

Koalas in Noosa

Introduction

Koalas are of great interest to residents and visitors and are listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 as 'vulnerable' in Queensland. A Noosa Shire Koala Conservation Policy and Koala Conservation Plan has been developed to help guide Council and the community with the conservation and protection of Noosa's koalas. The Policy and Plan can be found on the Noosa Council's website

<https://www.noosa.qld.gov.au/koalas>

Threats to Koalas

There are a number of threats to koalas, including:

- Attack from domestic and wild dogs
- Being hit by vehicles
- Disease, such as Chlamydia and koala retrovirus
- Habitat loss

Where to from here?

The Koala Conservation Plan identifies a number of specific actions to help conserve koalas in Noosa. Examples include:

- Protecting and enhancing koala habitat
- Supporting research into the health, distribution and abundance of koalas across the Shire

- Improving road infrastructure to minimise the potential for vehicle strike
- Targeted wild dog control
- Public education on responsible domestic dog control

Council is currently working alongside university researchers and koala experts to gain a greater understanding of the distribution and health of koalas across the shire. Novel methods are being used to locate koala scats with tracking dogs. Any fresh scats can undergo further genetic analysis.

How you can help

You can help with the conservation of koalas:

- Practice responsible dog ownership
- When driving, be on the look-out for koalas and reduce your speed in bushland areas-particularly between dusk and dawn when they are most active
- Protect koala food trees on your property and be involved with tree planting projects such as National Tree Day
- Koala sightings can be reported to Council who can pass that information onto university researchers
- Koala sightings can be recorded on citizen science websites such as Koala Tracker
- **If you find a sick or injured koala, please contact the RSPCA hotline on 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)**



September is 'Save the Koala Month'