

Protecting Koalas of North Coast New South Wales



To the Landholder,

We are writing to you as you previously expressed interest in protecting koala habitat on your property.

North Coast Local Land Services (LLS), in collaboration with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT), is inviting expressions of interest (EOIs) from landholders to enter into conservation agreements that will protect key koala habitat in the Bellingen-Coffs Harbour Area of Regional Koala Significance (ARKS).

Successful landholders will be offered different land management options to select from, depending on the size and condition of your property. These will involve advice and grants to manage a conservation area on your property. Certain agreements will be eligible for discounts on Council Rates and Land Tax.

The Bellingen area supports extremely important koala habitat and a local population of koalas that is of state-wide significance. Landholders who participate in this project will be helping to secure this important koala population for future generations.



Why this is important

Koala populations are at elevated risk for a variety of reasons. A growing human population, particularly in areas along Australia's east coast, has led to large-scale clearing of better-quality koala habitats with many koala populations struggling within smaller, fragmented patches of poorer quality habitat.

Other threats, such as drought, fire, climate change, disease, vehicle strike, dog attack are further impacting koala populations. Creating 'habitat refuges' in areas remote from, and resilient to, such threats is extremely important for long-term koala persistence.

Activities Eligible for Funding

- Weed control
- Fencing
- Pest animal control
- Re-vegetation
- Fire Management
- Habitat restoration
- Repairs to existing features, (eg. tracks) to maintain the conservation area
- Native vegetation restoration planning
- Project / grant management support



Australian Government

This project is supported by Local Land Services, through funding from the Australian Government's Environment Restoration Fund.



**Local Land
Services**



Eligibility Criteria

1. Your land is privately owned, freehold tenure, within the Bellingen or Coffs Harbour LGA
2. Your property supports a continuous patch of **10 Ha** of native vegetation (or **5 Ha** if adjoining a protected area, or linked up with a neighbours proposal)**.
3. You should be willing to relinquish any private native forestry agreements existing on the specific area.

***This area may be subject to further desk-top analysis to determine its value to koalas and other biodiversity.*

What Happens after you Apply

**If COVID restrictions allow - all applicants will be invited to a local 'drop-in' information session, where you will be able to discuss your proposed site with technical specialists and review the options.*

1. Applications will be assessed by an expert panel and site visits will be offered to the highest-ranking.
2. We will work with you to identify the conservation area & develop a site management plan.
3. Our project ecologists will contact you to arrange a time to visit and conduct an in-depth assessment recording all threatened species present.
4. Successful landholders will have the option of different land management agreements depending on the size and condition of your property.
5. Land that contains high quality koala habitat will have the opportunity to enter into an ongoing agreement with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

6. Once agreements are signed, you will be eligible to receive grants to begin habitat protection works on your site.
7. Successful landholders will be invited to attend workshops & technical information sessions on koala habitat enhancement.

How to Apply

Complete this Expression of Interest (EOI) form, including the map of your proposed area, & email all pages to: tenders.northcoast@lls.nsw.gov.au

Or mail/drop-off to your local LLS office by **30th August 2021**

A digital form is available at www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/north-coast

For more information:

OLIVIA KEMP
North Coast Local Land Services
P: 1300 795 299
M: 0428 635 077
E: olivia.kemp@lls.nsw.gov.au
W: lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/north-coast



Contact us: Lismore
79 Conway Street
Ph: 02 6623 3900

Casino
147 Barker Street
Ph: 02 6661 2900

South Grafton
24 - 26 Mulgi Drive,
Ph: 02 6604 1100

Coffs Harbour
Level 1, 30 Park Avenue,
Ph: 02 6659 9400

Kempsey
83 Belgrave Street
Ph: 02 6563 6700

Expression of Interest Form

Protecting Koalas in the the Port Macquarie region



Contact and property details: (Required Fields)

Name of Landowner:..... Property owner(s).....
(if different from Landowner)

ABN/ACN:.....Phone :.....Email:.....

Property Street address:.....

Local Government Area :.....Approximate Property Size (ha)

Lot and DP of Property:..... Proposed Conservation Area Size (ha).....

Preferred method of contact? (and time) Home Phone Mobile Phone Email

Best Times:

How did you hear about us? Social media Letter mail out Word of mouth

Workshop Other (please specify):.....

Do any of the following agreements apply to the proposed conservation area:

Conservation Agreement under National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974? Yes No

Conservation Agreement under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016? Yes No

Trust Agreement under Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001? Yes No

Registered Property Agreement under the Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997? Yes No

Property Vegetation Plan or an offset or set-aside requirement? Yes No

Carbon agreement or a private native forestry agreement? Yes No

Catchment Management Authority or Local Land Services Management Agreement? Yes No

Do you have other covenants, caveats, agreements or restrictions on title? Yes No

If you have answered yes to any of the above, please provide name of the Agreement/requirement and the Agreement reference number: _____

The Proposed Conservation Area: (Optional)				
How much of the proposed conservation area has been cleared or under-scrubbed in the last 15 years?	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> None of the site	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than half of the site	<input type="checkbox"/> More than half of the site
Has the proposed conservation area been grazed by domestic stock?	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuously
Does the majority of the site have a eucalypt canopy?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know	
Does the proposed conservation area have a mid-storey layer that is made up of mostly native species? <i>Mid-storey includes shrubs and other plants found below the tallest trees and above groundcover in height. Mid-storey plants can be thick or sparsely distributed.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know	
Does the majority of the proposed conservation area have a groundcover layer that is made up of mostly native species? <i>Ground cover means grasses and other plants that are generally below shin height</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know	
Are there a range of tree sizes within the proposed conservation area? <i>This may include small seedlings, saplings and larger trees that vary in their trunk size</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know	
Do koalas use the proposed conservation area? <i>Nb. This questions is simply for interest & will not be used to rank applications as landholders may not realise they have koalas until specialist surveys are undertaken.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know	

What weed species are present in the proposed conservation area? (Optional)				
<i>Please tick the box that best describes the abundance of these plants</i>				
Name of invasive plant/s	A small number of scattered individual plants	A few dense patched across the area	One of the common plant species across the area	Don't know
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mapping your proposed Conservation Area (Required)

Open the website: <https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/>

Step 1) In the top right hand corner, click the Map Contents button & tick all the check boxes there – this will enable boundaries and DP numbers to appear. (This makes it easier, but is not essential).

Step 2) Type in your address or Lot/DP number into the 'advanced' Search option in the search bar & zoom into the part of your property you think meets the criteria/has healthy habitat on it.

Step 3) Using the 'Area Tool' from the top menu bar, draw a line/box around it – (which will also show you the hectares, ideally 5+ Ha), double click to save the shape on the screen – then use a screen shot, the snipping tool, or right click for 'web capture', to cut & paste the image & attach it to you application form. Email or post all pages to LLS.

****** *If you are unsure of what area of your property to propose for the project, let us know & we can review the native vegetation map of the local area and suggest a spot for you and email this to you for your comments.*

Privacy Statement

The personal information you provide on this form is subject to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998, under which you have rights and obligations. The information in this form is being collected for the purposes of involvement in the North Coast Local Land Services **Protecting Koalas** project. You are not required to provide your personal information but Local Land Services cannot process your application without it. This information is given voluntarily, however failure to supply full details will mean that Local Land Services may not be able to respond to you. Local Land Services will not disclose your personal information without your consent unless required by law.

Further information regarding privacy can be obtained from the Privacy Commission NSW <https://www.ipc.nsw.gov.au/privacy/citizens>