



Media Release

Thursday 28th March 2019

SIGHTINGS OF ENDANGERED BANDICOOT SOUGHT

NRM North is appealing to the public in both rural and urban areas in an effort to understand more about the threatened Eastern Barred Bandicoot across northern Tasmania.

The marsupial is all but extinct in mainland Australia. Tasmania has provided a refuge for the species, but changing land practices resulting in reduced suitable undergrowth habitat and predators such as cats and their associated diseases, have put the Tasmanian Eastern Barred Bandicoot (EBB) population under threat.

In response, the Australian Government's National Landcare Program has funded a five-year project through NRM North, to determine effective conservation measures to protect the EBB in the state's north. Those measures are likely to include protecting vegetation, improving the health of degraded native vegetation, and creating greater habitat connectivity in the landscape.

As part of the project, NRM North has partnered with the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) to support their WildTracker program, which recruits and trains private landholders to record EBB and other wildlife on their property using motion sensor cameras.

NRM North's Biodiversity Coordinator Dr Derek Hamer said a greater understanding of where EBB are surviving will help determine how to better protect the species for the long term.

"Over the past few months, we've engaged over 70 landholders, ranging from large farms through to some quite small blocks, who have gathered images of wildlife on their properties. This has given us a valuable insight into the presence and absence of EBB in the landscape, but there's still a lot of geographic gaps in knowledge."

Dr Hamer said EBB sightings from rural landholders as well as from suburbs and town fringes are invaluable. He's created a short survey to more accurately determine where to undertake habitat rehabilitation activities based on sightings.

NRM North is seeking further public and landholder engagement to maximise sightings.

If you would like to be involved in the survey, follow the link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/bandicoot-tas or go to the NRM North website www.nrmnorth.org.au.

For more information contact Dr Derek Hamer, Biodiversity Coordinator, NRM North on 6333 7777 or email dhamer@nrmnorth.org.au.

This project is supported by NRM North through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

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For media enquiries contact Biba Archer, Communications Coordinator NRM North on 0418 300 180 or barcher@nrmnorth.org.au