



A voice
for koalas
in the Redlands

www.koalagroup.asn.au
email:admin@koalagroup.asn.au

KAG Newsletter

January-March 2023

DIARY DATES

Sunday April 2 9.00am-11.30am Community Koala Tree Planting

Sawmill Dr, Wellington Pt
Join in the fun with the Redlands Coast Community Bushcare Team and help put 2000 native plants in the ground to expand habitat for our local wildlife at Station Street Wetlands.

At 11am, join the detection dogs and researchers for a koala spotting walk where you'll learn trade tips and tricks for successfully finding our furry marsupials!

Please note: Due to limited on-site parking a shuttle bus will operate between the Wellington Pt Commuter Car Park, located approximately 800 metres from the site, at 55 Harris Street, Wellington Point. Participants may also park here and walk to the site.

Saturday April 15 3pm-4.30pm Urban Koala Walk

Bligh St, Wellington Pt
Come and check out one of the areas revegetated by KAG and spot some of the local koalas!

Wear sturdy walking shoes and long sleeves/pants due to biting insects in this area.

Sunday May 7 & June 4 8.30am KAG Tree Plantings

Riverton Dr, Wellington Pt
(Access from Spurs Dr)
Wear closed-in shoes and sun safe clothing. BYO gloves. Hand tools are provided and holes are pre-dug. All welcome and a delicious morning tea follows the planting.

Sunday May 14 Mothers Day Walk for Toondah 9am-11am Meet at Raby Bay Harbour Pk (near railway station)

Fight to stop Olympic Whitewater facility continues

Media interest has increased on this issue in recent weeks as the Redlands community continues to speak against the Olympic Whitewater facility (WWF) that has been forced upon the people of the Redlands, even though it has been an



unpopular choice throughout the Council's community consultation process. Despite this, seven councillors (Williams, Talty, Golle, Mitchell, Hughes, McKenzie, Edwards) voted to approve the Birkdale Precinct Community masterplan (left) on March 15 at Council's general meeting.

KAG still has major concerns that extensive earthworks and heavy machinery needed to construct the proposed development in the centre of an ecologically sensitive environment will seriously compromise the environmental, heritage and cultural values of the site. Underground natural springs, endangered ecosystem vegetation and significant stands of koala habitat are potentially under threat from the intensive high impact development being proposed.

Questions remain about the long term financial viability of the facility when no costing information has been released to the public. The International Olympic Committees' (IOC) 'new norm' policy is that there are no new builds unless the facility has been long planned and being built regardless of the Olympic Games, along with having a detailed business plan completed that confirms its long term financial viability.

The WWF fits neither of these and one could question if the IOC was misled by Redlands Council from the onset. Mayor Karen Williams recent attempt to introduce a new concept by renaming the facility 'Redland Resilience Training and Whitewater Centre' appears to be a blatant attempt to take the focus off the Olympic aspect of the project which has always been Council's priority since the white water facility idea was dumped on the community.

The State and Federal government have allocated a staggering \$7 billion of funding to upgrade existing and to build new venues across the State, with the Redlands facility named as one of only five brand new builds in Queensland.

The building of a new million dollar Olympic WWF also potentially compromises the obligation of the Brisbane Organising Committee for 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to deliver a 'climate positive' games.

It appears to be a highly irresponsible move by supporting councillors to go along with a proposal that the majority of Redlands community do not want and Council have no idea of immediate or future financial implications.

Considering the Penrith (NSW) white water rafting venue is about to receive a \$3.1 million upgrade to host the Canoe Slalom World Championships in 2025, the logical and cost saving alternative is to hold the two week Olympic 2032 white water rafting event at this existing venue.

[AOC excited for multi-million upgrade plans for Penrith Whitewater Stadium](https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1133961/aoc-stadium-upgrades)
<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1133961/aoc-stadium-upgrades>

**This newsletter is produced by
The Koala Action Group Qld Inc**
Address: PO Box 660
Capalaba Qld 4157
ABN: 85 618 891 610
Phone: 3823 5575
email: admin@koalagroup.asn.au
web address:
www.koalagroup.asn.au
Patrons Helen Murray
Councillor Lance Hewlett
Councillor Wendy Boglary
President Debbie Pointing
V/President & Policy Advisor
Lynn Roberts
Secretary Jenny Niall
(Tree Planting Convenor)
Treasurer Tanya Golitschenko
Newsletter Debbie Pointing
Executive Members
Chris Bray
Carmel Rackemann

