



REDLAND CITY COUNCIL

# Koala Conservation Action Plan

2016 – 2021



## Redland Koala Conservation Action Plan 2016-2021

This plan documents actions to progress the Strategic Outcomes and Objectives outlined in the Redland Koala Conservation Strategy 2016. The strategy and action plan aim to guide management actions to retain a viable koala population, and conserve and manage suitable habitat both on the mainland and North Stradbroke Island. The Redland Koala Action Plan 2016-2021 identifies immediate on-ground measures that are achievable by Council. Each action addresses issues identified through the analysis of the current understanding of threats and viable mitigating measures to koala populations in the Redland City Council area. Evaluation of actions as

they are implemented and ongoing improvements in knowledge including alignment with recommendations from State Government Koala Expert Panel will inform a review of this plan during its implementation. Each action outcome will provide an indicator to assess the successful implementation of each action.

### Head of Power

#### Corporate Plan 2015-2020

The Redland Corporate Plan 2015-2020 sets the strategic direction and priorities for the natural environment by delivering on the outcomes of the Redlands 2030 Community Plan for:

*'a diverse and healthy natural environment, with an abundance of native flora and fauna*

*and rich ecosystems, will thrive through our awareness, commitment and action in caring for the environment'.*

The Corporate Plan also includes a specific '2020 Outcome' relating to koala conservation:

- *'Redland's natural assets including flora, fauna, habitats, biodiversity, ecosystems and waterways are managed, maintained and monitored;*
- *Threatened species are maintained and protected, including the vulnerable koala species'.*

The corporate plan also includes a performance indicator of 'Participation in fauna monitoring, protection, rescue and recovery programs'.



### Natural Environment Policy POL-3128

Redland City Council through the Natural Environment Policy in 2015 (POL-3128) states:

*‘our corporate decisions protect, enhance and restore the health and viability of the City’s natural values both on public and private lands and waterways for the benefit, use and lifestyle of current and future generations of our community’.*

The Policy statement includes koalas specifically, as one of these ‘natural values’ (along with other native animal and plant populations) in statement 1:

*Protect, enhance, restore the natural values of the City that include:*

- a. Koalas and other native animal and plant populations and habitats;*
- b. Core habitat areas as sanctuaries for wildlife;*
- c. Safe wildlife movement corridors across the landscape;*
- d. Maintaining no net loss of non-remnant and remnant regional ecosystems as defined in the Vegetation Management Act 1999.*

The policy provides a commitment to a conservation acquisition program that:

*“prioritises acquisition of land for rehabilitation and long term protection to achieve cost effective environmental outcomes that contribute to facilitating biodiversity conservation (e.g. koala survival) and has community benefits”.*

Redland City Council **Koala Conservation Action Plan** 2016-2021

### Action Plan Objectives

This plan articulates actions for koala conservation on both the mainland and North Stradbroke Island that Council can undertake in partnership with its community, state government, businesses, neighbouring local governments and research bodies in the following areas:

#### **Decisions Based on Science**

Objective: Collaborating with research bodies, government agencies and the community to develop a robust understanding of koala population health, ecology and movement on the mainland and North Stradbroke Island to inform and strengthen koala conservation planning.

#### **Protect and Improve Koala Habitat**

Objective: Maintain an integrated, connected, high quality network of koala habitats across the landscape capable of supporting a viable sustainable population of koalas for the long term.

#### **Reduce Koala Deaths**

Objective: Minimise the impacts of threatening processes on koala populations by undertaking on ground works that reduce koala mortality.

#### **Community Making a Difference**

Objective: Increase understanding, connection to and participation in koala conservation actions and behaviours across all sectors of the community and Council.



The successful implementation of the actions requires support and contributions from many sections within Council, the general community and State Government. Cooperation and assistance will also be required from government agencies, other councils, universities and industry and community groups. This plan does not address State Government Controlled issues surrounding koala welfare, including translocation and hospitals.





