

MEDIA RELEASE

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BUDGET BOOST FOR CONSERVATION

A \$50 million commitment in today's Budget effectively doubles the amount the NSW Government spends to purchase conservation land over five years.

"This is a fantastic outcome for conservation," Environment Minister, Ms Gabrielle Upton, said.

"The plan is simple: purchase high conservation-priority land and add it to the State's reserves.

"It's a major win for the environment and provides a significant boost to the protection of our State's biodiversity.

"The purchases will be made under the Environmental Trust's Land Acquisition Program.

"It's another way we are increasing the State's National Parks estate, which allows us to protect a vast range of habitats and ecosystems, plant and animal species and landforms.

"In particular, we want to increase koala habitat to support the Government's recently announced Koala Strategy.

"This move effectively doubles the usual \$5 million a year the Environmental Trust has committed to important land acquisition for the reserve system.

Altogether, some \$24.9 million has now been allocated by this Government to acquire land containing high-priority koala habitat.

"This investment in land acquisition for national parks, combined with the conservation efforts on private land, is another clear demonstration of the Government's commitment to taking action to improve environmental outcomes for NSW."

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