



Biodiversity
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Trust

CONSERVATION TENDERS IN PRIORITY KOALA HABITAT: PORT MACQUARIE

GUIDE FOR LANDHOLDERS



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1. INTRODUCTION

This guide is to assist landholders who own priority Koala habitat in the Port Macquarie area. The Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) is offering ongoing conservation management payments to landholders in exchange for them managing agreed land areas to maintain and improve its capacity to support the conservation of Koalas.

2. BCT CONSERVATION TENDERS

Conservation tenders are a key pathway by which interested landholders can participate in the BCT's Conservation Management Program, to enter a funded conservation agreement.

The BCT invites landholders who think they may have important Koala habitat in the Port Macquarie Project Area (See Figure 1) to express their interest in a site assessment, by mailing or emailing an Expression of Interest (EOI) form available from the website, or by contacting the BCT. Expressing interest does not create a binding obligation to participate in the tender.

For sites that are eligible, BCT field staff and ecologists will work with the landholder to:

- identify the habitat values on the site
- nominate a potential conservation area
- prepare a conservation management plan for that area
- agree on the land management actions needed to protect and manage the Koala habitat on site.

Once this is agreed, the landholders will be invited to submit a tender or 'bid', using a standard template. The bid will include the conservation management plan and a schedule setting out the annual payments that the landholder wishes to receive to implement the plan and the conservation management actions. It is entirely up to the landholder to determine the price they require to conserve and manage the nominated site in accordance with the agreed conservation management plan.

All conservation agreements for Koala habitat in the Port Macquarie project area will be in-perpetuity agreements, and therefore attract ongoing conservation payments. Eligible Koala habitat conservation areas will be:

- In general, a minimum of 10 ha
- If the land directly abuts a National Park or other 'Protected Area', a minimum of 5ha may be agreed

This program provides a unique opportunity for successful landholders to secure an additional revenue stream and to contribute to securing Koala populations into the future.

3. WHERE ARE BCT CONSERVATION TENDERS FOR PRIORITY KOALA HABITAT BEING OFFERED?

The BCT's Conservation Tenders will focus on the highest priority Koala habitat and will be offered within regions that are identified as key to Koala conservation in NSW. The BCT is targeting high priority Koala habitat as identified by the Saving Our Species program. These areas have been identified following a scientific assessment of risks to koala populations and identification of where investment will have highest likelihood of increasing the long-term preservation of NSW koala populations.

One such area is the Port Macquarie area, and Koala habitat within the area shown in Figure 1 (below) is considered to be significant to achieve the goal of the Saving Our Species program - to secure populations of Koala in the wild in NSW for the next 100 years. : www.bct.nsw.gov.au or you can contact the BCT on 1300 992 688.



Figure 1 shows areas that include, or are likely to include, Koala habitat within the project area.

The Project Area contains two distinct areas, north and south of the Hastings River, each suspected to have genetically distinct Koala populations.

To the south of the Hastings River, there is a state-significant Koala population, with a long history of koala occupation. Here, the Koala population is thought to number over 1,000, including a nationally significant source population of over 500 animals located on private and public lands surrounding Lake Innes.

To the north of the Hastings river, the area is characterised by a lower density of Koalas, perhaps about 400 animals. Whilst this area was previously known to support Koalas, in the past year, a previously unknown local population of Koalas was found in lands adjoining Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve.

Approximately 50 animals were recorded in post-fire surveys, and this suggests that the area supports an important coastal population. These additional records have led to increasing interest in the area north of the Hastings River as a significant area for the long-term survival of the Koala in NSW.

In both these areas, the most important habitats are those with Koala Feed Trees such as Tallowwood, Swamp Mahogany, Forest Red Gum, and Small-fruited Grey Gum. On land that has these trees, other tree species* may also be important, such as Thin-leaved Stringybark, Scribbly Gum, Flooded Gum, Blue Gum, Red Mahogany, and White Stringybark.

***NOTE: The list of additional tree species was amended on 3 May 2018.**

Sites of 10 hectares (or more) of Koala habitat are eligible for the program. This site may include a buffer area to the habitat. Where a site on private land adjoins an area of protected habitat (e.g., on an adjoining nature reserve) the BCT may consider sites larger than 5 hectares.

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Figure 1: **NOTE: Map was amended on 3 May 2018**



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Through this project, the BCT aims to protect important koala habitats on private lands both north and south of the Hastings River. This will help secure Koala populations on these private lands, and in adjoining and nearby nature reserves.