#### Indicative Costs

<b>High</b>	Over \$100,000
<b>Medium</b>	\$10,000 - \$100,000
<b>Low</b>	Below \$10,000
<b>Officer time</b>	Within current position description (may require additional resourcing)

#### Time frames

<b>Ongoing</b>	These actions will continually be dealt with throughout the Strategy's life
<b>Immediate</b>	The actions will commence in the next 12 months
<b>Short</b>	The actions will be undertaken in the next 2 years
<b>Long</b>	The actions will be undertaken in the next 5 years

#### State Government departments

<b>EHP</b>	Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
<b>TMR</b>	Department of Transport and Main Roads
<b>QR</b>	Queensland Rail

#### Other non-government organisations

<b>RSPCA</b>	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
<b>QAA</b>	Queensland Arboricultural Association Inc
<b>QYAC</b>	Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation

#### Redland City Council departments

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unit</b>
<b>CPA</b>	City Planning & Assessment Group
	<b>SPU</b> Strategic Planning Unit
	<b>EngEU</b> Engineering & Environment Unit
<b>ESMP</b>	Economic Sustainability & Major Projects
<b>GC</b>	General Counsel Group
<b>CET</b>	Communication, Engagement & Tourism Group
<b>CI</b>	City Infrastructure Group
	<b>RDMU</b> Roads, Drainage & Marine Unit
	<b>CIPU</b> City Infrastructure Planning Unit
	<b>TTPU</b> Traffic & Transport Planning Unit
<b>PDG</b>	Project Delivery Group
	<b>SSU</b> Survey Services Unit
<b>CS</b>	City Spaces Group
	<b>PCU</b> Parks & Conservation Services Unit
<b>ER</b>	Environment & Regulation Group
	<b>EEU</b> Environment & Education Unit
	<b>DCU</b> Development Control Unit
	<b>CSU</b> Compliance Services Unit
<b>CCS</b>	Community and Cultural Services Group



## Decisions Based on Science

Objective: Collaborating with research bodies, government agencies and the community to develop a robust understanding of koala population health, ecology and movement on the mainland and North Stradbroke Island to inform and strengthen koala conservation planning.

Issue	Action	Outcome Achieved	Timeframe	Responsibility	Partners	Cost
<b>Koala Data</b> Understanding koala population health, ecology and movement	<b>Koala Numbers</b> Develop and implement a long term scientific monitoring program for koala population density in the Redlands, in partnership with EHP & researchers (continuation of Koala Coast Survey)	Koala population density data to monitor success of conservation actions	Immediate	ER (EEU)	EHP, Universities, other councils	Medium (additional budget required)
	<b>Koala Movement</b> Develop and implement long term monitoring programs for koala movement and habitat usage in the Redlands, in partnership with EHP & researchers (koala radio tracking, koala scat detection dogs)	Koala population distribution data to guide and prioritise conservation actions	Immediate	ER (EEU)	EHP, Universities, other councils	Medium (additional budget required)
	<b>North Stradbroke Island Koala Monitoring (Citizen Science)</b> Continued participation and funding for annual monitoring of North Stradbroke Island (NSI) Township koala populations and Koala Count-a-thon	Data is used to measure koala population (density and distribution) in-the NSI townships and mainland urban areas	Ongoing (annually)	ER (EEU)	Environmental community groups	Low (within existing budget)
	<b>Koala Threat Mapping</b> Review and map existing data for koala population, habitat and threats within Redlands	Threat map to guide and prioritise koala conservation actions	Ongoing	ER (EEU)	Universities	Medium (additional budget required)
<b>Koala Research</b> Prioritising research	<b>What do we know</b> Collate and review existing koala research projects and identify and prioritise knowledge gaps to guide future research projects	Identification and prioritisation of koala research gaps	Immediate	ER (EEU)	State Government, Universities, other councils, community and industry groups	Officer Time (additional budget required)



