

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### BOOST TO KOALA PROTECTION AT THE STAR FARM

The Star Entertainment Group has announced an increased boost to koala protection as part of its innovative carbon emissions reduction program, with the second phase of native forest regeneration now underway at *Corymbia*, north of Brisbane.

63,000 native trees chosen specifically to establish a sanctuary for wild koalas and other endangered species planted in 2023 as part of the first stage of the project are well established with many plants now over a metre in height.

Another 43 hectares as part of phase two planting has begun.

In a boost to restoring critical habitat and connectivity of koala populations in the local region, a further 7.3 hectares of riparian tree planting along creek banks and dams on the 170-hectare property near Gympie is also underway.

Noosa Landcare is overseeing the entire five-year planting and propagating program with *Corymbia* to be home to over 120,000 native trees by project end.

Funded by the Australian Government *Saving Koalas Fund* via the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG), Noosa and District Landcare is also leading the riparian arm of the project, which involves weed control and infill plantings of koala food trees.

Noosa Landcare Projects Officer Sarah Lawson said the recent summer storm activity and rain in South East Queensland had been a welcome help to the project.

“The 100 hectares of eucalyptus and other native tree species that were planted on the first of four paddocks as part of stage one are producing lots of new growth.

“The wetter than expected summer months were also beneficial for preparing the paddocks for this second phase and with the support of federal funds we are excited to now include the riparian planting,” Ms Lawson said.

“Our mantra has always been plant it and they will come. We have seen on numerous sites that involved koala restoration planting that within a few years koalas have returned, so we are focussed on achieving that here as well,”

“Our mission as a local Landcare not-for profit is to improve landscapes for all of their values using best practice approaches and we appreciate The Star taking this broader view of carbon landscape restoration.”

The Star Entertainment Group CEO and Managing Director Robbie Cooke said The Star secured *Corymbia* in 2021 as an extension of its sustainability strategy to help manage its future carbon emissions reduction and support biodiversity and native forest regeneration.

“*Corymbia* was an out-of-the-box plan to broaden The Star’s sustainability strategy aimed at directly bolstering the company’s target of net-zero scope 1 and scope 2 carbon emissions for wholly owned and operated properties by 2030.

“It’s our goal to develop and operate socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable destinations, so we are proud we can use our carbon offset priority to add value and make a positive impact on the local community,” Mr Cooke said.

“We have done wide-ranging mapping, which showed koala populations in locations close to the farm, so it would be amazing to see koalas and other endangered species at *Corymbia* in the not-too-distant future.”

Supported by the carbon management expertise of Anthesis Australia, The Star has registered the native tree planting component of the project under the Emissions Reduction Fund and is expecting the first issue of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUS) later this year.

The final stage of tree planting will include 30,000 trees planted across 34 hectares and get underway February-May 2025.

## **QUICK FACTS**

- Corymbia is named after a genus of tree that forms part of the koala diet and is native to the property.
- The farm is located in Lower Wonga, near Gympie, three hours north of Brisbane.
- Corymbia is a 170-hectare parcel of land.
- The Star is rewilding three hectares for every one hectare it operates across its three resorts in Sydney, Brisbane and the Gold Coast.
- Corymbia is registered with the Clean Energy Regulator and Emissions Reduction Fund.

## **PARTNERS**

- The Star has partnered with the Odonata Foundation to manage the environmental sustainability of Corymbia.
- Noosa Landcare is the tree-planting partner.
- The riparian planting (along creeklines and dams) is being carried out by Noosa Landcare with funding provided by Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG) under the 'Australian Government Saving Koalas Fund'

**ENDS**