

# LINKING REMNANT VEGETATION TO BUILD HABITAT CONNECTIVITY

## THE REPORT

This project will address the lack of connectivity between scattered areas of remnant vegetation on privately managed land in the extensively cleared landscape of the Glen Innes district in Northern NSW. A total of 19,500 native tree and shrub seedlings will be established to increase the area available for native flora and fauna.

We will encourage the planting species known to be present to the 2 Threatened Ecological Communities present locally – New England Peppermint grassy woodlands and White Box-Yellow Box- Blakely’s Red Gum grassy woodlands. Private land managers and community groups will be engaged to participate in the Project through Project publicity and by planting seedlings on land they manage.



### TOTAL TREES

Establish 19,500 trees (over 2 metres when mature) and 2,000 understorey species

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

This project will plant 19,500 seedlings to improve the extent and connectivity of native vegetation in the Glen Innes district. The Project will enhance the connectivity and resilience of remnant vegetation of the vegetation communities identified as a priority for species selection.

The Glen Innes district has large tracts of land designated for National Park and Nature Reserves, a total of 125,000 hectares including the Washpool and Gibraltar Ranges World Heritage areas. The seedlings planted in this project will increase connectivity to this significant area of National Reserve;

Plantings will occur in the Spring/Summer months of 2015 and 2016, plant survival will be assessed at six and twelve months post planting, with any replants to be done after this assessment.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community will be involved in the project as follows:

- The recipient will engage 7 community groups to be involved with on-ground activities to plant seedlings.
- The recipient will engage a total of 3 Landcare groups across the Glen Innes region, to be involved in on-ground activities and co-promotion opportunities to the community.

**19,500**  
Native seedlings established



## What was done?

• 19,500 trees (over 2 metres when mature) have been established by hand-planting into sites prepared by private landholders. Seedlings are protected from the elements by milk cartons. All sites are contained within stock proof fencing.

Seedlings are protected from the elements by milk cartons. All sites are contained within stock proof fencing.

• GLENRAC worked with land managers who had been identified during the funding application to deliver the project outputs. In addition, GLENRAC has engaged 3 local Landcare groups to be involved in on-ground activities and co-promotion of the Project activities.

• These plantings will improve the extent and connectivity of native vegetation in the Glen Innes district, including increasing connectivity linkages to large areas of National Reserve. This National Park and Nature Reserves, a total of 125,000 hectares including the Washpool and Gibraltar Ranges World Heritage areas.

Project planting occurred from October 2015 to January 2017. Site inspections and plant survival surveys have been conducted in May/June 2016 and March/April 2017. Required replanting from Year 1 plantings were completed by landholders in the Spring months of 2017.

## Lessons we learnt

• Pest animal damage to seedlings was a minor issue in Year 1 of the Project. Future projects can highlight the need for the control of rabbit populations located close to proposed planting areas as a key site preparation activity.

• Pest animal and frost damage may be mitigated by the use of corflute tree guards. GLENRAC will investigate the cost benefit of utilising these guards for future projects.

• GLENRAC needs to continue to promote the best practise management techniques for site preparation, planting and post planting care. Ideally be done through an interactive field day event and supported by written materials and staff expertise.

## next step?

GLENRAC continues to receive strong enquiry from landholders to participate in future revegetation projects. GLENRAC will continue to seek funding opportunities to support the establishment of further projects to support the strategic planning activities of farmers and public land managers.

## RESULTS

36 landholders engaged,  
12 landholders participated in  
both Year 1 and Year 2 plantings

7 community groups engaged  
3 local Landcare groups engaged



**GLENRAC INC.**

GLEN INNES NSW 2370

www.glenrac.org.au