

Conservation Action Plan

Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)

This plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of s.78C of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 (Reg.) in relation to an Asset of Intergenerational Significance (AIS) as declared under s.153G of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Site details

AIS site	AIS-E0-179, AIS-E0-180, AIS-E0-182, AIS-E0-184, AIS-E0-186, AIS-E0-188, AIS-E0-191
Site location	<p>An area of 4564 hectares in Bindarri National Park</p> <p>An area of 434 hectares in Bindarri State Conservation Reserve</p> <p>An area of 3859 hectares Bongil Bongil National Park</p> <p>An area of 1653 hectares Crowdy Bay National Park</p> <p>An area of 392 hectares in Goonengerry National Park</p> <p>An area of 436 hectares in Innes Ruins Historic Site</p> <p>An area of 1227 hectares in Lake Innes Nature Reserve</p> <p>An area of 316 hectares in Lake Innes State Conservation Area</p> <p>An area of 1314 hectares in Queens Lake Nature Reserve</p> <p>An area of 999 hectares in Queens Lake State Conservation Reserve</p> <p>An area of 2417 hectares in Maria National Park</p> <p>An area of 2664 hectares in Nightcap National Park</p> <p>An area of 2331 hectares in Whian Whian State Conservation Area</p>
NPWS contact	Team Leader Conservation, North Coast Branch

Environmental values

This table sets out the environmental values for which the land was listed as an AIS (Reg. 78C(3)(a)).

Identified value(s)	Value description
Important habitat for the koala	The koala is an arboreal marsupial with a fragmented distribution throughout eastern NSW. This endangered species inhabits eucalypt woodlands and forests, feeding on the foliage of more than 70 eucalypt species and 30 non-eucalypt species. Koalas are inactive during the day, feeding and moving mostly at night.

Key risks to environmental values

This table sets out the key risks to the environmental values of the land (Reg. 78C(3)(b)).

Key risk(s)	Description
Inappropriate fire regimes	Inappropriate fire frequency and intensity that alters vegetation composition and structure may lead to a reduction in suitable habitat and food availability and affect the persistence of koalas at the sites. This risk is exacerbated by lack of knowledge of the population distribution and understanding of animal movements.
Feral predators	Predation of koalas by wild dogs.
Pathogens, diseases and microorganisms	Infection by <i>Chlamydia pecorum</i> , leading to chlamydial disease and koala retrovirus can result in mortality of individuals and reduce reproductive success leading to a decline in koala populations at the sites
Anthropogenic climate change	A combination of increased maximum temperatures and decreased rainfall may result in heat stress to koalas leading to increased mortality. Changes to weather patterns and climatic conditions as a result of anthropogenic climate change that leads to increased frequency and severity of drought conditions, extreme temperature days and fire may adversely impact the health of koala habitat and reduce the nutritional value of preferred food resources leading to a decline in koala populations at the sites.
Unintended harm	Impact to species from vehicle strike.

Conservation activities

This table sets out the conservation activities required to:

1. Control, abate or mitigate the key risks and
2. maintain, restore and remediate the environmental values of the land (Reg. 78C(3)(c)).

Key risk(s)	Impacted site(s)	Conservation activities
Inappropriate fire regimes	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop guidance on the appropriate fire management for the habitat of the koala within 12 months of adoption of this plan and update as required. This guidance must provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maintenance of an appropriate fire regime by developing and implementing a site-specific burn plan for the declared areas - implementation of any required fire protection and response measures in the declared areas - Integration of site-specific requirements into NPWS and NSW Government bushfire planning, risk management and operational response arrangements. • Implement fire management consistent with the guidance.
Feral predators	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To the extent practicable, undertake opportunistic wild dog control (shooting, trapping, baiting or other approved methods) to reduce the density of wild dogs to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the koala, and maintain the density at or below that level.
Pathogens, diseases and microorganisms	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify trigger points and required interventions for koala decline associated with disease outbreaks.

Key risk(s)	Impacted site(s)	Conservation activities
Anthropogenic climate change	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If required, assess direct impact of anthropogenic climate change on koalas and the species habitat. If a decline in species trajectory is attributed to impacts of anthropogenic climate change, implement measures to mitigate the impacts of temperature extremes on the koala population at the sites.
Unintended harm	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install signage to educate and raise awareness of the risk to koalas from vehicle strikes.
All risks	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If required, undertake habitat restoration or improvement through supplemental planting and other practical methods to improve the availability of palatable species and habitat tree diversity at the sites.

