

Fast Facts on koala mapping



The new koala habitat maps first released in February 2020 overcome limitations of previous mapping, such as inconsistencies in the way koala habitat was mapped across the 12 South East Queensland (SEQ) local government areas.

The koala maps identify four important areas:

- Koala priority areas
- Core koala habitat areas
- Locally refined koala habitat areas
- Koala habitat restoration areas

What does it mean if an area is mapped as a koala priority area?

Koala priority areas are large, connected areas that have the highest potential for supporting the long-term survival of koalas. They include koala habitat areas and areas suitable for restoration, and will provide a focus for koala conservation efforts.

Clearing of core and locally refined koala habitat areas within a koala priority area is prohibited, subject to certain exemptions.



What does it mean if an area is mapped as core koala habitat?

- Clearing of core koala habitat areas within a koala priority area is prohibited, subject to certain exemptions.
- The Queensland Government has assumed responsibility for assessing developments that propose the clearing of core koala habitat areas outside of koala priority areas against a new state code, subject to certain exemptions.
- For proposed developments that don't involve clearing but are within koala habitat areas, the Queensland Government has developed assessment benchmarks that will support councils to consider koala conservation within project proposals.
- Exemptions include the ability to clear a development footprint up to 500m², clearing for firebreaks, maintenance and other activities that are considered reasonable to allow landholders to live on and manage their properties.
- For the full list of exemptions, see Schedule 24 of the Planning Regulation 2017.



What does it mean if an area is mapped as both koala priority area and core koala habitat?

- Clearing of core koala habitat within a koala priority area is prohibited, subject to certain exemptions.
- Exemptions include the ability to clear a development footprint up to 500m², clearing for firebreaks, maintenance and other activities that are considered reasonable to allow landholders to live on and manage their properties.
- For the full list of exemptions, see Schedule 24 of the Planning Regulation 2017.



What does it mean if an area is mapped as koala priority area and locally refined koala habitat?

- Clearing of locally refined koala habitat within a koala priority area is prohibited, subject to certain exemptions.
- Exemptions include the ability to clear a development footprint up to 500m², clearing for firebreaks, maintenance and other activities that are considered reasonable to allow landholders to live on and manage their properties.
- For the full list of exemptions, see Schedule 24 of the Planning Regulation 2017.

What does it mean if an area is mapped as locally refined koala habitat?

- Locally refined koala habitat areas include areas of mature vegetation that might not meet the Queensland Government's criteria for core koala habitat areas. However, these areas may contain locally important vegetation for koalas, including some areas previously protected under local government planning schemes.
- Locally refined koala habitat areas are provided the same level of protection, within Queensland's planning framework, as core koala habitat for a transitional period of two years.
- The Queensland Government will work closely with local governments to transition locally refined koala habitat areas into the core koala habitat map, where areas meet the core koala habitat criteria, and support local governments to put in place protections for broader biodiversity values where a local government seeks to do so.

What does it mean if an area is mapped as koala restoration area?

- Koala habitat restoration areas have been identified as being potentially suitable for restoration and establishment as koala habitat areas, on the basis of having high conservation opportunities and low threats.
- There is no statutory requirement to accept restoration on your property, if it is mapped as a koala habitat restoration area.
- These areas help prioritise investment in koala habitat restoration or environmental offsets, and may provide new opportunities for stewardship by landholders.