

## MEDIA RELEASE

31 March 2023

# NEW KOALA HABITAT IN QUEENSLAND: FIRST TREES FOR THE STAR'S FARM CORYMBIA

**Planting has begun on 100 hectares of new koala habitat in South-East Queensland as part of The Star Entertainment Group's long-term carbon credits plan.**

Planting has begun on 100 hectares of new koala habitat in South-East Queensland as part of The Star Entertainment Group's long-term carbon credits plan.

Over 100,000 native trees, chosen specifically to help establish a sanctuary for wild koalas and other species including the glossy black cockatoo, will be planted over the next five years.

The Star secured the 170-hectare parcel of farmland in South-East Queensland to help manage its future carbon emissions reduction, support biodiversity and bolster native forest regeneration.

Named Corymbia, after a genus of tree that forms part of the koala diet and is native to the property, the farm is located near Gympie, three hours north of Brisbane.

Rachel Lyons from Noosa Landcare, which designed the property reforestation plan said months of groundwork had been undertaken to prepare Corymbia for planting.

"We considered all aspects of the property from soil condition, erosion, weed incursion, waterway management, through to incorporating a wide diversity of species to maximise habitat for local endangered species," Ms Lyons said.

"Almost 30,000 eucalyptus and other tree species that would have naturally occurred will be planted on the first of four paddocks as part of stage one," she said.

"Our mantra is plant it and they will come. We have seen on numerous sites that involved koala restoration planting that within a few years koalas have returned and occupied the site and that's what we are aiming for here," Ms Lyons said.

"Our mission as a local Landcare not-for profit is to improve landscapes for all of their values using best practice approaches and we appreciate The Star taking this broader view of carbon landscape restoration."

The Star's Head of Sustainability, Amanda Visser said, "Corymbia is a bold and innovative extension of our sustainability strategy."

"This big picture project has been years in the planning with expert partners like Noosa Landcare, so to finally start planting and get underway with the first stage of our native forest regeneration is exciting," Ms Visser said.

"We will not only generate Australian carbon credit units but also support biodiversity and river health, create habitats for local, endangered species particularly koalas and importantly measure the positive impact we are having over time."

"Working with our farm partner Odonata, we commissioned koala ecologists to conduct an initial survey to ensure that our biodiversity planning and tree selection supports local koala populations. Page 2 of 2 "The mapping of this area showed koala populations have been in locations close to this farm.

"So we are very hopeful we have adopted the right forest rehabilitation and that we will come back in a few years and koalas will be here."

The Star will create its own carbon offsetting from the tree planting, rewilding three hectares for every one hectare it operates across its three resorts in Sydney, Brisbane and the Gold Coast and is registered with the Clean Energy Regulator and Emissions Reduction Fund.

Carbon offsets from The Star's farm will help manage its scope 1 emissions as part of its net-zero 2030 target.

Ms Visser said The Star and its partners are also exploring a regenerative agriculture plan to grow and provide sustainable produce from Corymbia and other local farms for use in the tourism resort's many restaurants and bars.

The next stage of tree planting will include another four paddocks and get underway in 2024.

The Star Corymbia partners:

- Odonata [www.odonata.org.au](http://www.odonata.org.au)
- Ndevr [ndevrenvironmental.com.au](http://ndevrenvironmental.com.au)
- Noosa Landcare [www.noosalandcare.org](http://www.noosalandcare.org)
- Southern Ag Management [southernagmanagement.com.au](http://southernagmanagement.com.au)

**ENDS**

### **About The Star's Sustainability Strategy**

The Star's sustainability approach is focussed on creating long term value in the management of its environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks and opportunities. Each year, The Star sets additional measures to increase its ESG performance and reporting transparency which includes increasing data assurance, performance metrics and targets. In FY2022, The Star redeveloped its sustainability strategy, reassessed its most material ESG issues and commenced the development of a new strategic roadmap, action plan and a series of targets towards 2030. The strategy, titled 'Responsible Business, Sustainable Destinations', is aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This new sustainability strategy is focussed on three pillars – Responsibility, Environment and People, and encapsulates The Star's intent for the current and future management of material and emerging ESG issue areas and increases efforts in a number of key business impact areas. The Star's pathway to its 2030 net-zero target also includes energy efficiency initiatives, onsite solar (where possible) and offsite renewable electricity delivered via Power Purchase Agreements.

For more information, please visit: [starentertainmentgroup.com.au/our-strategy/](http://starentertainmentgroup.com.au/our-strategy/)