

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**22 October 2010**

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### **The Nature Conservation Trust of NSW celebrates National Bird Day – 29th October 2010**

Threatened Albert's lyrebirds in the Border Ranges will be singing a bit louder this National Bird Day thanks to the Nature Conservation Trust's work to protect habitat across the region.

The Nature Conservation Trust is about to sign three new conservation agreements on private properties in the Border Ranges, all of which protect habitat for the Albert's lyrebird, one of the 124 bird species threatened with extinction in NSW.

Nature Conservation Trust Regional Manager, Kate Smillie, said that the new conservation agreements will double the area of Albert's lyrebird habitat in the region protected by the Nature Conservation Trust to over 200 hectares.

"The three new properties protecting Albert's lyrebirds mean that the Nature Conservation Trust has – in partnership with 20 landholders – permanently protected almost 600 hectares of high conservation value land in the Border Ranges," said Ms Smillie. "This is a great achievement, considering our first conservation agreement was registered in the area just three years ago."

The Albert's lyrebird lives in rainforest and moist eucalypt forest and is only found in a small area of far south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern NSW.

As with the more common superb lyrebird, the Albert's lyrebird call is a mixture of its own call and the mimicry of other species in a long unbroken song. The males will call for many hours a day during the winter breeding season from May to October and their calls are often thought to imitate the dingo howl, the green catbird or satin bowerbird calls, or even a chainsaw.

Threatened species are animals and plants that are in danger of becoming extinct. There are a number of categories of threatened species, with vulnerable species being those at high risk of extinction in the medium-term future. The Albert's lyrebird falls into this category. Nationally, there are 23 bird species listed as extinct, six as critically endangered and another 103 as either endangered or vulnerable.

Nature Conservation Trust CEO, Paul Toni, said that National Bird Day is an opportunity to acknowledge the importance of private land conservation to the survival of Australia's rare and threatened birds.

"Working with landholders who have chosen to permanently protect their land through a conservation agreement is inspiring," said Mr Toni. "We have partnered with landholders to protect over 21,500 hectares of land across 49 properties in NSW, ensuring that the amazing natural assets of these properties, including habitat for at least 40 threatened bird species, are protected forever."

For more information about the Nature Conservation Trust, visit [www.nct.org.au](http://www.nct.org.au).

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PHOTOS ATTACHED: The Nature Conservation Trust has so far protected 200 hectares of habitat for the threatened Albert's lyrebird on private land in the Border Ranges.