If your site is eligible, the BCT field staff will contact you to arrange a time to meet with you for a site inspection and assessment. This assessment will identify if your site contains the Koala habitat, the extent and quality of that habitat, and any buffer areas surrounding the habitat.

The identification of a conservation area on the property is ultimately a matter for the landholder, as the landholder's participation in the Tender is entirely voluntary.

For sites that are eligible to participate in the Tender, the assessment of the Koala habitat on your site will result in the site being assigned a Koala Habitat Value Score. This score is explained below under 'Assessment of Bids'.

4. WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

Tenders will be conducted in a two-stage process. Landholders will initially be invited to express their interest, and eligible landholders will be contacted by the BCT to arrange a site assessment. You can refer to the 'eligibility' information below to decide if you are eligible, or contact the BCT on 1300 992 688. If a site is eligible, the BCT will work with the landholder to prepare a conservation management plan to enable participation in the tender.

Stage 1 Expression of Interest and Site Assessment

Step 1. Submit an Expression of Interest for a Site Assessment. If eligible you will be contacted by the BCT to arrange a time for site inspection and assessment.

Step 2. Site assessment to confirm eligibility for the tender and commence preparation of a conservation management plan and proposed conservation management actions. For eligible sites, a Koala Habitat Value Score will be developed at the site visit (see 'Assessment of Bids' below).

Step 3. An agreed conservation management plan will be prepared by the BCT in consultation with the landholder. The conservation management plan and conservation management actions is provided to the landholder, with a bid form to enable participation in the Tender.



Stage 2 Bid Phase

Step 4. Landholder submits a bid within 14 days of receiving the conservation management plan. All bids are held within a secure location until after the final bid closing date when they are assessed by a BCT assessment panel.

Step 5. Successful bidders enter a conservation agreement under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* with the BCT and receive annual conservation management payments for the term of the agreement. An example agreement can be found on the BCT website www.bct.nsw.gov.au. A Conservation Agreement will be registered on the title of the land and be binding on successors in title and not just the current owner of the land.

Additionally, landholders who enter conservation agreements are provided ongoing support under the BCT Landholder Technical Support Package.

5. SUBMITTING AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SITE ASSESSMENT

The first step to secure participation in a tender is to make an Expression of Interest for a Site Assessment. This can be done by mailing or emailing an EOI form available from the website, or by contacting the BCT on [1300 992 688](tel:1300992688).

The BCT will undertake a desktop assessment to ensure that your site is located within the project area, is likely to contain suitable Koala habitat, and meets the minimum size requirements. If your site meets these requirements, you will be contacted by the BCT to arrange a site visit.

If you made an Expression of Interest over the phone, and you are eligible for a site assessment, a BCT field officer will bring a record of the Expression of Interest to the site visit and you will be asked to confirm the details.

Round 1 of the BCT Tenders will have a short timeframe for landholder registration. The BCT will prioritise site assessments based on the date of receipt of the Expression of Interest. You are therefore encouraged to register your interest for a site assessment early.

Registration of an EOI does not mean that you are required to submit a bid, however it ensures that your site will be assessed for eligibility, and depending on the number of EOIs received (EOIs will be assessed on a first-come first-served basis), assessed for suitability to participate through to bid submission.



The BCT reserves the right to close the EOI period early if it has a sufficient number of applications. EOIs made after the close of the EOI period will be recorded for consideration if additional tender rounds are implemented.

6. ELIGIBLE SITES

For tender areas for priority koala habitat in the Port Macquarie area, the property needs to meet the following requirements:

Stage 1 – Expression of Interest and site assessment

- Be located within the Conservation Tender area (see map).
- Have a minimum 10ha area of Koala habitat (including any buffer area if proposed) to be conserved and managed for Koala conservation
- If the proposed land directly borders a National Park or other ‘Protected Area’ the BCT may agree for a minimum area of 5ha.

Stage 2 – Bid Phase

- Include Koala Habitat, with koala feed trees within the proposed conservation area.

