

NSW Budget 2023-24



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Media Release

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NSW Government boosts koala funding to bring them back from the brink

The Minns Labor Government has committed to saving koalas in NSW, ensuring future generations can continue to see them in the wild, with **\$172 million** in new funding in the 2023-24 NSW Budget.

To bring the iconic koala back from the brink, the NSW Government is intensifying efforts to protect them with an **\$80 million** downpayment for the Great Koala National Park.

The Budget also includes **\$88 million** over four years to protect crucial koala habitat in south and south-western Sydney by creating the Georges River Koala National Park, building infrastructure to allow koalas to safely cross busy roads, creating a wildlife corridor in Woronora and funding the Koala Care Centre in Macarthur. **\$3.5 million** has been reserved for local koala care organisations.

The Budget includes another **\$272 million** in new funding for the Environment and Heritage Portfolio, taking the total to **\$444 million**.

Visitor infrastructure in NSW National Parks will be renewed and upgraded under a **\$74 million** allocation over four years. This will see new and improved walking paths, camping grounds, lookouts, picnic facilities and amenities, to ensure our parks continue to provide unforgettable experiences, from camping trips in the bush to coastal getaways and alpine adventures.

This is on top of **\$22 million** over four years to increase the number of National Parks field officers and **\$13 million** to complete the Wollie Creek Regional Park.

The NSW Government is providing **\$61 million** over four years to help private landholders protect our most at-risk landscapes and threatened species. This funding will see the Government step in to save 85 staff who perform crucial biodiversity roles. The previous government left them on a funding cliff, but this Government will save their positions.

The Budget also includes an essential boost to World Heritage listed Lord Howe Island to improve its previously neglected waste management system, funding for the NSW Heritage Strategy, and **\$800,000** for citizen science projects to enable community groups to monitor the health of local waterways.

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