

KOALA ACTION GROUP QLD INC.



*A voice for  
Koalas in  
the  
Redlands*

# OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*"To Secure the future for  
Koalas in the Redlands"*

- Revegetation
- Education
- Legislation





# Revegetation



- Planted more than 100,000 trees
- Work under the Redland City Council Bushcare Program
- Focus on areas along watercourses and creek lines
- Plant five native species to one eucalyptus tree



# Education



- Community
- Schools
- Decision makers



# Legislation

Working with all levels of government to improve planning legislation and environmental polices



# Key Threats



- Habitat Loss
- Disease

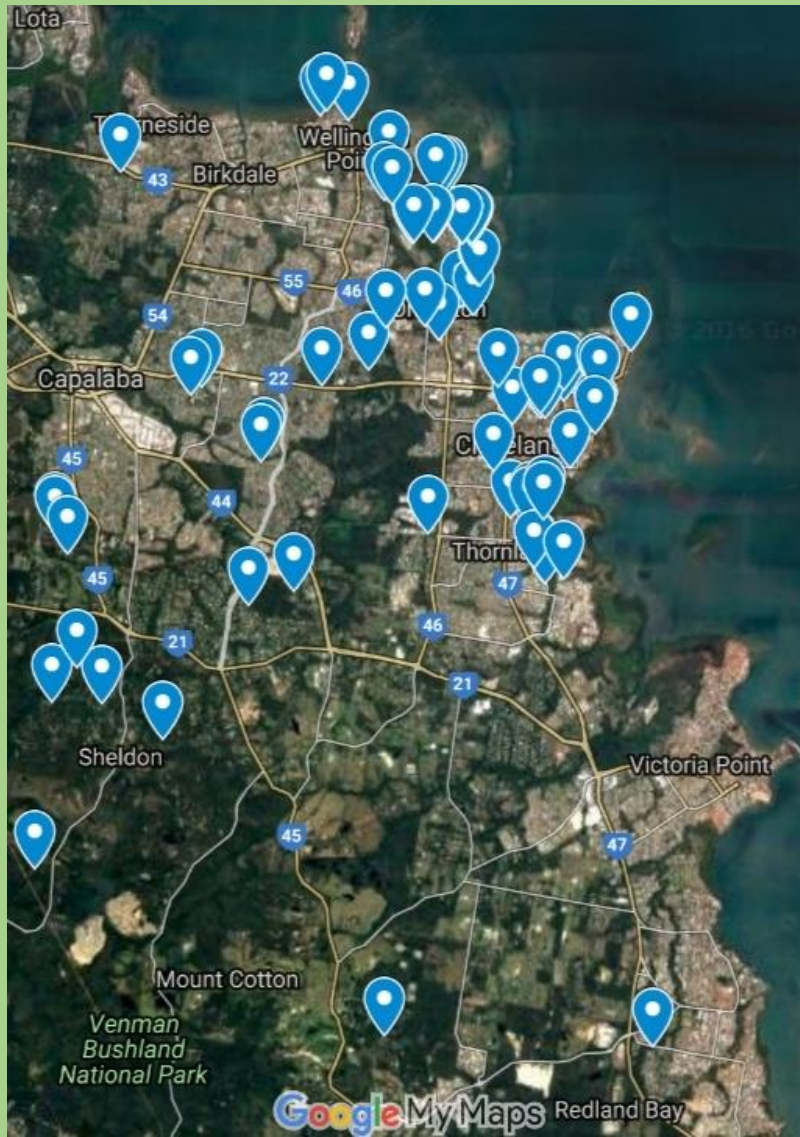


- Dogs
- Vehicle Strikes





# Annual Koala Count-a-thon



- Annual event for past 30 years
- Raises awareness through media
- Involves community
- Provides data and information on koala location



# Toondah GPS Tracking Project

## TOONDAH HARBOUR PRECINCT, CLEVELAND

- 10,000 people proposed for residential development in Moreton Bay Marine Park
- A colony of healthy breeding koalas under threat
- Robust scientific data required to gain information
- Koalas are being fitted with GPS tracking koalas
- Automatic downloads twice per day showing movement and usage of habitat trees





