



**Eco Warriors Australia Strategic Plan
2026-2029**

Acknowledgement of Country

Eco Warriors Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters across Australia, and we pay our deepest respects to Elders past and present.

We recognise the enduring connection of First Nations peoples to Country, and honour their knowledge, culture, and custodianship that has cared for these ecosystems for tens of thousands of years.

Cover image

Artist credit: Kai Lane (EWA Board Member)

The cover photo is a bird's eye view of Lake Meran (northern Victoria) and reflects on three key signs that the lake is thriving: the white bellied sea eagle, long neck turtle and river mussels. The painting shows campsites, community and tracks all around the lake reflecting on the large amount of people that use the lake for camping, fishing and swimming.

White bellied sea eagle - an eagle is an immediate sign of a healthy Country as they are highly vulnerable to habitat loss and only nest in areas with high abundance of food. There is a pair that has nested at Lake Meran for over a decade!

Long neck turtles - ecosystem protectors which create a balance within the lake as a predator to fish, tadpoles and water bugs and as lawnmowers keeping aquatic vegetation from growing abundant.

River mussels - ecosystem engineers as they play a pivotal role as a filter for the lake and were a staple food for Barapa Barapa people. River mussels have been found in middens all around Lake Meran, showing the lake's important for Traditional Owners.

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Message from our Board

Australia continues to face a well-documented suite of significant challenges to its spectacular biodiversity including invasive species, climate change, water extraction and hydrological disruption, habitat loss, altered fire regimes, pollution and loss of continuous cultural land stewardship. Over 600 fauna and 1200 flora species are listed as being threatened with extinction under the federal EPBC Act. These numbers do not include those species that are, sadly, already extinct.

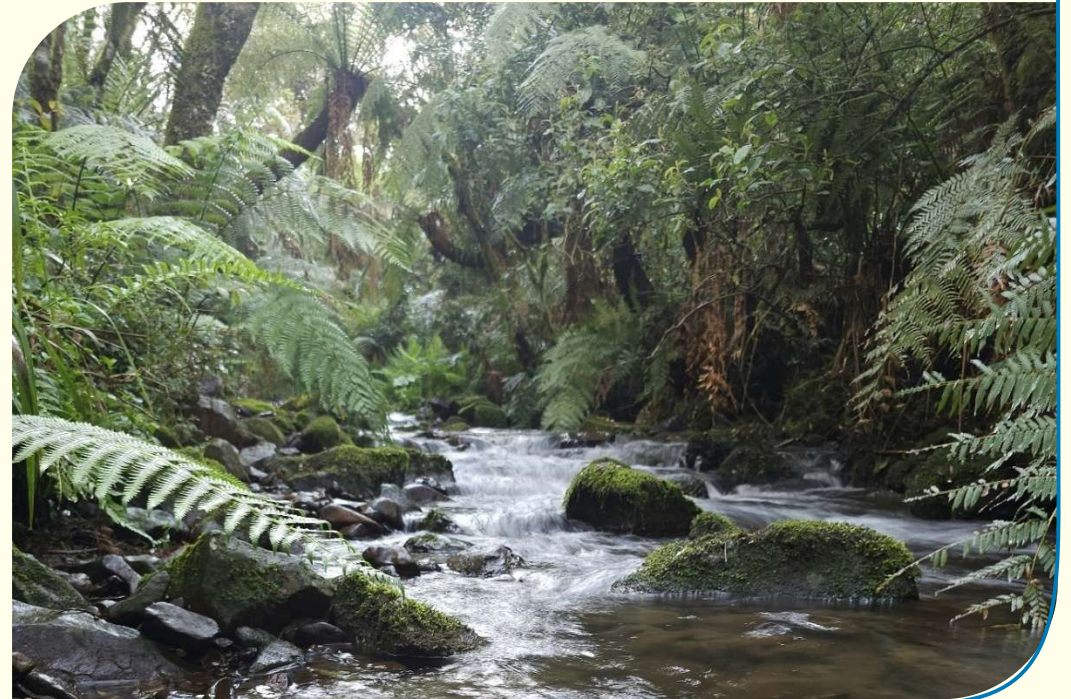
A problem of this scale demands solutions equal to its urgency, and Eco Warriors Australia has risen to the challenge. Alongside delivering practical, community-centred initiatives such as Yedabila habitat pods, wildlife canopy bridges, nature-based school programs and nest-box installations, our organisation has continued to evolve with ambition and purpose. Over the past year, we have strengthened First Nations representation on our Board and prioritised projects that are Indigenous-led and grounded in Aboriginal cultural knowledge. These steps reflect our belief that caring for Country must be guided by those with the longest, deepest relationship with it.

This Strategic Plan outlines the next stage of our journey. It sets a clear direction for scaling our impact, deepening partnerships, and ensuring our work continues to be grounded in science, culture and community. It also reaffirms our commitment to strong governance, transparency and long-term stewardship of the landscapes we serve.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your support, your trust and your shared commitment to protecting Australia's natural heritage. Together, we can help ensure that people, culture and nature continue to thrive.

