



**Matt Kean**  
Minister for Energy and Environment

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday, 20 September 2019

### **CONSERVATION TENDERS TO PROTECT KOALAS**

Environment Minister Matt Kean today announced the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) will launch two new conservation tenders in November to protect koala habitat in the Southern Highlands and priority landscapes in the Central West.

Mr Kean said conservation tenders allow farmers and graziers to receive additional income to manage part of their property for conservation while maintaining primary production on the remainder.

“The NSW Government has invested more than \$100 million for private land conservation agreements between the BCT and landholders in the past two years. This includes \$8.5 million in perpetuity agreements for the latest round of fixed price offers,” Mr Kean said.

The Central West Rivers conservation tender area is located in the NSW sheep-wheat belt which is significant for its outstanding biodiversity.

“From threatened woodlands to internationally-significant wetlands, it’s vital that we put more protections in place to protect the precious habitat and wildlife in the Central West Rivers,” Mr Kean said.

The Southern Highlands Koala conservation tender will focus on landholders with high priority koala habitat in the Wingecarribee Shire, which is home to one of the most significant koala populations in the State.

“A significant portion of koala habitat in the Southern Highlands is found on private land and this tender will help us work with private landholders to secure koala habitat and to stabilise and then increase the population of this iconic species in NSW,” Mr Kean said.

The tenders are open for four weeks from Monday 4 November 2019.

**For more information about the tenders and eligibility criteria visit:**  
[www.bct.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bct.nsw.gov.au)

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