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| **Project title:** Independent Koala Expert Panel  |
| **Name:**  | **Date:** |
| **Current position:**  | **Contact details:**  |
| **Background and Scope:**  | The Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer is seeking Expressions of Interest to join its Independent Koala Expert Panel. The NSW Koala Strategy sets out the actions over five years towards achieving the long-term goal of doubling koala numbers in NSW by 2050. The Independent Koala Expert Panel commenced in 2018 to inform the development of the NSW Koala Strategy 2018-2021 and provide ongoing advice and expertise into the strategy’s implementation and delivery. The next phase of the Strategy sees the current ‘standing panel’ model move to a ‘panel of experts’ model. Under this design, the Expert Panel will expand to include more members, representing the diverse areas of expertise required to review and support the delivery of the Strategy |
| **Project timeframe:** | March 2024 to June 2026 (*note: Completion date is as per ToR; this may be extended if additional time is required*)  |
| **Expert Panel role:**  | At the direction of the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer, provide scientific expert advice and expertise related to koala conservation measures in NSW, including to support implementation and review of the NSW Koala Strategy and other matters requested. The Expert Panel will be responsible for:* reviewing the annual adaptive management report, provided by the Environment and Heritage Group (EHG), containing current monitoring and research data, an update on the progress of the NSW Koala Strategy, and new and changing risks to the program
* providing annual advice to the Minister for Environment and Heritage (the Minister), with recommendations for new priorities and adjustments to the Strategy
* engaging with the Department to support the implementation and review of the NSW Koala Strategy Program (the Program)
* providing scientific and other advice related to koala conservation measures in NSW and other matters requested by the Minister
* evaluating the current Strategy at its completion in 2026 and advising the required action over the following five years.
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| **Attachments:** | * Cover page outlining how you meet the below selection criteria (one page limit)
* CV (two-page limit)
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| **Selection criteria**  | 1. Demonstrated expert knowledge in any of the below areas:
* Koala ecology, behaviour and distribution
* Koala landscape and biodiversity conservation, with experience and/or knowledge in koala habitat restoration
* Land use planning and land management frameworks, and/or private land management for conservation
* Aboriginal perspectives, including traditional ecological knowledge. **The Expert Panel will include at least one Aboriginal member with expertise in Aboriginal perspectives, engagement, traditional ecological knowledge and/or koala management. Please indicate if this is you in your cover letter**
* Community engagement for conservation outcomes
* Koala threat and disease mitigation
* Koala rehabilitation and wildlife care, and koala emergency response
* Captive breeding translocation
* Monitoring (for example, monitoring koala populations, habitat, disease, genetic diversity, and threats)
* Genetics and population dynamics.
1. Demonstrated experience in supporting a similar program
2. Demonstrate an understanding of koala ecology and conservation scientific method, and a capacity and willingness to make objective, evidence-based decisions.
3. Demonstrate strong analytical and communication skills and be able to apply these skills objectively.
4. Demonstrate an ability to express opinions frankly and ask critical questions.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the broader contextual challenges in koala conversation in NSW; understand the various stakeholder/community interests at play; and be able to operate objectively within these settings.
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| **Please comment on any limitation of the work to be undertaken, including any potential conflicts of interest and time availability** |  |