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Arafura To Alice Eco-Links Initiative - Conservation For The 21st Century

Parks and Wildlife Minister Alison Anderson today said the Northern Territory Government will complete 50 per cent of its visionary Arafura to Alice Eco-Links initiative within four years.

Ms Anderson made the commitment as part of a major Ministerial Statement in Parliament today.

“The Arafura to Alice Eco-Links initiative involves the creation of wildlife corridors from one end of the Territory to the other – stretching north to south and east to west,” Ms Anderson said.

“Government and non-Government agencies working with landholders, community groups and philanthropists will use the best available science and traditional knowledge to conserve, restore and connect landscapes and ecosystems as part of this initiative.

“This Arafura to Alice Eco-Links initiative – also known as connectivity conservation - will enable wildlife to better adapt to climate change through the creation and use of such corridors.

“The Northern Territory Government has committed $1.8 million towards establishing stage one of the Arafura to Alice Eco-Links.

“The origins of our unique and rare wildlife stretch back thousands of years and the Arafura to Alice Eco-Links will be a vital cog in conserving our rich array of wildlife beyond the 21st century.

“Connecting and combining conservation initiatives on parks and surrounding areas will underpin the success of our Eco-Links initiative.
“While our great parks provide the cornerstone of our conservation efforts they cannot, by themselves, fully conserve our unique wildlife in the face of climate change.

“Scientific evidence tells us that properly-managed broad-scale connections between parks can provide the buffer that wildlife needs in the face of changes in temperature, fires or rain fall.

“The Arafura to Alice Eco-Links will be achieved without compulsory land acquisitions as this initiative is about helping landholders manage conservation in the 21st century on their land.

“I am committed to achieving at least half of the Eco-Links within the next four years.

“A project co-ordinator will be employed in the near future to help establish teams to help meet our target for implementation of Arafura to Alice Eco-Links.”

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