



Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Scientific Licence
Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

Name and postal address of principal licensee

[REDACTED]
NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the
Environment and Water
4 PARRAMATTA SQ
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Nominated premises (where appropriate)

Your licence number is: SL102971

This licence is valid from: 14 February 2025

This licence will expire on: 28 February 2030

Additional authorisations:

Project Title: Koala Reintroduction: South East Forest National Park

This class of biodiversity conservation licence granted under Part 2 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* authorises the following activities:

- Harm, by means of capture and injure (attach GPS/VHF collar, microchip, ear tag (with VHF transmitter), sedate, ultrasound, swab, collect biopsy and blood samples), deal in (possess) and liberate (translocate) protected and threatened animals (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) for research, monitoring and conservation purposes.
- Damage habitat of a threatened species by means of pick plants for browse identification and supplementation purposes.
- Conduct research on NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) estate (including installing temporary soft-release enclosures, radio-tracking, drone and scat surveys).

This licence authorises the principal licensee and any associates named in **Attachment A** to conduct those activities authorised above, to those species, communities or materials listed in **Attachment B**, at the locations specified in **Attachment C** of this licence.

This licence also authorises the principal licensee to conduct research on National Park estate under clause 26 of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 (NPW Reg), where this forms part of a project approved by a delegated officer of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

This licence is granted subject to the provisions of *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017, the general conditions listed below, any special conditions as may be notified in writing to the licensee by the Environment Agency Head of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the Department) or a 'delegated officer' of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and the Department's "Scientific Licensing Policy".



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Signature of Delegated Officer

Date: 14 February 2025

LICENCE CONDITIONS

Specific

- a) Please see General conditions 17 – 19 for activities undertaken on NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) estate.
- b) All markers and equipment must be removed from NPWS estate at the end of the project.
- c) The Department's [hygiene guidelines](#) must be followed at all times.
- d) All individuals working independently under the licence must either be listed by full legal name under Attachment A or managed as associates as per General condition 2.
- e) Animals must be managed in accordance with a current Animal Care and Ethics Committee (ACEC) approval as per the *NSW Animal Research Act 1985*.
- f) Any koalas that are captured and deemed not suitable for translocation must be released at point of capture within 24 hours unless approved otherwise by the ACEC approval.
- g) Individuals carrying out activities under this licence must comply with the following additional hygiene requirements:
 - (i) Animals must be handled in such a way to reduce the risk of disease transmission between animals and between humans and animals.
 - (ii) Hands must be washed with soap or 70% alcohol-based hand sanitiser before and after handling each animal.
 - (iii) Gloves must be worn if handling sick or dead animals, or if at risk of creating aerosols, e.g. during carcass dissection. Wearing gloves, long sleeves and dust masks are always recommended.
 - (iv) All equipment that comes into contact with animals must be cleaned and disinfected or replaced between field trips, and field sites.
 - (v) Equipment must be cleaned and disinfected or replaced between contact with individual animals.
 - (vi) Single-use materials, equipment unable to be disinfected after use and biological and hazardous waste must be disposed of properly and in accordance with the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.
- h) Unusual disease, death or mass mortality must be reported to the [NSW Wildlife Health Coordinator](#) or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch hotline (1800 675 888).
- i) Only a veterinarian is authorised to anaesthetise or sedate animals managed under this licence.
- j) Animals must be released and managed as described in the licence application and approved translocation proposal including 'Koala Reintroduction South East Forest NP_Translocation Proposal_v3' (received by the Wildlife Licensing Team on 04/02/2025) or in accordance with the conditions of this licence where the requirements of the licence differ to those described in the application or translocation proposal.
- k) The qty in Attachment B is the maximum number of koalas authorised for translocation up until 31 December 2025. Koalas may be sourced from the Upper Nepean State Conservation Area (SCA) and Narrandera, and released at the recipient site in South East Forest National Park.
- l) A report must be submitted to the WLT within eight (8) weeks of the first stage release, detailing the results of the intensive monitoring phase of Upper Nepean SCA koala first stage release against the short-term criteria.
- m) The licensee must contact the WLT via scientific.licensing@environment.nsw.gov.au within 14 days of any unexpected adverse events that occur.
- n) Separate reports must be provided to the WLT for the translocation of Upper Nepean SCA and Narrandera koalas within four (4) months of each translocation, detailing outcomes of post-release survivorship, including the following:
 - (i) Release dates(s) and locations(s)
 - (ii) Total number of individuals released
 - (iii) Sex ratio of the release cohort(s) and age classes of individuals
 - (iv) Release location (GPS coordinates) of each animal translocated
 - (v) Details of radio-collars and microchips (including tracker ID, chip ID, location and date)
 - (vi) The date and cause of any known mortality event(s) and any mitigation actions taken
 - (vii) Measures and metrics relative to the success criteria as per the translocation proposal
- o) Following the 4-month reporting as per condition n), supplementary monitoring reports must be provided to the WLT within 28 days after each subsequent monitoring survey using the success criteria in the approved Translocation Proposal.
- p) If the timeframe to provide reports as per conditions m) to o) cannot be met, the licensee may seek an extension by contacting the WLT with advice on when the report(s) are due to be submitted.
- q) A report containing findings on each research question detailed in Section 5.6 of the Translocation Proposal must be submitted to the WLT when results are available.
- r) An amendment request must be submitted and approved by the WLT to translocate additional individuals to those listed in Attachment B or to liberate (translocate) koalas to additional recipient locations not listed in Attachment C. An updated translocation proposal in accordance with the Department's [Translocation Operational Policy](#) must be submitted as part of the amendment request.

