



## Submission Receipt

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Originating Round

5621008

Manager

A06555

SAP Delegate

A04141

External ID

Start Date

01/07/2011

Finish Date

30/06/2012

## Summary of project

### Applicant type

Select which applicant type applies to your project. \*

- Individual
  Community group
  Business/organisation  
 Natural Resource Management body
  Partnership
  Government department or agency  
 Non-governmental organisation
  Government statutory body
  Other

Do you identify as an Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander group? \*  Yes  No

## Applicant details

Information provided in this section must relate to the entity that will enter into a funding agreement with the department should the proposal be approved.

### ABN Details

Do you/your organisation have an Australian Business Number (ABN)? \*  Yes  No

*The applicant must be a legal entity able to enter into a funding agreement with the Australian Government. Additional information can be found in the guidelines.*

Australian Business Number (ABN) \*

30 841 387 271

Legal name \*

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

*This is the name that appears on all official documents and legal papers.*

Trading name \*

Office of Environment and Heritage

Entity type \*

State or Territory Government Entity

Is your organisation incorporated? \*  Yes  No

Are you GST registered? \*  Yes  No

## Authorised person details

The authorised person is the person with the authority to sign a funding agreement with the Commonwealth and be held legally responsible and accountable for the use of funding.

Title: \*  Mr  Mrs  Miss  Ms  Other

First name \*

Sally

Last name \*

Barnes

Position in organisation

Acting Chief Executive

Phone (business hours) \*

0299956071

Phone (mobile)

Email

sally.barnes@environment.nsw.gov.au

### Postal address of authorised person

Is this address a PO Box or Locked Bag?

Street number \*

59-61

Street name \*

Goulburn Street

Street Type \*

Street

Suburb/Town \*

SYDNEY

State \*

NSW

Postcode \*

2000

## Contact details for your proposal

Is the contact person the same as the authorised person? \*  Yes  No

This is the person the department will contact to discuss operational elements of your proposal.

### Contact person

Title: \*  Mr  Mrs  Miss  Ms  Other

First name \*

Steve

Last name \*

Hartley

Position in organisation

Principal Manager Forestry

Phone (business hours) \*

0299956720

Phone (mobile)

0458 762 215

Email

steve.hartley@environment.nsw.gov.au

## Project details

This section is the centrepiece of your application and will form the basis of its assessment and subsequent contracting if you are successful.

Please ensure that the information provided is clear and concise as it will be used in the funding deed and may be used for informative purposes.

### Project title

No more than 120 characters (approx 20 words) \*

Corridors and core habitat for koalas on the NSW Far South Coast

## Project description

Provide a short description, including the issues you will address and how you will address them, in no more than 750 characters (approx 100 words). \*

This is a cross-tenure landscape management project to protect, enhance and connect habitat sustaining the last known koala population in NSW Far South Coast forests. It meets Theme Two of the Biodiversity Fund and is submitted by the Chief Executive of Forests NSW and the Acting Chief Executive of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH, also representing the Environment Protection Authority - the EPA). The project will protect 2,800 ha of core koala habitat, create harvest exclusion zones on State Forest and support initiatives to locate alternative timber resources, establish partnerships with indigenous communities and introduce integrated monitoring & management actions to improve the recovery potential of the koala population.

