South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2020–2025

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Queensland Government

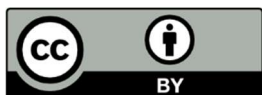June 2022

Executive Summary

Through the *South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2020 - 2025*, the Queensland Government committed to providing leadership for more strategic and coordinated action and investment in koala conservation across government, research, business and industry, wildlife care, land restoration and community partnerships.

To realise this, the Queensland Government has established frameworks for cooperative investment, and monitoring and evaluation, which support outcomes over the life of the Strategy and for koala population recovery in the long term.

This *South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy Phase 1 Implementation Plan* provides guidance for the implementation of the Strategy and supports the Queensland Government's commitment to transparent implementation by providing a high-level overview of the activities to be undertaken to achieve successful outcomes against the 46 actions of the Strategy. In doing so, this plan identifies the timeframes for delivery, the lead agents and the key stakeholders for each activity to ensure the vision, key targets and actions of the Strategy are achieved.

This plan sets out the delivery of actions through partnerships with local government, natural resource managers and conservation groups, non-government organisations, wildlife hospitals and carers, industry and other stakeholders. Other components of the strategic implementation framework include:

- The Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Framework;
- The Post Implementation Review; and
- The mid-term strategy review.

Introduction

The natural environment of South East Queensland (SEQ) is one of the best areas in Australia to ensure the long-term survival of koalas as there is still important areas of koala habitat and community interest in seeing koalas in their backyards. However, as identified by the Koala Expert Panel (KEP), koala numbers have been declining in the area over many years. The reasons for this decline are largely associated with the pressure to accommodate an increasing population in the region, including habitat clearing and fragmentation, and threats such as vehicle strikes and dog attacks. Climate change, including hotter and dryer summers, bushfires and disease all increase stress on koalas.

The South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy (the Strategy) was launched on 28 August 2020. The Strategy sets out the partnership approach needed to reverse the decline in koala population numbers and secure their long-term survival in SEQ.

The Strategy is clear that the Queensland Government cannot deliver the change alone. It acknowledges the excellent work already underway by many of its partners, including local governments, natural resource managers, private land holders, communities, and voluntary groups.

This Implementation Plan sets out the detailed framework for delivering on the government's commitment to addressing the findings of the KEP through the Strategy.

Development and delivery of this Implementation Plan requires collaboration and coordination between partners and sectors to ensure that best practice can be shared, resources leveraged, and investment prioritised to achieve more than any group could individually.

Implementation Plan – Phase 1

The purpose of this Implementation Plan is to provide detail on how the Strategy is being delivered over the first phase. It includes clear milestones, partners and timeframes and informs the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework that will support the adaptive implementation of the strategy into the future. It will also provide the framework to prioritise investment in koala activities over the next two years and beyond.

The Queensland Government has established four key targets to track achievement of the vision – to halt the decline in koala populations in the wild in SEQ and secure their long-term survival:

1. Populations—stabilise koala population numbers in SEQ.

2. Koala habitat—a net gain in the total core koala habitat area1.

3. Koala habitat restoration—commence rehabilitation to restore 10,000 hectares of koala habitat.

4. Threat reduction—commence ten programs in threat priority areas to support at least a 25 per cent reduction in disease, injury, and mortality rates in those locations.

The Strategy also focuses on six action areas to achieve these targets. Action areas respond to the key recommendations of the KEP: 'A new direction for the conservation of koalas in Queensland':

1. Habitat protection

2. Habitat restoration

3. Threat management

4. Improved mapping, monitoring, research and reporting

5. Community engagement

6. Partnerships and strategic coordination

The Strategy includes 46 actions across these action areas.

The Queensland Government has developed two key principles to guide action implementation which respond to KEP recommendations for improve outcomes for koalas in SEQ:

1. Coordinated, collaborative approach, to habitat protection, restoration, and threat mitigation, leveraging partnerships to maximise outcomes.
2. Focussing efforts on areas where there is the highest likelihood of success, establishing the foundations for recovery and growth of koala populations within koala priority areas.

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[1] Net gain consists of actual on-ground changes to koala habitat extent since 2020, such as through regrowth reaching 15 year maturity, restored habitat and cleared habitat, but excludes corrections to the mapping or transfer of locally refined koala habitat areas to core habitat, for example.

Phase 1 implementation planning has focused on implementing new and existing activities by the Queensland Government and harnessing the existing and future planned activities of partners, including local governments and members of the Koala Advisory Council (KAC).

This Phase 1 Implementation Plan sets out further detail on actions being delivered in the first phase of the Strategy. A subsequent Implementation Plan will be developed with partners to address the second phase. Phase 2 will be informed by the mid-term review of the Strategy.

Figure 1. *Summary of targets and action areas under the South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2020-2025.*

Phase 1 Implementation table

This table sets out the detailed South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy implementation activities for phase 1. Some actions have specific deliverables beyond phase 1 and these have been included for completeness. Please note that where local governments and other stakeholders are listed as lead agents or partners, not all local governments or stakeholders will necessarily be undertaking *all* activities listed, and delivery may not be ongoing throughout the lifetime of the Implementation Plan.