- s) Collection of samples is to be taken in conjunction with normal management activities, where possible, to avoid additional stress on the animal.
- t) Duplicate or excess blood, hair, faecal and tissue samples must be lodged with the Australian Museum Koala Biobank. This initiative is a requirement of the NSW Koala Strategy. Samples must be collected in accordance with the collection protocol as detailed in Appendix 1 of the [Code of Practice for Injured Sick and Orphaned Koalas](#). When lodging samples, the licensee must complete a Deed of Gift as required by the Australian Museum.
- u) Activities must be conducted in accordance with the Department's [Best Practice Guidelines for the use of Koalas in Scientific Research](#).
- v) The licensee must comply with the Department's [Drones in Parks Policy](#) if surveys are to take place on NPWS estate.
- w) In the case a sick, injured or orphaned koala is found, the licensee must comply with the the [Code of Practice for Injured Sick and Orphaned Koalas](#). Where practicable, the animal must be transferred to a veterinarian or licensed wildlife rehabilitator.
- x) Collection of plant specimens must not impact the viability of the individual or population and only the minimum quantity of plant material required for browse supplementation may be collected.
- y) Clean, sharp secateurs must be used to sample plants.

General

1. Only the person/s named on the licence or authorised to operate under the terms and conditions of the licence, may undertake the work. This licence is not transferable except with written confirmation from the Wildlife Licensing Team ("WLT").
2. The principal licensee may vary the associated parties authorised during the term of the licence only by maintaining a signed and dated register of the associates. A copy of the register must be provided to the WLT at renewal or on request by an authorised officer.
3. The licensee must carry this licence at all times whilst work is being undertaken in the field. Where multiple parties are listed, photocopies will suffice provided some other proof of identity can be provided e.g. Driver's licence.
4. The licensee must provide other parties authorised to conduct the specified activities with a copy of this licence.
5. The licensee must obtain the permission of the owner, manager or occupier of lands upon which research is conducted (for persons working on NPWS lands see also conditions 17-19).
6. Specimens or samples taken under this licence must not be sold, bartered, given, lent or promised to others without the prior written approval of the Environment Agency Head or delegate.
7. Collections or research shall, as far as is possible, be carried out away from the view of the public.