About Us

Eco Warriors Australia was formed in late 2021, comprising a group of passionate individuals who wanted to make a positive impact on Australian ecosystems and the environment. Since this time, our organisation has evolved and grown considerably. Over the past 12 months we have worked hard to increase Indigenous voices within our organisation, both through First Nations representation in our Board, and to a greater focus on projects that are Indigenous-led and focus on Aboriginal culture.



Our Vision

To create resilient Australian ecosystems where people, culture and nature thrive together, guided by Indigenous knowledge and community collaboration.

Our Mission

We aim to do the following:

- Strengthen the resilience of Australia's ecosystems by fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge and delivering on-ground restoration and research, guided by First Nations leadership in caring for Country.
- Raise awareness within the larger community of the various issues threatening native ecosystems, communities and plants and wildlife.
- Empower our community to improve the resilience of our ecosystems through volunteer opportunities, community engagement events, providing resources and promoting funding opportunities.
- Support and encourage participation of First Nations people in managing Country.

Our Values

Inclusivity: To welcome diverse communities and voices and offer opportunities for all ages and abilities to get involved in our projects.

Integrity: Evidence-based, transparent and accountable data backed by the best available science and knowledge, and to share this knowledge with the community.

Empowerment: To build community capacity through hands-on learning.

Connection: To build and strengthen relationships between people and nature, and with other groups working in the environment sector.



Strategic Priorities

Our priorities are as follows:

- Increase community participation in environmental projects through on-ground actions and community events.
- Increase First Nations co-design, development and delivery of on-ground projects and continue to build partnerships with Indigenous organisations.
- Develop new partnerships and build on existing partnerships with State and local government, catchment and water authorities and environmental organisations and the community.
- Expand existing environmental projects to help benefit native wildlife and plants, including threatened species.



Our Goals 2026-2029

Priority 1: First Nations Leadership

Goal: Strengthen Indigenous-led projects and governance.

Key Actions:

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1. | Ensure all new major projects are co-designed with Indigenous stakeholders. |
| 2. | Increase First Nations Board membership to 70% to guide strategy and project development. |
| 3. | Document and share case studies of our Indigenous-led projects. |

Priority 2: Partnerships and Collaboration

Goal: Strengthen existing and build new partnerships across sector.

Key Actions:

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|----|--|
| 1. | Maintain existing relationships and build new relationship with RAPs, state and local Councils, catchment authorities, NGOs, universities and potential funders. |
| 2. | Identify and meet with one new local organisation (local Council, school, Indigenous groups, NGOs) each quarter. |
| 3. | Develop a simple partnership toolkit (flyer or one-pager) explaining Eco Warriors' mission and how groups can collaborate. |
| 4. | Launch one joint pilot project per year (e.g., a native garden at a school, a small restoration site with a council). |
| 5. | Publicly acknowledge partners in social media posts and event signage. |
| 6. | Maintain a contact list of partner organisations for easy updates. |

Our Goals 2026-2029 cont.

Priority 3: Project Expansion

Goal: Scale existing initiatives and pilot new projects.

Key Actions:

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1. | Apply for DGR 1 status to help secure larger grants. |
| 2. | Expand habitat restoration projects nationally. |
| 3. | Develop three new projects to create new habitat and/or monitor biodiversity. |
| 4. | Secure multi-year funding to sustain long-term restoration efforts. |

Priority 3: Project Expansion

Goal: Increase community participation in environmental projects through on-ground actions and community events.

Key Actions:

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1. | Deliver regular community planting days and community projects to build consistent volunteer engagement. |
| 2. | Create family-friendly volunteering opportunities to broaden participation across age groups, such as running events on weekends and in publicly accessible areas such as libraries, parks and plant nurseries. |
| 3. | Maintain existing partnerships, and develop new partnerships, with local Councils, schools and community groups to involve students and families in on-ground projects. |

Our Priority Species and Habitats 2026-2029

EWA has championed the Southern Greater Glider for many years, and will continue to do so into the future. This iconic species was listed as nationally Endangered in 2022 so efforts to protect its habitat are now more important than ever. We will continue to raise community awareness and create new habitat (artificial hollows) for the Southern Greater Glider.



The Long-necked Turtle is a totem animal for the Yorta Yorta People. We're raising community awareness about the cultural importance of this species while creating Yedabila Habitat Pods - woven refuges that provide safe new habitat for baby turtles as they reach the water.



The microbat is a Barapa-Barapa totem species. Excessive night lighting affects insect populations and confuses nocturnal animals, including microbats, that rely on darkness to hunt and navigate. EWA will raise awareness about the effects of light pollution on our native wildlife, while also sharing sky knowledge and the cultural importance of astronomy to First Nations peoples.



Monitoring and Evaluation

We will develop an annual Impact Report to measure the following:

- number of volunteers engaged
- Indigenous-led projects delivered
- New partnerships established
- Hectares restored / species supported

We already undertake community feedback surveys following all projects, and will continue to do so. The feedback that we gain from project participants is invaluable as it allows us to continue to improve our projects.

Communication and Engagement

We will continue to develop a strong digital presence through our website, social media and newsletter. We currently share stories through photography and videos. Going forward, we will include more videos/reels and “community voices” on our social media channels. We aim to attract an additional 250 followers using these techniques.



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