#	Action	Description	Lead agent	Partners	Related actions	Relevant target(s)
1.1	State-of-the-art koala habitat mapping	1. Complete initial mapping. 2. Publish a koala habitat net-gain target fact sheet. 3. Utilise improved satellite imagery and mapping techniques to produce the koala habitat map.	Queensland Government	Local governments General public	4.2	Koala habitat
1.2	New koala conservation protections	1. Implement new protections to increase both the size and level of protections for koala habitat across SEQ, compared with the State's previous framework. (Completed February 2020) 2. Evaluate koala habitat regulations through the post implementation review to be completed by February 2023.	Queensland Government	Local governments Development industry		Koala habitat
		1. Investigate opportunities for adequate protection of koala habitat across the koala's entire range in Queensland.				
1.3	Monitor integration of current and future koala conservation policy into the State Planning Policy and ShapingSEQ Regional Plan	1. Update State Planning Policy Guidance for biodiversity to reflect current koala conservation policy. 2. Continue to monitor the State Planning Policy to ensure it reflects current koala conservation policy in place at the time. 3. Ensure the targets of net koala habitat gain and habitat restoration are reflected in the 2022-24 review of ShapingSEQ.	Queensland Government	Local governments Industry Businesses Environmental groups Communities	1.6, 1.7, 1.9	Koala habitat

#	Action	Description	Lead agent	Partners	Related actions	Relevant target(s)
1.4	Habitat protection in Queensland Government projects	1. Establish an intra-government working group. 2. Prepare options for amended State Government Supported Infrastructure Koala Conservation Policy, particularly for the infrastructure assessment criteria. 3. Present endorsed new version of the State Government Supported Infrastructure Koala Conservation Policy to KAC. 4. Amend and publish new version of the State Government Supported Infrastructure Koala Conservation Policy.	Queensland Government	Local governments	1.3, 1.6, 1.7	Koala habitat
1.5	Align the environmental offsets framework to support koala conservation	1. Establish a Multi-sector Reference Group (MSG). 2. Prepare a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for proposed reforms to align the environmental offsets framework with new koala conservation protections, in collaboration with the MWG. 3. Release the RIS for public consultation and KAC. 4. Progress amendments to the Environmental Offsets Framework.	Queensland Government	Multisector Working Group Local governments	2.2	Koala habitat
1.6	Safeguard koala habitat by avoiding the expansion of the Urban Footprint into areas that predominantly contain koala habitat	1. In the 2022-2024 review of ShapingSEQ, align urban footprint principles with koala conservation objectives. 2. In reviewing the urban footprint, ensure the latest mapping data available for Matters of National or State Environmental Significance (MNES/ MSES) and the regional biodiversity network is considered.	Queensland Government	Local governments Development industry	1.3, 1.7	Koala habitat

#	Action	Description	Lead agent	Partners	Related actions	Relevant target(s)
1.7	Koala conservation in the planning framework – guidance and support	1. Consult with local governments and industry to identify information and training needs relating to policy application and planning assessment. 2. Develop factsheets, web material and support networks. 3. Draft information materials for distribution. 4. Develop and deliver a webinar-style training program to assist local government compliance/ extension officers in applying koala habitat clearing regulations. 5. Publish information and training materials to website. 6. Develop other targeted materials and training to support other governments and industry groups. 7. Conduct an annual review and update of guidance, support and training materials.	Queensland Government	Local governments Development industry	1.9	Koala habitat
1.7 cont.	Koala conservation in the planning framework – guidance and support	1. Update the environmental significance overlay of the Redland City Plan to reflect the new state koala habitat area mapping. 2. Review the updated State Planning Policy biodiversity state interest guidance and making amendments to the City Plan if required. 3. Investigate options to better protect core habitat and wildlife corridors (identified in the Redlands Wildlife Connections Plan) where located in the urban footprint through the environmental significance overlay of the Redland City Plan. 4. Protect, enhance and reconnect koala habitat through detailed local planning of emerging community areas and other new development areas. 5. Conduct koala habitat restoration according to Redland City Council priority mapping and Wildlife Corridors Plan 2018.	Redland City Council		1.2, 1.6, 1.9	Koala habitat
		6. Continue to implement the biodiversity corridor code, overlay and maps in the planning scheme that identify and protect targeted koala habitat and corridors. 7. Continue to maintain a functional koala habitat network map for the city that integrates with waterway and wetland corridors.	Logan City Council		Business as usual (BAU)	

#	Action	Description	Lead agent	Partners	Related actions	Relevant target(s)
1.8	Partner with natural resource managers and Local governments to support habitat protection on private land	1. Examine and employ the use of landholder incentives to encourage participation in koala habitat protection. 2. Host field days on rehabilitated State land and support property assessment.	Queensland Government	Local governments Environmental and NRM groups	2.1, 2.3, 5.5	Koala habitat
		3. Identify ecological corridors within local government areas and identify incentives/ opportunities for private landholder management. 4. Work in partnership with private landholders to deliver improved koala conservation outcomes through established programs such as Land for Wildlife and voluntary conservation agreements/ covenants.	Local governments	Queensland Government Landholders		
		5. Integrate koala conservation objectives into the South East Queensland Natural Resource Management Plan.	Healthy Land and Water			
1.9	Support koala conservation policy integration in Local government planning schemes	1. Engage with and assist local governments to monitor koala conservation and planning issues. 2. Ensure integration of State Planning Policy's State Interest Biodiversity Policy in new local government planning schemes or planning scheme amendments. 3. Update information on best practice design to safeguard koalas and their habitat through local planning instruments. 4. Provide guidance to local governments on how they can map and protect locally important koala habitat through local planning instruments.	Queensland Government Local governments		1.6, 1.7	Koala habitat
1.10	Support stakeholder understanding of environmental offsets	1. Improve web and guidance material on the environmental offsets framework and how it applies.	Queensland Government	Development industry Local governments	1.10, 2.2	Koala habitat

