



Koala habitat in your backyard

Although listed as *vulnerable*, koalas remain widely distributed throughout the Gold Coast hinterland and within important urban areas such as Elanora, Currumbin Waters, Coomera, Burleigh Heads, Coombabah, Arundel, Nerang and Helensvale.

Good koala habitat should be:

- a connected or suitably large patch (preferably 50 – 100 hectares of habitat)
- structurally diverse
- containing or linking areas of preferred koala food trees.

Preferred koala food trees on the Gold Coast include:

- Forest red gum or Queensland blue gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*)
- Tallowwood (*E. microcorys*)
- Swamp mahogany (*E. robusta*)
- Grey gums (*E. propinqua* and *E. biturbinata*)

Important local supplementary species include:

- Grey ironbark (*E. siderophloia*)
- White stringybark (*E. tindaliae*)
- Brush box (*Lophostemon confertus*)
- Broad-leaved paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*)

Structure and function of koala habitat is important, as other vegetation can also provide a habitat role such as protection from predators (e.g. wild and domestic dogs) when koalas are moving between trees and shade, or cover when koalas are resting. It is beneficial to understand how each area of habitat fits or functions within the landscape. An area of habitat on a smaller property could form part of a larger patch of habitat or could provide an important role in linking habitat patches.



Example of good koala habitat with diverse structure and species

What can I do to help?

You can help conserve our local koala population by:

- driving carefully in koala habitat areas
- being a responsible pet owner; walk your dog on a lead and keep it contained, especially at night
- reporting koala sightings
- joining our Koala Friends Program
- planting a tree through the Beaches to Bushland Landcare program visit cityofgoldcoast.com.au

For more information

P 1300 GOLDCOAST (1300 465 326)
E koalas@goldcoast.qld.gov.au
W cityofgoldcoast.com.au/koala



Before



After



Before



After



Before



After

Examples of assisted natural regeneration in Numinbah and Lower Beechmont Conservation Areas completed by the City's Natural Area Restoration team.

How should I restore koala habitat?

Assisted natural regeneration is the most cost effective and efficient method to achieve a self-sustaining ecosystem. Aim to create habitat that:

- contains species diversity similar to the original ecosystem
- contains local provenance species that are naturally regenerated or locally sourced
- supports the same structure as the original ecosystem and functions within the landscape
- allows for monitoring and maintenance including ongoing watering, mulching, weeding and protection if needed, but aims to be self-sustaining or low maintenance.

Where planting is proposed, plant at a density similar to surrounding undisturbed areas allowing space for trees to develop full crowns, with a range of understory and groundcover species. Consider proximity to roads and adequate visibility for motorists and koalas.

Who can help me?

The City of Gold Coast's Conservation Partnerships team offers landholders with suitable properties support in restoring and protecting their property's bushland through its:

- Conservation Partnership Program
 - Bushland Health Checks
 - Land for Wildlife
 - Voluntary Conservation Agreements
- Nature Conservation Assistance Program

The type and level of support provided varies with each scheme but may include:

- onsite visits
- property management planning
- workshops
- ongoing advice (via phone and /or email)
- financial assistance.

To find out if you are living in koala habitat and eligible for one of our Conservation Partnership schemes:

P 07 5582 8896

E conservationpartnerships@goldcoast.qld.gov.au

W cityofgoldcoast.com.au/NCAP

W cityofgoldcoast.com.au/conservationpartnerships