



## Watering Project Hogwash Bend

Hogwash Bend, north west of Waikerie, has a large stand of River Red Gums with hollows utilised by breeding pairs of the vulnerable eastern subspecies of the Regent Parrot. It is the largest area of nesting sites recorded in South Australia.

In October 2008, Nature Foundation's Spring Nature Matters newsletter article on Water For Nature caught the eye of Mr Ian Preston, who worked with us to assemble a group of passionate donors to purchase 6.8 megalitres (ML) of water.



Donors and volunteers inspect the irrigation system during an event launched by Minister Maywald in December 2009.

*Image: Nature Foundation SA*

With Riverland West Local Action Planning Association and dedicated volunteers providing on-ground works, Water for Nature was able to deliver the water to irrigate River Red Gums at four priority sites that contained high densities of Regent Parrot nests between March and May 2009.

A follow-up watering in December 2009 protected the trees from further stress over summer.

Monitoring has shown that leaf coverage has increased significantly as a result of the two watering projects. The latest Regent Parrot nesting survey results have shown that in 2003-04 there were 22 nesting trees with 29 nests at the site, whereas in 2010 there were 38 nesting trees with 47 nests. This is a significant result for the recovery of this vulnerable species.



The Regent Parrot is easily identified by its distinctive yellow plumage.

*Image: Chris Tzaros*