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MEDIA RELEASE

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CURRUMBIN KOALAS TO HAVE ACCESS TO LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENT

With 250 koalas injured around Currumbin each year the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital has received a grant for a new intensive care unit.

Waste management and recycling company, SITA Australia, alongside Jonathon Fisher, CEO Currumbin Wildlife Hospital and City of Gold Coast Councillor Chris Robbins presented the \$4,004 cheque at the event on Monday.

Koalas are one the most common admissions to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital and are increasing at an alarming rate. The hospital is one of the busiest wildlife hospitals in the world admitting 7000 patients annually, of which 250 are injured or orphaned koalas.

Currumbin Wildlife Hospital Veterinarian Dr Michael Pyne said: "With more than 3000 koalas injured in Queensland each year, in our local area koala numbers are dropping dramatically and the prospect of them becoming extinct in our area is very real."

"With SITA's grant we were able to purchase an intensive care unit specifically designed for koalas. It will help us improve the level of care we can provide to the rising number of koalas admitted each year."

Queensland State General Manager for SITA Australia, Peter Hudson, said through the SITA Community Grants program, the company was looking for community groups that make real, positive change in their local communities.

"With a great success rate of releasing more than 40,000 native animals back into the wild and treating more than 7000 patients every year, we wanted to help contribute to the hospital's wonderful work," said Mr Hudson.

Dr Pyne said the new intensive care unit has essential monitoring equipment to observe the oxygen saturation, blood pressure, heart rate and core temperature of the precious patients.

"Although this equipment is primarily for monitoring koalas it will also help us more broadly and be used on many of the other 7000 patients treated each year," said Dr Pyne.

SITA is proud to support the communities in which we operate through the first community grant program for the waste and recycling industry in Australia.

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SITA AUSTRALIA (SITA) makes it easy for our customers to put their waste to good use. We find smart and reliable solutions to collect, recover and recycle waste into valuable resources to help protect our environment. SITA employs 2,100 people and provides services to more than 56,000 commercial and industrial customers and 3.7 million residents across Australia each week.