HELP US REACH THE LAST STRONGHOLDS OF THE NIGHT PARROT

WE NEED $10,000 FOR HELICOPTER SURVEYS

The Night Parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*) is one of Australia's rarest and most mysterious birds. This nocturnal species, thought extinct for much of the 20th century, roosts in dense

spinifex and calls only briefly at dusk and dawn. Detecting them requires patience, persistence—and the right tools.

Thanks to support from the Queensland Government, we've already been able to cover a lot of ground by road, placing Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs) on key properties across South-Western Queensland. These recorders are listening night after night, ready to capture the faint calls of this elusive bird.

But the best remaining habitat—rugged, remote country where Night Parrots are most likely to persist—is completely inaccessible by road. To reach it, we need helicopters.

That's where you come in. We're raising **$10,000** to fund helicopter surveys this season. Your donation will put us in the air, where we can access untouched areas, locate unknown populations, and begin the work of protecting them.

This is critical conservation work. Help us find the next Night Parrot stronghold—donate today.

DONATE TO SUPPORT OUR WORK

GOLDEN-SHOULDERED PARROT WORK AT ARTEMIS

Over the wet season, we carried out a number of projects as part of our Saving Native Species program that we are delivering at Artemis in collaboration with Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

MANAGING GRAZING PRESSURE

We established **two new destocked areas covering more than 38 hectares**, designed to support nesting and feeding habitat for the endangered Golden-shouldered Parrot (GSP). Each area contains a **high density of termite mounds**, which are critical nesting sites for the species, as parrots excavate their burrows directly into these structures.

These protected zones also support key food plants—particularly **Cockatoo Grass (*Alloteropsis semialata*)**—which are highly susceptible to overgrazing. By excluding livestock, we're allowing vegetation to recover, ensuring that both **nesting sites and essential food resources** are available during the breeding season.

ACCELERATING GRASS RECOVERY

We also undertook a **re-seeding trial within the GSP sanctuary** to accelerate the recovery of native wet-season grasses that are vital food sources for the parrots. Four sites—**covering more than 3.5 hectares**—were re-seeded with a diverse mix of native species, including **Giant Speargrass (*Heteropogon triticeus*)**, **Black Speargrass (*Heteropogon contortus*)**, **Plume Sorghum (*Sarga plumosum*)**, **Cockatoo Grass (*Alloteropsis semialata*)**, and

Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*).

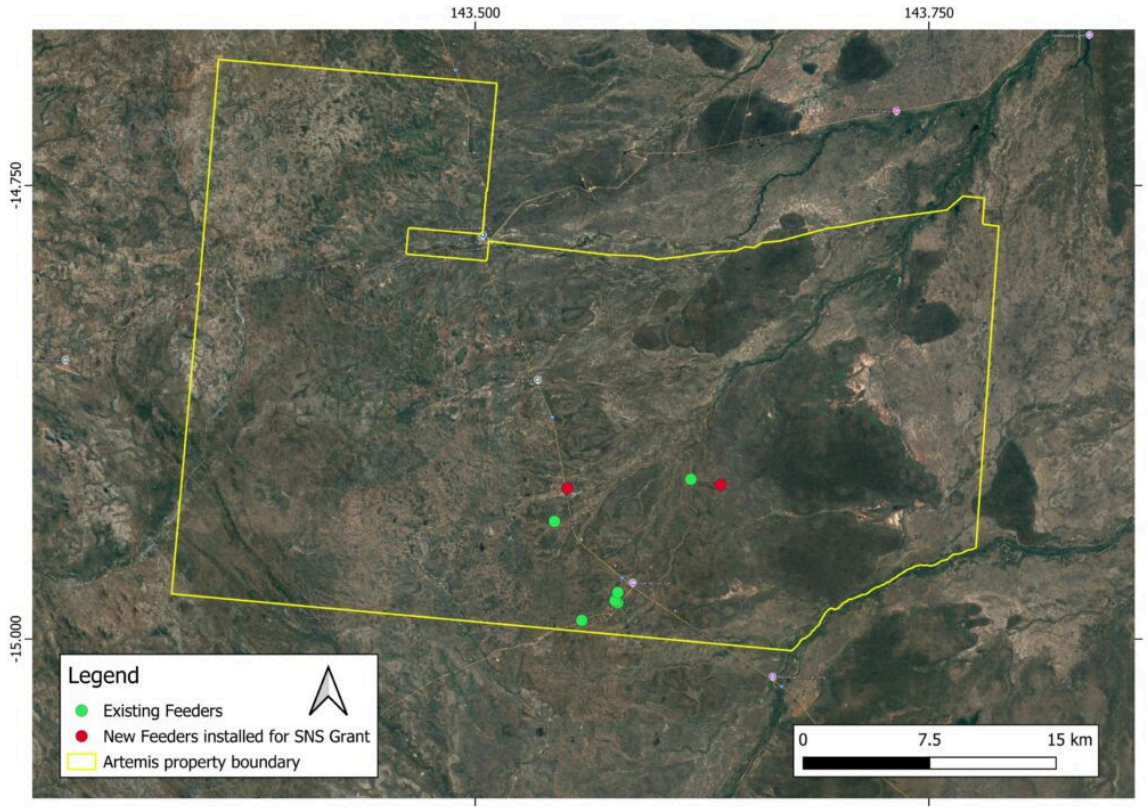
Seed was sourced through a combination of **local collection** and generous **donations from Rio Tinto Weipa**. At selected sites, we applied herbicide to suppress invasive species, followed by **controlled burning** to prepare the ground and stimulate natural regeneration.