Koala Sightings Nov 22 to Mar 23

Alexandra Hills: McDonald Rd, Flinders St.
Birkdale: Collingwood Rd, Lachlan St, Lapidus St, Lewisham Ct, Napier St, Old Cleveland Rd E, Palgold Ct, Pitt Rd, Palgold Ct, Plantation Pl, Spoonbill St, Sunnybay Dr. **Capalaba:** Dianella Pl, Eucalyptus Ct, Ney Rd, Timbertop Ct.
Cleveland: Bay St, Bayshore Pl, Beach St, Benjamin Ct, Carinya St, Cleary St, Fitzroy St, Island St, Long St, Middle St, North St, Ocean St, Queen St, Shore St E, Shore St N, Shore St W, South St. **MSI:** Ballow St, Basin Dr, Billa St, Bimba St, Birch St, Booran St, Brown Lake Dr, Claytons Rd, Dickson Way, East Coast Rd, Flinders Av, Llewellyn St, Oxley Pde, Sovereign Rd, Tramican St, Yabby St.
Ormiston: Blackthorne St, Delancey St, Dundas St W, Ellen St, Morris St, Stevens Pl, Sturgeon St. **Sheldon:** Avalon Rd, Emu St, Summit St. **Thornlands:** Baythorn Dr, Bead St, Boundary Rd, Lorikeet Dr. **Victoria Pt:** Cleveland Redland Bay Rd, Schmidt St.
Wellington Pt: Bedford Dr, Birkdale Rd, Bligh St, Collingwood Rd, Fernbourne Rd, Jacob St, Janelle Ct, Main Rd, Old Cleveland Rd E, Pitt Rd, Tulloch Dr, Wharton St.

Other LGA's

BCC: Carindale, Holland Park, Morningside, Mt Gravatt, Mt Gravatt E, Nathan. **GCCC:** Worongary. **GRC:** Wolvi. **LCC:** Logan Village, Parkridge South, Yarrabilla. **LVR:** Helidon. **MBRC:** Kallangur, Strathpine. **SRC:** Esk, Lake Wivenhoe. **WDR:** Dalby.

Primary data sources:

<https://biocollect.ala.org.au/project/index/edad0555-32a6-473e-8956-c70cf80329c4>
<https://biocollect.ala.org.au/acsa/project/index/f3d0ad81-135d-40bb-baec-50db553df6d0>
[https://biocache.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?q=text:koala&fq=cl959:%22Redland%20\(C\)%22&fq=occurrence+decade+i:%222020%22&pageSize=100](https://biocache.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?q=text:koala&fq=cl959:%22Redland%20(C)%22&fq=occurrence+decade+i:%222020%22&pageSize=100)

Toondah Harbour development update

More than 25,000 submissions were sent to comment on the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the Toondah Harbour development proposal in December 2022.

This was a fantastic effort from numerous groups and a massive number of individuals from across Australia.

It is expected Federal Environment minister Tanya Plibersek will hand down her decision some time this year to accept or reject the proposal.

With Minister Plibersek promising environmental law reform, committing to protect 30% of Australia's land and sea by 2030 and working towards zero new extinctions, it make sense that she rejects this environmentally disastrous proposal and upholds the Australian government's international commitment to protect Ramsar listed wetlands.

A rejection of the Toondah development will go some way to help restore the communities' faith in the government and the environmental policies that are supposed to stop such developments from happening.

To ensure our voices continue to be heard, there is a 'Walk for Toondah' event being held again on Mothers Day after last years successful walk that saw more than 2000 attendees of all ages attend. Further details to be advised.

Ethical investment group divests Lendlease - KAG concerns about Shoreline remain

A recent decision by Australian Ethical Investments (AEI) to divest development company Lendlease (LL) was predominantly due to the company's concern for a colony of koalas that are threatened by impacts from a development near Sydney.

[Australian Ethical offloads Lendlease shares over development threat to koala population | New South Wales | The Guardian](#)

AEI is a fund manager which invests in ethical and sustainable industries and as of 31 January 2023, manage \$8.68 billion for over 115,000 funded customers.