# Project Participants



**Tyler**



**Mia**



**Kasey**



**Airlie**



**Saxon**



**Hollie & Violet**



**Scout**



**Ethan**



# Project Aims

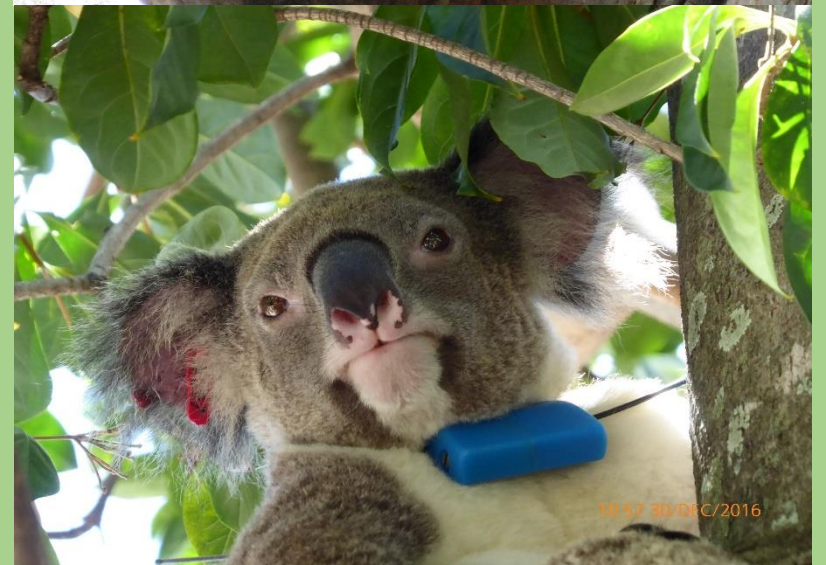
- **Monitoring koala movements (how far they travel and which roads they cross)**
- **Identify key habitat trees**
- **Ongoing monitoring through a breeding season and non-breeding season (12 months)**
- **Document breeding success and longer-term health status**
- **Achieve better outcomes for habitat protection on future development sites**
- **Create awareness in the community and visitors to the area**
- **Provide data to Council staff and other interested parties**





# LX Collars and anklets

- Specifically designed for koalas to be low profile and safe
- Rapid detection of death / serious illness or injury
- 12 hourly uploads on LX website displaying koalas location and movement patterns
- Centralised database enabling EVE and KAG to update and access data including vet checks






# KAG's role

- Locating koalas when needed for capture
- Transportation of koalas
- Weekly manual tracking to monitor health and collect data in the field
- Sharing information and involving community





# Data collected



## Field Event

Event Type

Event Category

Event Schedule

Team Member

Date  Time

Koala Name   Not in the system

Koala sex

Polygon

Joey

Easting  Northing

GPS Easting  GPS Northing

Approx Time to Locate

Visibility Score

Tree Species

DBH number of stems  DBH (cm)

Tree Height (m)  Koala Height (m)

Ambient T  Wind

Cloud Cover (%)  Rain

Priority Event

|       | Ping                            | Visual               | Fitted correctly     | Dropped              |    |
|-------|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----|
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| Tag 3 | <input type="text"/>            | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | -- |

Koala In Danger

Koala Sick or Injured

Koala Found Dead

Koala Suspected Dead

LX Web Status

Remote LX monitoring

Comment

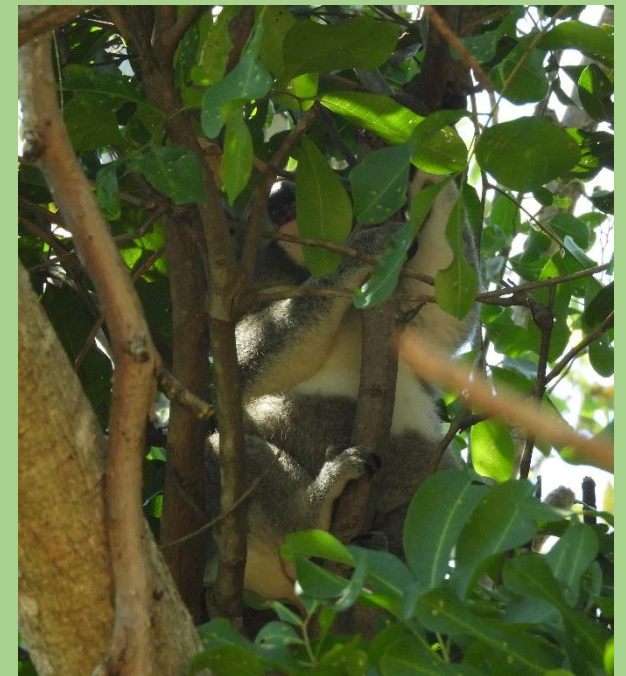
# What have we found so far?

