



## Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

4<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Dear WTP Permitted Bird Watchers,

### **2018 ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT RELEASE**

This autumn the Orange-bellied Parrot (OBP) Mainland Release Team are again preparing to release captive-bred OBPs at the Western Treatment Plant (WTP). We will also be releasing at a second site this year, the nearby Spit Nature Conservation Reserve.

This builds on results from the first year of the Mainland Release Trial, which saw 11 captive-bred parrots released at the Plant in 2017. Last year's released birds transitioned well to life in the wild, and were joined by wild birds, creating the largest flock of OBPs seen on the mainland for nearly 10 years.

DELWP, Zoos Victoria, BirdLife Australia, Melbourne Water, Moonlit Sanctuary, Parks Victoria and the Tasmanian Government are partnering to deliver the OBP Mainland Release Trial in Victoria, with the hope of once again having flocks of OBPs in our coastal habitats.

The release is part of a national program to try to prevent the species becoming extinct in the wild.

#### **How you can help:**

You may notice our pre-release aviaries at the WTP and The Spit, and you may also notice some new road closures in these areas. The tracks have been closed to all but operational traffic and personnel to minimise disturbance to the birds in these sensitive areas.

It is important to provide the birds ample opportunity to adjust to their new environment and to engage in behaviours that are essential to survive in the wild.

Please observe all track closures, and when you are observing OBPs in accessible areas, always allow them sufficient space to behave naturally.

We have a new email address for the project. Please report all OBP sightings in and around the WTP and The Spit promptly to [OBP.Release@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:OBP.Release@delwp.vic.gov.au). Your observations supplement our monitoring data to give us a more complete picture of the birds' use of this area.

#### **How to find updates on the project:**

Once the birds are released we will be providing fortnightly updates on social media. You can follow the project on <https://www.facebook.com/DELWPBarwonSouthWest/>.

Thank you,

**Rachel Pritchard**

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