

# Northern Inland Koala

## Conservation tender outcomes

January, 2025



Armidale  
and Uralla  
LGAs



**8**  
threatened  
species



**2,632**  
hectares  
protected



**\$8.7m**  
invested



**6**  
landholders



**\$163**  
Median yearly  
payment per  
hectare

4,148 hectares of important habitat, including 1,692 hectares of koala habitat, has been approved for permanent protection under dedicated koala conservation agreements between private landholders and the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

Agreements under the Northern Inland Koala conservation tender have been registered on title and

will protect important habitat for koalas across the Armidale and Uralla areas.

Close to \$9 million has been invested in the tender so far, with successful landholders to receive annual payments under agreed management plans to control pest animals and weeds, fence or revegetate areas of their land.





## Our impact

NSW landholders who receive annual payments to actively and permanently manage an area of conservation on their land are adding to and growing Australia's National Reserve System of public, Indigenous and privately protected areas.



**208**  
agreements  
with annual  
payments



**560,000**  
hectares  
protected  
forever



**73%**  
agreements  
in-perpetuity



**49**  
threatened  
species  
protected



**10**  
landscapes  
not represented  
in the protected  
areas system



**63**  
inadequately  
protected  
landscapes

## Wild beauty connects country for koalas



When three friends purchased Wallamara 26 years ago, they realised a rare opportunity to acquire freehold land adjacent to declared wilderness national park, and containing remnant koala habitat.

Today, a conservation agreement with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust is seeing their goal of restoring that habitat a reality.

From its beginnings, Wallamara developed as a dedicated company, The Wilderness Company of Australia, with 18 family unit holders. Peter Lloyd was one of the original owners, and is now a director of the company, which is focused on conservation and habitat protection.

The property, of some 2000 hectares, is located in the





Northern Tablelands of New South Wales, and southeast of Armidale. It covers land that once supported koalas, and standing with Peter in patches of untouched landscape, his passion for protecting the land is infectious.

“We knew from a lot of records that this was koala habitat, and the koalas were unfortunately wiped out, probably by bushfire,”

complement the aims of the trust’s tender.

“What’s lovely is that you see a very well-connected landscape that has all of the attributes; water, protection, and all those other habitat management aspects that make it a good property for koala conservation,” NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust Regional Manager Leith Hawkins said.



Richard Bird, Peter Lloyd (left) and Gary Swanson (front right) discuss conservation management plans at Wallamara with NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust Regional Manager Leith Hawkins. Credit: Nviro Media

Gary Swanson, one of Peter’s fellow directors, said.

Scratch marks on the trees and tales from old graziers painted a picture of a koala’s sanctuary, and Peter and his team focused on bringing the landscape back.

Steep gorges, magnificent waterfalls and habitat changes make it a unique place fit for koala habitat.

Of the property’s 2000 hectares, 1600 have been placed into an in-perpetuity conservation agreement, with three sides of it connecting to the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park.

It is this connection to a protected area that the landholders hope will

“There are so many other native species and opportunities for native animals to be able to thrive and survive in this conservation agreement.”

The property’s conservation agreement was established following a tender for the Armidale and Uralla Local Government Areas designed to protect important koala habitat. The Northern Tablelands are considered a potential stronghold for koala survival into the future.



## Threatened species

- 1 Koala**  
(*Phascolarctos cinereus*)  
NSW Conservation  
Status: Endangered
- 2 Regent Honeyeater**  
(*Anthochaera phrygia*)  
NSW Conservation  
Status: Critically endangered
- 3 Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby**  
(*Petrogale penicillata*)  
NSW Conservation  
Status: Endangered
- 4 Spotted-tailed Quoll**  
(*Dasyurus maculatus*)  
NSW Conservation  
Status: Vulnerable



## Agreed conservation management actions

Annual management payments are made to the agreement-holders who were successful in this tender.

These payments support delivery of agreed conservation management actions.

Typically these actions include:

- Controlling invasive and introduced weeds.
- Controlling feral animals.
- Ecological and / or cultural burns
- Habitat enhancement
- Restorative planting for revegetation
- Fencing to support koala movement

A conservation agreement with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust is a shared long-term commitment to protect native habitat and species.

If you successfully bid and receive annual payments to manage an area of your land under a conservation agreement,

your efforts can complement adjacent productive activity on your property.

Management payments from the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust are indexed annually and the agreement you enter will be registered on your land's title.

## How does a conservation tender work?

A schedule of tenders is publicised at [www.bct.nsw.gov.au/tenders](http://www.bct.nsw.gov.au/tenders)

When a new tender is announced, we advertise information sessions and answer any questions you may have.

Interested landholders are encouraged to submit a non-binding expression of interest and to identify a conservation agreement area on their land.

### Upon receiving an expression of interest:



1. The **proposed area will be checked** for eligibility and prioritised for a site assessment.



2. Landholders with eligible sites will be assisted to develop a **conservation management plan** and identify the area (or areas) on their land for a proposed conservation agreement.



3. Landholders will be invited to **submit a tender** or 'bid' which sets the annual payments they wish to receive to implement the conservation management plan. Depending on the type of tender, landholders will enter either an in-perpetuity or fixed-term agreement.



4. Once the landholder submits a bid, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust Evaluation Panel will rank each bid using a score to identify best biodiversity value for money.



5. Successful bids receive an offer to enter into a conservation agreement and, after the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust has signed the agreement, it is then registered on title. The first annual management payment is released, and the first annual reporting period begins.

From expression of interest to agreement, the tender process can take up to a year.

View open tenders at [bct.nsw.gov.au/tenders](http://bct.nsw.gov.au/tenders)

