

Program Guidelines

Koala Habitat Restoration and Protection in the Southern Highlands and Southern Tablelands Areas of Regional Koala Significance (ARKS), NSW



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More information

South East LLS

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Acknowledgments

JMP Procurement Pty Ltd

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing April 2024. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or the user's independent adviser.

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Background

The project, called -The Koala Habitat Restoration and Protection in the Southern Highlands and Southern Tablelands Areas of Regional Koala Significance (ARKS), NSW- is a new fund established in 2023/2024 financial year offering land managers assistance to protect and improve priority Koala Habitat in South East NSW.

The fund is administered by South East Local Land Services (South East LLS), supported by the Department of Planning and Environment. With funding provided by the Australian Government and the NSW Government, the fund is intended to support actions identified as priorities under the National and NSW Koala Strategies.

The grant is a targeted program, providing opportunity for all landowners within and in close proximity (up to 10km) to the Southern Tablelands and Southern Highlands Areas of Regional Koala Significance (ARKS) receive financial assistance to protect and enhance habitat for Koala. The geographical range being within 10 km of the ARKS (refer to Appendix A).

The fund has a limited budget and will call for applications via a defined round. Additional rounds for applications may be determined if funding is not completely allocated within the first round offered. The fund is a competitive grant opportunity and proposals will be assessed against a range of criteria to ensure investment in sites that will provide the best value for investment for the purpose of improvement to Koala habitat.

The fund is seeking to support projects including fencing to protect existing Koala habitat from livestock, planting of native trees and shrubs to provide future Koala habitat, enhancement of existing Koala habitat via weed management activities. These guidelines have been prepared for potential applicants and should be read in detail prior to submission of an application.

All projects will be required to be completed by 31 May 2025.

Program Purpose and Objectives

This program aims to improve the extent, quality and connectivity of the nationally listed Koala's habitat and reducing local threats. The program outcomes include goals to increase the area of revegetation to create future habitat for Koala, improving existing habitat through fencing to manage grazing, weed management and feral herbivore control. The program also seeks to improve knowledge of Koala populations via monitoring programs.

The program has been designed using recommendations of the Australian Government's Investment Framework for Environmental Resources (INFERR) - Koala Conservation and Protection package. This analysis has informed cost-effective investment of the Australian Governments funding for Koala Conservation and protection. This analysis has identified the project areas, recommended activities and their anticipated cost. The program seeks private or public landowners via the provision of initial grant payments for eligible activities. This is considered to be a valuable strategy with landowners demonstrating commitment to on-going management and monitoring of investment areas.

The program will contribute to Local Land Services Strategic Outcomes of enhanced management and productivity of NSW land.

The program is funded by the Australian Government (National Koala Strategy) and NSW Government (NSW Koala Strategy) and is delivered by South East Local Land Services, supported by the Department of Planning and Environment.

The program will offer advice, planning support and financial assistance to private and public land managers to achieve the described outcomes. The program is part of a larger project that aims to increase landholder awareness and capacity to protect Koala habitat via educational activities with community and landowners and monitoring programs to increase knowledge.

The grant opportunity is an open and competitive grant. The opportunity is available to all land managers within and within proximity of the target areas of the Southern Tablelands and Southern Highlands Areas of Regional Koala Significance (ARKS) (as demonstrated in Appendix A – Location of the Southern Tablelands and Southern highlands ARKS).

Key Dates

Applications open	9 November 2023
Applications close	5:00 pm Monday 11 December 2023
Assessment process	Wednesday 12 December 2023- Friday 1 March 2024
Application outcome date	30 May 2024
Funding Deeds executed with Successful Applicants:	[Contracting processes will commence once an Applicant has signed and returned their letter of offer and confidentiality agreement.
Project completion:	Projects must commence within 3 months of the commencement date of a funding deed. All activities to be completed by 31 May 2025

In extenuating circumstances, applications submitted after the deadline may be accepted at the sole discretion of South East Local Land Services.

Program Funding

A total amount of funding available for the grant program includes:

\$1,488,000 from the Australian Government Koala Strategy, for projects in the Southern Highlands and Southern Tablelands ARKS. There is an expectation that 70% of funding will be invested in the Southern Highlands Area. There is potential for this allocation to be altered, depending on the applications received and approval from the investor (the Australian Government)

\$50,000 from the NSW Koala Strategy for projects in the Southern Tablelands ARKS.

