

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 - PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
KOALA POPULATIONS AND HABITAT IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

At Ballina on Friday 18 October 2019

Question on Notice

CHAIR: Are there any areas that your councils have potentially identified as important to the local community or that people are calling for to be added to the park system that you know in terms of koala protection specifically?

The CHAIR: Are you able to take that on notice and provide them to the Committee?

Response

The following land parcels have been identified by Tweed Shire Council as significant for koala conservation and recovery. The parcels are not necessarily listed for sale, have not had their land valuation assessed by council, nor has any approach been made to landowners regarding their interest in sale. The inclusion of properties on this list is based on their ecological values and/or position in the landscape only.

Note: The parcel details and size have been removed as they are commercial and personal confidential information.

<i>Parcel details</i>	<i>Conservation values</i>	<i>Justification for addition to NPWS estate</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endangered ecological communities • Approximately 80 ha of existing high use koala habitat for the endangered Tweed-Brunswick koala population • Potential for an additional 70 ha of primary koala habitat and a further 160 ha of supplementary koala habitat • A critical opportunity to provide for landward regression of endangered ecological communities at risk from the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise • Potential to improve water quality in Cudgen Creek, including reduction of the impacts of acid sulfate soil on the environmental, social, economic and cultural values of Cudgen Lake • Located within the Round Mountain Koala Activity Precinct of the Tweed Coast Koala Plan of Management. • Strategically located to facilitate improved north-south connectivity for koalas and other wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size and strategic location adjacent to Cudgen Nature Reserve • Significant potential to recoup a proportion of the purchase costs and/or secure management cost funding through establishment as a biodiversity stewardship site. • Acquisition of the land is consistent with and will contribute to the following NSW government legislation, strategies, reports and policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ▪ NSW Koala Strategy 2018 ▪ NSW Government Chief Scientist & Engineer's <i>Report of the Independent Review into the Decline of Koala Populations in Key Areas of NSW</i> (December 2016) ▪ NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy (2018-2028) ▪ State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018 ▪ North Coast Regional Plan 2036

<i>Parcel details</i>	<i>Conservation values</i>	<i>Justification for addition to NPWS estate</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 88 ha of primary koala habitat for the endangered Tweed-Brunswick koala population • Significant areas of coastal wetland in accordance with State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Wetland) • Increasing koala activity as identified by monitoring completed between 2010 and 2018 • Located within the Round Mountain Koala Activity Precinct as per the Tweed Coast Koala Plan of Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parcel size and highly strategic location as landscape connectivity between existing parcels of Cudgen Nature Reserve and contributing towards connection between the coast and hinterland • Acquisition of the land is consistent with and will contribute to the following NSW government legislation, strategies, reports and policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ▪ NSW Koala Strategy 2018 ▪ NSW Government Chief Scientist & Engineer's <i>Report of the Independent Review into the Decline of Koala Populations in Key Areas of NSW</i> (December 2016) ▪ NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy (2018-2028) ▪ State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018

<i>Parcel details</i>	<i>Conservation values</i>	<i>Justification for addition to NPWS estate</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core koala habitat within the Round Mountain Koala Activity Precinct • Approximately 24 ha of primary koala habitat for the endangered Tweed-Brunswick koala population • Threatened species habitat • Located within the Round Mountain Koala Activity Precinct as per the Tweed Coast Koala Plan of Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size and strategic location adjacent to Cudgen Nature Reserve • Potential to recoup a proportion of the purchase costs and/or secure management cost funding through establishment as a biodiversity stewardship site.

<i>Parcel details</i>	<i>Conservation values</i>	<i>Justification for addition to NPWS estate</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatened species (flora and fauna) habitat. More than 200 threatened species records within 2 km. • Strategically located to facilitate improved north-south connectivity for koalas and other wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size and strategic location adjacent to Cudgera Creek Nature Reserve • Potential to recoup a proportion of the purchase costs and/or secure management cost funding through establishment as a biodiversity stewardship site. • Highly strategic location supporting functional landscape connectivity due to proximity to Pacific Highway fauna overpass.