



**THE HON JOE LUDWIG MP**  
**Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**

**THE HON DR MIKE KELLY AM MP**  
**Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**

**SHARON GRIERSON MP**  
**Member for Newcastle**

**15 November 2011**

**Caring for our Country Grant assists local biodiversity**

Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP today announced the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority for Kooragang Volunteers will receive a Community Action Grant of \$18,210 as part of the 2011-12 *Caring for our Country* initiative.

The Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority for Kooragang Volunteers is one of 365 national community groups to receive a grant to assist in the delivery of local natural resource management and environmental protection activities in the region.

"Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority for Kooragang Volunteers will be using this funding for revegetation and restoration of the area's biodiversity that has been lost over nearly two centuries of clearing and farming," Ms Grierson said.

"The project is a collaborative in partnership with adjacent industry and volunteers working together to achieve successful environmental outcomes."

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig, and Parliamentary Secretary, Dr Mike Kelly, recently announced 365 projects worth \$7 million through the *Caring for our Country* Community Action Grants program.

"Now in its third year, the grant program has enabled local community groups to take action and make a difference through the conservation and protection of their local environment," Minister Ludwig said.

Dr Kelly said that the work of local community groups was important to maintaining the local environment.

"Community groups volunteer their time to participate in essential conservation activities including tree planting, weed and pest control, revegetation and educating the community on sustainable land management practices," Dr Kelly said.

More information about *Caring for our Country*, including a complete list of successful Community Action Grant projects is available at [www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au)