



Matt Kean
Minister for Energy and Environment

MEDIA RELEASE

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SOUTHERN HIGHLAND LANDHOLDERS GET FUNDING TO PROTECT KOALA HABITAT

NSW Environment Minister Matt Kean today announced that five Southern Highland landholders will be offered funded conservation agreements to protect and manage koala habitat on their land.

The five in-perpetuity conservation agreements will protect 1,094 hectares of koala habitat on private land.

“These new private land conservation sites will complement the recent gazettal of the Guula Ngurra (‘koala country’) National Park to deliver serious koala conservation outcomes in the Southern Highlands,” Mr Kean said.

“The area is home to one of the most significant koala populations in the State, and a large portion of koala habitat in the Southern Highlands is found on private land,”

The NSW Government and the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) have identified the Southern Highlands koala population as a high priority for investment because it represents the largest known population of koalas in Southern NSW and comprises around 10 percent of the total NSW koala population.

The BCT will hold \$11.8 million in trust to make annual conservation management payments to the landholders.

Conservation tenders are one of several mechanisms through which landholders can partner with the BCT.

In just two years, the BCT has entered (or is entering) over 226 conservation agreements with landholders across all of its private land conservation programs, covering more than 59,300 hectares, and supported by a total investment from NSW Government of over \$125 million.

“The BCT’s conservation tenders are a great way for landholders to protect habitat for native species while diversifying their income,” said Mr Kean.

For more information please go to www.bct.nsw.gov.au

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