2.1	Further investment in a Koala Habitat Restoration Program	1. Manage the Koala Habitat Restoration Partnership Program. 2. Establish partnerships with local governments and regional natural resource managers for the restoration and assisted regeneration of koala habitat. 3. Develop criteria to identify and prioritise koala habitat restoration sites. 4. Administer state funded grant program to support habitat restoration projects on private, local government and state lands. 5. Approve grants and commence koala habitat restoration.	Queensland Government Queensland Trust for Nature (QTFN)	Local governments Landholders NRM groups	1.8, 2.3, 5.5	Habitat Restoration
2.1 cont.		6. Commonwealth habitat restoration program investing in koala habitat restoration at Flinders Peak and expansion to North Pine, Grandchester or Lake Manchester.	Commonwealth Government Healthy Land and Water	Local governments Landholders		
	Further investment in a Koala Habitat Restoration Program	7. Support and/or lead the delivery a range of koala habitat restoration actions including: • direct investment in restoration projects of different scales • free tree programs • land acquisition programs • Bushcare groups and land rehabilitation programs	Local governments	Landholders	1.8, 2.3, 5.5	Habitat Restoration
		8. Revegetate 1000ha of former pine and hardwood plantation at Yurol-Ringtail State Forests, funded by Queensland Government, Noosa Council, Noosa Parks Association, Greenfleet, with help from Landcare, Queensland Koala Crusaders and Kabi Kabi.	Noosa Regional Council	Queensland Government NRM groups		
		9. Restoring habitat within Council-controlled natural areas, parks and wildlife corridors. 10. Supporting more than 160 community Bushcare groups to restore habitat through the Habitat Brisbane Program. 11. Supporting 12 community-based catchment groups across Brisbane to help protect and restore creeks and catchments in partnership, as part of the Creek Catchments Program.	Brisbane City Council	Communities Environment groups Local business		

		12. Consider koala habitat protection and restoration opportunities when delivering the Sunshine Coast Council land acquisition program. 13. Collaboration with external parties to ensure impacted koala habitat is restored in the Sunshine Coast area.	Sunshine Coast Regional Council			
		14. Develop a prioritisation framework and plan for koala conservation, rehabilitation and revegetation activities. 15. Develop an investment prospectus that provides innovative, flexible opportunities for partnering in koala habitat rehabilitation, revegetation and strategic land acquisition.	Logan City Council			
		16. Implementation of koala restoration works through the City of Gold Coast environmental offsets program of works.	City of Gold Coast			
		17. Large scale (up to 150 hectares) koala habitat restoration delivered across the Council area within the Koala Priority Area (KPA) and adjacent to strategic koala movement corridors, in liaison with external stakeholders.	Moreton Bay Regional Council			
2.2	Strategically identify environmental offset locations	1. Work in partnership with local governments to identify strategic restoration sites suitable for koala offsets and advanced offset locations. 2. Develop a landholder expression of interest portal for koala offset/ restoration partnerships. 3. Increase registration of advanced offset sites.	Queensland Government	Local governments Development industry	1.5, 1.10	Habitat Restoration
		4. Review local government environmental offset guidelines to improve koala conservation outcomes where opportunities exist.	Local governments			
2.3	Restore habitat on State land, including the protected area estate, in partnership with non-government organisations	1. Establish and manage partnership projects to rehabilitate koala habitat on state land and the protected area estate. 2. Application of koala habitat mapping to the values-based management framework, to ensure koala conservation outcomes are being considered in the management of state land and protected areas.	Queensland Government	Local governments NRM groups	1.8, 2.1, 5.5	Habitat Restoration
2.4	Invest in carbon farming projects that deliver koala	1. Deliver koala habitat restoration at Lake Wivenhoe.	Queensland Government	Seqwater CO2 Australia	2.1, 2.3	Habitat Restoration

