

1. What is the project and why is it needed?

RSPCA Queensland has cared for over 43,000 animals in the past year, over half are wildlife patients in dire need of urgent veterinary care. The demands on RSPCA Queensland's services are ever-increasing and the current 24-hour Wildlife Hospital at Wacol is exceeding its current capacity by almost 200%, with over 23,000 wildlife coming into care in FY24.

This has created a pressing and urgent need to build a new and expanded facility, one which better delivers critical care and specialised rehabilitation to our precious wildlife, prompting us to launch our Wildlife Capital Campaign, *Together for Wildlife: our action, their future*.

A prime site, centrally located in the Redlands corridor has been secured in the IndigiScapes precinct in Capalaba. Once built, this state-of-the-art facility will bring together cutting-edge technology, international best practice delivering the highest standard of care for injured wildlife. It will also become Queensland's Centre of Excellence for wildlife education and research, providing leadership and knowledge as we collectively tackle the urgent and growing threat to our native animals and help protect them for generations to come.

2. What will happen to the injured and sick wildlife in the south-western region of Brisbane and Queensland once the wildlife hospital relocates from Wacol?

We will continue to accept and triage wildlife at Wacol. This will be supported by regular transport to/from the new state-of-the-art wildlife hospital facility ensuring patients receive treatment and critical care as quickly as possible.

a. Why can't we expand at the existing Wacol campus?

The current Wacol Wildlife Hospital was built for a capacity of 5,000 incoming animals per year. The new Wildlife facility will feature expanded and purpose-made buildings with added rehabilitation and ward spaces. Due to the size requirements of these new facilities, they cannot be accommodated at the current Wacol site. In contrast to the existing facility, which is situated amid domestic animal care facilities at Wacol, the new location will be isolated from domestic animal contact, ensuring a calm and stress-free environment for wildlife recovery, free from disturbances like barking dogs.

b. What will happen with the Eumundi facility?

The Eumundi Centre is a key facility in RSPCA Qld's delivery of wildlife services across South East Queensland, and will continue to be into the future.

3. Where will the funding for the project come from?

With the new purpose-built design, the project will require an investment of up to \$25 million to become a reality. RSPCA Queensland is undertaking a capital campaign to secure philanthropic and corporate support. We have \$3.15m already raised and have received \$5 million from the Federal Government's Saving Koalas Fund

To bring this vision to reality we will require substantial community support over and above our normal regular fundraising. Our *Together For Wildlife* campaign is now extended to those who have a love of wildlife and want to secure their future.

4. Will the Wildlife Hospital and Centre of Excellence project detract from funding for domestic animal care and other core missions of RSPCA Qld?

The Wildlife Hospital and Centre of Excellence project has its own dedicated funding streams supported by members of the public with different interests, including donations from the Capital Campaign, specific grants, partnerships and other fundraising efforts targeted exclusively for this initiative. These funds are separate from those allocated to domestic animal care and other core missions of RSPCA Qld.

The project is designed to complement and enhance RSPCA Qld's overall mission, which includes the care and protection of all animals, both domestic and wildlife. By establishing a state-of-the-art facility for wildlife, we can expand our capacity to provide comprehensive care and improve outcomes for all animals in our care.

5. When will the new facility be completed?

The project completion is expected by early 2026 provided our fundraising target is reached. We are confident this will happen.

6. Will this project also involve planting koala food tree plantations for feeding koalas in care, and creating rehabilitation areas so that koalas are release-ready before being returned to the wild?

The project will realise opportunities to plant native flora at the facility with the intent to have a small number of species for easy access to wildlife food and create educational opportunities for visitors. RSPCA Qld will work closely with the neighbouring IndigiScapes precinct to identify planting opportunities at the project site, throughout the surrounding precincts, and where plantation opportunities might exist in the surrounding region.

To prepare for 2026 and feeding a higher volume of wildlife and for longer term care, particularly for koalas, RSPCA Queensland has fostered a number of partnerships with Councils and private supporters. These partnerships help support a more sustainable operation, giving our Browse and Plantations team access to land and existing plantations across South East Queensland for the purpose of wildlife food and browse.

7. Is RSPCA still accepting wildlife from local vets?

Yes, we have been working with vets over the past two years, around 160 in Brisbane and 10 clinics on the Sunshine Coast, providing education to help provide a faster and better first point of triage of wildlife patients when they're brought into local vets. In early 2024, RSPCA Qld implemented a digital triage form to improve triage operations across the vet network,

reducing the time from admission to triage by engaging the broader vet network in wildlife education and implementing more efficient intake processes.

8. How is Redland City Council supporting the project?

Redland City Council will support delivery of the Wildlife Hospital and Centre of Excellence through the provision of public land, and the opportunity for grants and financial support for eligible costs. Partnering with RSPCA Qld to be the home of the Wildlife Hospital and Centre of Excellence, will further shape the site as a vibrant destination that invites people of all ages and backgrounds to unite, thrive, and embrace environmental stewardship while connecting with nature.

9. Why are we only hearing about this now?

Project updates, since November 2023, have been limited as we progress through the initial concept and planning phases of the project, and the capital campaign. The project was originally announced in November 2023, aligning with Federal Government requirements under their grant funding agreement, and to ensure that the announcement aligned with the availability of Minister Tanya Plibersek, The Minister for the Environment and Water to make a formal announcement for the project on Wed 8th Nov 2023.

10. Who is in the project team?

RSPCA Queensland will lead the project management and fundraising capital campaign and assume ongoing administration and ownership of the Wildlife Centre of Excellence. The RSPCA project team consists of Darren Maier (CEO), Skye Jones (Strategic Project Manager), Dr Tim Portas (Wildlife Veterinary Director), Josephine Jordaan (Head of Wildlife and Rescue), Brad Smith (Chief Commercial Officer), Zoe Jacovou (GM Marketing), Jim Green (GM Fundraising), Dr Anne Chester (Chief Veterinary Officer), and Charlie Farrell (Learning and Development Manager), with input from the broader wildlife and rescue team, and RSPCA Qld operational teams.

Redland City Council will provide technical guidance in the concept planning, execution, and final delivery of the facility.