7. WHAT IS KOALA HABITAT?

An area of native vegetation that has these preferred Koala food trees:

- Tallowwood (*Eucalyptus microcorys*)
- Swamp Mahogany (*Eucalyptus robusta*)
- Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*)
- Small-fruited Grey Gum (*Eucalyptus propinqua*)

On land that has the above preferred food trees, other Koala food trees* that would also be considered are:

- Thin-leaved Stringybark (*Eucalyptus eugenoides*)
- Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus racemosa*)
- Tallowwood hybrid (*Eucalyptus patentineris*)
- Flooded Gum (*Eucalyptus grandis*)
- Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*)
- Red Mahogany (*Eucalyptus resinifera*)
- White Stringybark (*Eucalyptus globoidea*)

***NOTE: The list of additional tree species was amended on 3 May 2018.**

Sites that do not contain the preferred tree species are likely to be considered as ‘ineligible’ for the Tender. Other environmental factors will also be assessed during the site assessment,



including the size (diameter) of the trees, the ecological condition of the site, and the location and 'connectedness' of the site to other habitat.

8. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

A BCT Conservation Agreement may provide funding for the management actions set out under the Conservation Management Plan under that Agreement.

However, proposed sites that are subject to an existing binding conservation agreement or contract (e.g. contract or legal agreement) and/or that receive funding for activities similar to or in conflict with activities required by the conservation management plan under a BCT Conservation Agreement may not be eligible for this program. Landholders with concerns about eligibility should discuss this with the BCT.

Generally, if management activities are required or are funded under an existing agreement, then the BCT will not provide funding for those activities.

A limited number of properties that have sites with existing in-perpetuity Conservation Agreements (*National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*), Trust Agreements (*Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001*) and Registered Property Agreements (*Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997*) may be eligible to apply. These landholders should discuss this with the BCT.

Eligible sites with existing in-perpetuity agreements will not be permitted to bid for capital costs or management actions that have already been committed to under the existing agreements.

Those landholders with existing in-perpetuity agreements who are not able to participate in this Tender round are nevertheless eligible to make an application for Conservation Partners Grants. The BCT has invested \$2 million in Conservation Partners Grants in 2017-2018. Grants will open from 30 April 2018.

If the landholder's application and bid is successful, and the landholder agrees to a Conservation Agreement being registered, the land cannot be used for forestry (timber harvesting) or any other use requiring the clearing of native vegetation.

9. ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

The following entities will be eligible:

- Owners of land – as defined by the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016¹

¹ Under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* owner of land includes: (a) every person who, either at law or in equity: (i) is entitled to the land for any estate of freehold in possession, or (ii) is a person to whom the Crown has lawfully contracted to sell the land under the *Crown Lands Act 1989* or any other Act relating to the alienation of lands of the Crown, or (iii) is entitled to receive, or is in receipt

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- be an Australian citizen
- registered for tax purposes in Australia and have an Australian bank account
- fit and proper persons to enter into Conservation Agreements with the Biodiversity Conservation Trust
- willing to enter into a Conservation Agreement with the Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

Expressions of interest from parties that do not comply with all the above criteria will not progress further in the process.

Landholders will be required to declare any conflicts of interest when submitting a bid. Persons who have associations that are considered by BCT to represent a conflict of interest which is unable to be managed will not be eligible.

BCT staff and Board members (and their close family members) and delivery agents (contractors and directors of delivery agents) involved in the delivery and evaluation of a BCT conservation tender, are not eligible to participate in that tender. Any expressions of interest received from such parties will not progress further in the process

State, federal and local government authorities, bodies, departments, statutory corporations, state-owned corporations and other similar entities, and land owned by such entities, will not be eligible for the tender rounds for conservation agreements in 2017-2018. The BCT will develop guidelines regarding the participation of certain public authorities and publicly-owned land in tenders commencing after 1 July 2018.

A person who leases land under the *Crown Lands Act 1989 (NSW)*, the *Crown Lands (Continued Tenures) Act 1989 (NSW)* or the *Western Lands Act 1901 (NSW)* can participate in this initial tender round if they are within the tender area, have an eligible site and meet other eligibility criteria, and obtain the consent of all owners of the land prior to entering into a conservation agreement.

10. PREPARING FOR THE SITE VISIT

The following activities occur during the site visit:

- Where an Expression of Interest has been lodged by phone, you will be asked to confirm the details captured on the application form.

of, or if the land were let to a tenant would be entitled to receive, the rents and profits in respect of the land, whether as beneficial owner, trustee, mortgagee in possession or otherwise, and (b) a person who leases land under the *Crown Lands Act 1989*, the *Crown Lands (Continued Tenures) Act 1989* or the *Western Lands Act 1901*, and (c) any other person who, under the regulations, is taken to be the owner of the land, but (unless the regulations otherwise provide) does not include a beneficiary of a trust relating to the land.



