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New Koala Research in North Coast State Forests

The NSW Natural Resources Commissioner Dr John Keniry has selected three eminent researchers to undertake new independent research into how koalas respond to regeneration harvesting on North Coast State forests.

Regeneration harvesting is a type of intensive harvesting to regenerate and sustain certain timber tree types on state forests over the longer term.

Dr John Keniry said the researchers - from the Australian National University, Western Sydney University and the NSW Department of Primary Industries – will spend the next three years undertaking the new study.

“This new research will enable us to understand the impact of regeneration harvesting on koalas, an area where no studies currently exist.” Dr Keniry said.

“Importantly, it will also provide valuable insight into how we can improve the management of native forests.”

The research proposals selected by the Commission to carry out the research are:

- **Dr Ben Moore of Western Sydney University** will lead research to investigate how regeneration harvesting directly affects the diet of koalas and any implications of this for the persistence of koala populations.
- **Dr Karen Ford from the Australian National University** will lead research to investigate how regeneration harvesting affects the nutritional quality of koala habitat and how any changes impact the density of koala populations.
- **Dr Brad Law from the DPI's Forest Science Unit** will lead research to investigate how regeneration harvesting directly affects koala population density.

“These research projects will complement each other to form a broader picture of how koalas are responding overall to regeneration harvesting,” Dr Keniry said.

The NSW Government has provided \$300,000 for the new research as part of its \$45 million NSW Koala Strategy which aims to sustain and increase koala populations.

The new research will start in March 2019 and the Commission will provide a final report on the research to the NSW Premier and the Minister for Environment in early 2021.

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