- **Key trees in the area play an important role for the colony of koalas, in particular a large Blue gum (Eucalyptus Tereticornis) in the garden of a townhouse complex in Shore Street East.**
- **The tree appears to play a role socially and as a nursery with up to 4 koalas seen at times.**
- **Usually a mixture of juveniles and adult females sighted in the tree.**





- Tyler, the alpha male travels the greatest distance from the Redland Water/Redland Trade College grounds in Middle Street across to Linear Park near Raby Bay
- He also has an ability to detect when we have released a koala back after a collar fitting and/or health check even though he is some distance away
- The koala have quite different personalities, some more adventurous than others
- Juvenile 'Ethan' has surprised us by staying for weeks at a time in the family tree
- Koalas are surprisingly clever at hiding and sometimes tracking them to an exact location is quite a challenge and at times we've had to give up
- Juvenile 'Saxon' regularly goes back to exactly the same spot tucked away in thick vegetation



# Tree species being used

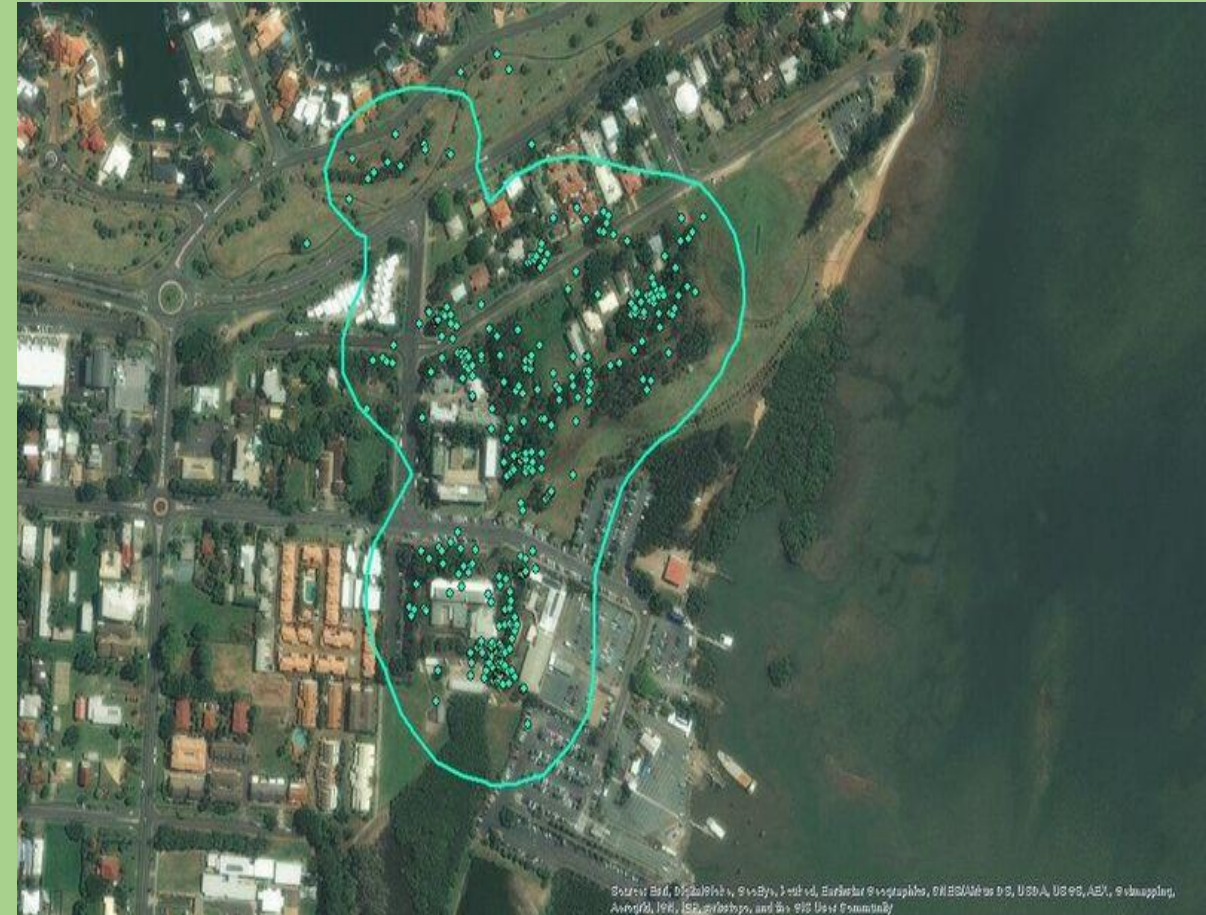
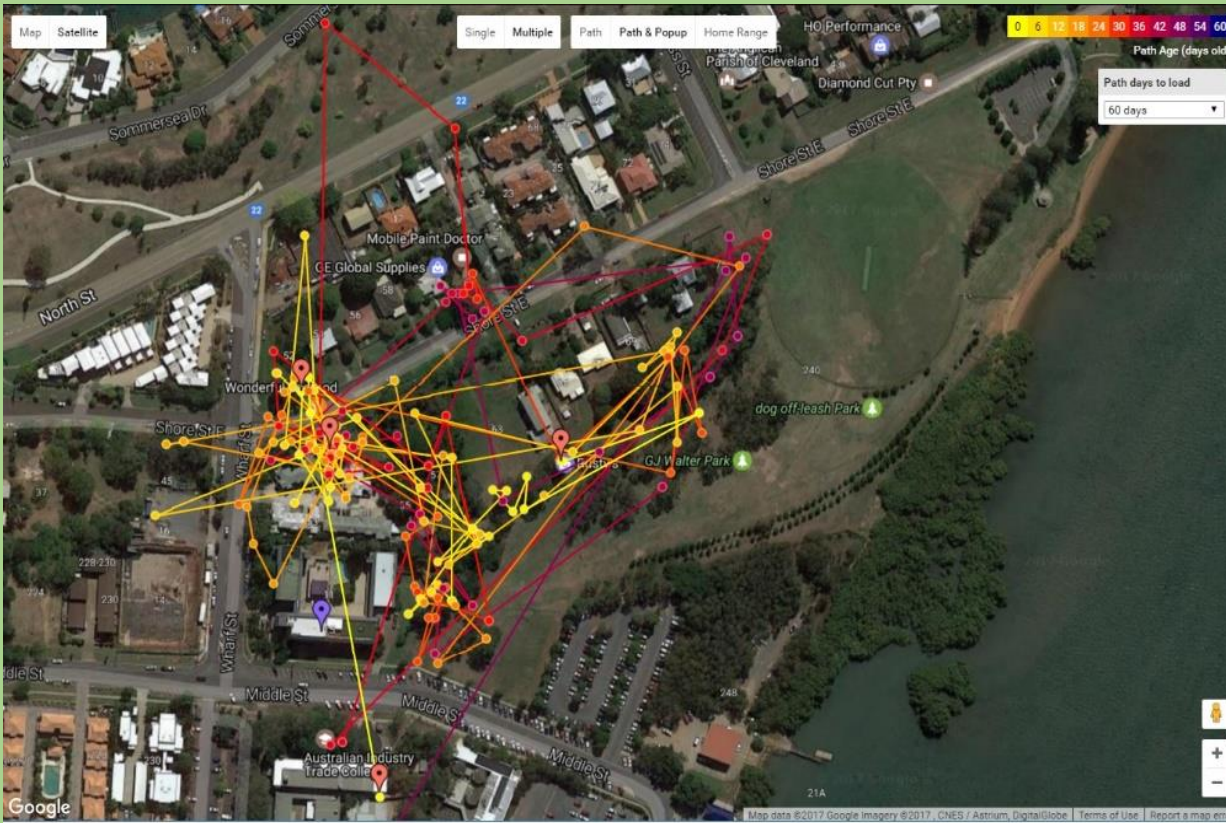
- Qld Blue Gum
- Tallowwood
- Spotted Gum
- Flooded Gum
- Moreton Bay Ash
- Grey Ironbark
- Paperbark
- Moreton Bay Fig
- She-oak
- Tuckaroo
- Brown Plum Pine
- Golden Shower Tree
- Camphor Laurel
- Mango
- Cadaghi
- African Tulip
- Umbrella Tree
- Broad Leaf Pepper Tree





