

# Media Release

**The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP**

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
Minister for Suburban Development



Getting Things Done.  
Making Things Fair.

Sunday, 18 March, 2018

## STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS

The Andrews Labor Government is strengthening partnerships and supporting local environmental volunteers through the Community Skills Development Grants.

The grants provide an opportunity for groups and networks to access funding to support their planning, leadership and information-sharing to boost their ability to help protect our environment.

Speaking at the Victorian Environment Friends Network – Yarra Riverkeeper Association Forum, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio today congratulated volunteers for their tireless effort towards biodiversity conservation.

Friends Groups and the Yarra Riverkeeper Association have received 10 out of the 59 successful Community Skills Development Grants as part of \$600,000 in funding.

The Forum gave Friends groups and public agencies the opportunity to build relationships, network, better understand each other's needs and resources, and hear how to secure funding – all with a focus on the Yarra catchment.

Since the release of Biodiversity 2037, the Labor Government has announced a range of initiatives that support on-ground action, along with the Biodiversity 2037 Implementation Framework, which contains 89 actions that will make biodiversity protection in Victoria more efficient and effective.

These 89 actions will support the significant investment in on-ground action from the Victorian Government, in collaboration with community, Traditional Owners, environmental organisations, agencies, business and industry.

For more information go to [environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/biodiversity-plan](https://environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/biodiversity-plan).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

*"We know how important volunteer groups are in protecting our environment and helping us maintain our biodiversity for years to come – and we will continue to help them achieve this."*

*"Our 20-year plan is about ensuring we have a natural environment that is healthy, valued and actively cared for."*