Funding is available to private and public land managers, with the maximum amount of the grant per applicant being \$30,000. As a guide, limits in the use of funding for identified activities includes:

Project Type	Minimum Funding (GST exclusive)	Maximum Funding (GST exclusive)
Landowner grants for Koala Habitat protection and enhancement	\$3,000	\$30,000

Co-Contributions

Co-contributions may be required of landholders where the cost of proposed activities exceed the limits defined within the grant, or where funding is exhausted. Co-contributions from landholders towards project activities is encouraged and will improve chances as proposal ranking will be influenced by cost per hectare.

Unspent Funds

If the situation arises where a grant recipient's project is completed and there are unspent funds remaining from the grant allocation, South East LLS will require the grant recipient to return the unspent funds. If the grant recipient requests to use the funds to extend the scope of the project, South East LLS may assess that request if it aligns to the objectives of the grant program. Local Land Services may require the grant recipient to provide supporting information. On how the additional proposed activities will contribute to enhancing future koala habitat.

How do I register my interest?

The program will be a three-stage application and approval process, involving an initial Expression of Interest (EOI) process, followed by a more detailed application and project planning process, and a final funding deed negotiation and execution.

To lodge an Expression of Interest, please visit

Southern Highlands: [Application Form - Southern Highlands Koala Habitat Protection and Enhancement](#)

Southern Tablelands: [Southern Tablelands Application - Koala Habitat Protection and Enhancement](#)

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility to lodge an Expression of Interest:

Eligible Applicants

To be eligible for grant funding, an applicant must meet each of the following requirements:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN) or able to complete a Statement by a supplier form;
- be one of the following:
 - a company incorporated in Australia
 - a company incorporated by guarantee

- an incorporated association or co-operative
- a partnership
- a sole trader
- a local council

joint organisation of councils

an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*.

A NSW Public Land manager

- An individual landholder and able to complete a Statement by supplier form to notify Local Land Services
- hold or commit to obtaining public liability insurance of not less than \$10 million per occurrence or hold equivalent or better self-insurance to the satisfaction of the Department, prior to executing a Funding Deed with the Department
- Be a landowner, or have the permission of the landowner, of property within or adjacent to the Southern Highlands or Southern Tablelands Areas of Regional Koala Significance (refer to appendix A – map of Regional ARKS)
- Have no debt with Local Land Services that is outside of Local Land Services payment terms (LLS debt management framework).
- Be proposing eligible activities including fencing to manage livestock grazing from areas of Koala Habitat, revegetation or weed management to enhance Koala Habitat and connectivity of habitat.
- Have capacity for projects to be completed by 30 May 2025.
- A minimum property size of 5 ha.

Eligible Projects

Local Land Services staff will support landowners to develop a plan for funded activities with applicants, based on specific site requirements.

Funding is available to private or public land managers for the completion of the following on-ground works including:

- Revegetation with specific native trees and shrubs to enhance Koala habitat and/or connectivity including site preparation, purchase of plants and tree guards, labour for planting and watering, up to \$10,000 per ha depending on approved design of revegetation projects.
- Stock proof fencing to protect re-vegetation areas and/or existing koala habitat from livestock including purchase of materials and contributions to fencing labour up to \$20,000 per km for approved fencing.
- Weed control activities including purchase of chemicals and labour to reduce the impacts of weeds on Koala movement and growth of priority Koala Habitat up to \$3,000 per ha of approved weed management activities.

- Access to LLS managed programs to assist with feral herbivore management to support the success of revegetation activities, depending on evidence of impact of feral herbivores and availability of resources.
- Loan of equipment to contribute to Koala monitoring activities as part of a landscape monitoring project, depending on availability.

Proposals will also be considered against a range of criteria including:

- Proximity of the property to, and within the Areas of Regional Koala Significance.
- Proximity of the property to an area of high biodiversity value (National Park, wildlife corridor, etc.)
- Landowner's ability to commence works within 3 months of the commencement of the funding deed and completion of all works by May 2025.
- Landowner's willingness to provide co-funding or in-kind contributions (e.g. labour for fencing) towards the project.
- Landowner's willingness and ability to monitor project sites, particularly revegetation works.
- Landholders will be expected to enter into a formal agreement and will be required to undertake agreed management activities relevant to the funding they receive.
- Local Land Services are committed to the protection of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. All project applications are assessed to determine if a known (registered) aboriginal site is in close proximity to the project site. In the instances where this occurs, an Aboriginal Sites Officer may be engaged by LLS to ensure that the proposed activities do not impact on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

Ineligible Projects

Projects ineligible for funding include:

- Project sites that are not within or in close proximity to the Southern Highlands and Southern Tableland Areas of Regional Koala Significance.
- Projects that are proposing ineligible activities.
- Projects that cannot demonstrate capacity to complete all works by 31 May 2025.
- Project submissions where the landowner is an employee or Board member of Local Land Services.