Other land management activities

Within the declared land there are existing assets and infrastructure of NPWS and other external service providers, including public utilities.

Maintenance operations (including inspection, emergency works and routine and standard maintenance) that are exempt development in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, and which are performed on and around existing assets and infrastructure, are authorised under this conservation action plan (CAP) provided such operations are undertaken in a manner that aims to minimise the risk to the declared environmental values of the land and with any other required consents or approvals.

All maintenance operations on the declared land are to be undertaken in accordance with this CAP.

Measuring and reporting

This table sets out the requirements for measuring and reporting on health and condition (Reg. 78C(3)(d)).

Attribute	Metric	Method
Health and condition of the koala population	Population estimate, or area of occupancy (if population estimate is not feasible)	Design, and implement every five years, a survey to generate an estimate of the number of mature individuals at the sites. If this is not feasible, design and implement every five years a survey to estimate the area of occupancy of koalas at the sites.

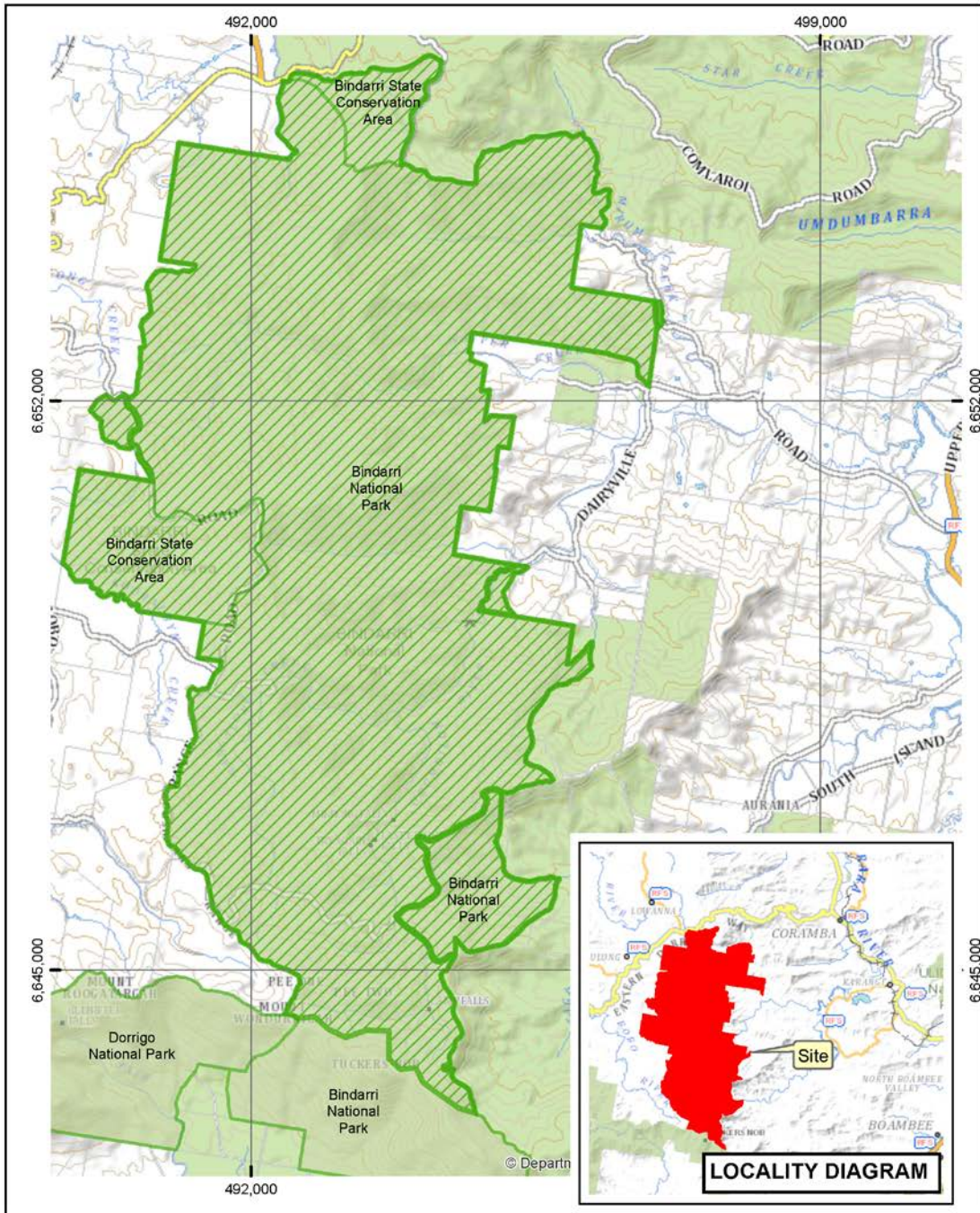
A report on the health and condition of the value for which this AIS was declared will be prepared and published on the Department of Planning and Environment website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au. The report will summarise the baseline and current health and condition of the values of the declared land and its overall trajectory.

