

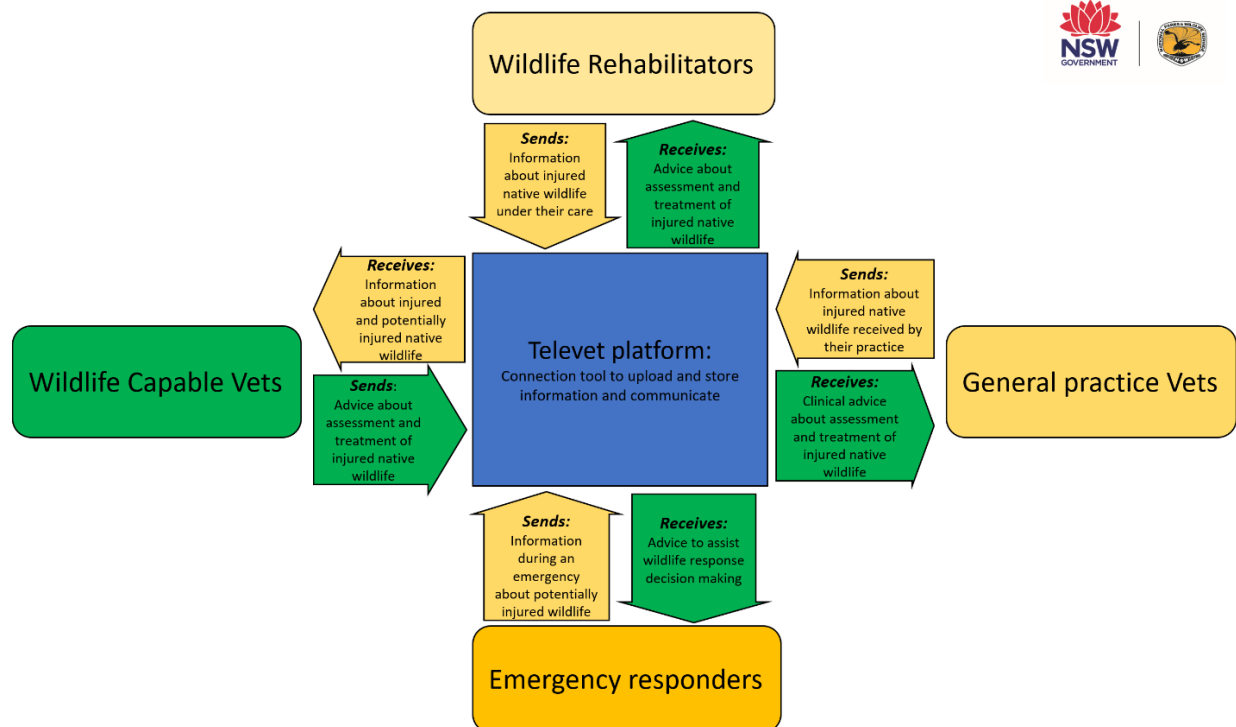
## Expressions of interest (EOI) to participate in the NSW Televet Service Trial for wildlife

### Purpose

Expressions of interest are being sought for **general practice vets and wildlife rehabilitators** to participate in the NSW government Televet Service Trial for wildlife, which is planned to run for four weeks from 19 April to 17 May 2021.

The intent is to form a televet service trial group that will involve **wildlife capable vets** providing teleconsulting and telemedicine services<sup>1</sup> to:

- **General practice vets** in NSW that receive injured native wildlife into their care and require additional guidance on their assessment and treatment,
- **Wildlife rehabilitators** in NSW that have native wildlife in their care, require guidance on their assessment and treatment and are **unable** to physically access a vet and;
- **Emergency response personnel** that will encounter **simulated cases** of potentially injured wildlife during an incident management exercise, and require expertise to assist with decisions on wildlife response



### Scope

<sup>1</sup> Teleconsulting is the interaction between a wildlife capable vet and a general practice vet. Telemedicine is the interaction between a wildlife capable vet and a wildlife rehabilitator. [John Baguley, NSW Veterinary Practitioners Board 'Technology based patient consultations in veterinary science' NSW NPWS, 5 March 2021. Accessed 16 March 2021.](#)

