

# SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

## Environment, Energy and Science Group – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

1. *How much koala habitat has been made available for logging under Private Native Forestry Property Vegetation Plans?*

**Response:**

This question should be redirected to Local Land Services.

2. *What were the criteria for the land purchases to date and what are the criteria for ongoing assessments for purchase of land for koala conservation or the funding of koala conservation private land?*

**Response:**

The criteria used to decide whether to buy a property for addition to the national parks system using the funds allocated for koala conservation include:

- presence of koala habitat
- evidence of use by koalas
- good landscape connection to surrounding native vegetation to support koala movement
- that reservation would improve the management of threats to koalas in that location
- the property's proximity to existing national parks
- specific management requirements and whether National Parks and Wildlife Service has the capacity to manage the property
- other natural and cultural values worthy of protection in the national park system
- value for money
- consideration of any social or economic impacts of reserving the land.

In relation to koala conservation on private land, the Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy guides investment in private land conservation including the targeting of conservation assets, such as koala habitat, where they are subject to the most significant pressure or threat.

Tender areas are defined using mapping of preferred koala habitat and based on the known or likely occurrence of the primary feed tree species. To be eligible, a landholder must be within the tender area and meet size thresholds for the proposal total conservation area and the area of existing koala habitat that contains primary feed trees.

To rank sites on a value-for-money basis, the Biodiversity Conservation trust (BCT) calculates a Koala Habitat Value Index (KVI) for each tender by dividing the Koala Value Score (KVS) by the total present value of the management payments bid by the landholder for the conservation management of the site. The KVS is an objective assessment measuring three components:

- Koala Habitat Values which 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. The ecological condition of the site is also assessed, and the predicted future condition based on proposed management actions.

- Risk of koala habitat on the site being lost or impacted in the future.
- Area proposed to be protected by the Conservation Agreement.

The results of BCT Conservation Tenders are evaluated by an assessment panel with recommendations for funding of agreements going to the BCT Board for approval.

3. *Can you provide a detailed description of the proposed contents of the Comprehensive Koala habitat atlas and a precise timetable for its release?*

**Response:**

The [Koala Habitat Information Base](#) includes the best available data on koala habitat and koala occurrence throughout NSW. It includes the following six spatial data layers:

- Koala Habitat Suitability Model
- Koala Tree Species Index
- Koala Likelihood Map
- Koala Likelihood Confidence Map
- Native Vegetation of NSW
- Areas of Regional Koala Significance

The information base was published 12 September 2019.

4. *In regards to your statement that 24,000 ha of State Forests has been set aside for koalas.*  
*a. Could you please provide the committee with a table of the reserves, the area in each, the % of each that was unavailable for logging under the Forest Management Zoning system, and the number of koala records in each?*

**Response:**

State forest	Area hectares	% in FMZ 1, 2, 3	New tenure	Values
Part of Carrai	2,080	~100	Addition to Willi Willi National Park	Adjoining the Castles Nature Reserve, Oxley Wild Rivers National Park and Willi Willi National Park. Mix of high and low-quality koala habitat. 1 koala record within 1.5km. Latest record September 2000.
Part of Oakes	589	100	Addition to Gumbaynggirr National Park	Inholding of Gumbaynggirr National Park. Mostly moderate koala habitat with some areas of high-quality habitat. Within an Area of Regional Koala Significance. 2 koala records within forest (last April 2013) and 20 records within 2 km.
Part of Mount Boss	1,382	100	Kindee Creek State Conservation Area	Mixed quality koala habitat, koalas likely to occur in moderate to low density.

State forest	Area hectares	% in FMZ 1, 2, 3	New tenure	Values
Comleroy	2,905	100	Flora Reserve	Adjoining Parr State Conservation Area. Moderate koala habitat. 1 record within forest (last September 2014) and 12 records within 2 km.
Jellore	1,415	100	Flora Reserve	Adjoining Nattai National Park. Confirmed koala habitat. Important link in corridor between Blue Mountains and Morton national parks. 2 records within forest (last July 2016) and 20 records within 2 km.
Part of Barrington Tops	155	~100	Flora Reserve	Near Barrington Tops National Park. Mixture of high and low-quality koala habitat. Within an Area of Regional Koala Significance. Low survey effort. 1 recent record (Feb 2016) and 12 records within 2 km.
Part of Belanglo	1,818	~85	Flora Reserve	Confirmed high quality koala habitat with more than 50 koala records. 2 koalas radio tracked within last 2 years. Important link in corridor between Blue Mountains and Morton national parks.
Part of Corrabare	842	100	Flora Reserve	Adjoining Werakata National Park. Low to moderate koala habitat. Within an Area of Regional Koala Significance. 4 records within 2 km and many within 5km (last March 2015).
Part of Meryla	4,084	100	Flora Reserve	Adjoining Morton National Park. Mix of high and low-quality koala habitat.
Part of Olney & Watagan	3,107	100	Flora Reserve	Olney contains moderate koala habitat. 5 records within forest and more than 20 within 2 km. Watagan contains highly suitable habitat. 18 records in last 20 years. Within an Area of Regional Koala Significance.
Part of Mt Lindesay, Donaldson and Unumgar	5620	35	Flora Reserve	Within an Area of Regional Koala Significance. Donaldson State Forest has some large areas of modelled high-quality habitat. 13 records in last 10 years. Mt Lindesay State Forest is modelled as mostly moderate quality habitat, with patches of high quality. There are 30+ records from the last 10 years. Unumgar State Forest is mostly moderate quality habitat, with patches of high quality. Koala records mostly in western third part and provides important link for broader parks.

5. *Does the Koala Strategy have hectare targets for koala protection? If so, what are the targets for koala protection and how much have acquisitions and reservations announced to date contributed to those targets? If not, how much habitat have acquisitions and reservations announced to date protected?*

**Response:**

The NSW Koala Strategy does not have hectare targets. The NSW Government makes strategic purchases to protect koala habitat in the reserve system and follows the CAR principles of Comprehensiveness, Adequacy and Representativeness. This framework prioritises purchases that will conserve poorly reserved ecosystems, enhance landscape connectivity, protect koala habitat and populations and improve reserve design.

To date, acquisitions, transfers and reservations have protected about 6,600 hectares plus 254 hectares on private land. The transfer of 20,000 hectares of state forests to koala reserves is in progress.

6. *How much koala habit protection is included in Minister Kean's goal of adding 200,000 ha to the reserve system over the next two years? (ref SMH article 19 August 2019)*

**Response:**

Minister Kean's goal of adding 200,000 hectares to our national park estate is intended to provide habitat protection for a range of threatened species including provision for more koala habitat protection.

7. *Has any assessment of the proposed Great Koala National Park occurred within the Department? If so, can you provide a copy of the brief or instructions for the assessment including criteria for assessment and an expected timetable for the project? If not, is it possible for an assessment to occur?*

**Response:**

An assessment is currently underway to calculate the extent to which the proposed Great Koala National Park captures suitable koala habitat, using the koala habitat information base. This includes analysing whether the proposed park would protect resident koala populations that occur within Areas of Regional Koala Significance.