Issue	Action	Outcome Achieved	Timeframe	Responsibility	Partners	Cost
	<b>What do we need to know</b> Initiate a Research Partnerships Program that attracts, supports and implements collaborative koala research projects in the Redlands through an annual funding budget, and by providing resources to researchers and students* <sup>1</sup>	Increased koala data and knowledge through collaborative scientific research	Immediate	ER (EEU)	Universities, State Government, other councils, community and industry groups	Medium (additional budget required)



<sup>1</sup> Indicative/potential Koala Research Projects include:- monitoring methodologies (scat detection dogs, drone imagery), disease, koala health, population genetics, habitat loss/gain monitoring, relationships between habitat factors (such as soil type, soil moisture, leaf chemistry, tree species) and koala density, population health, ecology and movement and reproductive status, determine minimum habitat area required to support target koala population, understanding of severe weather (ie. floods, drought), bushfire and invasive species on koala health.



## Protect and Improve Koala Habitat

Objective: Maintain an integrated, connected, high quality network of koala habitats across the landscape capable of supporting a viable sustainable population of koalas for the long term.

Issue	Action	Outcome Achieved	Timeframe	Responsibility	Partners	Cost
<b>Regulatory Approach to Protect Existing Koala Habitat</b>	<b>City Plan &amp; Local Laws</b> Review Local Laws to protect koala habitat across Redland, post adoption of City Plan <sup>1</sup>	Improved management and protection of significant native vegetation	Short	CPA (SPU)	ER (EEU), (DCU) , ESMP	Low (within existing budget)
<b>Targeted Land Purchase</b>	<b>Land Acquisitions</b> Continue the purchase of key strategic koala habitat (and habitat corridors) using funds from the Environmental Separate Charge	Improved protection of koala habitat and habitat corridors	Ongoing	ER (EEU)	CS (PCU)	High (within existing budget)
<b>Koala Habitat on Council Land (reserves/parkland)</b>	<b>More Koala Habitat on Council Land</b> Continue to undertake appropriate koala habitat and food tree planting in identified public areas (including One Million Native Plants project, Bushcare Community planting days and corporate plantings)	Increase in koala habitat and feed trees planted	Ongoing	CS (PCU)	ER (EEU)	Medium (within existing budget)
	<b>Healthy Council Bushland</b> Continue to manage reserves/parkland to improve habitat for koalas (reducing weeds, modification of inappropriate fencing, managing fire regime etc.)	Improved koala habitat and safe movement	Ongoing	CS (PCU)	ER (EEU)	Medium (additional budget required)
	<b>Koala Habitat Offsets</b> Investigate opportunities for koala habitat reestablishment using offset in the Redlands	Strategic areas (including corridors) are re-established to contribute to reducing habitat loss	Short	ER (EEU)	CS (PCU)	Low (additional budget required)
<b>Corridors for Koalas</b>	<b>Networks &amp; Corridors Plan</b> Identify and map opportunities to enhance corridor linkages (update Bushland Habitat and Corridor Plan 2004)	Improve habitat within existing corridors and identify new corridors	Immediate	ER (EEU)		Officer Time (within existing budget)
	<b>Improving Koala Movement</b> Investigate identify and implement opportunities for tree plantings and fencing to re-direct fauna movements away from barriers and threats	Direct safe movements around impermeable barriers and threats	Immediate	ER (EEU)	CI (RDMU), CS (PCU), CPA (SPU)	Officer Time (additional budget required)

<sup>1</sup> At the time of drafting, draft City Plan was awaiting Council consideration following the public consultation phase. The review and any amendment of relevant local laws will be dependent on the provisions in the final version of City Plan.



Issue	Action	Outcome Achieved	Timeframe	Responsibility	Partners	Cost
	<b>Linking Koala Habitat on Council Land</b> Undertake strategic assessment of unused road reserves and drainage reserves, with view to use them for public open space, 'foot parks', koala habitat and koala movement purposes (and revegetate where necessary)	Increase in Public Open space and opportunities to increase habitat and safe movement	Short	ER (EEU)	PDG (SSU), CS (PCU)	Officer Time (additional budget required)





## Reduce Koala Deaths

Objective: Minimise the impacts of threatening processes on koala populations by undertaking on ground works that reduce koala mortality.