	outcomes as a priority	2. Develop a methodology targeting small landholdings that incentivises restoration of small land holdings for environmental, economic and social benefit. 3. Review successes of targeted programs, to determine if carbon farming is a viable pathway to land restoration on small land parcels.	Queensland Government	Local governments Landholders		
		4. Review and coordinate input into existing parameters and mapping available to guide carbon farming investment aligned with SEQ Natural Resource Management Plan.	Healthy Land and Water	Local governments Landholders		
3.1	Identify priority areas for threat reduction	1. Establish criteria for determining threat reduction priority areas. 2. Identify priority areas and programs with partners. 3. Monitor, review and adapt threat mitigation activities annually. 4. As part of the mid-term review, deliver a report detailing how effectively the mitigation actions reduced koala injury/ mortality, how the actions should be improved in future, additional actions that may be required and recommendations for broader rollout.	Queensland Government	Local governments Universities NRM groups Wildlife carers and rescue SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network		Threat reduction
		5. Maintain a database of community survey and public reports data on koalas, such as koala sightings and/or koala health, injury (including dog attacks and vehicle strikes) and fatality reports, to assist in identifying koala threat hotspots.	Local governments	Queensland Government	BAU	
		6. Continue to update and review wildlife hotspot zones across Brisbane using contemporary data and community observations.	Brisbane City Council			
		7. Develop Koala threat mapping for the Noosa Regional Council area with threat parameters including road density, habitat clearing, small lots/ urbanisation, fire density/ hazard, and koala injury.	Noosa Regional Council			
3.2	Partner with Local governments to deliver threat abatement opportunities	1. Facilitate opportunities to share information and knowledge about successful threat mitigation activities. 2. Use the Koala Portal to promote initiatives to mitigate threats on and encourage broader adoption of successful programs. 3. Establish and manage targeted partnership projects to mitigate threats at priority (hotspot sites).	Queensland Government	Public sector landholders Environmental groups		Threat reduction

		4. Complete ongoing predator control and threat management programs on State and council owned land. Provide case studies for future research and activity. 5. Education of legislative obligations, in particular for koala habitat vegetation removal, to proponents and contractors.		NRM groups Local governments	
		6. Implement and promote programs that aim to reduce koala attack or predation on council land. 7. Promote education of legislative obligations, in particular mitigation of vegetation removal impacts to koala habitat, to local government officers and contractors. 8. Support activities that reduce road mortality and facilitate the safe movement of wildlife, such as: • Installing and maintaining exclusion fencing, speed reducing design and fauna passages • Community awareness campaigns during koala breeding season • Promoting smart and other behavioural modification signage to communities. 9. Support koala research, through activities such as: • Collaborations between Queensland Government and researchers to support targeted disease management plans/ activities. • Providing financial and in-kind support, including environmental levy partnerships for threat mitigation actions and disease research, to support wildlife carers and wildlife groups.	Local governments	Universities	
		10. Partner with Queensland Rail on fencing, vegetation and safer koala movement within train line corridors from Wellington Point to Cleveland. 11. Facilitate a Griffith University led CSA Grant Project – 'Predicting koala road crossing behaviours using AI – powered observation network. 12. Partner with University of Sunshine Coast to undertake disease management program in koala safe neighbourhoods and other areas identified through the ongoing koala monitoring program.	Redland City Council	Queensland Government Universities	

3.2 cont.	Partner with Local governments to deliver threat abatement opportunities	13. Financial and in-kind contributions to disease management in partnership with Wildcare Australia Inc. and Currumbin Wildlife Hospital including funding chlamydia research and vaccine development and administration. 14. Managing comprehensive databases including koala sightings reported to the city's report hotline and a health database of combined Gold Coast records from Currumbin Wildlife Hospital, Australia Zoo, RSPCA and Wildcare Australia Inc. 15. Hosting workshops, field days and a Koala Friends Program to provide advice and information to residents on how to create koala friendly backyards and how to protect koalas in the city.	City of Gold Coast	Wildlife carers and rescue SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network		
		16. Facilitate a koala/ fauna safe roads crossing program that identifies key sites of current and future road-fauna conflict and opportunity. 17. Align existing programs of weed and pest management for koala conservation. 18. Fire planning and management activities aligned for koala conservation. Target areas include Beechmont, Mt Barney, Carney's Creek, Noosa River Catchment.	Healthy Land and Water	NRM groups Seqwater QYAC		
		19. Develop and implement innovative and best practice wildlife friendly design, koala friendly solutions and wildlife considerate clearing obligations in the development assessment process. 20. Identify and deliver a range of community education programs regarding responsible dog ownership including delivery of wildlife friendly dog training workshops. 21. Deliver and support proactive weed and pest management to targeted koala habitat and corridors through direct delivery and/or conservation partnerships. 22. Investigate appropriate regulatory tools or programs to mitigate threats to koala from domestic animals in priority wildlife conservation areas. 23. Investigate koala and wildlife friendly design measures into community infrastructure and capital works projects, including solutions to mitigate major koala movement barriers across the city.	Logan City Council			Threat reduction ⚠

3.3	Update the Fauna Sensitive Road Design Manual	1. Undertake peer reviewed report on the koala-sensitive design guideline. 2. Publish the Koala Sensitive Design Guideline v3. 3. Update the Fauna Sensitive Road Design Manual with relevant information from the new version of the Fauna Sensitive Design Guidelines. 4. Adoption of relevant elements of the Guidelines and Road Design Manual by local governments and Queensland Government agencies.	Queensland Government	Local governments		Threat reduction ⚠
3.4	Integrate koala conservation into Local government biosecurity planning	1. Liaise with Biosecurity Queensland, LGAQ and local governments to develop materials to support effective integration of koala conservation into biosecurity plans.	Queensland Government Biosecurity Queensland	Local governments LGAQ Universities		Threat reduction ⚠
3.5	Support the mitigation of threats of domestic dogs	1. Review existing educational and behaviour change campaigns to mitigate the threats of domestic dogs. 2. Collaboration between State and local governments to design and implement domestic dog threat mitigation programs.	Queensland Government Local governments	Universities		Threat reduction ⚠
		3. Review and amendment of Subordinate Local Law 12 Animal Management to include stronger regulations for the keeping of dogs in koala habitat areas.	Local governments			
		4. Continue to develop and implement the following initiatives: Koala Awareness Campaign, Leave it, Train the Trainer, and community events such as Dog fest and puppy preschool.	Redlands City Council		BAU	
		5. Continue to implement Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) which ensures the proper control of animals in public places and koala conservation areas.	Moreton Bay Regional Council		BAU	
		6. Deliver a targeted mailbox drop of responsible dog ownership education material to residences within close proximity of a recent known koala attack.	City of Gold Coast			
3.6	Develop best-practice policies for koala rehabilitation	1. Promote the SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network educational materials and training on Koala Portal.	Queensland Government	Universities Local		Populations

