



**The Hon. Tony Burke MP**

**M E D I A R E L E A S E**

Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

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## **AUSTRALIA'S BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION STRATEGY SETS NATIONAL TARGETS FOR 2015**

Tony Burke, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, today released Australia's new strategy for biodiversity conservation on behalf of the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council.

*Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010–2030* sets 10 targets to measure the nation's progress in protecting our natural environment.

“The strategy sets a new standard for addressing the challenges facing our biodiversity, with Australia now one of very few countries to have committed to national measurable targets for biodiversity conservation,” Mr Burke said.

“The long-term vision of the strategy is that Australia's biodiversity is healthy and resilient to threats, and valued both in its own right and for its essential contribution to our existence.

“The release of the strategy, in the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity, provides a clear signal of Australia's commitment to biodiversity conservation.

“The strategy establishes a new approach to protect the essential ecosystem services that support a sustainable Australia.

“These services include the clean air we breathe, the fresh water we drink, the variety of foods and fibres we consume, as well as the natural spaces we value for our recreational and cultural activities.”

The strategy's three priorities: ‘Engaging all Australians’, ‘Building ecosystem resilience in a changing climate’, and ‘Getting measurable results’ are supported by clear outcomes and measurable targets.

The strategy recognises the important contribution of the many groups who have been working to improve Australia's conservation of biodiversity and our management of natural resources.

“The strategy will guide how governments, the community, Indigenous peoples, farmers and other land managers, industry and scientists manage and protect Australia's biodiversity over the next 20 years,” Mr Burke said.