Issue	Action	Outcome Achieved	Timeframe	Responsibility	Partners	Cost
<b>Koala Road Deaths</b>	<b>Reduce Koala Deaths on Council Roads</b> Review, update and continue to implement road treatments as per 'Action Plan to Reduce Koala Hits in Redland Shire' and 'Assessment of Local Roads for koala safety'	Recommended road treatments incorporated into 'Roads and Drainage Maintenance Schedule', including fauna crossings construction on new and upgraded Council roads	Ongoing	CI (CIPU)	ER (EEU)	High (additional budget required)
	<b>Reduce Koala Deaths on State Roads</b> Work with TMR to undertake planned and staged retrospective fitting of existing roads to include road treatment devices in appropriate locations (e.g. over passes, underpasses, exclusion fencing, and fauna poles)	Continued working partnership to reduce koala mortality on state roads	Ongoing	CI (TTPU)	ER (EEU), TMR	Officer Time (within existing budget)
	<b>Smarter Road Signage</b> Work with other local Councils and TMR on signage and road markings to increase awareness of koala movements and hits on roads	Continued working partnerships to reduce koala mortality on roads	Ongoing	CI (TTPU)	ER (EEU), TMR	Officer Time (within existing budget)
<b>Dog Attacks</b>	<b>Controlling Dogs at Night</b> Implement Local Law 2 provisions regarding appropriate control of animals in koala conservation areas (denning, tethering and control of dogs)	Animal owners in koala conservation areas providing appropriate control of animals	Ongoing	ER (CSU)	ER (EEU)	Medium (additional budget required)
	<b>No Dog Developments</b> Review the success of, and explore new opportunities for, environmental covenants with "no dog zones" and initiatives to incorporate fauna friendly fencing in new developments.	Review of success of covenants and a set of new recommendations for initiatives and improved education	Short	ER (EEU)	ER (CSU)	Officer Time (additional budget required)
<b>Impacts During Tree Work</b>	<b>Wildlife Risk Assessments</b> Develop a "wildlife risk assessment" procedure for all Council vegetation management operations	Koala conservation included in risk assessments, job safety analysis and toolbox talks	Immediate	ER (EEU)	CPA (EngEU), CS (PCU), PDG	Officer Time (within existing budget)



Issue	Action	Outcome Achieved	Timeframe	Responsibility	Partners	Cost
	<b>Educating Tree Contractors</b> Provide education and training to tree contractors on koala issues, legislative obligations and general environmental duty. (e.g. vegetation clearing and removal of any koala habitat vegetation requiring an approved koala spotter)	Change the behaviour of contractors to reduce koala mortality and disturbance during tree removal	Immediate	ER (EEU)	QAA	Low (additional budget required)
<b>Koala Deaths due to Trains</b>	Reduce Koala Deaths by Trains Work with QR to ensure train corridors are effectively managed to provide exit routes, refuges and underpasses for safe koala movement	Safe movement for koalas through QR infrastructure (rail lines, car parks)	Ongoing	ER (EEU)	QR	Officer Time (QR cost)
<b>Koala Welfare</b>	<b>Wildlife Ambulance and Fodder Farm</b> Continue to fund and support the operation of the Wildlife Ambulance and Fodder Farm (including developing management plans where necessary)	Increase survival of injured and orphan koalas	Immediate	ER (EEU)	CS (PCU), EHP	Low to Medium (additional budget required)





## Community Making a Difference

Objective: Increase understanding, connection to and participation in koala conservation actions and behaviours across all sectors of the community and Council.

