

Protection of koalas in Murrah Flora Reserves evaluation

NSW Environmental Trust

	Natural Resources Commission Recommendations	Environmental Trust/National Parks and Wildlife Service Response
1. Improve funding agreements	<p>The Natural Resources Commission recommends that the Environmental Trust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ensure any management plans establish clear cultural outcomes and performance indicators b. allocate sufficient funding to build capacity in governance and financial management for Aboriginal board members. 	<p>Agree with the recommendation.</p> <p>The Trust has noted this recommendation for consideration in future projects.</p>
2. Provide greater administrative transparency	<p>The Natural Resources Commission recommends that the Environmental Trust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ensure clarity of process and greater transparency between parties where funding transfers are required between agencies and partners to minimise delays and risks to project outcomes. 	<p>Agree with the recommendation.</p> <p>The Trust endeavours to ensure efficient processes are used and made clear in the Business Plan stage of projects.</p>
3. Allocate sufficient funds for start-up	<p>The Natural Resources Commission recommends that the Environmental Trust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ensure sufficient funds are allocated for the start-up phase of new reserves, or similar types of the grant projects. 	<p>Agree with the recommendation.</p> <p>The Trust uses a rigorous project scoping process to ensure funds forecasted for different stages of a project are sufficient.</p>

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<p>4. Improve plan of management for reserves</p>	<p>The Natural Resources Commission recommends that NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. expedite and implement the working plan to minimise wildfire from the reserves b. allocate sufficient funding to effectively implement the plan that will support Government policy to double koala numbers by 2050. 	<p>The Working Plan for the reserves was adopted in 2021 and fire management actions including cultural burning are being implemented.</p> <p>https://www.forestrycorporation.com.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1323728/murrumbidgee-flora-reserves-working-plan.PDF</p> <p>The NSW Government has committed more than \$190 million to deliver the targeted conservation actions in the new NSW Koala Strategy. These actions work towards the long-term goal of doubling koala numbers in New South Wales by 2050. This funding is to 2026.</p> <p>The strategy builds on the groundwork and achievements of the previous NSW Koala Strategy 2018–21, which comprised a \$44.7-million investment over 3 years to stabilise koala populations.</p>
<p>5. Improve community engagement and joint management arrangements</p>	<p>The Natural Resources Commission recommends that Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. engage early and genuinely with Aboriginal groups and communities where their interests intersect with new and proposed flora reserves b. consider expanding existing joint management arrangements from nearby parks or transferring ownership to the Gulaga and Biamanga boards of management. 	<p>Agree with the recommendation.</p> <p>The Trust has noted this recommendation for consideration in future projects.</p>

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