## Project outcomes

Please provide details of no more than 2000 characters (approx 350 words). \*

1. Protect & enhance 2,800 ha of high conservation value koala habitat in the Murrumbidgee, Mumbulla and Bermagui State Forests by creating harvest exclusion zones to help the small koala population stabilise and recover and establish corridor links from State Forests to National Parks. This general area is referred to as the "Primary Area" in this proposal (see Map B).
2. Meet key actions under the National Koala Conservation and Management Strategy 2009-2014, the NSW Recovery Plan for the Koala & the Federal Senate Inquiry's recommendation to 'improve the conservation status of the diverse and rapidly declining koala populations in NSW and ensure a nationally resilient population is maintained'.
3. Provide tools & resources to enable land managers to protect 22 identified koala home ranges ('activity cells') on State forest estate, including assisting Forests NSW with alternative resource planning, koala specific biodiversity monitoring, revegetation & improved threat abatement.
4. Expand native habitat in fragmented landscapes across public and private lands in the Primary Area, linking strategic replanting and restoration programs on all tenures to improve connectivity for the remnant koala population and increase the natural stores of carbon in the region.
5. Increase the region's koala population via a translocation program.
6. Implement a site-specific monitoring program for koalas in the Primary Area, to detect changes and inform forest management over the 6 years remaining under the Regional Forest Agreement and to determine long term management arrangements.
7. Provide suitable conservation mechanisms to improve the resilience of the koala population in the region by implementing a cross-tenure koala monitoring program that will feed into native vegetation management processes.
8. Ensure the key koala habitat is maintained and conserved by preparing and implementing a best practice threat abatement plan and fire management regime across all tenures.

## Project activities

Please provide details of no more than 2000 characters (approx 350 words). \*

1. Undertake supplementary fieldwork to that previously conducted by the EPA, to finalise the design of a harvest exclusion zone for protecting core koala habitat (see map).
2. EPA to work with Forests NSW to create harvest exclusion zones in these forests, legislating these changes under the Eden Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (IFOA) with a review in 2016 informed by results from monitoring and linked management actions.
3. To ensure that Forests NSW has capacity to support the implementation of these measures, LiDAR mapping and a timber market study will be conducted to assess the suitability of alternative timber supply from other suitable areas of State Forests.
4. The EPA will work with Forests NSW and conduct a vegetation assessment to assess the effectiveness of the regrowth and vegetation in the area for the benefit of the koala population and the broader forest values. Where the vegetation in these areas could be enhanced to provide greater opportunity for regeneration of appropriate koala browse species, a Silviculture Restoration Plan will be developed.
5. The EPA will work with the Victorian Government to conduct a census of the koala population in South Gippsland to assess its suitability as a source for a translocation into the NSW far south coast population. If suitable, this project will include translocating a small group of koalas into NSW (see map for Release Site) to boost the region's population.
6. Intensive monitoring will be conducted every 3 years in the Primary Area and Release Site to assess population trends. Broader monitoring will occur elsewhere in the region in Year 2 and Year 6 to track the species's regional status.
7. Establish a collaborative land management group involving Forests NSW, OEH/EPA, Catchment Management Authorities, private land owners and the indigenous community to assess and improve threat abatement programs and fire management

regimes on all tenures, developing integrated requirements.

If applicable, explain how your proposed activities are additional to 'business as usual' practices?

Please provide details of no more than 750 characters (approx 100 words).

The project proposes a collaborative environmental management approach across tenure, implementing measures that go above and beyond standard requirements for managing biodiversity i.e. additional exclusion zones in State Forests, alternative management regimes across tenure which are more suitable for the koala, and additional surveys and monitoring in these areas to improve knowledge of distribution, abundance, population trends and effectiveness of management strategies. In addition, while regeneration is part of Forests NSW business, this project proposes a more in-depth vegetation assessment with the aim of restoring core habitat for koalas.

## Latitude and longitude

*What is the primary location of your project?*

**Note:** This is the site at which your project works will take place (rather than the administrative centre of your project). If there are multiple sites, please enter the latitude/longitude of the primary site. To find the latitude/longitude follow the steps below.

- 1) Type the closest town/suburb into the top left corner of [Google Maps](#). Click 'Search Maps' button.
- 2) Determine on the map where your project is located. Right click your mouse once you have selected your project site. Select 'What's Here?'
- 3) Note the Latitude and Longitude numbers of your project in the top left corner of Google Maps. Please enter the Latitude and Longitude coordinates in the fields below.

Latitude \* *(For example -34.2401)*

Longitude \* *(For example 140.5507)*

-36.5922

149.9449

Location description \*

Please provide details of no more than 2000 characters (approx 350 words).