Project Locations

The project must be located within, or in close proximity to, the Southern Highlands and Southern Tablelands Areas of Regional Koala Significance, as demonstrated in Appendix A.

Eligible Project Costs

Eligible project Costs are limited to the direct cost of on-grounds works associated with weed management, revegetation, feral herbivore management and livestock exclusion fencing as described in this document.

Ineligible Project Costs

All other activities are ineligible for funding including

- project administration costs,
- properties or landowners who have incomplete projects previously funded by Local Land Services or have a debt with Local Land Services that is outside of Local Land Services payment terms (LLS debt management framework).
- Boundary fences
- Work required by reason of legal obligations being placed on the property or landholder (eg, regulation, consent conditions, covenants, compliance notices, Court orders, set aside arrangements, or existing landholder agreements)
- Commercial plantings (e.g. timber for future harvest)

Assessment Criteria

Assessment Criteria will include:

Project appropriateness:

Identification of the location of the property and proposed project site compared to priority habitat mapping including location of Areas of Regional Koala Significance (ARKS), Native Vegetation mapping and known Koala sightings (desktop analysis) including the advice of Department Planning and Environment.

Strategic alignment:

Assessment of proposed project activities against program outcomes including the completion of site assessment by South East Local Land Services staff.

Landowner capacity

Evidence of approval of the landowner, evidence of completion of past projects (if relevant).

Interest in monitoring/maintenance

Commitment to Koala monitoring activities.

Value for money

Cost /benefit analysis including comparison to other applications within the funding round.

Application Process

The Koala Habitat Restoration and Protection in the Southern Highlands and Southern Tablelands Areas of Regional Koala Significance program will be a multiple stage application process

All Applicants will submit their expression of interest via the following link:

Southern Highlands: [Application Form - Southern Highlands Koala Habitat Protection and Enhancement](#)

Southern Tablelands: [Southern Tablelands Application - Koala Habitat Protection and Enhancement](#)

Applications cannot be reopened or amended once the closing date has passed, unless such amendments are in accordance with the Assessment Plan (Methodology).

How to apply

Visit the following links to submit an expression of interest to the Koala Habitat Restoration and Protection in the Southern Highlands and Southern Tablelands Areas of Regional Koala Significance program.

Southern Highlands: [Application Form - Southern Highlands Koala Habitat Protection and Enhancement](#)

Southern Tablelands: [Southern Tablelands Application - Koala Habitat Protection and Enhancement](#)

What needs to be included in an Expression of Interest

All applications need to include:

- Applicants name and contact details including phone number, email address
- Australian Business Number
- Entity type
- Property owner (if different to the applicant) name and contact details.
- Property address of proposed works including Holding Reference Number (found on your LLS Rates notice)
- Proposed works intended under this project including specific location and extent
- a clear project scope,
- landowner consent if the land is not owned by the Applicant,
- evidence of at least \$10 million Public Liability Insurance in the name of the Applicant, or willingness to obtain insurance if proposal approved.
- any project co-contribution proposed
- information relating to any past projects with Local Land Services or other government agencies.

- Confirmation of no debt with Local Land Services (outside of LLS payment terms)
- Confirmation of capacity to complete works by 30 May 2025.
- Confirmation of minimum property size (5Ha)

Initial Assessment Process

After the closing date an Initial Assessment Panel, comprised of internal subject matter experts will undertake an initial assessment of applications to determine eligibility for the program. Following the initial eligibility assessment, eligible applicants will be contacted by South East Local Land Services Advisory Staff for the purpose of conducting a property visit/site assessment, and the collection of additional data to be used during the assessment process.

South East Local Land Services Initial Assessment Panel sub-committee members will assist the applicant to prepare a revised application including project map, plan and proposed budget. South East Local Land Services will notify applicants if additional information and supporting material is required, and the timeframes in which it is required.

Applicants will be provided with an agreement template for their consideration and confirmation that they would be willing to enter.