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- The BCT will assess the site against the BCT's site eligibility criteria to confirm that it meets the minimum size and habitat requirements.
- You have an opportunity to ask any questions about the program to ensure you understand the program and what is being offered.
- You and the BCT field staff will commence discussions to develop a conservation management plan and identify Koala conservation management actions. A conservation management plan is required to enable you to participate in the tender. This will require you to identify:
 - what part of the property you are proposing to manage to the protection of Koala habitat
 - what types of conservation management actions you are willing to do (for example: supporting Koala habitat vegetation, feral animal control)

BCT field staff will undertake an assessment of the site to develop a Koala Habitat Value Score (KHVS). Each eligible site will require a KHVS to participate in the tender (for more information about the KHVS refer to 'Assessment of bids' below).

11. SUBMITTING A BID

You will need an agreed BCT conservation management plan in the format set by the BCT to be able to submit a bid.

A draft conservation management plan and bid form will be sent to eligible participants by the BCT after field staff have visited your property and discussed your management options with you.

After you receive your draft conservation management plan, you will be given a short time within which you can request an amendment to the conservation management plan. You will be required to bid within 14 days of receipt of the draft conservation management plan.

Your bid form will require you to nominate the annual conservation management payments of your in-perpetuity agreement. You will be asked to nominate the figures in today's dollars. For successful bids, the conservation agreement will provide for future years payments to be indexed (increased) in line with inflation.

For successful bidders, the BCT will calculate the present value (PV) of the full payment schedule to calculate the amount to be set aside by the BCT to cover all future annual payments.

Additional information is available to assist eligible participants on how to develop their bid (Attachment 1: Landholder Guide - Preparing a bid).



All agreements with the BCT will include a provision for periodic review every five years. In limited circumstances, the BCT may agree to amend the conservation management actions and/or reset the forward schedule of payments, if this is well justified and funds are available.

12. ASSESSMENT OF BIDS

All bids are required to be received by the tender closing date. The closing date for each tender is on the BCT website, visit www.bct.nsw.gov.au. Bids for each tender area are held within a secure location until after the tender closing date for that area and will then be assessed by a BCT assessment panel.

The BCT has developed a Koala Habitat Assessment Metric to calculate a score which represents the Koala habitat value from the conservation management of a site.

To understand how the Koala Habitat Assessment Metric works, please see Attachment 1 ('How will successful bids be determined').

13. TENDER CONDITIONS

Before submitting a bid, a landholder needs to be satisfied that the proposed management payments are correct and financially and practically viable to enter into a conservation agreement.

Bids must be submitted by a legal entity with the capacity to contract. The BCT may ask a landholder to provide evidence of its legal status or capacity to enter a contract.

A landholder's bid must be accompanied by a 'fit and proper person' declaration, and a 'conflict of interest' declaration. The BCT, in its discretion, will consider whether the applicant is a fit and proper person, and how any conflicts of interest will be managed. Where the BCT forms an opinion that the applicant is not a fit and proper person or a conflict cannot be managed, the BCT will exclude the bid from further consideration.

Bids must be in writing and in English and the bid price must be in Australian dollars.

Bids must be received by the BCT within 14 business days from the date the draft management plan is received by you.

Late or facsimiled submissions will not be accepted.

Bids may be sent by email to tenders@bct.nsw.gov.au

Alternatively, you can post your bid in the supplied postage-paid envelope, to your regional locked bag. You should ensure that where a bid is mailed to the regional office, sufficient time is allowed for the bid to be received prior to the closing time and date

If a bid is mailed prior to the closing date but is not received at the Regional Office until after the deadline, it will be deemed late and not accepted.

Bids that do not include a fully completed response may be excluded from the tender without further consideration at the BCT's discretion.

It is not intended that the issue of a tender, or a bid in response to it, commits, obligates or otherwise creates a legal relationship in respect of entering into an agreement with a landholder. However, any bid lodged by a landholder will constitute an irrevocable offer by the landholder. A landholder may withdraw their bid by notification in writing to the NSW BCT prior to entry into a conservation agreement.

The BCT is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid. The BCT is not responsible for costs incurred by a landholder in participating in a tender or preparing and submitting a bid. Acceptance of a bid will be subject to the landholder entering a conservation agreement with the BCT.