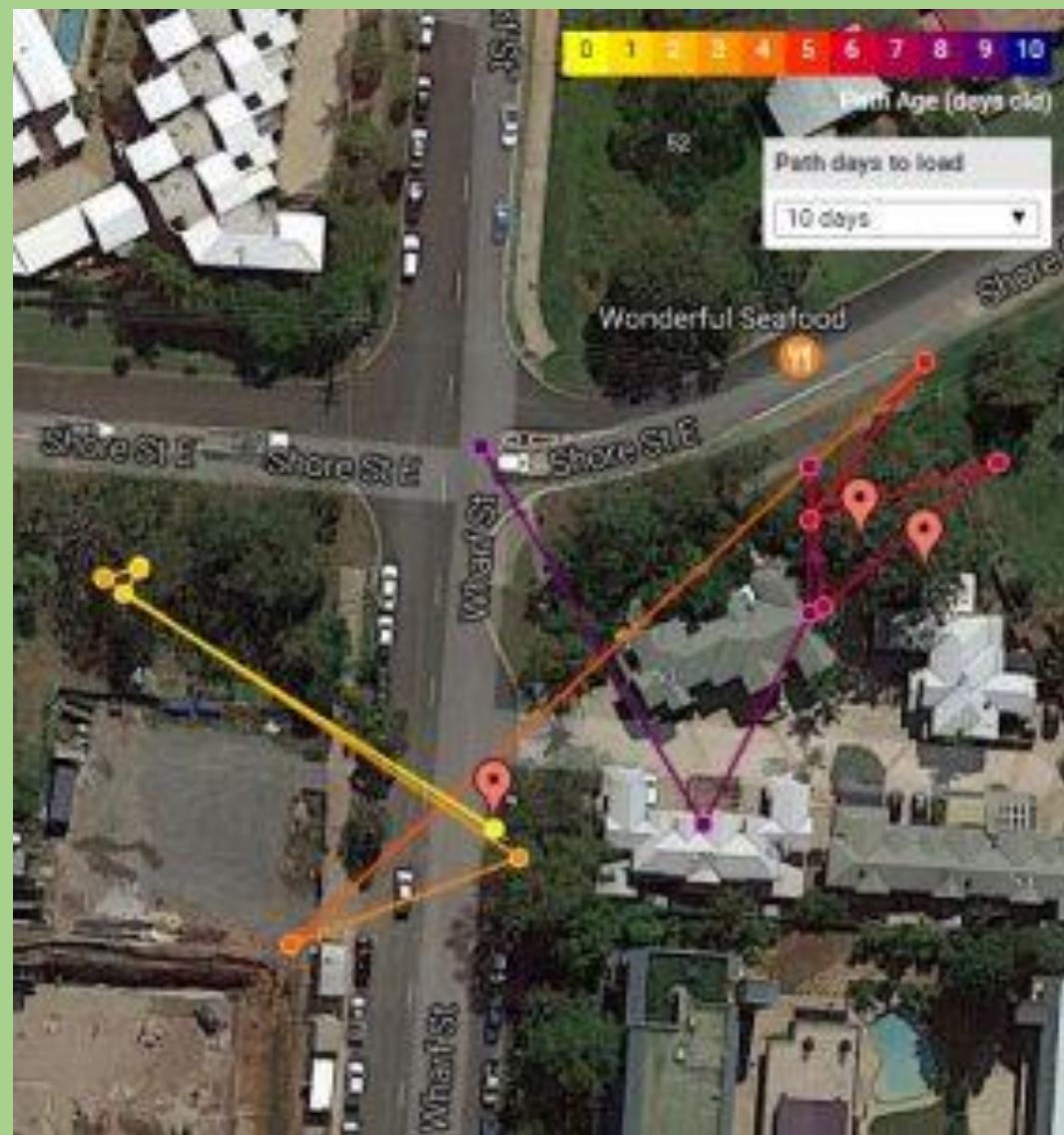