The applicant will then be invited to submit their formal application including project plan and budget.

An application form link or template will be provided to eligible landholders. All applications need to include:

- Applicants name and contact details including phone number, email address
- Property owner (if different to the applicant) name and contact details.
- Australian Business Number, or statement by supplier
- Property address of proposed works including Holding Reference Number (found on your LLS Rates notice)
- Proposed works intended under this project including specific location and extent, with attachment of the project map and plan prepared with South East LLS staff.
- a clear project scope, including proposed budget.
- landowner consent if the land is not owned by the Applicant,
- evidence of at least \$10 million Public Liability Insurance in the name of the Applicant, or willingness to obtain insurance if proposal approved.
- any project co-contribution proposed

Detailed Assessment Process

After your project plan and application have been developed with a South East LLS Initial Assessment Panel subcommittee member and your revised application submitted, it will be reviewed by South East LLS Detailed Assessment sub-committee to ensure consistency in assessment.

Each application will be assessed on its merit and considered against a scoring framework to determine the applications that most closely align with project objectives and offer best value for money before a recommendation is made in writing to the decision maker.

The Detailed Assessment Panel sub-committee will consist of senior representatives from South East Local Land Services, senior representatives from the Department Planning and Environment and/or relevant Local Government, and the Probity Advisor.

The assessment panel may recommend a lesser amount of funding for an application or defer a recommendation pending further information.

The assessment panel may take other factors into consideration when recommending an application for funding including but not limited to the total amount of funding available, geographical distribution of projects across regional NSW, suitability of a project for other government funding opportunities and alignment with existing NSW Government policies and strategies.

Advice may also be sought from other NSW Government agencies or other sources (such as probity advisors).

Applications from the two project areas (Southern Highlands and Southern Tablelands) will be considered separately based on the available funding allocation for each area.

Decision making

The decision maker for the Grant is the Executive Director, Regional Delivery Local Land Services.

The decision maker will review the availability of grant funds and the Assessment Panel's recommendation before deciding which grant applications to approve. The decision maker may take other factors into account that may make an application ineligible for funding, including issues that could cause reputational or other risks to the NSW Government.

The decision maker's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant
- the grant funding amount to be awarded, and
- the terms and conditions of the grant.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

Probity advice

An independent probity advisor has been appointed and may provide guidance to South East Local Land Services on any issues concerning integrity, fairness and accountability that may arise throughout the application, assessment, and decision-making process, where required. This will ensure decisions are made with integrity, fairness and accountability, while delivering value for money for NSW. Local Land Services have developed a decision making framework to guide decision making to identify when this is necessary.

The Probity Advisor is Juliet Payne, Director, JMP Procure Pty Ltd. Any applicant with probity concerns may contact the probity advisor directly, via her email jp@jmpprocure.com.au

Can Ineligible Projects be referred to a more appropriate funding program?

Yes. Projects that are more suitable for other NSW Government programs may be referred to those programs. Applications that are referred will be subject to the full Assessment Criteria of the other NSW Government program to which they are referred. Applicants may need to update their application to meet the criteria of the referred program.

Successful Applications

Notification

Successful Applicants will be notified in writing by letter and/or email.

In accordance with the Government sector finance amendment (Grants) Bill 2023, successful projects will also be listed on the NSW Grants Finder website.

Funding Deed

Successful Applicants will be required to enter into an agreement with the NSW Government. A sample agreement will be provided to the applicant with this Program Guideline.

Successful Applicants will be required to provide all supporting documentation and approvals before the Local Land Services can enter into a funding deed. This includes proof of ownership (or landowners' consent), at least \$10 million Public Liability Insurance, Development Approval (if applicable),

The NSW Government makes no binding funding commitment to an Applicant unless and until both parties sign a funding deed.

Successful Applicants must not make financial commitments for funded activities until funding deeds have been executed by both parties.

Grants will be paid via milestone payments set out in the funding deed and may include payment direct to the applicant or payment to identified contractors to completed agreed activities. Timing and requirements will vary at NSW Government's discretion.

Successful Applicants may be required to submit progress reports to the NSW Government as outlined in the funding deed.

Monitoring and Reporting

All on-ground projects funded by South East LLS will be required to undertake monitoring activities. These will be described in the funding deed, with a guide provided to successful applicants. South East LLS staff will assist within the establishment of the monitoring protocol that will include establishing photo monitoring points. South East LLS may also require the monitoring of groundcover, native vegetation condition, koala populations and feral animal impact depending on the type of activities proposed.