The primary area/location of this project where works will be conducted is shown in the attached Map A and includes the Bermagui, Murrah and Mumbulla State Forests and adjoining reserves, with the full project area extending across tenure and defined as the NSW Far South Coast Forests (Map B). Bermagui is the nearest town to the project site. Located in the north of the NSW far south coast forests, the primary location has been designated by the Commonwealth as part of Australia's Coastal Wilderness. The area is one of 12 National Landscapes that capture the essence of our country and contain some of Australia's most fragile environments. Much of this landscape is publicly owned National Parks and State Forests, with its rich biodiversity and indigenous culture reflected in land-ownership patterns. Almost all the koala habitat in this area has been subjected to agriculture and forestry activities and koala numbers have declined dramatically in recent decades. With approximately 60% of the habitat being used by koalas occurring in Mumbulla, Murrah and Bermagui State Forests, these areas are critically important for this population. The remaining koalas are in nearby national parks (Biamanga and Kooraban), Bermagui Nature Reserve, Aboriginal-owned land adjoining the Park, and some adjacent private lands. The koala is culturally important for many Indigenous communities in Eastern Australia. Following the handback of the Biamanga and Gulaga National Parks to traditional owners in 2006, the Aboriginal community has become a key land manager in the region, repeatedly demonstrating commitment to enhance the conservation status of koalas in these parks and adjacent areas. The project will build on the established partnership with indigenous people through joint management decisions, training and employment opportunities.

*Please attach a map of your project location in the Project Location Map section at the end of this form.*

Are you proposing to conduct a: \*  Single site project  Multiple site project

*Please ensure you answer all further questions with regard to all project sites.*

Are you proposing to aggregate works on behalf of multiple land owners? \*  Yes  No

Are the proposed works on: \*  Private Land  Public Land

How long will the project run? \*  1 year  2 years  3 years  4 years  5 years  6 years

What area of land will your whole project cover (in hectares)? \*

What area of land will you revegetate (in hectares)? \*

What area of land will you restore (in hectares)? \*

What area of land will you manage for invasive species (in hectares)? \*

Are you prepared to maintain the project site/s for 10 years after the completion of the project? \*  Yes  No  n/a

What commitments are you prepared to make to manage the site over this period? \*  
Please provide details of no more than 2000 characters (approx 350 words).

The harvest exclusion zones in the Primary Area will be established until 2018 with the review of the Eden Integrated Forestry Operations Approval in 2016-2017, and the results of the intensive monitoring informing the longer term management of these areas. In addition, a regional monitoring program across tenure will be implemented for the life of the project to detect koala numbers and changes in habitat use.

The long term benefits of this proposal will be the results of the monitoring program, both site specific and across tenure to inform ongoing forest management decisions. The project will inform any future programs to remove the barriers to effective habitat restoration across tenure, and may suggest improved threat abatement, fire management and creation of corridor links for fauna.

Effective management of State forests requires an analysis of results from fire management, threat abatement, pest and weed management and regeneration programs. For this reason, the project also intends to directly support forest managers for implementing future forest planning and operational measures where management of high value habitat is paramount.

The Environment Protection Authority will regulate the activities and commitments made by Forest NSW under this proposal to ensure that the harvest exclusion zones are actively managed and maintained for the benefit of the koala population. Any new prescriptions for forestry activities in this area would be informed by this project and continued to be regulated.

It is also intended that the EPA in collaboration with the relevant land managers and community will draft a Koala Management Plan for the area utilising the information from the monitoring, and draws on the learning experiences gained from the project.

What type of project are you proposing?

