

## CASE STUDY

# “Wunelli” Tumut Biodiversity & Productivity



Lee and Louise Kingma are landholders of “Wunelli,” a 900-hectare farm located south of Tumut, NSW.

The property primarily operates as a grass-fed cattle and fat lamb enterprise, while also containing extensive native bushland adjoining Kosciuszko National Park.

This bushland provides important habitat for several threatened species, including:

- Gang-gang cockatoo
- Powerful owl
- Barking owl
- Greater gliders

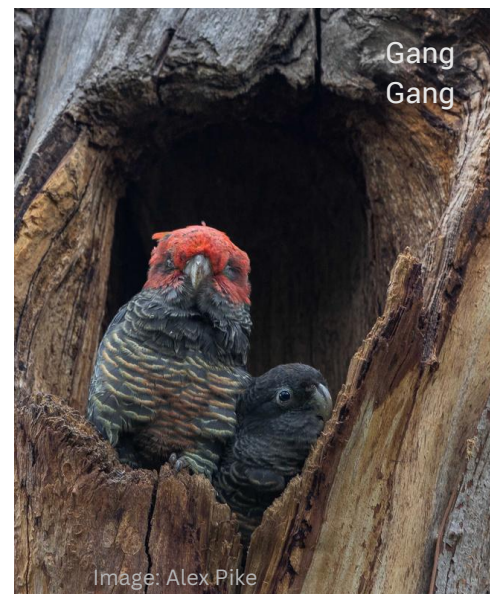
Like many Australian landholders, the Kingmas faced a common challenge:

- Limited financial return from native vegetation areas
- Increasing interest in biodiversity protection, but unclear pathways to monetisation
- Complexity around biodiversity markets, carbon opportunities, and stewardship programs

The Kingmas aimed to:

- Better understand the value of their bushland
- Explore opportunities to diversify farm income beyond traditional agriculture
- Maintain a balance between productive farming and environmental stewardship
- Support biodiversity conservation while keeping the farm commercially viable

*“We’ve found a couple of Gang Gang nests which we didn’t realise we had - so we have brought the fence line out as we have increased our understanding of the importance of protecting them” – Lee Kingma*



## Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements

You can enter into a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA) to manage and protect biodiversity on your land. When you do this, you earn biodiversity credits.

You can sell these credits to:

- Developers who need to offset the environmental impact of their projects.
- Other buyers in the biodiversity credit market.

Kingmas first heard about BSA through a major infrastructure project occurring in their area. They saw a BSA not only as a way to restore habitat and ecosystems, but also as a way to potentially safeguard special areas from future developments.

Kingmas received assistance through the Stewardship Support Program (run by NSW DCCEEW) which helps eligible landholders create biodiversity credits by supporting them in entering into a biodiversity stewardship agreement. As they were eligible and able to create in-demand biodiversity credits, they received a full biodiversity site assessment and other support at no cost. They have subsequently entered into a BSA for a 310 hectare site.

When a BSA is created a Total Fund Deposit (TFD) amount is reserved from sale proceeds that provides confidence that the management actions required under a biodiversity stewardship agreement will be undertaken and lead to biodiversity gains.

Five years from the initial enquiry into the process, Kingmas are progressing towards selling enough credits to enter active management of the project area.

*“This property has been in my family for five generations, but the project revealed its remarkable biodiversity. Ecologists used drones, cameras and audio monitoring to show us the significance of the bushland. Now I enjoy exploring secluded areas on Mount Blowering, especially the tree fern spots.” – Louise Kingma*

### Indicative Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement Process

- Map area of property to conserve
- Apply to Stewardship Support Program
- Receive outcome of application
- Full biodiversity site assessment (if successful)
- Seek legal & financial advice
- Enter into Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement
- Sell credits to meet Total Fund Deposit amount
- Start receiving management payment
- Proceeds from additional sales of biodiversity credits are income for the landholder