You can contact the BCT if you have any questions or if you have a complaint on 1300 992 688. Any complaints will be managed in accordance with the BCT complaints policy.

You can contact the BCT if you have any questions or if you have a complaint on 1300 992 688. Any complaints will be managed in accordance with the BCT complaints policy.

14. WHEN DO TENDERS OPEN

Koala habitat tenders for the Port Macquarie project area open on 23 April 2018 and will close on 21 May 2018. Advertisements will be placed in the local papers and the BCT website will announce opening and closing dates to submit expressions of interest for a site assessment.

15. WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF INVESTMENT

There are a range of tenders announced by the BCT in 2018. In total, the BCT has allocated \$18 million for the four tenders announced in round 1.

The BCT has also allocated \$2 million for priority koala habitat in the North Coast tender area.

Other first round tenders will invest in selected areas within the following regions (for a total of \$16 million):

- Northern Inland: \$3.5 million.
- Murray-Riverina: \$8 million
- Central Tablelands: \$4.5 million

The BCT has allocated these funds based on the proportion of priority NSW Landscapes within the tender areas.

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The BCT Board may approve a variation in these allocations across the first four tenders having regard to the response from the market and the mix of best value for money bids.

16. HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

Call us **1300 992 688**. Visit our website www.bct.nsw.gov.au

Send us an email: info@bct.nsw.gov.au

17. IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR ELIGIBLE LANDHOLDERS

The BCT has prepared important additional information for landholders who are eligible to participate in a tender. This Information is attached to this Landholder Guide.

18. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Landholder Guide: Preparing a Bid

Attachment 2: Expression of Interest for Site Assessment



LANDHOLDER GUIDE FOR KOALA HABITAT: PREPARING A BID

This guide is aimed at assisting landholders of Koala habitat who choose to prepare a bid to participate in a Conservation Tender under the Biodiversity Conservation Trust's Conservation Management Program.

Introduction

It is entirely up to you to determine the payments you require to conserve and manage the nominated site of Koala habitat in accordance with the agreed conservation management plan.

Eligible Koala habitat land areas will be:

- In general, a minimum of 10 ha
- Where the land directly abuts a National Park or other declared 'Protected Areas', the BCT may agree to a minimum of 5ha.

Receiving a conservation management plan

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) will send you a draft conservation management plan by registered post after field staff have visited your property and discussed your management options with you.

The draft conservation management plan will be prepared based on the discussions held with the BCT field staff and agreed management actions.

You should contact BCT field staff on 1300 992 688 within seven days of receiving your draft conservation management plan if you require any changes.

When do I submit a bid?

Bids must be received by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust within 14 business days from the date the conservation management plan is received by you.

By submitting a bid, you acknowledge that the conservation management plan (and associated management actions) is final and this is the basis upon which you will bid.

ATTACHMENT 1: CONSERVATION TENDERS IN PRIORITY KOALA HABITAT PREPARING FOR A BID

How do I cost the proposed conservation management plan?

Every site will be different and landholders will have different abilities and existing resources to implement conservation management actions to protect Koala habitat.

Landholders should consider the likely management costs over the term of the agreement.

The BCT anticipates bidders will consider the following types of costs:

- labour costs, including hired or your own
- material costs for undertaking conservation management actions, for example fencing materials, equipment or chemicals pest and weed control, or plants for re-vegetation (if applicable)
- costs of equipment required to undertake management actions
- the costs of seeking specialist advice on conservation management actions from contractors, advisors, personal financial advisors, accountants or product suppliers
- costs associated with stock exclusion, such as alternate water sources
- loss in income due to changes in the income producing aspects of the conservation site (e.g. loss of timber production, grazing, or other development opportunity)
- time and costs associated with participation (e.g. reporting).

Landholders may also choose to consider the benefits to be gained from changing management of their native vegetation.

Landholders may wish to reduce the price of their bid to reflect these benefits.

Benefits may include:

- increased land values or aesthetic values of the property
- reduced risk or costs for future management
- personal enjoyment and satisfaction from having made a positive impact on protecting Koala habitat and helping to secure this iconic species into the future.

How will you decide how much to bid?

The amount you bid is entirely up to you. You should consider the annual payments you wish to receive for undertaking the actions outlined in the agreed conservation management plan over the term of the proposed agreement.

Bids will be assessed and ranked based on value-for-money. Therefore, the amount you bid will influence how competitive your bid is likely to be with respect to other bidders within the same region.