South East Local Land Services staff will support successful applicants in the delivery of agreed works which may include assistance in sourcing materials and/or suitable contractors as defined within their agreement.

South East Local Land Services staff reserve the right to inspect the project areas over the duration of the agreement to determine the degree to which intended outcomes are being achieved. A site visit to confirm the successful completion of works will also occur.

A project acquittal form will be completed by South East Local Land Services confirming the completion of works and acquittal of the grant. A copy of which will be provided to the applicant.

Further details of monitoring requirements and templates for reports are available from a South East LLS project officer and will be made available to successful applicants.

Maintenance

All funded activities will require maintenance to ensure outcomes are maintained. All activities must be regularly maintained for at least 10 years from the date of completion of project works.

Acquittal of Contracts

The final milestone payment will occur following the completion of project activities and acceptance of the Final Project Acquittal Report which will be completed by South East LLS staff to confirm the completion of project outcomes as described in the funding deed.

Biennial reports on the maintenance and monitoring will be required for the remaining duration of the agreement. South East LLS may inspect the project during the maintenance and monitoring period. Evidence of completion, including reports submitted to South East LLS and inspection reports completed by South East LLS, will be recorded in the LLS corporate filing system. These records will be used to inform LLS internal program progress and final reporting using LLS financial and project management systems.

Waivers (evidence and process)

All requests for an extension of time to complete project activities must be submitted in writing to South East LLS outlining the revised timing requested and supporting reasons. Requests for an

extension of time will be considered by South East LLS and if deemed appropriate, will be approved by South East LLS through a signed contract variation.

All requests for changes to project payments and landholder contributions must be submitted in writing to South East LLS outlining the proposed changes and supporting reasons. South East LLS will not approve requests for increased total grant funding. Other requests will be considered by South East LLS and if deemed appropriate will be approved by LLS through a signed contract variation.

All requests for changes to project activities other than timing or payments must be submitted in writing to LLS outlining the proposed revised delivery of project activities and supporting reasons. Requests will be considered by South East LLS and if deemed appropriate will be approved by South East LLS through a contract variation.

Debt Recovery (process)

If the project is not completed, LLS will provide written notice to recover LLS grant funds in accordance with the agreement terms and conditions. If LLS has paid any part of the grant funds in advance, you must repay to LLS a pro-rata amount of grant funds for any incomplete project activities, within 30 days of a written request from LLS, in accordance with the project agreement terms and conditions.

Evaluation of Grant Program

Progress, final and annual reports submitted to South East LLS and inspection reports completed by South East LLS will be used to inform evaluation of this grant program under an LLS approved annual evaluation plan that considers and documents delivery on outputs, outcomes, key learnings and continuous improvements.

Important Terms and Conditions

The NSW Government typically receives far more applications than it can support. Applicants are not guaranteed funding even if the application is of high merit. Further, even if an application is successful, it may not be funded to the full amount requested.

All projects must demonstrate they can commence within 3 months of the commencement of the funding deed and be completed by 30 May 2025 as outlined in the project plan.

Applicants must hold all relevant insurances, including a minimum of \$10 million Public Liability Insurance.

Requests for variations or changes to the project will only be considered in limited circumstances.

All awarded grants will be GST exclusive. If the Applicant is registered for GST, this will be applied on top of the agreed grant value when payment is made. Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by taxation law. It is recommended Applicants seek independent professional advice about taxation obligations or seek assistance from the Australian Taxation Office. The NSW Government does not provide advice on individual taxation circumstances.

Successful Applicants will be required to pay back unspent funds or those funds which have not been spent in accordance with the funding deed.

Successful Applicants will be required to participate in a program evaluation to determine the extent to which their projects have contributed to the objective of the Fund. The evaluation will require Applicants to provide evidence of how projects have resulted in a measurable change that is consistent with the objective of the Fund.

Any information submitted by an Applicant may be used for promotional material prepared by the NSW Government.

The NSW Government may choose to publicly announce funding for individual applications. It may also use information provided in the grant to develop case studies.

All recipients of NSW Government funding should acknowledge this financial support as per the Funding Acknowledgement Guidelines for Recipients of NSW Government Grants available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/branding/sponsorship-and-funding-acknowledgment-guidelines>.

