

Letter 2 - reinstate Government support for the Dunphy Wilderness Fund

Points for your letter:

The *Dunphy Wilderness Fund* has significantly improved the protection of wilderness areas in NSW. The Fund has acquired 60 properties for \$11 million, protecting about 76,934 hectares including key areas of the Mummel Gulf, Macleay Gorges, Guy Fawkes, Washpool and Carracabundi wilderness areas.

What measures are being taken to provide continued funding for this Fund? In particular, could you please advise (me/your group) of the intended level of annual government funding for the purchase threatened wilderness, as well as the resources provided for a marketing strategy to encourage public bequests and donations to the Fund?

Will you also take the steps necessary to ensure that the large parcels of wilderness bushland, within Crown leasehold estate are purchased as a priority by the Office of Environment and Heritage?

The Fund had previously enabled the voluntary acquisition of private lands so that future exclusive hideaways and 'wilderness resorts' do not compromise these large intact natural areas. Continuing the Fund can also protect threatened wilderness that lies adjacent to protected wilderness areas, including identified leasehold land within state forests.

Myles and Milo Dunphy fought to conserve Australia's most beautiful places, and with Government support the Dunphy Fund can continue to build our protected wilderness estate.

By supporting wilderness protection your Government can protect ecosystems and cultural values from disturbance and interference.

Will the NSW Government provide a new allocation of funding of \$20 million over 5 years for the Dunphy Wilderness Fund to build on the work of the last ten years? These funds would be sufficient to acquire the 100,000 ha of wilderness-quality private land.