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NSW koalas to be protected with new grant

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NSW will get \$1.9 million in federal funding to help protect koala populations on the state's far south coast.

State environment minister Robyn Parker says the federal biodiversity grant will support a six-year NSW government program.

"The OEH (Office of Environment and Heritage) has surveyed koalas on the far south coast for the last four years and this funding will help strike a balance between koala conservation and a sustainable native timber industry for the region," Ms Parker said.

"There will be harvest exclusion zones in forestry operations totalling 2,800 hectares of land, and these are located in the Murrah, Mumbulla and Bermagui State Forests.

Forests NSW would also receive assistance identifying alternative timber supplies from suitable areas of state forests, Ms Parker said.

"This collaborative effort has a real chance of helping koalas again thrive on the far south coast in our lifetimes."

Ms Parker also welcomed last week's federal listing of koalas as a vulnerable species.

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