The Department reserves the right to undertake an audit of grant funding within a period 7 years from the signing of the funding deed.

Applicants must advise the Department of any changes to their legal status or of changes or delays to their project.

Unsuccessful Applications

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application at the close of the assessment round and will be offered a feedback information session if requested.

Additional Information

Getting Support

To help applicants prepare their application, additional information and resources will be available on the Koala Habitat Protection and Enhancement in the Southern Highlands and Southern Tablelands Areas of Regional Koala Significance, NSW webpage.

Local Land Services will assist applicants to develop a suitable proposal including appropriate works and budget proposal following the submission of the initial application.

Please check with South East Local Land Services prior to submitting if you are unclear about any part of the application via enquiry.southeast@lls.nsw.gov.au.

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

Applicants should be aware that information submitted in applications and all related correspondence, attachments and other documents may be made publicly available under the

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW). Information that is deemed to be commercially sensitive will be withheld.

The *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW)* makes government information accessible to the public by:

- requiring government agencies to make certain sorts of information freely available
- encouraging government agencies to release as much other information as possible
- giving the public an enforceable right to make access applications for government information
- restricting access to information only when there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

Complaints

Any concerns about the Fund or individual applications should be submitted in writing to enquiry.southeast@lls.nsw.gov.au. If you do not agree with the way the Department of Regional NSW handled the issue, you may wish to contact the NSW Ombudsman via ombo.nsw.gov.au.

Ethical Conduct

Applicants must not participate in any anti-competitive conduct.

It is a condition of the grant program application process that no gifts, benefits or hospitality are to be made to any Department/Agency employee at any time. Any inducement in contravention of this condition may result in an applicant's proposal not being considered.

Conflicts of Interest

There may be a requirement for a conflict-of-interest declaration to be submitted with all proposals or in the application form.

Where a conflict-of-interest detrimental to the assessment process is identified, mitigation measures must be put in place, or an individual may be asked not to participate in the application, assessment or delivery stage of the process.

Confidentiality

Funding decisions and assessment outcomes must be kept confidential until announced by the NSW Government. Successful applicants will be required to provide a confidentiality undertaking. This means they must keep the outcome of the application process confidential until the NSW Government makes a public announcement.

Upon entering into a funding deed, details about the funding deed may be made publicly available (subject to information which the Department/Agency deems to be commercial in confidence)

The applicant agrees not to disclose any confidential information pertaining to the grant program application or funding deed without prior written consent of the Department.

Department rights

The Department may, in its absolute discretion, and without limiting any other right which the Department may have, do all or any of the following at any time without giving notice or reasons:

- require additional information from an applicant

- change any of the requirements of these Guidelines

alter or vary any process, procedure or timing related to the grant opportunity, including any process, procedure or timing regarding the consideration or the evaluation of any proposal or all applications

suspend or terminate the grant opportunity

- negotiate with one or more preferred applicants without prior notice to any other applicant
- terminate any negotiations being conducted with any applicant
- readvertise for new applicants
- consider any non-conforming application

terminate further participation in the grant opportunity by any applicant for any reason (including if the department reasonably considers an application to contain any false or misleading claims or statements)

not proceed with any funding deed, or

- proceed with a funding deed in ways not contemplated in these Guidelines.

Intellectual property

All intellectual property rights in these Guidelines remain the property of the Department. Applicants are permitted to use these Guidelines for the purpose of preparing an application only. Applicants must not use these Guidelines, or any information contained in these Guidelines for any other purpose.

Applications submitted in response to these Guidelines remain the property of the applicant, unless otherwise agreed between the applicant and the department. The applicant agrees that the department may make copies and reproduce applications for any purpose related to the grant opportunity. In addition, the department will retain (electronic and hard) copies of all applications.

No offer

These Guidelines are not an offer, recommendation or invitation by the Department in respect of any contract or commitment and, subject to a funding deed being fully executed by the parties to it, nothing in these Guidelines will form the basis of any contract or commitment.

Addenda

The department may, in its absolute discretion, issue an addendum to these Guidelines. In each case, an addendum becomes part of these Guidelines.

Disclaimer

The Department does not guarantee or warrant and accepts no legal liability whatsoever arising from or connected to, the accuracy, reliability, currency or completeness of any material contained in this publication. Information in this publication is provided as general information only and is not intended as a substitute for advice from a qualified professional.