The BCT encourages you to ensure that you prepare your bid in a way that ensures that you will be able to meet your obligations under the proposed agreement.

All conservation agreements to protect Koala habitat are in-perpetuity agreements, and will be the subject of ongoing conservation management payments.

To prepare your bid, you should fill out the bid template. This requires you to nominate the conservation management payments you wish to receive.

You should nominate these figures in today's dollars. The agreement will provide for future years' payments to be indexed (increased) in line with inflation.

For successful bidders that sign a Koala habitat Conservation Agreement, the BCT will set aside sufficient funds to ensure it can make the agreed annual conservation management payments.

All agreements will include a provision for the conservation management plan and associated payments to be reviewed by the landholder and the BCT, and possibly renegotiated, every five years. In limited circumstances, the BCT may agree to amend the conservation management actions and/or reset the forward schedule of payments, if this is well justified and funds are available.

For probity reasons, BCT field staff will not be permitted to advise you on your bid costing and will not know what bid price is likely to comprise a successful bid.

Discussions with BCT staff will not be permitted during the period from the receipt of the agreed draft conservation management plan to the lodgement of the bid, to ensure tender probity.

ATTACHMENT 1: CONSERVATION TENDERS IN PRIORITY KOALA HABITAT PREPARING FOR A BID

How do I submit a bid?

Bids must be received by the BCT within 14 business days from the date the draft management plan is posted to you.

Late or facsimiled submissions will not be accepted.

Bids may be sent by email to tenders@bct.nsw.gov.au

Alternatively, you can post your bid, in the supplied postage-paid envelope, to your regional locked bag. You should ensure that where a bid is mailed to the regional office, sufficient time is allowed for the bid to be received prior to the closing time and date. If a bid is mailed prior to the closing date but is not received at deadline, it will be deemed late and not accepted.

What advice should I seek?

The BCT's field staff will offer as much support as possible to landholders interested in making a bid. However, you should consider seeking expert ecological, financial and/or legal advice as appropriate to your circumstances.

Assessment of bids

When will my bid be assessed?

When all bids for a tender area have been received and the tender period has closed, your bid will be compared against all the other bids submitted within the same region.

The BCT will work to keep the length of time between bidding and notification of success to a minimum.

How will successful bids be determined?

Bids will be compared in a consistent manner according to a numerical index of biodiversity benefit, called the Koala Habitat Value Score (KHVS):

The Koala Habitat Value Score (KHVS) enables an objective assessment of Koala habitat value of a site. It has been reviewed by the Office of Environment and Heritage, and developed to be consistent with the objectives of the Saving our Species (Koala) program.

The KHVS takes into consideration:

- the Koala habitat values on site, and proposed management actions
- the fact that the agreement is in operation in-perpetuity
- the risks that the proposed conservation site may be lost in the future
- the area (size) of the proposed site (minimum 10 ha, or can be minimum 5ha if bordering a National Park or other 'Protected Area' if agreed by BCT).

To rank sites on a value-for-money basis, the BCT will calculate a Koala Habitat Value Index (KHVI) for each tender by dividing the KHVS by the total present value of the proposed management payments for the conservation management of the site. In this process, the BCT is committed to protecting Koala habitat both north and south of the Hastings River, should suitable bids be received.

The Koala Habitat Value Index will only be calculated after bids are submitted. Participating landholders will be provided with an indication of the KHVS on a relative scale (from 'high' to 'low') but will not be provided their actual score, as this is market-sensitive information.

How can you make your bid competitive?

Your Koala Habitat Value Score (KHVS) represents the 'value' for conservation that will be produced if you are successful in bidding for and entering a conservation agreement.

You can influence the likely success of your bid by agreeing to undertake the broadest range of conservation management actions that are acceptable to you.

Your final bid price should reflect your idea of the balance between the benefits of managing the site and the costs of any change in management.

You need to be realistic in your pricing as you need to be able to meet your obligations under the agreement, and sites will be monitored to ensure that outcomes are being achieved.

You will be accountable for the completing management actions identified in the resulting agreement, if a bid is successful.

Landholders can withdraw a bid at any time before a conservation agreement is signed.

ATTACHMENT 1: CONSERVATION TENDERS IN PRIORITY KOALA HABITAT PREPARING FOR A BID

How will I be notified of the results?