- Biodiverse Plantings - Theme 1
- Protecting and enhancing existing native vegetation - Theme 2
- Managing threats to biodiversity - Theme 3 *(must be undertaken as part of 'Biodiverse planting' or 'Habitat restoration')*
- Other related activities (including projects for enabling technologies and industries)

Are you considering applying for carbon credits arising from this project? \*  Yes  No

## Site details for revegetation or habitat restoration

Will your project improve connectivity? \*  Yes  No

Is your project adjacent to (please select all that apply)? \*

- Ramsar site  National Reserve System  World Heritage Area
- Other

How close is the project site to these area/s (km)? \*

How close is your project to the nearest remnant vegetation (km)? \*

Is your project site in one of the following (please select all that apply)? \*

- Fragmented Landscape Rural  Intact landscapes in Northern Australia
- Fragmented Landscape Peri-Urban  Area of remnant vegetation
- Fragmented Landscape Coastal  Project is not on any of the above site types

Are you proposing a biodiverse planting? \*  Yes  No

Are you conducting a revegetation/reforestation project? \*  Yes  No

Are you proposing to protect or enhance native vegetation? \*  Yes  No

What type of native vegetation are you proposing to improve?

- Shrubby forest/woodland  Grassy forest/woodland  Shrublands  
 Grasslands  Wetlands  Riparian Vegetation  
 Other

What condition is the site currently in? \*

- Pristine native vegetation  Good condition native vegetation  
 Poor condition native vegetation  Non native vegetation

Please identify why your site may be of high conservation value. \*  
Please provide details of no more than 2000 characters (approx 350 words).

The koala is currently listed as 'Vulnerable' under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act. The recent Federal Senate Inquiry into the status, health and sustainability of Australia's koala population in September 2011 recommended that the Federal Environment Minister consider listing koala populations in NSW and Queensland as 'Vulnerable' under the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act. Protection of koala habitat in the State forests of this area has been the subject of considerable debate since the late 1980s. At that time there were records of koalas scattered through much of the area with concentrations in the Bermagui and Tantawangalo area. Since 2007, the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage has been conducting surveys in the coastal forests and hinterland forests in the region, with the results confirming a dramatic decline in the koala population in recent decades. Only one widely scattered remnant population (estimated to be less than 50 adults) is known to remain. Whilst small, this population appears to be recoverable, as young animals are present, and genetic analysis found no evidence of inbreeding. It also appears to be one of the only two remnants remaining of the original population of the South East Corner Coastal forests. The population is concentrated in the State Forests of the Primary Area. To date, Forests NSW have avoided logging in areas important for koalas in this area although some areas adjacent to known habitat were logged in 2010. Significant protest action and national and international media resulted. The Environment Protection Authority and Forests NSW are working on a solution under this proposal which meets timber supply, but also excludes logging in areas of significant value to the Koala in this region. If successful, the proposal can introduce additional conservation management practices that protect the core habitat in this area to ensure this highly significant population of koalas is maintained.

What is the minimum number of species you are going to plant?  
(see table 2 of the guidelines).

Vegetation Type	Over storey	Mid storey	Under storey
Shrubby forest/woodland	4	3	2

You have indicated previously in the form that the project is on public land. \$   
Please indicate the co-contribution you will make. \*

## Site details for invasive species projects

Does your project aim to reduce the movement of invasive species across connected landscapes? \*  Yes  No

Which invasive species are you going to manage? \*  
Please provide details of no more than 2000 characters (approx 350 words).

Both National Parks and Wildlife and Forests NSW actively manage invasive introduced predator species, particularly wild dogs and red foxes on Crown Lands in the Primary Area. In the 2010-2011 financial year, Forests NSW spent \$1.4 million on feral animal and weed control.

While Forests NSW has reported that there are no known infestations of invasive introduced weeds in the Murrah, Mumbulla or Bermagui State forests that are likely to affect koala habitat or it's regeneration capacity, these areas will be closely monitored. A proposed vegetation assessment will help determine the ongoing management of the key habitat areas and feed into existing weed management programs.

How will you manage the invasive species? \*

Please provide details of no more than 2000 characters (approx 350 words).

National Parks and Wildlife and Forests NSW will control threats to flora and fauna, working with other land managers to achieve environmental outcomes. They will work closely with other public land management agencies, as well as private landowners to develop and implement effective wild dog and fox control programs, to deliver the best protection for the koala and its core habitat.

