

# Media Release

Tuesday, 22 September 2020 | Media contact: Rachel Dawkins 0407 821 153

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## Fox baiting partnership protects wildlife in East Gippsland

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), through the Southern Ark project, has been re-establishing fox control across the East Gippsland Forest Management Area as part of the State Government's response to the fires that swept through Gippsland last summer.

Southern Ark Operations Manager, Andrew Murray said: "The team has been working hard to expand the fox control program that has operated for the last 15 years across one-million hectares of public land east of the Snowy River.

"Ground dwelling animals are particularly at risk of predation from foxes after a fire. Additional baiting will help these populations recover as quickly as possible," Mr Murray said.

"To that end we're being assisted by the Moogji Aboriginal Council's Natural Resource Management team who are contracted to bury baits across a significant area of the Murrungowar and Bellbird State forests between Orbost and Cann River.

"The Moogji team is building a strong reputation in effective pest control on public land in partnership with DELWP - an important step forward for indigenous natural resource management in Gippsland," Mr Murray said.

This fox control program is being funded by the State Government's Bushfire Biodiversity Response and Recovery program.

Our crews are adhering to appropriate physical distancing and hygiene requirements to ensure we can safely continue operations across the state.