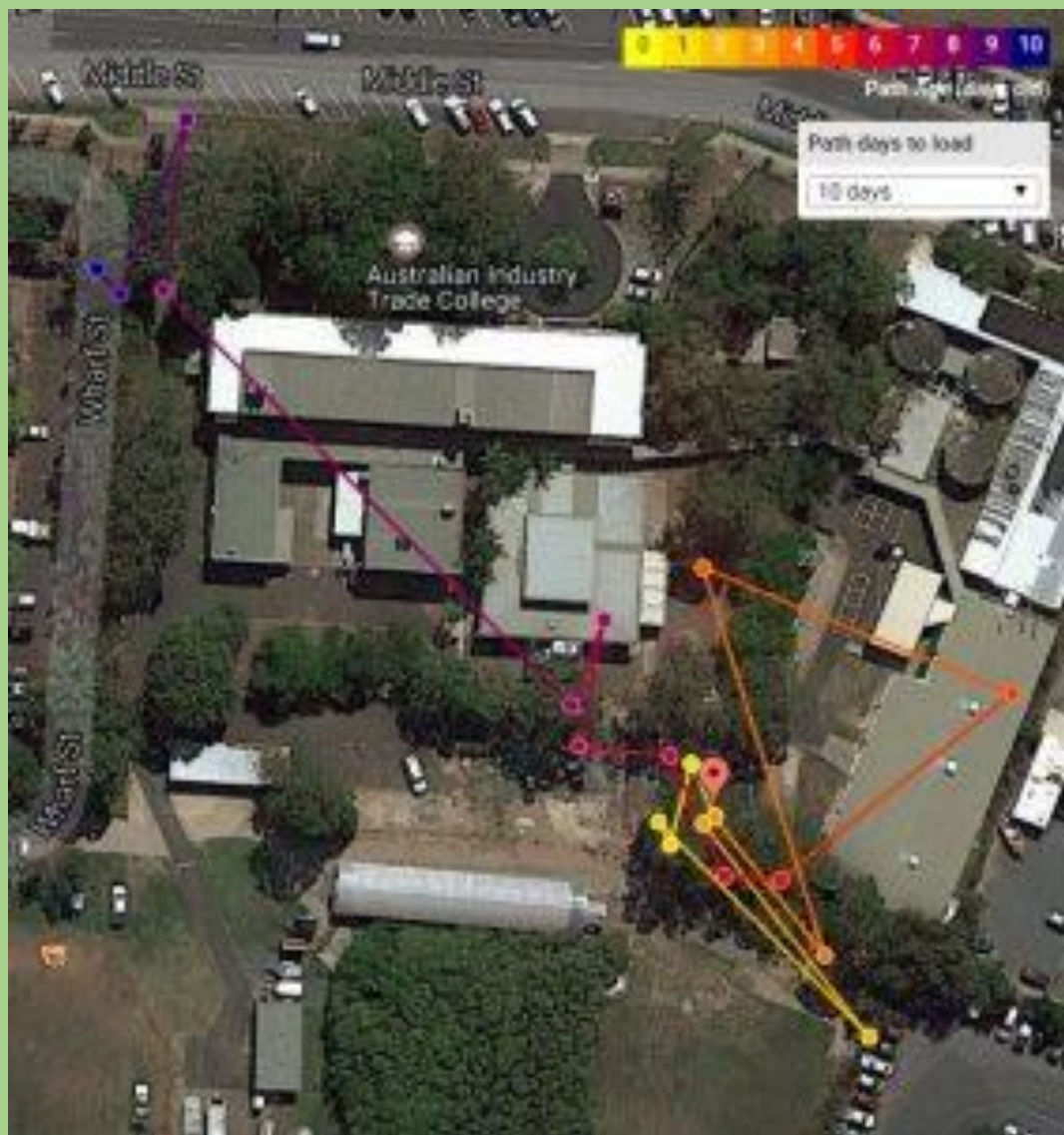
# Movement & Home Range Mapping

