



MEDIA RELEASE – MONDAY 22nd of August 2016

Community fundraising campaign launched to create the Mount Burr Swamp Habitat Restoration Reserve

A wetland and habitat restoration project that has been four years in the making is close to becoming a reality, with a community fundraising campaign launched today to raise \$110,000 by the end of September.

The Mount Burr Swamp Habitat Restoration Reserve is the vision of Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT), a charitable not-for-profit environmental organisation based in South Australia's South East.

A partnership agreement between NGT, the Native Vegetation Council and OneFortyOne Plantations has already secured over 90 per cent of the funds needed to see NGT purchase 300 hectares of former wetlands at Mt Burr, with the goal of restoring critical habitat for 6 nationally threatened species of wildlife including birds, mammals, frogs and fish.

Today NGT is asking the community to also become a partner, to help get the project over the line, by launching a 6 week campaign to raise \$110,000 before settlement.

The community fundraising campaign is already off to a flying start thanks to a generous commitment of \$5,000 from the Millicent Field Naturalists Society.

QUOTES/COMMENT FROM NGT

Nature Glenelg Trust Manager Mark Bachmann says that the project will provide a rare local example of what large-scale restoration of wetlands on former farmland can look like.

"For the first time since the purchase and restoration of former farmland at Pick Swamp ten years ago, thanks to the right ingredients being present such as water security, excellent restoration potential and being situated adjacent to an existing high-value wetland reserve, another unique wetland site will gradually be returned to nature", he says.

"This project will provide a fantastic demonstration of what sustainable water management, threatened species recovery and large-scale native revegetation actually look like on the ground. The site also provides an opportunity for the community to participate in the exciting journey that lies ahead, with the knowledge that 100% of all donated funds will go towards the purchase and restoration of the site".

QUOTES/COMMENT FROM NATIVE VEGETATION COUNCIL (SA)

Emily Jenke, the presiding member of the Native Vegetation Council reflected on this project, by saying that "Nature Glenelg Trust has been working towards commencing this project for several years now, and the commitment and integrity Mark and his team brings to nature conservation is commendable. As a Council, we are very pleased to be able to commit funding through our biodiversity offset program towards the purchase of the Mount Burr Swamp property".

"Restoring such an important landform clearly aligns to our philosophy of striving for no net loss of South Australia's biodiversity. The Native Vegetation Council is looking forward to supporting Nature Glenelg Trust in the future and we wait in anticipation for when this important wetland comes alive with wildlife again".

QUOTES/COMMENT FROM ONEFORTYONE PLANTATIONS

OneFortyOne Plantations will manage and ultimately harvest 35 hectares of pine trees on the site so the area can be converted back to native vegetation.

Green Triangle General Manager, Willie Van Niekerk, says the agreement with NGT is more than a business partnership.

“OneFortyOne Plantations is a business that has a stake in the wellbeing of our communities,” he says.

“An environment that’s well cared for and well managed for the long-term is an important component of a healthy community which we are pleased to support.

“We see this partnership with Nature Glenelg Trust as a worthwhile way to contribute to a project that meets our own goals for good community and environmental outcomes.”

SUMMARY

You can find out more about the Mount Burr Swamp Habitat Restoration Reserve project from Nature Glenelg Trust at ngt.org.au/donate/ or by contacting the NGT Mt Gambier office on 08 8797 8596.

Donation enquiries:

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Primed for restoration: the drained, current state of Mt Burr Swamp.