Evaluation of conservation action plans



This CAP will be amended or replaced as new information becomes available that helps improve our management of the identified assets (Reg. 78H).

The Secretary must appoint a scientist, or a panel of scientists, to conduct a review, as soon as possible after the period of five years from the first approval of a CAP, to examine whether CAPs have been effectively implemented (Reg. 78J(1)).

Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
Conservation Action Plan





Legend

-  Declared Land
-  NPWS Estate

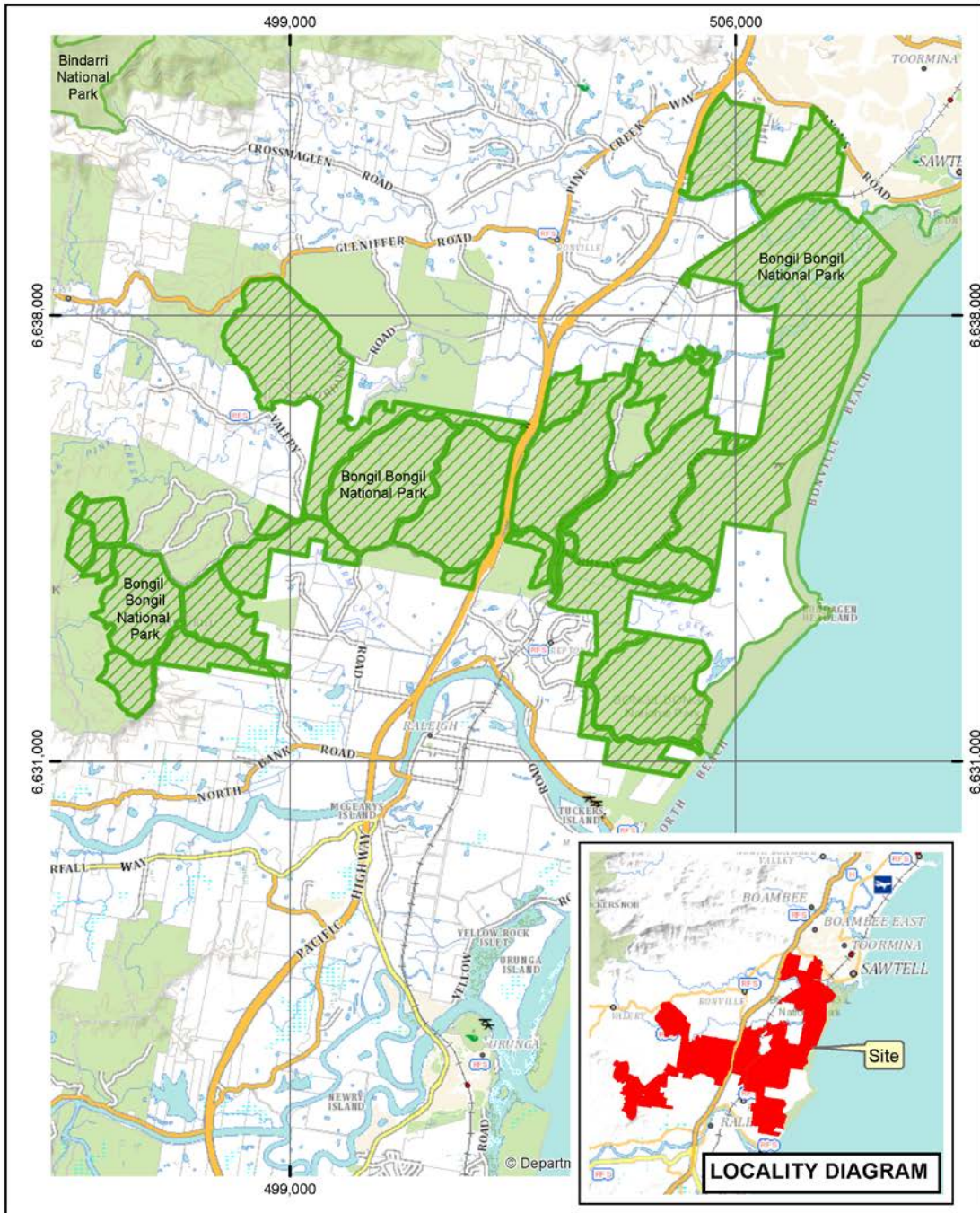
AIS-E0-179
Asset of Intergenerational Significance
Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area