3.6 cont.	Develop best-practice policies for koala rehabilitation	2. Formalise and update the existing koala care manual used by veterinarians in SEQ. 3. Improve sharing of data regarding koala releases amongst carers and with State and local governments.		governments Wildlife Carers SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network		Populations
		4. Develop a state guideline for establishment, management and use of fodder plantations, in partnership with stakeholders. 5. During the review of Queensland Government translocation policies and guidelines, ensure that koala conservation outcomes including reintroduction are fully addressed in the ensuing response.	Queensland Government	Local governments SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network		
3.7	Support training and development of koala carers	1. Prepare and deliver guidance materials for koala rehabilitators in SEQ with the SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network. 2. Develop formal training packages to support koala carers.	Queensland Government SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network (SEQWHN)	Universities Local governments Wildlife carers and rescue		Populations
		3. Investigate opportunities for 'koala sanctuaries' for longer term rehabilitation of koalas and as a koala recovery food source.	Healthy Land and Water			
3.8	KoalaBase	1. Develop and maintain platforms to support identification of threat hotspots and share reporting data from partners.	Queensland Government	Local governments Wildlife carers and rescue		Populations
3.9	Apply Queensland-specific climate projection data to guide koala conservation	1. Update the koala habitat area and restoration area mapping and restoration prioritisation to take into account climate change and heat stress risks. 2. Develop koala threat mapping to identify further climate-related stresses and opportunities.	Queensland Government	Local governments Landholders		Populations

			3.	Mapping of climate refuges and adaptation zones for regional nature conservation purposes.	Healthy Land and Water	Queensland Government		
			4.	Develop and implement of fire management plans to mitigate risk to koalas from bushfire, including on Council owned land.	Local governments	Environment and NRM groups Landholders		
4.1	Review koala habitat mapping at the conclusion of the Strategy period in 2025	No action for this phase of implementation.					
4.2	Update koala habitat mapping annually	1. Annual updates to the Koala Habitat Area (KHA) map based on regional ecosystems, high value regrowth and koala survey data. 2. Process map amendment requests.	Queensland Government	Local governments Koala Advisory Council	1.1	Koala habitat
4.3	Resolving locally refined koala habitat areas	1. Identify outstanding local government suggestions with Locally Refined Koala Habitat Areas (LRKHA) and habitat mapping. 2. Identify options for resolution. 3. Seek Koala Advisory Council endorsement of preferred option. 4. Implement preferred option.	Queensland Government	Local governments Development industry		Koala habitat
4.4	Habitat condition monitoring	1. Investigate the requirement, purpose, and application of koala habitat assessment methods and tools. 2. Engage relevant expertise to review and make recommendations regarding contemporary approaches to monitoring koala habitat condition. 3. Publish findings report and Queensland Government response.	Queensland Government	Universities Local governments Community groups	5.7	Populations
		4. Develop a local koala habitat network map that integrates with waterway and wetland corridors.			Logan City Council		

4.5 4.5 cont.	Identify koala threats and develop mapping methodology Identify koala threats and develop mapping methodology	1. Engage relevant expertise to review existing threat criteria and identify gaps. 2. Engage and work with partners to develop a consistent approach to threat mapping. 3. Update existing threat measures. 4. Develop new threat measures. 5. Develop process to combine threat measures into koala Threat Priority Areas. 6. Implement process and finalise koala Threat Priority Areas including GIS layer(s), metadata and technical report. 7. Publish results.	Queensland Government	Local governments Wildlife hospitals		Threat reduction Threat reduction
4.6	Provide funding and support for koala conservation research	1. Develop guidelines and funding criteria for koala research grants program. 2. Initiate rounds of koala research grant funding through the Community Sustainability Action Grants Program and other programs. 3. Compile koala research bibliography. 4. Complete koala research gap analysis. 5. Develop koala research prospectus. 6. Review and update koala research priorities and prospectus.	Queensland Government	Local governments Universities Community groups NRM groups		Populations
		7. Establish, maintain and enhance partnerships with universities and reputable koala conservation research groups. 8. Support koala research projects with research priorities for determining relationship between habitat factors and koala density, long term monitoring, impacts of temporal change, baseline data for Logan and understanding severe weather.	Logan City Council	Universities Community groups		
		9. Fund koala research projects addressing key threats to koalas, such as disease and genetic diversity, and strategies to protect koalas within urban environments.	Brisbane City Council			