## Tyler (4 year old)





# Mia (5.5 years old) and Kasey (3)

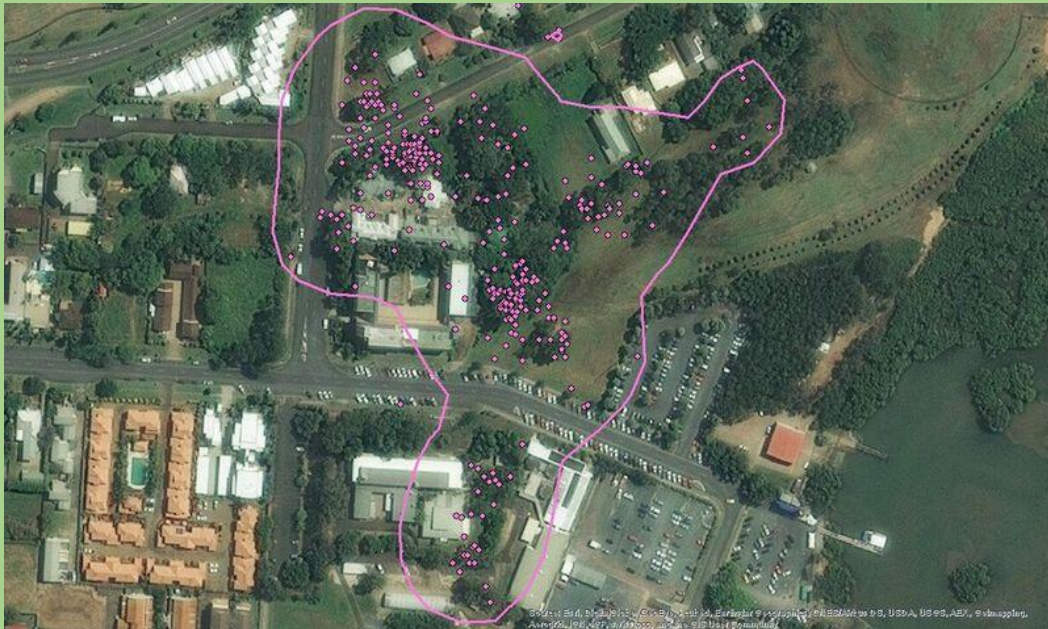




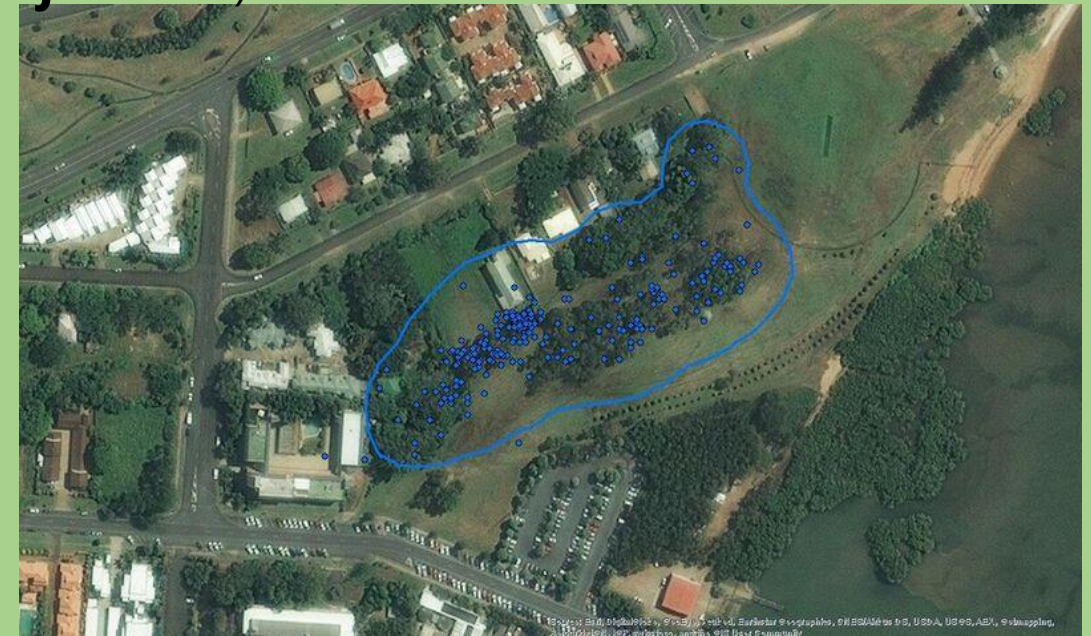
**Ethan (2 years old)**



**Airlie (6.5 years old)**



**Scout (3.5 years) and Saxon (18 month juvenile)**

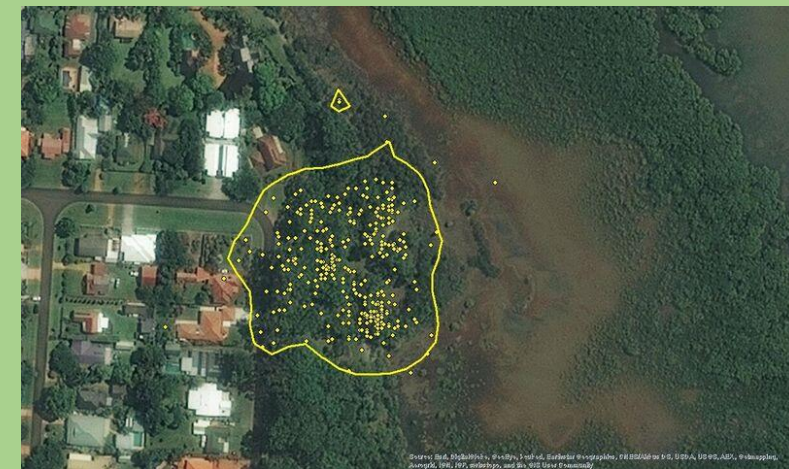
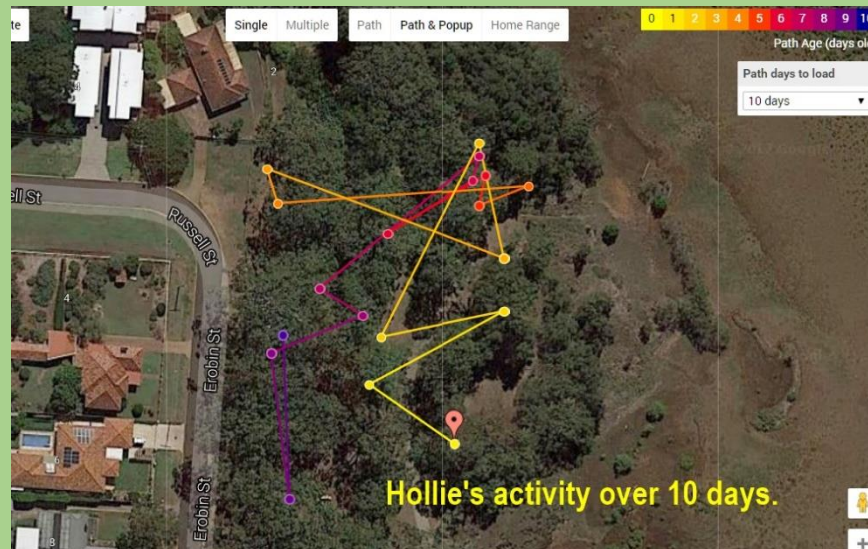