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Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
Conservation Action Plan



Legend

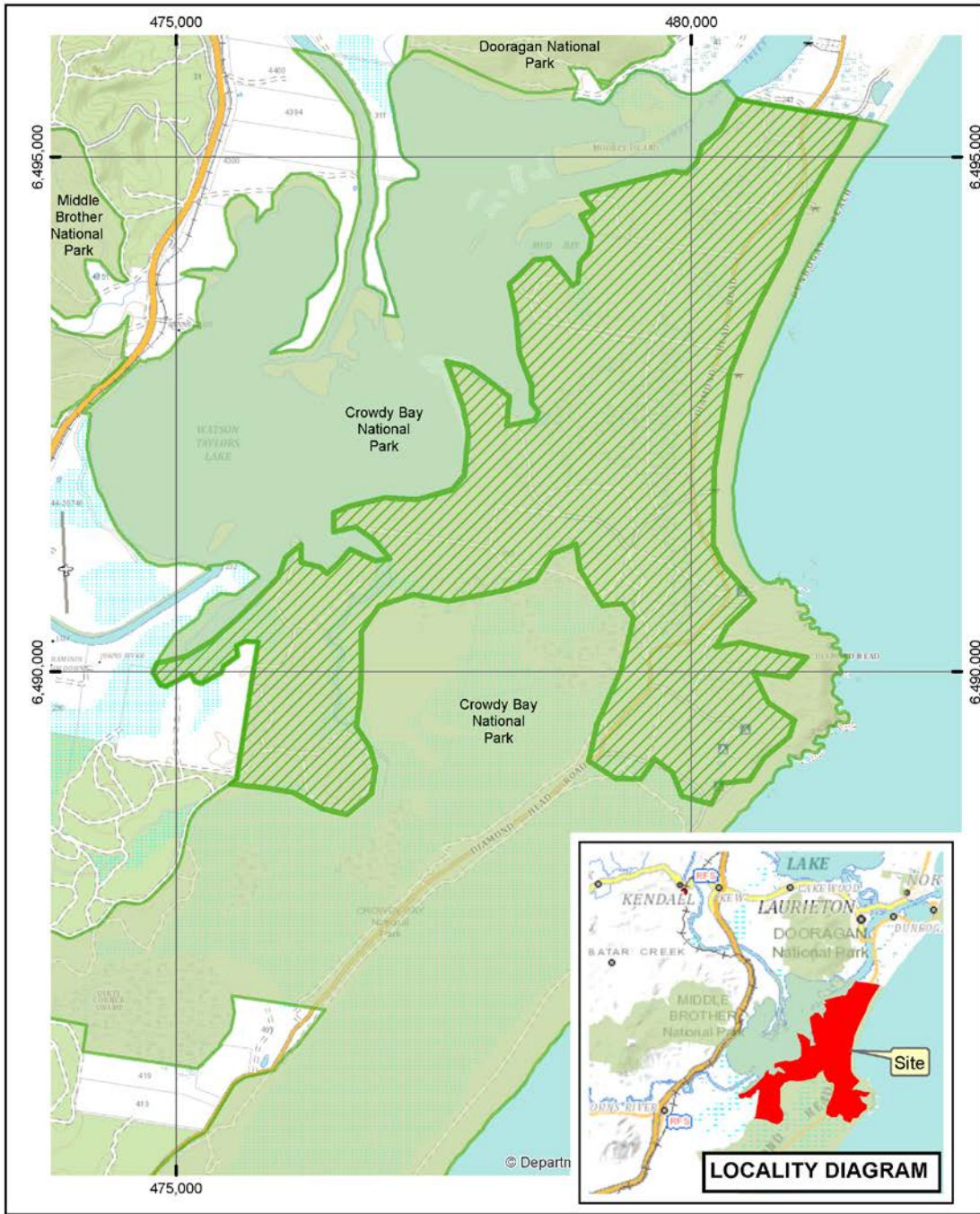
- Declared Land
- NPWS Estate

AIS-E0-180
Asset of Intergenerational Significance
Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
Bongil Bongil National Park



