



Draft South East Queensland
Koala Conservation Strategy
2019–2024
Community summary

#31903 | 0919



Queensland
Government

The plight of the koala in South East Queensland

Koala populations in South East Queensland (SEQ) have dramatically declined over the past 20 years.

Three quarters (74%) of core SEQ koala habitat has been cleared and the species is listed as vulnerable.

Increases in the number of people living in SEQ and the associated loss of habitat is putting added pressure on koala populations which are already subject to high mortality caused by car strikes, dog attacks and disease.

The Queensland Government is committed to protecting koalas and has a plan in place to respond to the decline of koala populations in SEQ. We are working towards ensuring the best outcomes for koalas in South East Queensland while getting the balance right for everyone who lives here.

What do we want to achieve

The Queensland Government has proposed key actions to address threats to SEQ koala populations. We want:

- no decline in the total area of SEQ koala habitat from 2017 levels
- to commence rehabilitation to restore 1000 ha of cleared SEQ habitat
- no long-term decline in koala population density
- a 25% reduction of injury and mortality across 10 sites.



The draft *South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2019–2024*

The draft *South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2019–2024* addresses the primary causes of koala decline including habitat loss, disease management, car strikes and dog attacks.

The Koala Advisory Council, which is comprised of representatives from state and local governments, community organisations, industry and environmental groups, were instrumental in the development of this draft Strategy.

Central to the Queensland Government's draft Strategy is its plan to introduce major amendments

to the planning framework, based on new mapping of koala habitat and the identification of Koala Priority Areas (KPA) with strict clearing controls.

The new KPA will represent habitat suitable for sustaining populations of koalas and are made up of large, connected areas of high quality bushland. These areas will be the target for government's habitat protection, habitat restoration and threat mitigation actions as they have the highest likelihood of achieving conservation outcomes for koalas.



Key facts

74%

SEQ koala habitat has been cleared since the 1960s



634,256 ha

of land in SEQ has been identified as core koala habitat

Koala numbers have decreased by

↓ 50–80%

in key SEQ habitat areas over the past 20 years

Partnership will commence restoration of

1000 ha

cleared habitat

1000+



koalas are cared for by the **SEQ Hospital Network** and **Moggill Koala Rehabilitation Centre** every year



SEQ population is expected to grow by another **2 million** people by 2041



\$1.5 m

given annually to the **SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network**



\$2.7 m

for **Dreamworld's Future Lab facility** for **research** into **koala disease** and **reproduction**



75+

SEQ koalas are killed by dogs each year

The opportunity—your vision for a sustainable koala population in the wild in SEQ

The draft strategy highlights four main targets, including no decline of the total area of SEQ koala habitat from 2017 level, preservation and restoration of koala habitat, maintenance of populations at key monitoring sites across SEQ and a 25% reduction of injury and mortality across 10 sites in SEQ.

We propose:

- **A strategic and coordinated approach to koala conservation**
 - Enabling the coordination of protection efforts across governments, community, industry and NGOs.
- **Koala habitat is protected**
 - Protecting koala habitat from the impacts of land clearing.
- **A strategic and landscape-scale koala habitat restoration**
 - Given the declines in koala populations and habitat, habitat restoration along with protection measures is needed for population recovery.
- **Coordinated threat reduction and koala population management**
 - Habitat loss, dog attacks, car strikes and disease are some of the compounding key threatening processes that affect koalas.
- **Strong community partnerships and engagement**
 - Successful koala conservation relies on a collaborative approach across all sectors of the community.
- **Continuous monitoring and improvement based on best available science**
 - Improvements in science will drive improvements in koala conservation in SEQ and boost our understanding of their distribution and threats.



We all have a role to play—it's Queensland's shared responsibility

Car strikes, disease and dog attacks are the main threats for koalas, aside from habitat loss. By following these actions, we can all help our natural and cultural heritage icon.

How to help—Backyards and pools

- If a koala is seen climbing down a tree, stand still and let it move freely.
- Plant koala food trees.
- Make fences koala-friendly so koalas can safely move in and out of each property.
- Use a pool cover that is tight, secure and will not sink if a koala walks on it.
- Install a fence to keep koalas out of the pool area (e.g. transparent glass, perspex or steel).
- Install a rope in your pool so that koalas can get out.



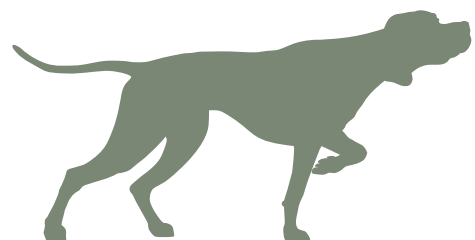
How to help—Cars

- Remember: koalas need to cross roads too!
- Obey speed limits.
- Look for koala crossing signs.
- Slow down and watch for koalas crossing roads, particularly at night.
- Report injured or dead koalas on the roadside to the RSPCA on 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625).



How to help—Dogs

- Keep dogs confined or restrained at night.
- Remember a dog doesn't need to bite a koala to seriously cause harm—a barking dog can severely stress a koala which can cause the stress-related disease Chlamydia.
- Contact your local council to check compliance with dog laws that protect koalas in your area.



Have your say



The Queensland Government invites comments from all Queenslanders on the actions proposed in the draft Strategy.

Submissions close: **Friday 31 January 2020**

To find out more about how to get involved, visit www.qld.gov.au/SEQkoalas or contact SEQKoalaStrategy@des.qld.gov.au