# Hollie (2.5 years) Violet (1)



- Home range is the out of the Toondah precinct in the north end of Nandeebie Park
- Her young Violet separated a few months ago is usually found in nearby tree



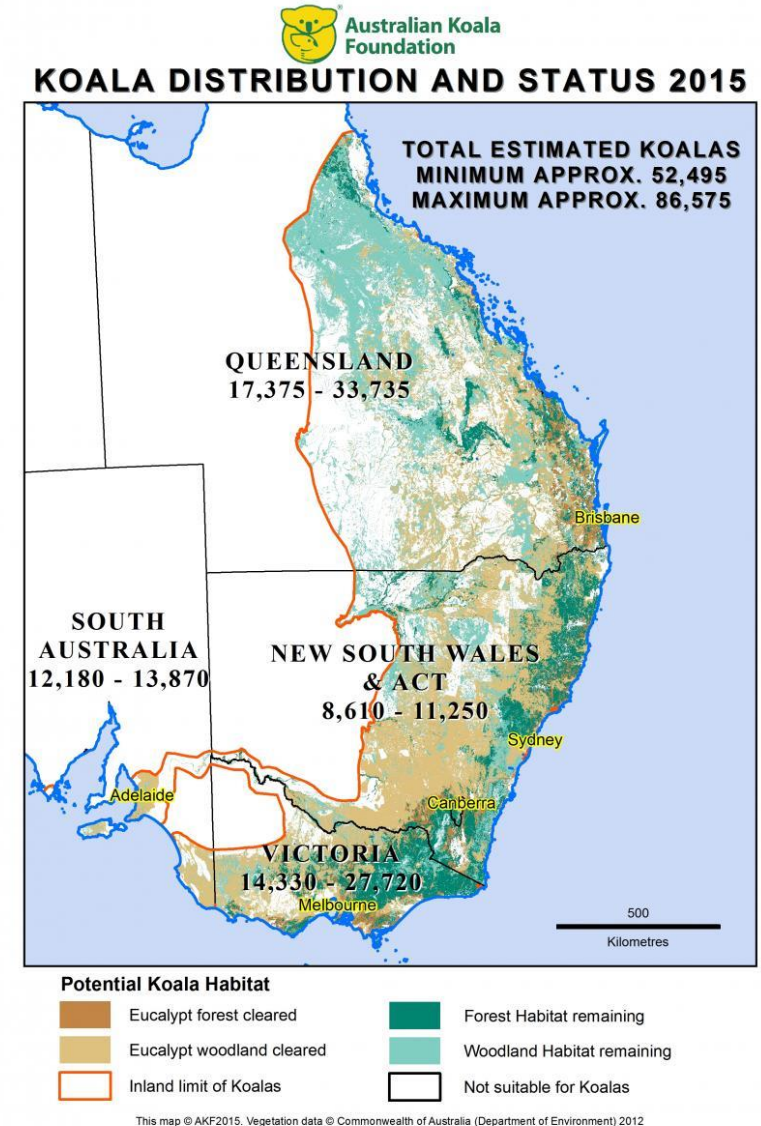






# Current status of the Koala

- Koala Coast region has declined by approximately 80%
- It was once considered the most significant koala populations in Australia living in close proximity to a major city
- In the past 20 years koala numbers have declined from more than 6000 to around 1000
- In 2012, the Commonwealth Government listed the koala as 'vulnerable' in Queensland under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth)
- The AKF estimates there are between 45,000 and 85,000 koalas left in Australia
- The government claim there are about 400,000





# A future?

- A Koala Protection Act needs to be implemented urgently
- Would have same principles as the Bald Eagle Act in the USA
- Do not touch the animal, do not touch their habitat
- Political will is needed for this to occur



Thank you to all supporters who have made the tracking project possible by donating money and volunteering time.

We appreciate funding received from Redland City Council Community Grants, Councillors Wendy Boglary and Murray Elliott through the Councillors' Small Grant and the State Government through the Qld Gambling Community Benefit Fund.