- The trial will be conducted from the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2021 to the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 with **real cases** encountered by **general practice veterinarians and wildlife rehabilitators**. The service will also be trialed with **simulated cases** during a workshop and exercise over the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2021.
- This is a free teleconsulting service for participating **general practice veterinarians and wildlife rehabilitators** during the **trial period only**. Please note this trial **does not cover** costs incurred by **general practice vets** receiving injured wildlife
- A communication platform that will facilitate the trial is currently being procured. More detail about the platform will be confirmed shortly, however the objective is to provide an easy to use, intuitive method of connection and communication for all participants. This will be likely to include an opportunity for **general practice vets and wildlife rehabilitators** to enter basic information about the injured native animal for the **wildlife capable vet** to review prior to responding. It will be possible to enter information into the platform at any time of the day. Response times will be developed in consultation with trial participants.
- It is envisaged there will not be more than 50 participants in total, including wildlife capable vets, general practice vets, wildlife rehabilitators and emergency responders during the workshop and exercise on 6 – 7 May.
- The televet service trial will be evaluated for its feasibility, effectiveness and value for money to allow the NSW government and other relevant stakeholders to consider on its long-term viability

## Selecting trial participants

### General Practice Vets

In order to be eligible to participate in the televet trial as a **general practice vet**, the applicant will:

- Be registered to practice by the Veterinary Practitioners Board of New South Wales
- Have their practice's support to participate in the trial
- Have a history of receiving injured wildlife and be willing to receive injured native wildlife during the trial period
- Agree to ensure the subject animal's welfare and their potential to be re-released to the wild are the main considerations when seeking advice; in line with the relevant [NSW government policies, codes of practice, guidelines and standards of care for native animals](#).
- Be willing to register and participate through the nominated communication platform
- Agree to interact with other trial participants in a civil and respectful manner .
- Be willing to participate in an evaluation of the televet service trial. This may include surveys and/or interviews with participants
- Permit the NSW government (through NPWS) to access the information that is exchanged during the interactions for evaluation purposes. This will include text messages and any other information uploaded (such as subject animal information, photos, documents and videos) but will not include the audio or video consultations that occur.

### Wildlife Rehabilitators

In order to be eligible to participate in the televet trial as a **wildlife rehabilitator**, the applicant will:

- Be licensed to rehabilitate wildlife in New South Wales
- Be supported to participate in the trial by their licensed organisation
- Have a history of receiving and be willing to receive injured native wildlife during the trial period
- Acknowledge that the televet service is only to be used if it is impractical to physically present the injured animal to a vet.
- Agree to ensure the subject animal's welfare and their potential to be re-released to the wild are the main considerations when seeking advice; in line with the relevant [NSW government policies, codes of practice, guidelines and standards of care for native animals](#).
- Be willing to register and participate through the nominated communication platform
- Agree to interact with other trial participants in a civil and respectful manner . Be willing to participate in an evaluation of the televet service trial. This may include surveys and/or interviews with participants
- Permit the NSW government (through NPWS) to access the information that is exchanged during the interactions for evaluation purposes. This will include text messages and any other information uploaded (such as subject animal information, photos, documents and videos) but will not include the audio or video consultations that occur.

### **How to apply for this EOI**

Televet trial participants will be selected based on their suitability against the eligibility criteria provided above.

To express your interest, please submit your expression of interest by completing the form.

[You can access the form by clicking this link](#). Applications are due by **CoB 1 April 2021**. NPWS will review submissions and contact successful applicants by **9 April 2021** with further information.

### **Background**

The NSW Televet Service trial is part of the NSW government's \$1 million bushfire relief for wildlife rehabilitators program. Funded through the Environmental Trust, the program aims to support wildlife rehabilitators and the veterinary sector to recover from the 2019-20 bushfire season and prepare for future extreme events. The televet service trial contributes to ***improving access to veterinary services for wildlife in emergencies***.

### **Further Information:**

Please contact Tim Johnson, Project Officer, Wildlife Coordinator, Biodiversity and Wildlife Unit on (02) 47847332 or [tim.johnson@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tim.johnson@environment.nsw.gov.au).