All re-seeded areas lie within **destocked paddocks** that overlap with known GSP feeding and breeding territories, ensuring the work directly benefits the parrots' habitat and foraging opportunities.

PROVIDING TEMPORARY RELIEF

We also built two new supplementary feeding stations, increasing the network to eight year-round feeders and two specifically for the wet season. This targeted support is critical during the early wet season, when key dry-season food plants germinate after the first storms and become unavailable. During this time, parrots are forced to rely on a broader—and often nutritionally poorer—range of fallback foods, such as leaves and flower buds.

Our intervention is working. We've recorded high visitation rates at the feeders during the late dry and early wet seasons, confirming this strategy is helping the parrots get through one of the toughest times of the year.



In November 2024, we **captured and colour-banded 25 new Golden-shouldered Parrots** as part of our ongoing monitoring program. These individually marked birds are now part of a growing dataset that helps us track survival and movement across Artemis Station.

We monitor the survival of banded individuals using **motion-sensitive cameras** placed at supplementary feeding stations. These cameras capture **hundreds of thousands of images**, which are processed using **AI-assisted filtering** to isolate photos of banded birds from the rest.

While each bird is briefly in hand, we conduct a **rapid health assessment**, including checks of **feather condition** (pictured), and we photograph the **wing, tail, and side profile** to maintain a visual record of age, sex, and condition.

SUPPORT OUR WORK SAVING THE GOLDEN-SHOULDERED PARROT

We're appealing to our supporters to consider making a donation to **Conservation Partners** to help continue our effective, on-ground conservation work at Artemis Station.

Our practical efforts are producing significant, measurable results for the endangered Golden-shouldered Parrot. One of the most successful interventions has been the use of electric barrier fences to protect nests from predators. Monitoring data from 2024 and 2025

show that 76 percent of fenced nests were successful, compared to just 33 percent of unfenced nests—a dramatic improvement in breeding outcomes.

Your support directly enables this kind of practical and evidence-based conservation. Every donation helps us protect more nests, safeguard more chicks, and give this remarkable species a real chance at recovery.

DONATE TO SUPPORT OUR WORK

CHIDNA STATION - MINING AND BANDING

On Chidna Station, there is significant overlap between important mineral deposits and threatened species habitat. Every single one of us depends on these minerals everyday of our lives; the device you are currently looking at is full of them. So some trade-offs are needed where we can attempt to mitigate the impacts of resource extraction on wildlife. But thinking about the future of Chidna Station, do we really want all of the areas containing minerals to be affected by mining? Should we not plan for some areas containing deposits to be permanently excluded from mining so that wildlife can live without being compromised? Chidna story's is especially valuable, because within its boundary we can see what happens when mining is not done properly. We see a creek that remains severely impacted by past mining, with no real solution to clean it up.

We produced this video to highlight the decisions we are all faced with, and to draw attention to the issue of abandoned mines in Australia. We look forward to working with the mining sector to develop a truly balanced approach to providing the resources we need, while safeguarding the future of our wildlife.

One of the key species we're focused on at Chidna is the **Carpentarian Grasswren**—a shy, ground-dwelling bird that inhabits rugged, rocky ranges. Tracking and capturing these elusive birds is no easy task. Their secretive behaviour and difficult terrain make even basic detection a challenge.

Our work begins with careful surveys to locate active territories. Once a group is found, we identify a suitable site for mist-netting—a technique used to safely capture birds for research. With the net in place, we use targeted audio playback to entice the grasswrens to cross the net, where they are briefly and safely caught. Trained personnel are on hand to immediately extract the birds, minimising stress.

Captured grasswrens are then measured and fitted with a unique combination of coloured leg bands, allowing us to monitor individuals over time. This is a standard, highly regulated practice in avian research and requires multiple permits and licensing.

In December 2024, we conducted a dedicated colour-banding trip at Chidna, during which Henry successfully banded multiple Carpentarian Grasswrens. This marks an important step in building long-term data on the movements and survival of this nationally threatened species.

DONATE TO SUPPORT OUR WORK

Thanks for taking to time to read this update.

Keep an eye on your inbox for further updates.

Follow along on our social media channels to keep up to date.