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FACTSHEET

Movement and Connectivity

In the past, animals could migrate (move) quite easily from one place to another in search of homes, partners and food because their habitat was well connected. Those same animals now have to scale fences, cross busy roads, traverse backyards with dogs and cats, and walk across open areas like lawns which exposes them to predators.

Why do species need to move?

Most animals need to eat a variety of foods to survive. These food sources are often found in different places and change from season to season. Animals therefore need to be able to forage (look for food) in different areas to get all the nutrients they need. Animals also need to find other animals that are not related to them to breed with. This means that they need to travel to new areas to find a partner. In the case of large animals, such as Red Kangaroos, this can mean ranging over vast distances. Like us, some young animals in turn have to move away from their families and find new territories to live in.

Even though we don't think of plants as species that move, they face the same problems. Different types of plants need different types of nutrients and soil to grow in, and different amounts of water to sustain them. Young plants need to be able to disperse (move) to new areas to grow and reproduce. Connectivity also enables species to cope better with climate change and other stresses such as habitat loss and inadequate food sources.



How can we reconnect habitat?

We can reconnect habitat to enable wildlife to move more easily through the landscape like they did in the past by:

- Protecting habitat in national parks
- Encouraging landholders to conserve native vegetation on their properties.
- Controlling feral animals and weeds.
- Planting native trees and shrubs.
- Removing barbed wire fencing.

Did you know?

Sometimes animals migrate for reasons other than food and to breed such as Bogong Moths which migrate over a massive 1,000km from as far away as Queensland to the Australian Alps every year to escape the summer heat.

