



Rob Stokes MP
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MEDIA RELEASE

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BOOST FOR NORTH COAST KOALAS

NSW Environment Minister Rob Stokes and Tweed MP Geoff Provest today planted the first small seedling of up to 15,000 koala food trees at Cudgen Nature Reserve, on the NSW north coast.

Mr Stokes said the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Southern Cross University will partner to restore 23 hectares of a degraded former banana lease.

“The NSW Government is committed to providing practical support for koala conservation and starting next month this key partnership will help provide habitat and food essential for their survival,” Mr Stokes said.

“The plantings will enhance catchment values and also improve the biodiversity of Cudgen Nature Reserve, assisting threatened species, such as koalas to establish along vegetation corridors.”

Mr Provest said the site of today’s announcement already featured 7500 koala feed trees that have been planted by Tweed Byron Koala Connections Project and Wetland Care Australia.

“I have been greatly encouraged to see koalas have been seen in the first of these trees, planted in 2012,” Mr Provest said.

“Seeing koalas return to rehabilitated sites like this is a great boost for community confidence that by working together we can make a difference where it matters.

“I am looking forward to similar reports of koalas using these yet-to be planted areas too.

“The \$200,000 project will also involve weed control, bush regeneration and ongoing monitoring of fauna, flora and carbon to help gauge success.

The NPWS will ensure long-term viability of the project through ongoing monitoring and weed control.