

You Can Help

Council Plan



Restore habitat

The greatest threat to the survival of koalas is from clearing or modification of their habitat.

Landowners and residents can help by protecting and restoring koala habitat, and planting local koala food trees in suitable places.

Areas of habitat can be joined to form corridors along which koalas can move freely.

Council may be able to advise where koala food trees are available for residents who wish to establish koala habitat in their backyards or farms or you can ask your local Landcare group or Friends of the Koala.

In any one area only a few types of trees are favoured by koalas. However, koalas may also feed or rest in other native trees at different times of the year. Koalas in the Ballina Shire and surrounds prefer the following trees:

- Tallowwood (*Eucalyptus microcorys*)
- Swamp Mahogany (*Eucalyptus robusta*)
- Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*)



Swamp Mahogany (left and above) prefers damp to wet conditions, while Tallowwood, Small-fruited Grey Gum and Forest Red Gum prefer well drained soils.

Council and koalas

Ballina Shire Council is preparing a koala habitat study during 2012 and 2013. The study includes:

- mapping of koala habitat.
- identification of restoration opportunities and corridors.
- consideration of koala welfare needs in the shire.

Council plans to prepare a comprehensive plan of management in 2013 and 2014, provided suitable funding is available. Council will be liaising with landholders, interest groups, government agencies and the broader community in formulating the local planning framework for koala management into the future.

Council's website contains information on koalas:
www.ballina.nsw.gov.au

For more information

Ballina Shire Council 6686 4444

Office of Environment and Heritage 6651 5946

National Parks and Wildlife Service Alstonville
Area Office 6652 0200

Friends of the Koala for advice about injured animals or to report koala sightings: 6622 1233
(24 hr hotline for injured animals)

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Koalas in our backyard



*Koala populations in the
Ballina Shire are of State
and National significance.*

Vulnerable

Local koala populations have State and National significance

Koalas are listed as a 'Vulnerable' species under State and Federal legislation. This is due to continued decline in koala numbers as a result of land clearing, disturbance of their habitat, attack by dogs and fatalities on roads.

Be informed

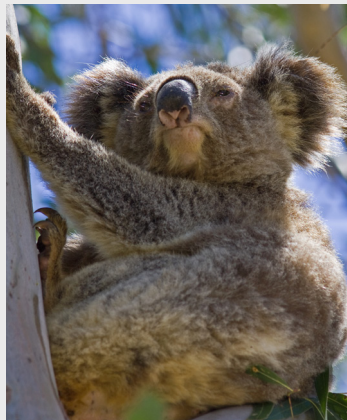
Koalas are fussy eaters and prefer only a small number of mainly eucalypt trees. Koalas have complex social structures, living in established home ranges that interconnect. Young animals, especially males, must eventually leave the home range of their mothers, often travelling long distances seeking suitable habitat.

The more we understand koalas, the better we can address their needs. Find out more by visiting the Office of Environment and Heritage website and search for the koala factsheet: www.environment.nsw.gov.au



Koala Signs

Large distinctive footprints



Small pock marks or larger rake marks on smooth barked trees may have been made by a koala



Olive-pit shaped droppings at the base of a feed tree



Take Care

Be a responsible dog owner

Koalas are often killed or injured by domestic dogs.

At night koalas are most active, climbing to the ground to move between trees. August to December is breeding season when koalas roam further and are more likely to be on the ground and be vulnerable to dog attack. Koalas are much slower than dogs, they can fight but often don't. Their main defence is to climb a tree.

If you are a dog owner:

- secure your dogs at night as koalas may visit your backyard or neighbourhood.
- be aware of your responsibilities in owning a dog under the Companion Animals Act 1998.

Please report stray dogs to the Council Rangers.

Roads

Koalas are often killed on roads that traverse their habitat. Be aware of koala signs, slow down and watch for koalas crossing in these areas, especially at night.

