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Media Release:

Nest boxes a win for native wildlife at Duralie

Yancoal's Duralie Coal Mine has been recognised for its dedication to protecting threatened and native fauna and supporting local biodiversity using nest boxes in the southern part of the Gloucester Valley, by winning a highly competitive state industry award in environmental excellence.

Nest boxes can successfully enhance habitat resources for native hollow dependent fauna in bushland where hollow features are limited, and improve biodiversity conservation values.

Large areas within the Gloucester Valley have been previously cleared through logging, leading to a loss of native vegetation and reducing the biodiversity values in the area. This has led to a general lack of hollow-bearing habitat resources in existing vegetation for hollow dependent fauna to live in.

As part of Duralie Coal's mining license, Yancoal manages 720 hectares of biodiversity offset land adjacent to the operation.

The winners of the NSW Minerals Council's 2019 Health, Safety, Environment and Community Conference Awards were announced at the Industry Awards Dinner on Monday 5 August. Over 500 people from across NSW attended to celebrate excellence and innovation in NSW mining across four categories – Health Excellence, Safety Excellence, Environmental Excellence and Community Excellence.

Duralie Coal Operations Manager John Cullen was thrilled with the acknowledgement for environmental excellence.

"Duralie Coal is committed to protecting and supporting local wildlife and enhancing biodiversity for the future of our area, therefore the idea to build nest boxes was a natural fit.

"Initially we were unsure as to what success we may have and the program has exceeded our expectations. We have over 210 nest boxes at around 90 per cent occupancy with a variety of wildlife including mammals, endemic birds and bats, including three threatened species.

"The work undertaken by Duralie Coal to protect native wildlife is transferable to other native bushland which is also lacking in hollow bearing features.

"This program is a marvellous example of how bush regeneration and biodiversity conservation can be successful and we plan to expand the program across other areas in the Gloucester Valley," said John.

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