

Media Release

20 April 2026 | Media contact: media@deeca.vic.gov.au

Helping Bandicoots Bounce Back

The Victorian Government is giving endangered southern brown bandicoots a major lifeline, with a new habitat corridor to help these much-loved marsupials to move freely as the city grows.

A \$4.46 million Victorian Government investment will help deliver the dedicated bandicoot corridor on the outskirts of Cranbourne Gardens, covering an area the size of six soccer fields.

Funding for the corridor was announced at the 20th anniversary of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's award-winning Australian Garden in Cranbourne, which is home to some of the last remaining urban populations of the species on mainland Australia.

The 4-hectare bandicoot corridor will reconnect fragmented landscapes around Cranbourne and strengthen the species' long-term survival as Melbourne grows, with habitat construction expected to commence in 2027.

Bandicoot project partner City of Casey has provided an extra \$418,224 in support, and the Victorian Government contribution is backed by the 'Nature Next Door' Melbourne Strategic Assessment (MSA) Program. Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation is guiding the cultural and ecological design of the corridor including plant selection, cultural heritage protection, and appropriate signage.

Cranbourne Gardens is home to a healthy population of southern brown bandicoots and actively works to protect the species.

Victoria is a national leader in bandicoot conservation, having brought the eastern barred bandicoot back from the brink of extinction following a Victorian Government investment of more than \$5.5 million — the first time in Australian history a species classified as extinct in the wild was reclassified.

These initiatives form part of the Victorian Government's record \$800 million investment in biodiversity since 2014, the largest commitment to nature protection in the state's history.

Quotes attributable to a DEECA spokesperson:

"As Melbourne grows, we're giving this much-loved local bandicoot the space it needs to survive and thrive."

"The corridor will reconnect the southern brown bandicoot to other landscapes, helping them move safely through the environment and strengthen their long-term survival as the community grows."

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Quote attributable to City of Casey Mayor Cr Stefan Koomen:

“We’re really proud to partner with the Victorian Government on this important project, and this corridor will help keep these much-loved southern brown bandicoots safe and connected for years to come.”