

Devil Rock: Save the Tassie Devil

2 July 2009



Devil Rock, a fundraising campaign to save the Tasmanian devil was launched by Peter Garrett, the Federal Minister for the Environment Heritage and the Arts, and veteran rocker Jon English, at the University of Sydney today (2 July).

Rockers old and new will join forces to save the Tasmanian devil through rock and roll music, and they will be asking Australians to get involved and donate.

English will be playing a series of rock concerts over the coming months to raise funds for Tasmanian devil conservation and research, culminating in two 'Devil Rock' Concerts featuring a line up of major Australian rock artists next year. The first 'Devil Rock' will be held at the University of Sydney on 6 March 2010, followed by a second concert at Bluetongue stadium on the Central Coast.

The Tasmanian devil, the world's largest surviving marsupial carnivore, is under threat of extinction in the wild due to the spread of a contagious cancer - Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD). In just a 10 year period the wild population has decreased by around 70 per cent and the disease is showing no signs of letting up.

Devil Rock and the fundraising campaign will be supporting a joint research program involving Dr Kathy Belov from The University of Sydney Faculty of Veterinary Science and the Australian Reptile Park at Gosford, which has been involved with the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program's captive Insurance Population for the past three years and has successfully bred over 30 devils.

The joint research program is working in partnership with the Tasmanian and Australian Governments' Save the Tasmanian Devil Program, which is coordinating a range of measures and research programs to secure the ongoing survival of the Tasmanian devil in the wild.

Young rockers can also get onboard with **Battle of the Bands**, a Devil Rock competition being developed in partnership with the NSW Department of Education. Young bands across Australia are being encouraged to post a song online with the winning band playing live at Devil Rock on 6 March. Further information about the competition is available online at: www.devilrock.com.au

While the final line up of artists for the Devil Rock Concerts is yet to be decided, English says everyone he's approached so far has been enthusiastic about taking part. "The music industry is just great when it comes to getting behind things like this," says Jon, "there will be something for every rock generation to enjoy".

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