The Department recommends that users exercise care and use their own skill and judgment in using information from this publication and that users carefully evaluate the accuracy, currency, completeness, and relevance of such information. Users should take steps to independently verify the information in this publication and, where appropriate, seek professional advice.

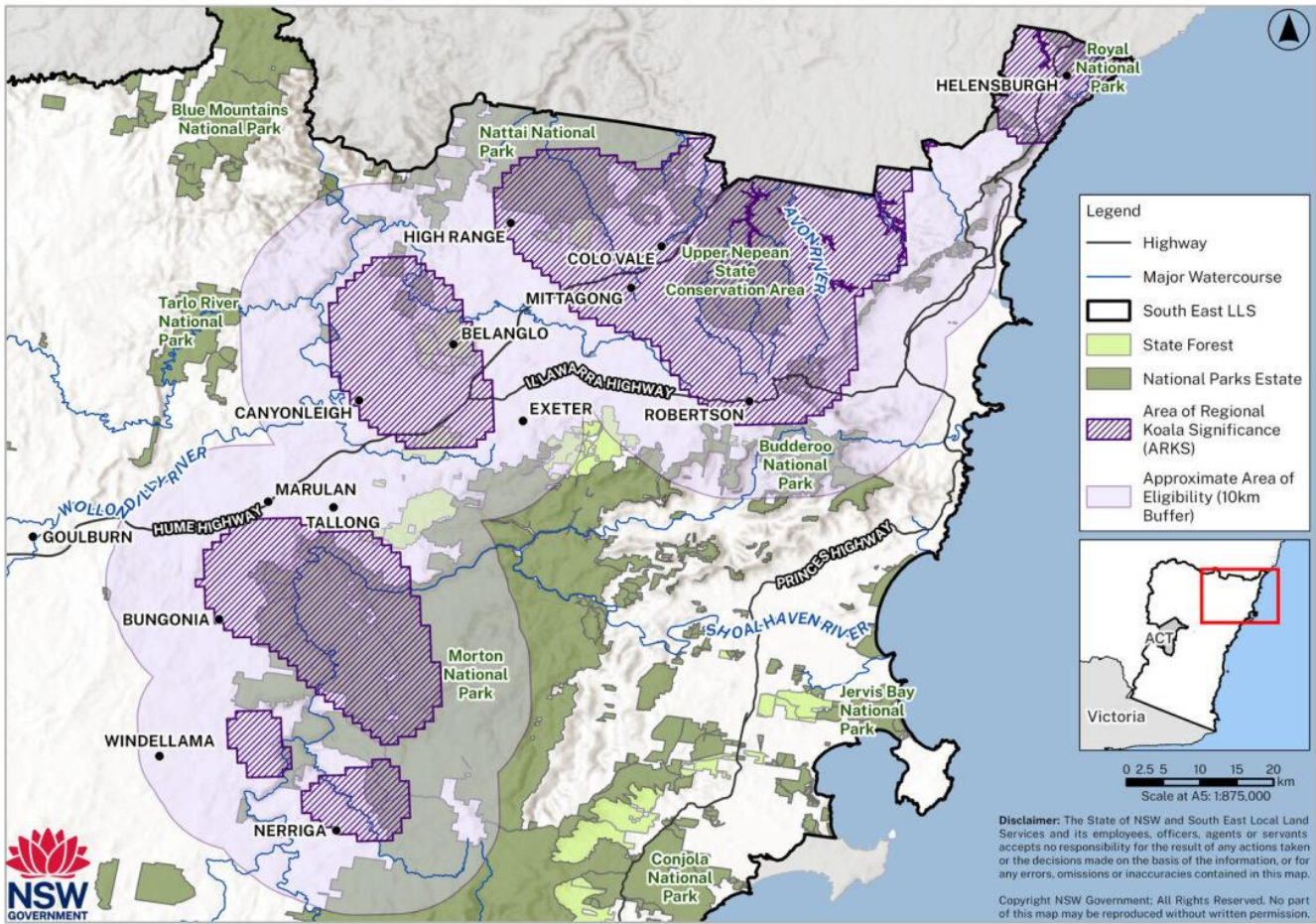
These Guidelines are subject to change at any time at the sole discretion of the Department.

© State of New South Wales through Regional NSW 2023. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing Aug, 2023. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Regional NSW or the user's independent adviser.

Appendix A

Eligible Locations

Southern Highland ARKS (with 10km buffer)



Southern Tablelands ARKS (with 10km buffer)