		10. Provide ongoing support for chlamydia vaccine research project which aims to: • assess the impact of vaccinating a portion of a wild population • assess immunity levels of all vaccinated wild released animals over time. 11. Genetic analysis of isolated koala populations to assess diversity and identify opportunities to improve connectivity through barriers.	City of Gold Coast	Universities Wildlife hospitals	
		12. Deliver a research collaboration with University of the Sunshine Coast's Detection Dogs for Conservation unit to increase knowledge of the distribution and genetics of the koalas on the Sunshine Coast through the use of koala scat detection dogs and next generation genotyping. (Completed) 13. Ongoing tracking and health monitoring of koalas in the Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden and Reesville.	Sunshine Coast Regional Council		
		14. Complete the koala health mapping project run by University of the Sunshine Coast. 15. Complete QUT koala baseline project using drones and habitat health using LiDAR.	Noosa City Council		

|					
16. Annual monitoring of koala population density and health at sentinel sites, utilising drones and/or detection dogs. 17. Conduct six-monthly updates of koala records in the Council's GIS mapping system, via Biocollect, KoalaBase and Redlands Coast Koala Watch data sources. 18. Conduct genetic surveys to monitor fine scale population dynamics (every two years across 250 mainland sites). 19. Expand the Koala Safe Neighbourhood ambassador koala monitoring program (Thornlands, Birkdale, Mount Cotton, Ormiston) to 6 neighbourhoods by 2024. 20. Provide continuous reporting of koala population dynamics across Redlands, provided by Redlands Coast Koala Watch. 21. Partner with Griffith University on community evaluation surveys to measure community engagement and recognition of koala conservation actions across the Redlands Coast. 22. Partner with Griffith University on the Smart signs project – koala safe neighbourhoods. 23. Survey koalas (detection dogs) and habitat survey (consultants) to understand existing and potential carrying capacity to develop a koala management plan for Birkdale Community Precinct.	Redland City Council	Universities Research organisations		Populations
24. Utilise 2020 Hays Inlet koala population survey data to inform ongoing research, targeted habitat rehabilitation projects and wildlife movement infrastructure requirements to reduce threats. 25. Continue to provide financial contributions and support for the development of a koala chlamydia/ retrovirus vaccine. 26. Continue to facilitate targeted disease research via the Mill at Moreton Bay Koala Monitoring program 2017-2022.	Moreton Bay Regional Council	Universities		
27. Provide further advance knowledge of parameters for koala productivity and carrying capacity.	Healthy Land and Water			

4.6 cont.	Provide funding and support for koala conservation research					
4.7	Monitoring and evaluation framework	1. Develop and finalise the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework with stakeholders. 2. Consult local government working group on the MERI framework. 3. Consult Koala Advisory Council on the MERI framework. 4. Publish final MERI framework.	Queensland Government	Local government Working Group Koala Advisory Council		All
4.8	SEQ koala monitoring program	1. Identify and design a cost-effective survey strategy to monitor koala population trends across SEQ. 2. Publish survey methodology. 3. Collaborate with local governments where possible regarding survey sites and access agreements. 4. Plan and execute surveys to collect density and trend data for koala populations. 5. Refine data collection, standards, sharing processes and arrangements to ensure accurate, complete and useful data is collected and shared appropriately. 6. Develop standard templates, governance processes and supporting documents to manage and support implementation of the SEQ koala monitoring program. 7. Conduct analysis of historic data to identify key metrics.	Queensland Government	Local governments Koala Advisory Council Universities		Populations

		8. Make new data available to inform koala habitat area mapping, WildNet, local governments and other stakeholders on a regular basis to facilitate timely updates and use of data. 9. Update the koala habitat suitability model and increase knowledge of koala populations, distribution and persistence across SEQ.			
		10. Update the koala habitat suitability model and increase knowledge of koala populations, distribution and persistence across SEQ. 11. Develop a standardised survey methodology that community groups can implement to monitor koala populations. 12. Investigate innovative koala survey techniques and trial their effectiveness and efficiencies.	Queensland Government	Community groups Local governments Universities	
		13. Maintain a koala sightings database to guide investment in high use koala areas. 14. Implement koala survey methodologies that provide a more accurate map of koala populations locations and densities in Logan.	Logan City Council	Community groups General public	
		15. Continue carrying out city-wide koala monitoring projects, including genetic analysis where genetic diversity is considered a conservation threat. 16. Maintain comprehensive databases including koala sightings reported to the city's dedicated reporting phone number and online form. 17. Maintain a koala health database merging all local wildlife rescue and wildlife veterinary hospital records.	City of Gold Coast	Community groups General public	
		18. Deliver project to increase understanding of the characteristics of Sunshine Coast koala populations including locations and genetic diversity.	Sunshine Coast Regional Council		

