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Minister for the Environment and Energy

MEDIA RELEASE

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SWEET RELEASE FOR CRITICALLY ENDANGERED HONEYEATERS THIS EASTER

A flock of critically endangered Regent Honeyeater birds will take flight this Easter with plans to release more than 90 of the captive bred birds into the wild. One of the twenty bird species targeted under the Turnbull Government's Threatened Species Strategy, this will be the largest release of Regent Honeyeaters to date in Australia.

Taronga Zoo's successful Regent Honeyeater breeding programme has resulted in a bumper season this year producing more than 90 birds for release as part of the 2017 Regent Honeyeater Captive Release and Community Monitoring Project. The birds will be released at the Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park in North East Victoria on Wednesday 12 April and Sunday 16 April.

Under our Threatened Species Strategy, the Coalition Government is directly investing more than \$8 million in projects that support the Regent Honeyeater and its habitat and I am proud that our Threatened Species Commissioner will be there with local community members and zoo staff to celebrate this significant event.

The Coalition Government's National Landcare Programme has contributed funding to this collaborative project through the North East Catchment Management Authority, one of Australia's regional natural resource management organisations, working in partnership with the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

The community monitoring program is an important part of the project with more than 100 dedicated community volunteers participating in the surveying and monitoring of Regent Honeyeaters. Along with the release of the captive bred birds, monitoring is an important action in the Regent Honeyeater National Recovery Plan.

Businesses and philanthropists are being invited to help save Regent Honeyeaters by supporting the 'Saving the Regent Honeyeater from Extinction' project featured in the Turnbull Government's Threatened Species Prospectus.

For more information on the Captive Release and Community Monitoring Project please visit the North East Catchment Management Authority's website at necma.vic.gov.au

A copy of the Threatened Species Prospectus is available via:

www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/publications/threatened-species-prospectus

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