



## South West NRM Supports the Save the Bilby Fund

On 28th March 1999, the Save the Bilby Fund was opened by Frank Manthey and Peter McRae in order to raise money and awareness to help protect the endangered Greater Bilby. Bilbies were once common in many different habitats throughout Australia, and occupied more than 70% of our mainland - until times of European settlement, where predation (predominantly by European red foxes and feral cats) resulted in their rapid decline.

Bilby populations have decreased by over 80% - the Lesser Bilby is now extinct, and the Greater bilby now only inhabits isolated arid and semi-arid areas of Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland. Queensland's wild bilby population of approximately 400-600 animals exists at Currawinya National Park, thanks to a bilby breeding program managed by the Save the Bilby Fund. However, feral cats and foxes remain their greatest threat, and the bilbies' habitat requires constant trapping, maintenance and surveillance to ensure their survival.

The Save the Bilby Fund team submitted an expression of interest for consideration to South West NRM with a request for support funding to assist their cause and to support their citizen sciences program. The fund was successful in their application, and through the National Landcare Programme's Ramsar investment theme, South West NRM have been able to assist with support funding for feral cat traps, motion activated and real time telemetric satellite data transfer cameras.

All the equipment will be managed and used by volunteers and staff from the Save the Bilby Fund, and these on-ground activities will assist South West NRM in meeting its contractual obligations under the National Landcare Programme for educational awareness and feral pest control around the Currawinya National Park.

For more information about the wonderful efforts of the Save the Bilby Fund, please visit <https://savethebilbyfund.com/about-bilbies/conservation>.

Sources:

<https://savethebilbyfund.com>

<http://www.australianwildlife.org/wildlife/greater-bilby.aspx>

Right: Greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*).

Image source: [Bernard DUPONT from FRANCE \(Greater Bilby \(Macrotis lagotis\)\) \[CC BY-SA 2.0 \(http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0\)\]](#), via [Wikimedia Commons](#).

