

**Submission
No 21**

**INQUIRY INTO INTEGRITY, EFFICACY AND VALUE FOR
MONEY OF NSW GOVERNMENT GRANT PROGRAMS**

Name: Ms Sonja Elwood

Date Received: 20 August 2020

I am writing to request an investigation as to how the volunteer wildlife sector may access grant funding. Many grants under the umbrella of the environment are not accessible to our sector as we are unable to meet the various criteria which normally support land management or threatened species projects. Despite this our sector contribute a great deal to the natural environment rescuing and caring for native wildlife.

I am a member of the volunteer group Sydney Wildlife. Sydney Wildlife is a member of the NSW Wildlife Council which includes 26 voluntary charitable rescue groups operating across NSW. This includes around 4,000 wildlife rescuers and carers licensed by the NSW Dept of Planning Industry and Environment and over 50% of all wildlife carers in the state. As a sector we rely entirely on the generosity of the public to operate. We received little by way of donations in the recent black summer bushfires and most donations went to just one organisation that is not a member of our network. It would mean a great deal to our sector if we were able to access funding to further our work and establish strategic ongoing projects and facilities for our wildlife who are in greater need than ever before. I would be grateful if this could be investigated as part of this inquiry.