|							
5.1	Host KoalaCollab	1. Establish a KoalaCollab Organising Committee for this koala conservation conference event. 2. Develop a combined program of live and virtual KoalaCollab conference events that are aligned to the action areas of the Strategy. 3. Deliver the KoalaCollab program with partners.	Queensland Government	Local governments Environment and NRM groups General public Universities	5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5	All
5.2	Engage with landholders and the community on ways to manage land for improved koala conservation outcomes	1. Collate and review existing information regarding current community engagement, partnership and educational programs related to koalas and koala habitat. 2. Identify information and engagement gaps. 3. Plan engagements with landholders and the community, including developing key messages. 4. Work with communities and landholders, through third parties where relevant, to identify land management partnership actions. 5. Identify successful programs and needs for continuous improvement through monitoring and evaluation frameworks. 6. Promote successful programs to increase engagement in private land conservation across SEQ.	Queensland Government	Community groups General public Universities NRM groups Local governments	5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5	Populations
		7. Work with landholders within the Flinders Peak area towards koala conservation. The project includes establishing a baseline of koala conservation knowledge through landholder survey. Future project areas include North Pine, Grandchester, and Lake Manchester.	Healthy Land and Water	Landholders		All
		8. Support the delivery of community and landholder educational initiatives, such as: • environmental education centres and programs • 'how to report koala sightings' awareness campaigns; • updated and interactive information on local government websites • responsible pet ownership campaigns, including dog behaviour signage and compliance	Local governments	General public Community groups Homeowners		

|					
		• interpretive koala signage, including road safety signage in strategic locations • 'how to create koala friendly backyards' awareness campaigns. 9. Support active community-based organisations to deliver koala conservation activities such as through: • threat management initiatives • weed management programs; and • koala habitat restoration programs on suitable properties.			
		10. Continue to deliver the Conservation Partnerships Program to support landholders wanting to protect and/or restore their property's habitat. Support includes tailored conservation management advice, resources (e.g. plants, tools, herbicides) and financial assistance. 11. Continue to deliver schemes include Backyard Health Checks, Land for Wildlife, Voluntary Conservation Agreements and the Nature Conservation Assistance Program.	City of Gold Coast	Landholders Community groups	Koala habitat Habitat Restoration
		12. Continue to deliver a range of community programs to support community stewardship of koalas such as: • environmental events, workshops and activities • voluntary offset planting events • free trees program • Bushcare program • conservation incentive partnerships; and • envirogrants. 13. Deliver innovative and interactive website information and tools promoting koala conservation in Logan. 14. Develop marketing materials to showcase Logan City as a koala friendly community.	Logan City Council	Landholders Community groups General public	
		15. Provide information on Brisbane City Council's webpage outlining actions that residents can take to protect koalas within and outside of their properties.	Brisbane City Council	Homeowners Landholders	

		16. Ongoing delivery of Bushcare programs and specific koala planting days on an annual basis. 17. Continue to deliver six established environmental partnership programs with landholders and the community. 18. Ongoing community education workshops and events hosted at the Indigiscapes Environmental Education Centre.	Redland City Council	Landholders Community groups General public	
5.3 5.3 cont.	Use citizen science to support participation in koala conservation outcomes Use citizen science to support participation in koala conservation outcomes	1. Review the koala research prospectus to identify opportunities for community/ citizen science. 2. Work with local governments and other partners to increase the reach and range of citizen science programs. 3. Training for communities on koala scat collection to inform koala habitat mapping, disease prevalence, informing research and drive threat reduction programs.	Queensland Government	Community groups General public Universities NRM groups	5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 6.3 All All
		4. Continue promotion and participation in annual community koala surveys or population censuses and improve data capture standards. 5. Encourage community members to report wildlife sightings (including koalas) through the QWildlife sightings app (when developed) and other platforms such as Atlas of Living Australia/iNaturalist. 6. Proactively monitor koala populations and population trends using community science data.	Local governments	Community groups General public	
		7. Increase public awareness of koala conservation issues through a variety of displays, presentations, signs, school visits and local media.	Somerset Regional Council	Community groups General public	
		8. Continue to grow the Koala Friends program which provides advice to community about how to create koala friendly backyards and promotes koala conservation initiatives across the City.	City of Gold Coast	Community groups General public	BAU

		9. Continuous educational outputs via social media on koala hospital returns, ambassador koalas, research outcomes.	Redland City Council	Community groups	BAU	
		10. Continue hosting community (including Schools) programs.				
		11. Delivery annual citywide community survey by Griffith University to evaluate koala programs and to inform conservation actions, messaging and behaviour change actions.		General public		
		12. Support the Redlands Coast Koala Watch – a partnership between community, researchers and council to collect koala data and to assist in early disease detection.		Universities		
		13. Community forums, training days and education events.				
		14. Support creation of Kylie, wildlife watcher, digital character to promote koala conservation via social media channels.				
5.4	Partner with local governments and land managers to deliver breeding-season community engagement to reduce vehicle-related koala injuries	1. Establish and manage targeted community engagement, partnership and educational programs in collaboration. 2. Develop a package of community engagement material for use by local governments in the lead up to breeding season.	Queensland Government Local governments	Community groups General public Universities	5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5,	Threat reduction ⚠
		3. Develop and share koala breeding season information through social media to increase community awareness of koalas movements and road injuries at these times. 4. Install LED and temporary variable messaging on road near key koala habitat areas to alert drivers to slow down due to possible presence of koalas, and possible increased movement over breeding season.	Queensland Government Local governments	Community groups General public Wildlife rescue and carers		
5.5	Support communities to improve connectivity of potential koala habitat across property boundaries	1. Develop information products and training materials to build capacity of landholders and managers to restore and manage connectivity of koala habitat. 2. Promote habitat restoration projects, techniques, and opportunities on Koala Portal (see 6.3 for further information). 3. Promote safe movement elements of Koala Sensitive Design Guide, including koala friendly fencing guidelines.	Queensland Government	Local governments Community groups General public	1.8, 2.1, 2.3, 6.3	Threat reduction ⚠