Reporting requirements

8. The licensee undertaking survey, research or other biodiversity assessment works must provide a full report of the work carried out under this licence online via BioNet (previously Atlas of NSW Wildlife) using the most recent version of the Atlas data sheet available at [BioNet Atlas species sightings datasheet](#).
9. The licensee must ensure that all coordinates provided as part of the data submitted to BioNet include a measurement of the accuracy of those coordinates. Coordinate accuracy should be greater than zero but no greater than **100m**.
10. The licensee must submit reports online using a secure login acquired from BioNet. Contact bionet@environment.nsw.gov.au for account details and guidelines.
11. Licensees undertaking work that cannot be supplied in the above format must provide a report to the WLT specifying:
 - a. Title of the project
 - b. A precise description of the locality including geographic coordinates where practical
 - c. Results of the project
12. The licensee may also be required to complete a metadata proforma for works on NPWS estate.
13. Licensees undertaking permanent/semi-permanent marking, banding or tagging must provide marking details (e.g. tag number, date, location, species) to the WLT with any renewal application.
14. The licensee must provide a copy of any final report and/or any scientific papers relating to this work to the Environment Agency Head (marked "attention Wildlife Team") when the study is completed.

Additional reporting requirements for consultants

15. Licences granted to consultants and consulting companies for survey and assessment purposes are required to provide a list of the sites where work was conducted and a list of the reports produced. A copy of these reports may be requested.
16. Reports in accordance with licence conditions 8. to 15. must be provided annually, from the "valid from" date of the licence.

Projects undertaken on NPWS managed land

17. The licensee may only undertake works in NPWS managed lands with the prior written approval of the relevant Area Manager and comply with any imposed restrictions or conditions.
18. The licensee must maintain regular contact with the NPWS Area office throughout the project as park management activities and other events may affect access to research locations. Access to reserves may be restricted during management activities or while the reserve is closed for other reasons.
19. The licensee must only use vehicles on public roads unless otherwise approved by an authorised officer.

It is an offence under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* to breach any of the conditions of this licence, issue any false receipt, make a false entry in any record, or otherwise keep a false record or provide false or misleading records or information.

Records, notifications and inquiries should be directed to:

Wildlife Licensing Team
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

Phone: 02 9585 6406
Fax: 02 9585 6401
Email: scientific.licensing@environment.nsw.gov.au

Additional Information for licence holders

It is the licence holder's responsibility to ensure they are familiar with any other relevant statutory or regulatory provisions relevant to this licence such as the **National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019**, particularly with respect to activities undertaken on NPWS managed lands, the **Firearms Act 1999**, any local council, building and health requirements and codes of practice under the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979**, as well as specific requirements under the **Animal Research Act 1985**. On the expiration of your licence the onus is on you to renew. While NPWS forwards renewal notices to the principal licensee, it will not be responsible for the non-receipt of such a notice.

It is the licensee's responsibility to inform themselves of any likely hazards and ensure that appropriate risk management and emergency procedures are developed and in place for works undertaken on NPWS managed lands. The risk management and emergency procedures will also extend to cover the Department staff and any other third parties which may be impacted by the licensee's works. The Department accepts no responsibility for any event which results in the licensee suffering any loss. The licensee will be held liable for any damages resulting from their works which have impacted on the Department staff or any other third party.

Attachment A

Other parties

In addition to the principal licensee identified above, the following parties are also authorised under this licence:

Title	Name
Mr	[REDACTED]
Dr	[REDACTED]
Ms	[REDACTED]
Mr	[REDACTED]
Ms	[REDACTED]

Part 2 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*

Attachment B

Licence Class

Class Name	Class Start Date
Translocation/reintroduction	14/02/2025
Research	14/02/2025

Focus of work

This project authorises the licensee to Harm, Pick, collect or otherwise interact with the following species, communities or materials as described on this licence in the listed quantities:

Species Type	Family	Genus	Species	Subspecies	Species Code	Common Name	Target Parts	Units	Qty
FA	Phascolarctidae	Phascolarctos	cinereus		1162	KOALA	Whole animal	Individuals	35

Attachment C

Project location

This project is authorised in the following areas:

NPWS Estate

Tenure Type	Branch	Region	Area	Park
NPWS Estate	Coastal	Far South Coast	Merimbula	South East Forest National Park
NPWS Estate	Metro and Mountains	Blue Mountains	Hawkesbury-Nattai	Upper Nepean State Conservation Area

Other

Tenure Type	State Forests	LLS Region	LGA	Lot Sec DP	Other Location
Other			Wingecarribee		
Other			Narrandera		
Other			Bega Valley		
Other					University of Sydney
Other					Western Sydney University