnership with AccorHotels on their Plant for the Planet Program and celebrates the planting of 46,000 trees across Great Southern Landscapes and Reef Aid project sites.



In 2018, we teamed up with Sukin, Australia's #1 Natural Skincare Brand\*, to improve water quality through our Reef Aid program and store carbon in Victoria as part of Great Southern Landscapes.

\*Data Sourced from IRI MarketEdge MAT 23/12/18



In 2018, Alcoa and Greening Australia celebrated a 36-year milestone as one of Australia's longest and most successful corporate and environmental NGO partnerships. Our latest program, supported through the Alcoa Foundation, is the Three Rivers Initiative which aims to improve the health of the Serpentine, Murray and Harvey rivers along the Peel Harvey Estuary, an internationally recognised wetland of significance.



The Virgin Australia partnership includes purchase of carbon credits to support habitat restoration in Great Southern Landscapes, marketing and promoting our Reef Aid program and supporting our Aboriginal partners in Tasmania through naming of one of its new aircraft 'tinamirakuna', the Tasmanian Aboriginal name for the Macquarie River, a key site in Tasmania Island Ark.

- Arnold Bloch Leibler
- Arts Projects Australia
- Aussie Time Sheets
- Australian River Restoration Centre
- Benson Radiology
- Biome
- Boeing Australia
- Boody
- Brains Design
- Café Brindabella
- Defence Housing Australia
- Dibbs Barker Lawyers
- Icon Water
- National Australia Bank (NAB)
- NAOS Asset Management
- 1% for the Planet
- Patagonia
- Pennicott Wilderness Journeys
- Perpetual Trustees
- Platinum Cables
- Tasmanian Wilderness Experiences
- TasNetworks
- TransGrid

# Government

Greening Australia is supported across Australia by the Australian Government, State Governments, regional NRM groups and local governments including:

# **Australian Government's Department** of the Environment and Energy.

Greening Australia is the largest service provider of the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees program. The Australian Government's Reef Trust matches private support dollar for dollar (up to \$7 million) to support Reef Aid's coastal wetland restoration program.

**Queensland Government's Office** of the Great Barrier Reef supports Reef Aid's Innovative Gully Remediation program by matching private support dollar for dollar (up to \$2 million) to improve water quality on the Great Barrier Reef.

**Australian Government's Department** of Infrastructure has invested in one of the largest strategic native Seed Production Area's (SPA) in Australia - our SPA at Western Sydney University – as part of the new Western Sydney Airport development.

# **Philanthropy**

- Bennelong Foundation
- Caterpillar Foundation
- Disney Conservation Fund
- Give2Asia
- Geoff and Helen Handbury Foundation
- Helen McPherson Smith Trust
- Ian Potter Foundation
- John Villiers Trust
- JM Roberts Charitable Trust
- The John T Reid Charitable Trust
- Kamener Foundation
- Myer Foundation
- Paul M Angell Family Foundation
- Portland House Foundation
- **Prior Family Foundation**
- Sunshine Foundation
- The Tiffany & Co. Foundation
- **Diversicon Environmental Foundation**
- **Tides Foundation**
- Yulgibar Foundation



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# **CONTACT US**

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