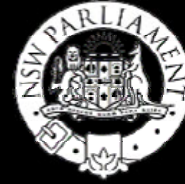


Greg Piper MP
Member for Lake Macquarie



MEDIA RELEASE

22 February 2010

HUGE BOOST FOR RAINFOREST PROJECT

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, today made a formal presentation to Palm Grove Ourimbah Creek Landcare Group to mark the commitment of \$97,600 from the NSW Environmental Trust.

The funding application was made jointly by the Landcare group, the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and Wyong Shire Council.

According to Mr Piper, the lowland gallery rainforest at the Ourimbah Creek site is a valuable remnant and habitat for seven threatened species. The Landcare project will see the rehabilitation of 1.7km of creek-side vegetation and will greatly improve wildlife corridors linking reserves to the north and south of Ourimbah. Wyong Shire Council owns the 8.8Ha site. The region currently has no areas of lowland gallery rainforest in local or state reserves. The original vegetation has been affected by clearing and weed invasion.

"This is a great project and I thank the Government for their support, particularly Minister Sartor," said Mr Piper. "I commend the Palm Grove Ourimbah Landcare Group for its commitment to the rehabilitating and regenerating of this important rainforest site."

"The group has been working there twice every week for more than eight years."

"This site deserves protection and it's good to see the council and the community working together on it."