				Universities		
5.6	Recognise the importance of koalas to First Nations peoples and engage with First Nations peoples to work with their support and knowledge	1. Draft a First Nations action plan to guide partnership building. 2. Co-design partnership process with First Nations peoples to explore and define their involvement. 3. Establish partnerships with First Nations people and groups and co-design initiatives and practical strategies that respect cultural values and traditions. 4. Deliver initiatives detailed in the action plan.	Queensland Government First Nations groups and communities	Local governments	6.8	All
5.7	Resolving community suggestions about the koala habitat mapping	1. Develop a workflow for a formal map submission process, to enable local governments and communities to make technical submissions on the criteria associated with the existing koala habitat modelling and mapping approach and identify areas for consideration in the annual map update. 2. Develop an online koala habitat map explanation report. 3. Develop and publish a map review submission template. 4. Develop an online data portal for submission of koala habitat mapping and sighting records. 5. Develop website materials to support map submission and citizen science processes.	Queensland Government	Local governments Koala Technical Advisory Group	4.4	Koala habitat
6.1	Transparent implementation, evaluation and continuous improvement	1. Submit annual report(s) to the Koala Advisory Council for review and endorsement. 2. Publish annual report(s). 3. Submit the mid-term SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy review to Koala Advisory Council for review and endorsement to publish in 2023.	Queensland Government Local government Working Group	Koala Advisory Council		All

6.2	Strategic Assessment for South East Queensland (SEQ)	1. Obtain agreement with the Commonwealth Government to undertake a strategic assessment for SEQ. 2. Release the terms of reference for strategic assessment report for public consultation. 3. Attain approval of strategic assessment report and program report from the Commonwealth Minister for Environment.	Queensland Government Commonwealth Government	Local governments		All
6.3	Build an online hub of koala-related information	1. Develop a koala sighting app on the QWildlife Platform. 2. Develop an online Koala Portal hub for storage and sharing of koala related information and data.	Queensland Government	Local governments Community groups General public	5.3	All
		3. Establish data standards to ensure consistency and reliability of collected data, including from citizen science programs.	Queensland Government Local government	Local governments		
6.4	Mid-term Strategy Review	1. Draft parameters for the mid-term strategy review of the South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy. 2. Consult the Koala Advisory Council on proposed parameters. 3. Identify baseline data to inform the Review. 4. Collect data. 5. Undertake surveys. 6. Analyse data. 7. Draft the mid-term strategy review. 8. Consult with the Koala Advisory Council.	Queensland Government	Local governments Koala Advisory Council		All

6.5	Establish a Local government Working Group	1. Draft terms of reference for the SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy local government Working Group. (complete) 2. Invite local governments to nominate members. 3. Coordinate first meeting. 4. Select a working group chair. 5. Approve terms of reference. 6. Agree performance outcomes for the year. 7. Meets regularly as agreed. 8. Report to the Koala Advisory Council on key activities and recommendations. The Local Government Working Group will continue to meet and provide input over the life of the Strategy.	Queensland Government Local governments Local government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)	Local government Local government		All
6.6	Establish a Technical Advisory Group	1. Develop terms of reference for Koala Technical Advisory Group. 2. Seek endorsement from KAC for draft terms of reference. 3. Draft and seek approval for an expression of interest process for appointment of Koala Technical Advisory Group. 4. Appoint group.	Queensland Government	Koala Advisory Council	5.7	All
6.7	An investment strategy for koala conservation	1. Identify existing koala-related investments. 2. Identify investment requirements with partners. 3. Identify investment sources with partners. 4. Draft investment strategy. 5. Consult and seek endorsement from KAC. 6. Publish the investment strategy.	Queensland Government Local governments Commonwealth Government	NRM groups Philanthropic organisations Other investment sources		All

6.8	A stakeholder engagement strategy	1. Identify key stakeholders. 2. Identify stakeholder needs. 3. Identify engagement mechanisms. 4. Draft a stakeholder engagement strategy. 5. Plan engagements. 6. Work with key stakeholders to implement Strategy. 7. Develop a First Nations engagement plan.	Queensland Government	Local governments Koala Advisory Council First Nations peoples Wildlife rescue and carers Community groups General public	5.6	All

Implementation Plan – Phase 2

A mid-term strategy review will be undertaken in late 2022. This aligns with work on a post-implementation review of the planning regulations that support of koala habitat conservation measures. This will allow an evaluation of the full suite of koala conservation measures and provide an opportunity to identify any changes or improvements to the program for phase 2. The MERI Framework sets out the high-level requirements of the mid-term strategy review.

Phase 2 will build upon the foundational work in Phase 1, and analysis of these activities will help identify new milestones focused on addressing gaps, responding to feedback and findings, and accelerating delivery.

The figure below illustrates a timeline of the SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy implementation phases and plan reviews across relevant financial years.