

Next steps for the EOI process for Conservation Tenders in the priority Koala Habitat in the Port Macquarie region of NSW.

The opportunity to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a Tender site assessment in the Koala Habitat in the Port Macquarie region closed at 5pm on 21 May 2018.

The following information is for landholders who submitted an EOI for a site assessment.

Regional staff of the BCT will contact you once we have confirmed that your property is located within the project area currently open for funding, and meets eligibility criteria (the extent of eligible habitat on your property will also be confirmed during the site visit).

There has been an overwhelming response to the BCT Koala Habitat Tender, indicating strong community support and landholder interest in Koala conservation in the region. The BCT acknowledges this support and thanks all landholders who submitted an EOI, for their interest in this program.

Because of the large number of EOIs received, the BCT is unable to visit all sites for which an EOI was submitted for a site assessment, during this current round of the Conservation Tender. We will prioritise site assessments taking into consideration factors such as the area of habitat; the likely quality of that habitat (based on existing mapping of different types of koala habitat); and program funds.

If you are successful in receiving a site visit and site assessment, we will be in touch with you shortly to arrange a time and you will receive further information about the site visit and the next steps.

If the BCT is unable to provide a site assessment for this Tender, you will be contacted to discuss other options the BCT is able to offer to assist you in protecting the Koala habitat on your property.

Next key dates in this process:

21 May 2018	Expression of Interest (EOI) for site assessments closed. EOIs must have been received before 5pm on 21 May 2018. The BCT reserves the right to close the EOI period early if it has a sufficient number of applications.
May/June 2018	Site visits for priority eligible EOIs are conducted.
Early – Mid July 2018	Landholders receive Conservation Management Plan and bid form
27 July 2018	This is the last date for landholders to submit their bid to implement the conservation management plan and conservation management actions on their property.
Early August	The landholder bids are assessed by an Assessment Panel.

Early August	The successful and unsuccessful landholders are advised of the outcome of the tender.
Mid-August	Landholders that have successful bids are requested to execute a Conservation Agreement for their land within 14 days. The resulting Conservation Management Payments commence after the Agreement has been registered on the title of the land.

How does the tender process work?

- We prioritise eligible EOIs for site assessments based on the area and quality of Koala habitat.
- If your EOI was received after the closing date, or is not prioritised for a site assessment, it may be placed on a reserve list.
- If an EOI is successful in receiving an on-site assessment, we work with landholders to identify an area (or areas) on the property that could be managed for koala habitat conservation, and to develop a conservation management plan for the area.
- Eligible landholders will then be able to submit a confidential bid in a Conservation Tender, setting out the annual payments they would like to receive to carry out the conservation management plan. Bids will be assessed and ranked by value for money.
- Successful landholders will be offered a Conservation Agreement, which will be an in-perpetuity agreement. Payments will be made in accordance with the landholder's bid and will continue for the term of the agreement.