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Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
Conservation Action Plan





Legend

-  Declared Land
-  NPWS Estate

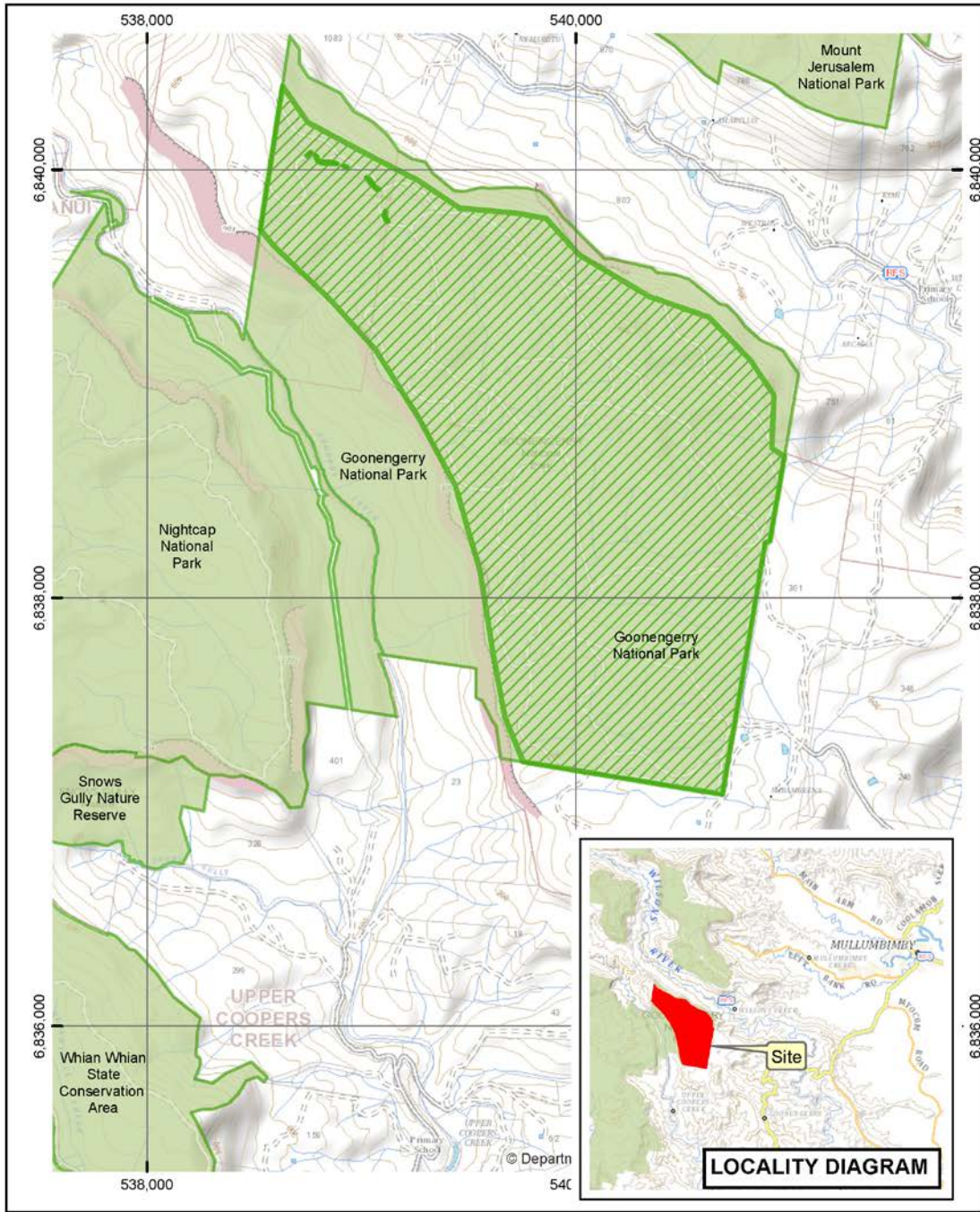
AIS-E0-182
Asset of Intergenerational Significance
Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
Crowdy Bay National Park

