

Northern Inland Koala conservation tender



Do you want to earn annual payments for conserving Northern Inland koala habitat?

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) is calling for expressions of interest from landholders with priority koala habitat within the Armidale and Uralla Local Government Areas (LGAs).

Through this tender, eligible landholders are given the opportunity to set their own price to protect and manage this important habitat on their land. Eligible applicants will put forward the highest value habitat for the best price (their bid). If successful, bidders will receive annual payments for implementing an agreed management plan.

Through our Conservation Management Program—our conservation tenders, fixed price offers, revolving fund, and co-investment partnerships—the BCT invests about \$45 million per annum to support the resulting funded conservation agreements. In addition, the BCT has received funding from the NSW Government under the NSW Koala Strategy (2022) to support this additional Koala conservation tender we are conducting in the Northern Inland region.

Why is the tender being offered in this area?

The BCT opens conservation tenders in high priority areas periodically throughout the year. Priority areas are selected for their important biodiversity value. The Northern Inland Koala conservation tender incorporates significant koala populations in the Armidale and Uralla LGAs identified as a stronghold area prioritised for immediate investment under the NSW Koala Strategy.

Koala habitat in this region mainly occurs on private land, which is why private landholders can play a critical role in securing a future for koalas in NSW. The BCT aims to permanently protect koala habitat on private land in the region through this tender.

The tender area is also culturally important for its traditional owner groups, the Kamilaroi, Anaiwan and Gumbaynggirr people. Aboriginal people view and hold country (both lands and waters) as interdependent entities linked through the landscape, through culture and through spiritual significance. The cultural landscape of the tender area was used by Aboriginal people, for example, macropods were trapped with nets strung between trees. Evidence of habitation, tool procurement, scarred and marked trees and places of significance are still evident in the landscape and environment.

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 as a conservation area needs to:

- be within the tender area shown on the map on this factsheet; and
- support a ≥ 20 ha patch of priority koala habitat, and
- any non-priority habitat be in moderate to good condition (this will be determined by the BCT during site assessment).

You must be willing to enter into an in-perpetuity agreement to deliver the agreed management actions needed to protect and manage the native vegetation and fauna on the site. Successful landholders will enter a conservation agreement, which is registered on the title of the land.

How do I get more information?

You can learn more about this unique opportunity by contacting us using the details below or registering to attend one of our information sessions. Visit:

<https://nik-bct.eventbrite.com.au>

What is the process?

You can apply to participate in the conservation tender by emailing an expression of interest (EOI) form to info@bct.nsw.gov.au or calling us on **1300 992 688**. The form will be available on the BCT website from 29th August 2022.

EOI forms must be received by 9th September 2022.

Submitting an EOI comes with no obligation to proceed with participating in the tender.

Who is the BCT?

The BCT is a statutory body 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.

Cultural significance

The iwata (echidna) in the Nganyaywana language of the Anaiwan people and kukra in Banbai language of the neighboring Banbai is the totem of the Anaiwan and Banbai people. It features in rock art around Guyra and is commonly seen in the New England Tablelands and shares country with the koala.

The Dunggirr (koala) is held in high regard by the Gumbaynggirr people and is embedded in their stories and culture.

Many Aboriginal cultures have a strong connection to koalas and their habitat. Koalas are totems of Aboriginal clans, family groups and individuals in New South Wales, and stories of the koala are deeply woven into many different Aboriginal songlines and Dreaming stories.

What is priority koala habitat?

Areas will be considered priority koala habitat if any of the species from the list below occur across a minimum 20 hectares of the site and meet the following requirements:

- 2 target koala food trees* / ha with >30cm diameter at breast height.

Below is the list of koala food trees for the tender area. Suitability of the habitat for use of koalas will be determined by the BCT in the field. This will include assessment of the native shrubs, trees, and groundcover present at the site and its disturbance history.

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Eucalyptus acaciiformis</i>	Wattle-leaved Peppermint
<i>Eucalyptus biturbinata</i>	Grey Box
<i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i>	Blakely's Red Gum
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red gum
<i>Eucalyptus dalrympleana</i>	Mountain Gum
<i>Eucalyptus dealbata</i>	Tumbledown Red Gum
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box
<i>Eucalyptus microcorys</i>	Tallowood
<i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i>	Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint
<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>	White Sally, Snow Gum
<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>	Forest Red Gum
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Ribbon Gum
<i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i>	Apple Box
<i>Eucalyptus caliginosa</i>	Broad-leaved Stringybark
<i>Eucalyptus laevopinea</i>	Silver-top Stringybark
<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>	Narrow Leaved Peppermint
<i>Angophora floribunda</i>	Rough-barked Apple
<i>Eucalyptus nova-anglica</i>	New England Peppermint
<i>Eucalyptus banksia</i>	Tenterfield Woollybutt
<i>Eucalyptus albens</i>	White Box
<i>Eucalyptus caleyi</i>	Caley's Ironbark
<i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i>	Grey Box
<i>Eucalyptus brunnea</i>	Mountain Blue Gum
<i>Eucalyptus nobilis</i>	Forest Ribbon Gum
<i>Eucalyptus stellulata</i>	Black Sally
<i>Eucalyptus youmanii</i>	Youman's Stringybark
<i>Eucalyptus rubida</i>	Candlebark

Northern Inland Koala conservation tender area map

Map A displays the boundary of the Northern Inland Koala conservation tender area and its alignment with the Armidale and Uralla LGAs.

The BCT acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout NSW and recognises their ongoing connection to land, waters and culture.



Map A - Northern Inland Koala conservation tender area