

# 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.

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 Bellingen area prefer the following trees:

- Tallowwood (*Eucalyptus microcorys*)
- Swamp Mahogany (*Eucalyptus robusta*)
- Small-fruited Grey Gum (*Eucalyptus propinqua*)
- 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 helps koalas

- Council promotes retention of koala habitat
- Council's Local Environmental Plan helps protect koala habitat in urban areas
- Koala habitat areas bordering our busy roads are being identified so that distinctive koala signs can be erected to caution motorists that koalas may cross there
- Some local estates in the Shire have restrictions on the keeping of dogs
- Council plans to map koala habitat and prepare a comprehensive plan of management as funding becomes available.

Council's website contains information on Koalas:  
[www.bellingen.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bellingen.nsw.gov.au)

## For more information

**Bellingen Shire Council** 6655 7300

**Office of Environment and Heritage** 6651 5946

**National Parks and Wildlife Service** Coffs Coast Area Office 6652 0900 or Dorrigo Office 6657 2309

**Wires** for advice about injured animals or to report koala sightings: 1300 094 737 or 6652 7119

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# Koalas in our backyard



*Koala populations in the Bellingen area are of State significance.*

*Their survival depends on our community's commitment to their protection.*

# Vulnerable

## Local koala populations have State 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

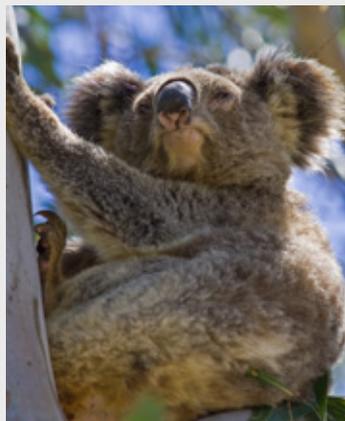
Koalas are fussy eaters and prefer only a small number of mainly eucalypt trees. Koalas have complex social structures, living in established home ranges that interconnect. Young animals, especially males, must eventually leave the home range of their mothers, often travelling long distances seeking 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](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

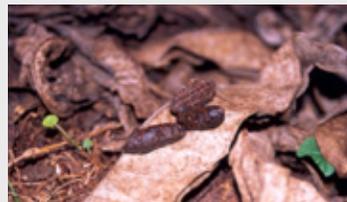


# Koala signs

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, also 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, 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 travel through their habitat. Be aware of koala signs, slow down and watch for koalas crossing in these areas, especially at night.