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Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
Conservation Action Plan




Legend



-  Declared Land
-  NPWS Estate

AIS-E0-184
Asset of Intergenerational Significance
Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
Goonengerry National Park

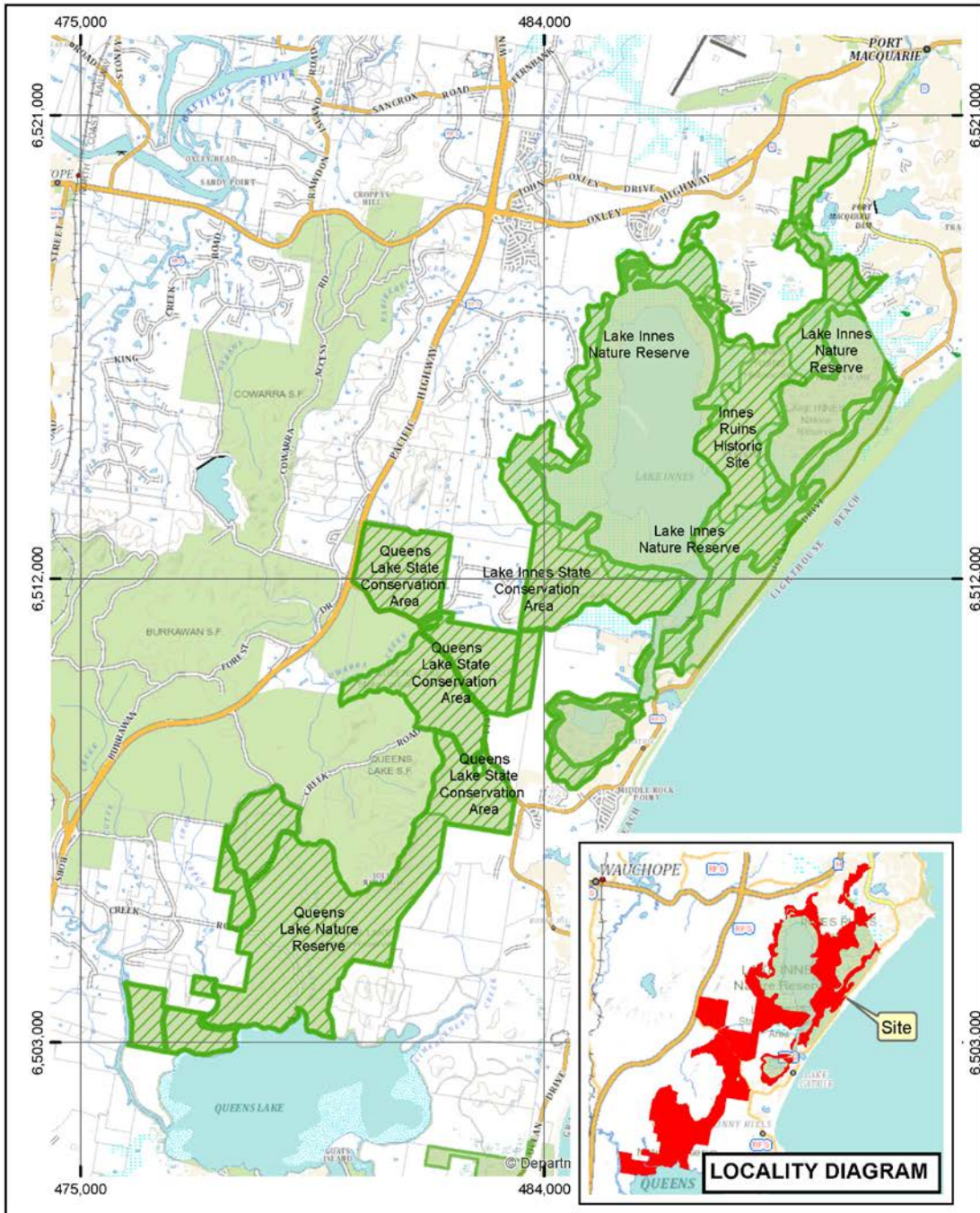
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Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
Conservation Action Plan



