

# Conservation Tender

## Southern Highlands Koala Habitat

### Do you want to earn annual payments for managing biodiversity on your land?

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) is inviting expressions of interest (EOIs) from landholders in the Wingecaribee local government area who have koala habitat on their land.

The BCT is supporting private land conservation in the Southern Highlands through a koala focused conservation tender. Through this tender, eligible landholders are given the opportunity to set their own price to protect and manage good condition koala habitat on their land. Successful applicants will be those that put forward the highest value habitat for the best price. These applicants will receive annual payments in perpetuity, for implementing an agreed management plan.

### Why Southern Highland koalas?

The BCT opens conservation tenders in high priority areas periodically throughout the year. The priority areas are selected for their important biodiversity and habitat values. The Southern Highlands is home to 10% of the state's koala population and is considered to be the most significant koala population in southern NSW.

Much of the prime koala habitat in the Southern Highlands is privately owned.

Some of these private parcels contribute greatly to koala movement through the landscape and complement the Great Western Wildlife Corridor, which links the southern Blue Mountains with Morton National Park. Through this tender, the BCT seeks to protect koala habitat on private land, and to improve landscape connections for koalas by investing in sites that facilitate koala movement and dispersal.

The tender complements other koala conservation programs in the Southern Highlands and aligns with the NSW Government's Koala Strategy.

### How do I know if I'm eligible?

To be eligible for this tender, the part of your land that you wish to have considered for conservation needs to:

- ▮ be privately owned freehold tenure land within the Wingecaribee Shire;
- ▮ be within the mapped eligible koala habitat area shown in the map below
- ▮ support a continuous patch of koala habitat of at least 20 hectares in size, and
- ▮ be in moderate to good condition.

*This means the area has not been cleared in the last 15 years, has a native canopy and understorey and groundcover layers that are each more than 50% native species.*

Landholders must be willing to enter into an 'in perpetuity' conservation agreement, which is registered on the title of the land.

*Note: If your property is not included in the Mapped Eligible Koala Habitat Area and you have a patch of native vegetation that is greater than 20 hectares in size which you believe supports koala habitat, please see the [Southern Highlands Koala Habitat Tender Landholder Guide](#) or contact the BCT for further information.*

## What is the process?

You can apply to participate in the Southern Highlands Koala Habitat Tender by sending a completed EOI form to the BCT via [info@bct.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@bct.nsw.gov.au) or call us on 1300 992 688. The form will be available on the BCT website from **4th November 2019**.

**EOI forms must be received by the 29th of November 2019.**

Once the EOI period closes, EOIs will be prioritised for site assessment with site visits being offered to the highest-ranking sites. At the site visit, the BCT will confirm eligibility to participate in the tender and the values of your site will be assessed.

BCT field staff will work with you to identify the potential conservation area and management actions to be applied through a Conservation Management Plan.

Once this is complete, you will be invited to submit a tender or 'bid' which sets out the annual payments you wish to receive to implement the Conservation Management Plan.

All bids are then ranked on a best value for money basis and successful landholders will be invited to enter into a funded conservation agreement with the BCT.

## Who is the BCT?

The BCT is a statutory organisation within the NSW Government that was established in 2017 to protect and enhance biodiversity in NSW. We do this by supporting, facilitating and encouraging landholders to conserve biodiversity on their land, for the long term.

The BCT provides a unique opportunity for private landholders to secure an additional revenue stream to conserve and manage the native biodiversity on their land.

## How do I get more information?

Visit the BCT website at [www.bct.nsw.gov.au/current-conservation-tenders](http://www.bct.nsw.gov.au/current-conservation-tenders) or contact us using the details at the bottom of this page.



■ Mapped Eligible Koala Habitat ■ Public Lands

*Southern Highlands Koala Habitat Conservation Tender Area*

To view an interactive map of the tender area, go to this link: [bit.ly/SHKMap](https://bit.ly/SHKMap)