Issue	Action	Outcome Achieved	Timeframe	Responsibility	Partners	Cost
<b>Education of Council Staff</b>	<b>Informed Council Officers</b> Attend forums, seminars, workshops or like events regarding koala conservation	Improved understanding of koala issues and conservation practices	Short	CPA, GC, CET, CI, PDG, CS, ER, CCS	LGQ, Universities, State government	Officer Time (within existing budget)
	<b>Responsible Council Officers</b> Council staff and internal contractors are kept up to date with statutory obligations within the suite of legislation regarding the conservation of koalas	Staff understand and are achieving legislative requirements to minimise harm and reduce threats to koalas	Immediate	CPA, GC, CET, CI, PDG, CS, ER, CCS	ER (EEU), EHP	Officer Time (additional budget required)
<b>Responsible Dog Owners</b>	<b>Behaviour Change for Dog Owners</b> Support Council's behaviour change program focussing on dog management issues (e.g. Dogs Day Out Event, pet shops and veterinarian clinics to promote dog education, koala exclusion fences for security dogs)	Increase community knowledge and behaviour change resulting in reduced dog attacks on koalas	Immediate	ER (CSU)	ER (EEU)	Medium (within existing budget)
	<b>Support from Animal Groups</b> Seek continued support of the RSPCA, Dogs Queensland, vets and dog clubs for animal management initiatives	RSPCA contribute to and support initiatives	Short	ER (CSU)	RSPCA	Officer Time (within existing budget)
<b>Koala friendly backyards</b>	<b>Koala Friendly Fences</b> Promote to residents appropriate backyard and pool fencing styles that improve safe koala movement and contain dogs (including retrofitting existing fences )	Increased safe koala movement	Long	ER (EEU)	CPA, Fencing and Pool companies	Officer Time (additional budget required)
<b>Community Improving Koala Habitat</b>	<b>Koala Conservation Agreement Program</b> Continue and expand extension programs activities that improve koala habitat (particularly the Koala Conservation Agreement Program)	Increased number of properties have access to Council's Environmental Partnerships extension programs with secure koala habitat	Short	ER (EEU)		High (additional budget required)



Issue	Action	Outcome Achieved	Timeframe	Responsibility	Partners	Cost
	<b>Bushcare</b> Continue the community Bushcare program activities that improve Koala habitat in strategic locations	Improve quality of public bushland in strategic locations	Ongoing	ER (EEU)		Medium (within existing budget)
<b>Koalas and the Community</b>	<b>What is the Community Thinking</b> Undertake regular online surveys of the communities' understanding of koala issues (principally, habitat, car strike, dog attack and health) to inform actions of behaviour change	Increased understanding of the communities knowledge, awareness and acceptance of koala issues	Ongoing	ER (EEU)	CET	Medium (additional budget required)
	<b>IndigiScapes</b> Continue and enhance the delivery of messages about key koala issues at the IndigiScapes Centre including demonstrations of koala friendly design	Greater community understanding and koala friendly community	Ongoing	ER (EEU)	CPA	Medium (within existing budget)
	<b>The Aboriginal Connection</b> Work with Traditional Owners of Redlands to enhance public understanding of the significance of koalas, their habitat and connections with people and other species	Deeper appreciation of cultural value of koalas and Quandamooka People's culture and heritage	Short	ER (EEU)	CCS, QYAC	Low (within existing budget)
	<b>Kids and Koalas</b> Continue to develop and implement school education programs on koalas	Targeted school education program	Ongoing	ER (EEU)		Medium (within existing budget)
	<b>Koalas on Social Media</b> Use social media to report on koala and human interactions (e.g. road deaths, dog attacks and koalas in urban areas)	Increased real-time awareness of 'hot spots' and koala mortality	Ongoing	ER (EEU)		Officer Time (additional budget required)
	<b>Spreading the Word</b> Continue to review existing and develop additional educational material addressing key koala issues	High levels of understanding of koala issues in Redlands community	Ongoing	ER (EEU)	Other councils, Environmental Community Groups	Medium (within existing budget)
	<b>Working with Industry and Business</b> Encourage greater support for koala conservation and management from development, business and industry groups	Increased engagement to promote innovative koala conservation outcomes for development, business and industry groups	Immediate	ER (EEU)	Industry	Medium (additional budget required)