Legend

-  Declared Land
-  NPWS Estate



AIS-E0-186

Asset of Intergenerational Significance
Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
Innes Ruins Historic Site, Lake Innes Nature Reserve, Lake Innes State Conservation Area, Queens Lake Nature Reserve and Queens Lake State Conservation Area

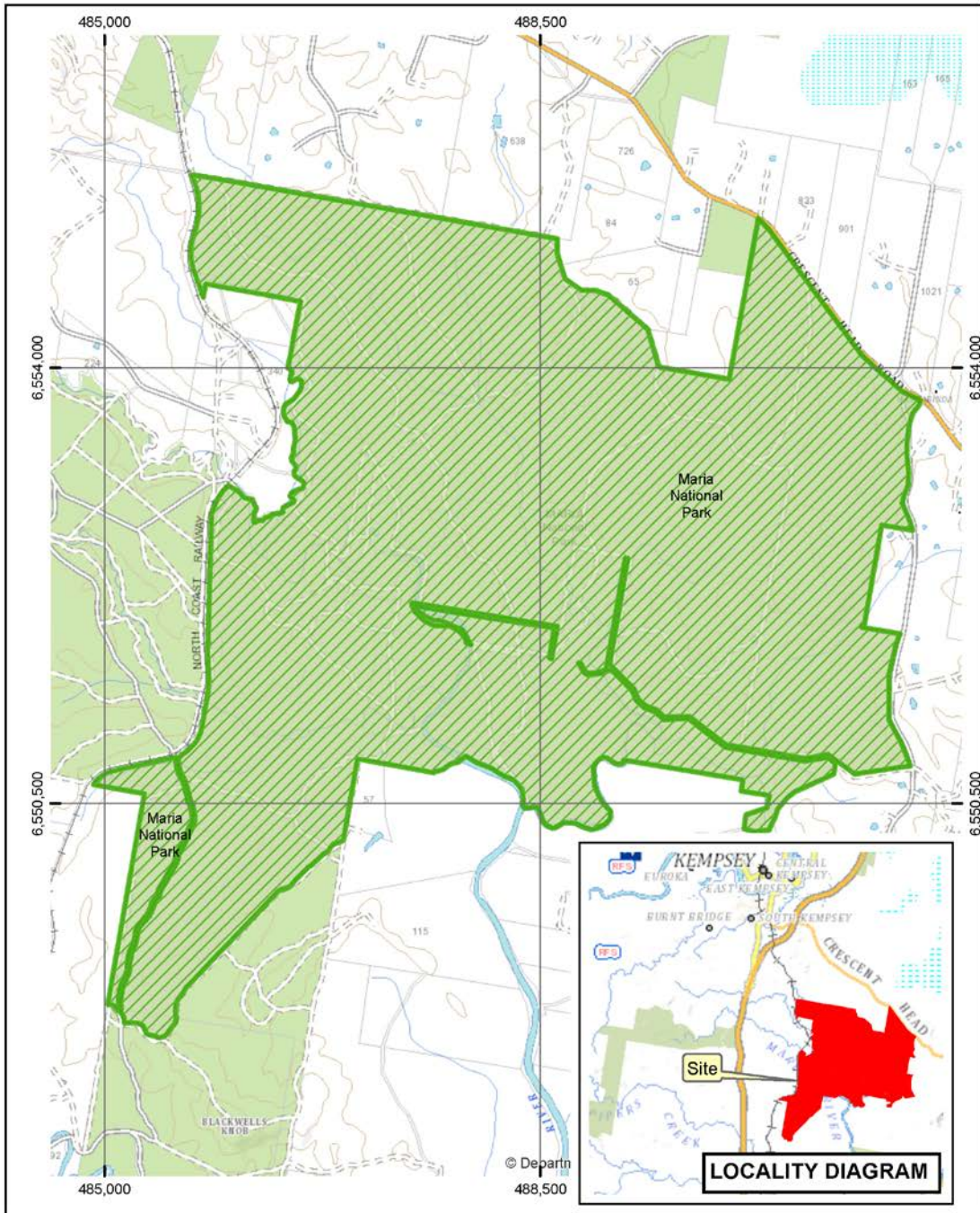
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Legend

