**Expression of Interest**

**Landscape Links for Small Bushland Birds (LLSBB)**

**About the Project**

Areas of the K2C region have been extensively cleared and connectivity of woodland remnants is substantially reduced. The region is a hot-spot for vulnerable bird species including Hooded, Scarlet and Flame Robins and Diamond Firetail. It is also within the flight path of a number of migratory species.

The aim of the LLSBB project is to erect a series of ‘exclosures’ in grazed paddocks to reconnect remnant vegetation patches. The exclosures will include a combination of local Eucalypt and shrub species and will serve as ‘stepping stone’ habitat for small bushland birds. The exclosures will also provide feeding and breeding sites for birds, shade and shelter for stock and increased landscape amenity. Long-term monitoring by Greening Australia has shown significant increases in the use of plantings by woodland birds in our region.

The exclosures will increase connectivity in the highly modified landscapes of the region, and enhance connectivity in the wider GER corridor, particularly as some species are north-south migrants that use the wider region in their movements. Project sites will be monitored by photopoints and will provide a focus for species monitoring in future years, with data being collated in the K2C-ALA Atlas.

A connectivity workshop will be held for the community with presentations by bird and connectivity experts. The workshop will enable participating landholders and others to gain an appreciation of the region’s bird species and the importance of connectivity. We expect to engage with connectivity scientists from one or more of the major Canberra institutions (ANU, University of Canberra or CSIRO).

The project meets two targets in the K2C Conservation Action Plan, namely ‘small bush birds’ and ‘woodlands’. Increasing ‘stepping stone’ connectivity will enhance habitat for a number of threatened and declining bird species that have been identified as declining due to a number of causes, including degradation of habitat, fragmentation and isolation. Enhancing connectivity by revegetation is recommended to reverse these declines.

The LLSBB project is a collaboration of the K2C project team, NSW OEH, Greening Australia and Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Committee. Landcare group members within the UMC are the target recipients of the exclosure sites.

**Eligibility to apply**

To be eligible for the 2013-2014 LLSBB project funding landholders must meet all of the following criteria:

* Own or manage a property within the K2C or Murrumbidgee CMA boundary;
* Willing to allow the installation of one or several 20 x 20 metre exclosures and the planting of native trees and shrubs;
* Willing to allow periodic monitoring and assessment of sites; and
* Be a current landcare group member and/or member of K2C.

Expressions of interest may directed to the K2C facilitator email facilitator@k2c.org.au no later than 5 pm January 31st 2014. Thank you. Lesley Peden