

# Proposed Great Koala National Park boundary stops mid north coast timber logging

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The Great Koala National Park will help protect more than 12,000 koalas. (Supplied: L. Patabendi)

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## In short:

The NSW government has announced the proposed boundary of what could become the state's largest national park on the mid north coast.

It means an immediate halt to local timber logging will take effect from Monday but harvesting in plantations will continue.

## What's next?

The Great Koala National Park is due to be formally gazetted in 2026.

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The long-touted Great Koala National Park designed to protect thousands of native and threatened species on the state's mid north coast is one step closer.

NSW Environment Minister Penny Sharpe has today announced the proposed boundary of what could become the state's largest national park at 476,000 hectares.

It will run inland of Coffs Harbour, going south down to Kempsey and as far north as Grafton, and is home to more than 12,000 koalas as well as 100 threatened species, including greater gliders.


More than 175,000 hectares of state forest will be added to the existing reserves in the area.

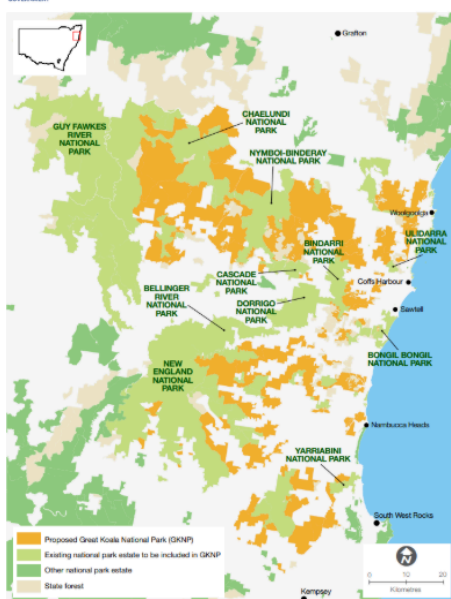
"We also want this to become an iconic tourism destination that people locally and from overseas will want to visit," Ms Sharpe said.

The park was one of the [commitments taken to the 2023 state election by Premier Chris Minns](#) and Ms Sharpe said it could be formally gazetted next year.

"There's been a comprehensive assessment over the past two years looking at all the impacts," she said.

NSW National Parks Association Coffs Harbour branch president Grahame Douglas has welcomed progress to the national park and said it would provide a significant boost to conservation efforts.

 Proposed Great Koala National Park



The Great park Koala National Park will connect existing national parks. (Supplied: NSW government)

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"To be able to actually protect our forests and protect our native wildlife, not only koalas, but greater gliders and many other threatened species," he said.

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The national park will provide habitat for more than 100 threatened species, including greater gliders. (Supplied: Monica Knipler)

## Timber industry affected

For the final stages of The Great Koala National Park to progress, Ms Sharpe said a temporary halt to timber logging within the proposed boundary would take effect from Monday, but harvesting in plantations would continue.

She said the moratorium would impact six out of about 25 local timber mills, approximately 300 workers, and may result in some permanent closures in the future.

"The importance is that we know there is an impact and for some people that will be really difficult," Ms Sharpe said.

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"We've got a really comprehensive plan in place to work through that and we'll continue to do that."

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Penny Sharpe says the Great Koala National Park could be formally established in 2026. (Supplied: Kylie Hands)

The NSW Forestry Corporation said there would be no immediate standdowns and staff would be prioritised for new roles in the NPWS.

NSW Nationals leader Dugald Saunders has criticised the moratorium and said it was the wrong move.

"You can still do a Great Koala National Park, you just need to make sure some of those high-quality production areas are maintained and you can still have the corridors necessary to protect our local fauna," he said.

"It's not about one thing or the other."



The moratorium will affect approximately 300 jobs. (Supplied)

The state government said all affected businesses had been consulted and financial compensation would be available.

But Mr Saunders said the flow-on effects would be huge.

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"There'll be all of the downflow effects on haulage," he said.

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"All of the truck drivers, all of the people who look after the truck drivers. All of the people and businesses who provide the certainty of the timber industry."

## Aboriginal rangers to be employed

Dedicated Aboriginal rangers will be employed through Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to work on cultural heritage within the park. The park is a significant cultural landscape for the Gumbaynggirr and Dunghutti peoples.



The state government says the national park will protect old growth forest and important water catchments. (Supplied: NSW government)

It will provide new opportunities for the Aboriginal community to continue to manage and care for their country.

NSW Nature Conservation Council chief executive Jacqui Mumford said prioritising First Nations knowledge and management was critical to protecting country.

The NSW government said an expected indirect economic surplus from visitation to The Great Koala National Park was estimated at more than \$160 million over the next two decades, generating 85,000 extra visitor nights per year.

参考

政府のメディアリリース: The Great Koala National Park

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/ministerial-releases/great-koala-national-park>

元記事	<a href="https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-09-07/great-koala-national-park-to-go-ahead-on-nsw-mid-north-coast/105743430">https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-09-07/great-koala-national-park-to-go-ahead-on-nsw-mid-north-coast/105743430</a>
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