-  Declared Land
-  NPWS Estate

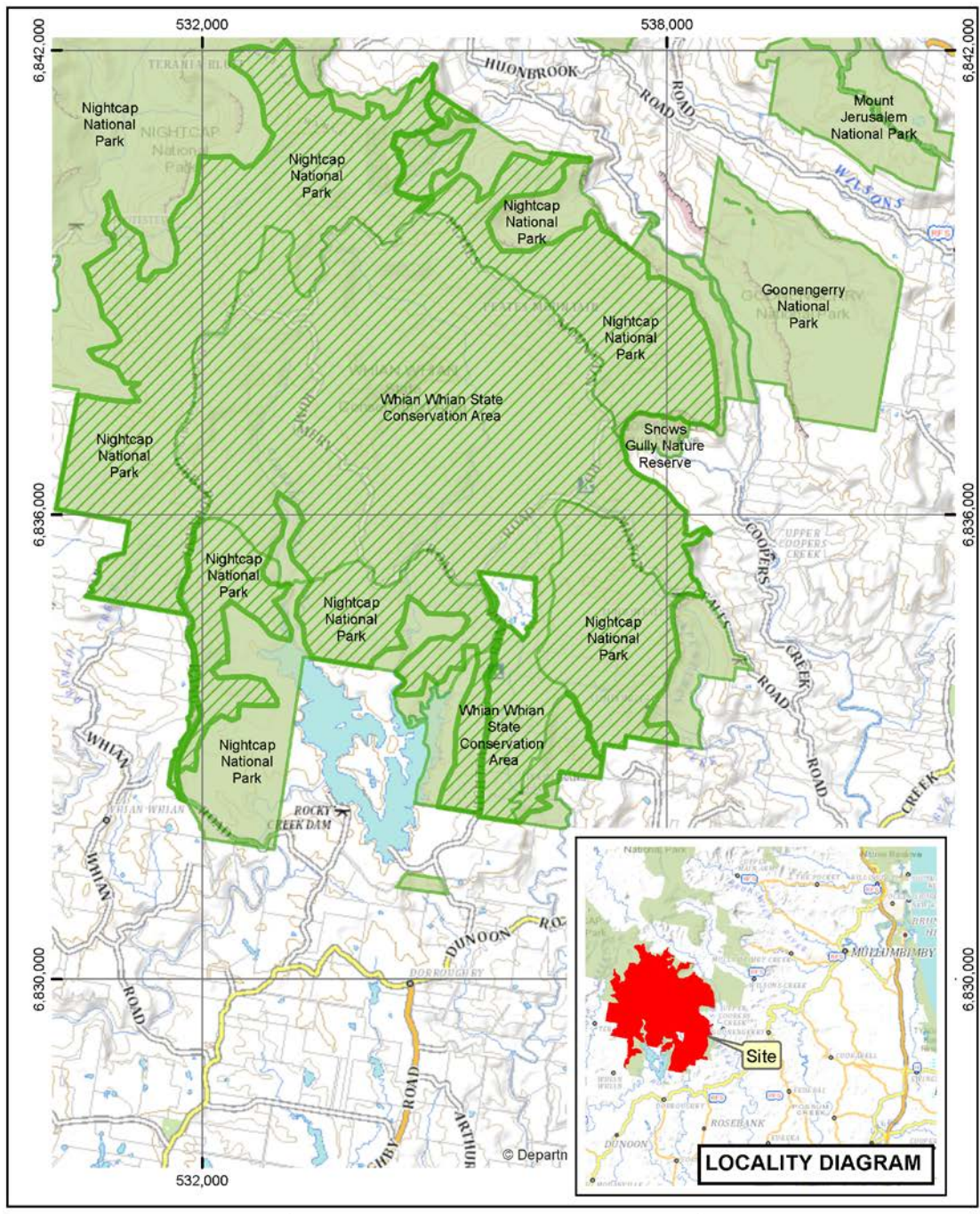
AIS-E0-188
Asset of Intergenerational Significance
Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
Maria National Park

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Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
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Legend

-  Declared Land
-  NPWS Estate

AIS-E0-191
Asset of Intergenerational Significance
Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
Nightcap National Park and Whian Whian State Conservation Area

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Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
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Approved by	Atticus Fleming, A/Co-ordinator General Environment and Heritage Group
Due for review	August 2027

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