Ground-baiting using buried 1080 meat baits is an effective wild dog and fox control option and the most widely used by all public land managers. It allows baits to be placed where they are most likely to be found by wild dogs or foxes and reduces their uptake by native animals. During 2008-09 approximately 6 323 baits and 273 litres of 1080 were used in State forests.

National Parks and Forests NSW will continue with its seasonal predator control program in the Crown Lands of the Primary Area. This program will be enhanced under this proposal by baiting throughout the year, and by coordinating predator control programs with other land managers on neighbouring tenures.

In other State Forests, Forests NSW have undertaken reactive wild dog control programs as required by those adjoining neighbours who have experienced intermittent livestock attacks during the year. Forests NSW has also provided representation at numerous local meetings to discuss issues relating to wild dog control programs. Management actions such as these could be implemented in the primary site as appropriate to provide additional protection to the koala population.

Do you have an on-going management plan? \*

Yes  No

You have indicated previously in the form that the project is on public land.

Please indicate the co-contribution you will make. \*

\$ 185,000

## Enhancing enabling technologies and industries

Are you proposing to conduct activities to improve knowledge, capacity and/or technology to enhance revegetation, habitat restoration or invasive species management? \*

Yes  No

Please select any that apply.

Revegetation

Please provide details of no more than 2000 characters (approx 350 words). \*

This proposal supports strategic replanting on private and public lands to connect and rehabilitate habitat and is linked to the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) 'Wanggaali (potoroo) and Gumbaawar (koala) habitat restoration and cultural connections across the Gulaga – Biamanga Landscape' project. While this project is also located in the NSW Far South Coast Forests and shown on the attached map, funding for koala habitat rehabilitation on private land is being sought separately by the CMA. The 'Corridors and core habitat for koalas' proposal can stand alone as an effective measure for core koala habitat restoration, however the CMA work is heavily linked to the 'Corridors and core habitat for Koalas' proposal to maximise connectivity in the extended project area.

Habitat restoration

Please provide details of no more than 2000 characters (approx 350 words). \*

The project will improve the capacity of forest managers to protect and restore key habitat across fragmented landscapes by enabling integrated and cross-tenure decision-making processes. Environmental management actions across tenure such as fire, forestry and threat abatement will be reviewed and best practice land management requirements will be implemented that aim to maintain and enhance the remaining native habitat for koalas in the region. Ongoing monitoring will also raise awareness of the koala activity and its response to the additional measures this program puts in action. The knowledge from the monitoring will also inform the establishment of future corridor links and suitable exclusion zoning and prescriptions for koalas.

Invasive species management

## Monitoring and improvement

How are you going to monitor and measure the performance of your project? \*

Please provide details of no more than 2000 characters (approx 350 words).

A substantial monitoring program will be implemented which builds on the Office of Environment and Heritage's South-east NSW Koala Survey and Monitoring Program completed in 2008. The proposed monitoring program will include additional tools that aim to maximise the success of the restoration and regeneration of high-value koala habitat in the extended project area.

The aim of the 2008 South-east NSW Koala Survey and Monitoring Program was to improve the knowledge of the distribution, abundance, feeding strategies and genetics of koalas in this part of NSW. The monitoring involved best practice survey techniques based on 'Regularised Grid-Based Spot Assessment Technique' (RGSAT monitoring). This method is a standardised, consistent and repeatable search method, enabling comparative analyses of data gathered from within and between study areas. This method will be repeated in the proposed monitoring for this project.