Both successful and unsuccessful bidders will be notified by the BCT when the bid assessment process is completed.

If your bid is unsuccessful you will be given feedback on how your bid compared to those that were successful. This feedback may indicate if you should consider participating in any future Conservation Tenders in your region.

If your bid is unsuccessful, it may not mean that your site is not important for conservation. The BCT will provide you with information about other programs and future opportunities.

If your bid is successful, you will be invited to sign a Conservation Agreement, which will include the agreed conservation management plan and your proposed payment schedule, within 14 days from the notification being sent.

An example of a Conservation Agreement is available on the BCT website.

How will the fairness of the bid assessment process be guaranteed?

The BCT has implemented an assessment process to ensure that all landholders are dealt with fairly. The BCT's probity advisor has been consulted in developing the BCT's Conservation Tender design.

Bid assessment and ranking will be supervised by an independent probity adviser and approved by the BCT Board. Probity advice will be sought as required throughout the tender process and a probity report on each tender will be provided to the BCT Board. Individual landholder bids and contact details will not be disclosed as part of this report.

For more information you can call 1300 992 688 or visit www.bct.nsw.gov.au



KOALA HABITAT ASSESSMENT FACT SHEET

The BCT has developed a Koala Habitat Assessment Metric to calculate a score which represents the Koala habitat value from the conservation management of a site: Koala Habitat Value Score (KHVS).

To rank sites on a value-for-money basis, the BCT will calculate a Koala Habitat Value Index (KHVI) for each tender by dividing the KHVS by the price bid by the landholder for the conservation management of the site:

$$\frac{\text{Koala Habitat Value Score (KHVS)}}{\text{Koala Habitat Value Index (KHVI)}} = \text{Bid Price}$$

This enables the BCT to rank bids based on their value-for-money. The Koala Habitat Value Index will only be calculated after bids are submitted. Landholders will not be provided their KHVI. Participating landholders will be provided with an indication of the magnitude of the KHVS on a relative scale (from 'high' to 'low') but will not be provided their score, as this is market sensitive information.

Koala Habitat Value Score

The BVS enables an objective assessment of the Koala habitat value of managing a site within the program.

It has been developed by the BCT with input from the Office of Environment and Heritage 'Saving Our Species' Program and ecologists

from Local Government in the Tender Area. The Koala Habitat Value Score (KHVS) measures four components:

1. **Koala Habitat Values** are assessed and measured: This involves a field officer assessing the ecological value of a site to provide habitat for Koalas, such as the types of tree species present and the size of those trees. Also, the ecological condition of the site is assessed and the predicted future condition of the site based on proposed management actions;
2. **Duration:** Conservation Agreements to protect Koala Habitat are in-perpetuity.
3. **Risk:** Risks of Koala habitat on the site being lost or impacted in the future is assessed, having regard to the risks from development of the site.
4. **Area:** The area of the proposed site to be protected by the Conservation Agreement is measured.

Submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a Site Assessment is the first step to take if you are interested in participating in a BCT Conservation Tender.

A site assessment involves your site being assessed for eligibility to participate in the tender. It does not mean that you are required to submit a bid.

The BCT will prioritise eligible EOIs for site assessments based on the date of the EOI (on a first-come first-served basis). If your

site assessment is not completed by 13 April 2018 your EOI may be replaced on a reserve list. You are therefore encouraged to register your interest early.

Complete the information requested as accurately as possible. Please contact the BCT for if you require assistance. For more information about the Conservation Tender you can call **1300 992 688** or visit the BCT website at **www.bct.nsw.gov.au**

Landholder (s) Full Names	
Property Owner (s) (if different from above)	
ABN/ACN	
Property Address	
Postal Address (if different from Property Address)	
Lot and DP numbers (as shown on a Council Rates Notice)	
Local Government Area	
Approximate Property Size (ha)	
Contact phone numbers	
Email Address	
Preferred method of contact? (and time)	
How did you hear about us?	



Are you interested in regular updates from the BCT on other programs and opportunities?

If so, tick yes below to be added to a BCT distribution list to receive updates and e-newsletters in the future.

Yes No

Lodging your Interest Form

Call the BCT on **1300 992 688** to lodge your interest, or send a completed EOI form via **info@bct.nsw.gov.au** or post:

NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust, PO Box A290, Sydney South NSW 1232

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Landholder Signature Landholder (Print) Date

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Landholder Signature Landholder (Print) Date