To monitor and measure the performance of the proposed project, the project team will implement and report on:

1. Site specific koala monitoring every 3 years for the life of the project in the harvest exclusion zones of Bermagui, Murrumbidgee State Forests, and other sites within the Primary Area. The site specific monitoring will build on the foundation dataset already established in 2008 and assess changes in koala activity levels at specific sites and occupancy rates in these forests.
2. Multi-partnered landscape monitoring across tenure – Forests NSW to collaborate with the EPA to conduct landscape monitoring which analyses koala records and survey data to calculate changes in the extent of occurrence and area of occupancy of koalas in the region.
3. Improved capacity of community-agency partnerships to manage koala habitat, shared learning experiences and indigenous involvement.
4. A vegetation assessment conducted by the Environment Protection Authority and Forests NSW, and any regeneration, revegetation or restoration works.

## Budget

### Funding you are seeking from the Australian Government \*

The years available in this table are based on your response to the earlier question 'How long will the project run?'

All amounts in budget fields should be GST exclusive. If your organisation is registered for GST, the GST inclusive total will be calculated. Values can be entered in increments of \$100 (example 1.1 = \$1,100)

Activity	Year 1 \$'000	Year 2 \$'000	Year 3 \$'000	Year 4 \$'000	Year 5 \$'000	Year 6 \$'000	Total \$'000
Site preparation	170	230	0	0	0	0	400
Revegetation activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration activities	5	60	310	360	160	160	1,055
Invasive species management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Risk management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monitoring and evaluation	0	240	0	0	120	120	480
Administrative costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total (excluding GST)</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>1,935</b>

**Total Funding Sought (excluding GST) \$1,935,000**

**Total Funding Sought (including GST) \$2,128,500**

Will this project also receive in-kind contribution or cash funding from other sources? \*

Yes  No

**Funding from other sources \***



The years available in this table are based on your response to the earlier question 'How long will the project run?'  
 All amounts in budget fields should be GST exclusive. If your organisation is registered for GST, the GST inclusive total will be calculated.  
 Values can be entered in increments of \$100 (example 1.1 = \$1,100)

Source	Year 1 \$'000	Year 2 \$'000	Year 3 \$'000	Year 4 \$'000	Year 5 \$'000	Year 6 \$'000	Total \$'000
Environment Protection Authority	0	80	80	80	80	80	400
Office of Environment and Heritage	45	80	80	80	80	80	445
Forests NSW	20	60	60	60	60	60	320
<b>Total (excluding GST)</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>1,165</b>

**Total Funding from Other Sources (excluding GST) \$1,165,000**

**Total Funding from Other Sources (including GST) \$1,281,500**

## Project location map

The following files are attached to your submission.

Document Name	Document Type	Req'd	Filename	File Size (KB)
Project Location Map	.pdf, .jpg, .docx, .doc, .zip	No	NSW Far South Coast Koala project maps A and B.doc	1,981.5

**Total file size (MB): 1.94**

## Declaration and submission

### Declaration

*The making of a false or misleading statement in an application will impact the assessment of your application and can result in the termination of any subsequent funding agreement.*

I:

- declare that I have, or am able to obtain, the written consent of any organisation that I partner with or represent on the project, including traditional owners.
- declare that the project does not include activities that have been completed.
- declare that the project has not received funding through other initiatives or programs for substantially the same activities.
- declare that the project involves activities that are in addition to activities that form part of the business as usual (environmental stewardship) practices of the land managers and / or land owners or are required by law.
- declare that any planting of species will be regionally appropriate and suitable for changing environmental conditions.
- declare that the project will not introduce species that are known to be pests or invasive species.
- declare that none of the activities in the project are likely to have a significant adverse impact on any matters of National Environmental Significance.
- declare that the information contained in this application is true and correct and acknowledge that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.
- declare that I have read and understand the Biodiversity Fund Guidelines.
- warrant I will not have any overdue reports or acquittals, under any contractual or statutory arrangement for funding with the Australian Government, prior to entering into the funding agreement, if my application is successful.
- warrant that if the applicant is an organisation, I am legally authorised to submit this application on behalf of that organisation.
- declare that I do not have any existing conflicts of interest that may influence the application assessment process.

I agree

Name \*

Sally Barnes

Date \*

31/01/2012

Position in organisation \*

Acting Chief Executive