A statement on the AEI website says, "We also have concerns about another Lendlease development, Shoreline, in South East Queensland. This development also has the potential for negative biodiversity impacts. This together with the Mt Gilead development means we're not convinced Lendlease is taking seriously its responsibility to protect biodiversity".

www.australianethical.com.au/insights/why-we-divested-from-lendlease/

KAG has long held concerns about the environmental standards of the Lendlease 'Shoreline' development that is underway in Southern Redland Bay. It is vital that this land is developed sensitively and with careful regard to its impacts on adjacent and surrounding areas of international environmental significance, primarily Koala Coast Core Habitat, the Moreton Bay Ramsar site and the Moreton Bay Marine Park.

The Lendlease website states, "**We're strongly committed to leaving the world a better place in all that we do. We apply bold thinking and world-class knowledge to solving complex challenges and identifying once-in-a-generation opportunities.**"

Their "sustainability frame" has among their sustainability imperatives: "**Healthy Planet and People**" and an environmental focus on "**Nature and pollution**".

This gives the impression they are a development company which holds themselves to a higher standard than the minimum standard necessary to gain development approvals.

A number of community groups and experts provided a brief to AEI which has been sent to LL outlining concerns and making ten recommendations of how they can improve outcomes for the natural environment and wildlife.

The recommendations include; widening of the coastal corridor to allow for rising sea levels; strengthening the east-west fauna corridors with an additional northern corridor; use of Koala Sensitive Urban Design principles; retention of existing farm dams (especially Orchard Rd) so important to hundreds of birdlife, including migratory species; more separation between human uses and migratory shorebird habitat; vegetate buffer areas between developed areas; relocation of the Town Centre to already cleared land in the south.

To date LL have made no commitment to implement any of the recommended changes, which is extremely disappointing.

Link to brief

<https://koalagroup.asn.au/comments-on-the-ecological-impacts-of-the-shoreline-development-redland-bay-v1/>

FEDERAL GOVT TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT MT COTTON SPORTS PRECINCT

KAG is pleased with the Federal government's decision to make the Redlands Coast Sporting and Recreation Precinct at Heinemann Rd, Mt Cotton a controlled action under the provisions of the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity (EPBC) Act.

This provides our group with a level of confidence that the Federal government are serious about overseeing development proposals that negatively impact endangered species such as the koala.

The community will have an opportunity to have a further say about concerns with the development project that if approved will see the destruction of more than 550 habitat trees, most being mature koala food trees.

KAG wrote to Redlands CEO Andrew Chesterman and the Federal Environment minister Tanya Plibersek in September last year with concerns about the large number of trees proposed to be removed to make way for playing fields, clubhouses, carparks and a BMX precinct that includes extensive bike tracks.

The response from Council was that only a minimal number of trees were being removed and that most of the trees to be cleared are isolated and in already disturbed areas.

KAG has long emphasised the importance of 'paddock trees' for koalas and other wildlife to use as stepping stones and it is gratifying to see the Federal government's recognition of this fact.

Council purchased the Heinemann Rd site in 2017 for more than \$7 million with the majority of funding (\$5.148 million) taken out of the ratepayer funded Environmental Levy. It appears this was not made public, therefore the Redlands community was not aware at the time.

Redlands Investment Corporation negotiated the deal with the family of a former Redlands councillor Betty Goleby.

With the majority of the site zoned 'Conservation' at the time of its sale, KAG questions the use of Environment Levy funds to purchase land that was not under any threat of future development, contrary to what Council is reporting in media. It appears that the higher valued northern portion of the property (being partially cleared) was essentially subsidised by the Environment Levy and is now earmarked to be mostly cleared for the sporting and recreation precinct.

Council sought and were granted an exemption from the Labor state government in July last year to clear significant koala habitat in the north west corner of the site that is supposed to be protected by State koala mapping, after the development proposal was deemed to be a 'significant community project'.

Redlands Council has not provided the community with detailed information about the likely cost to develop the site and how these plans will be funded. It has been previously been reported the cost may blow out to exceed \$200 million, which is extremely concerning considering Council reports initially estimated the project costs to be approximately \$40-60 million.



Mature koala trees like this containing significant hollows will be destroyed to make way for playing fields and a BMX precinct

ORMISTON COLLEGE EXPANSION PLANS

KAG wrote to the State Government and Urbis (a project group acting on behalf of the College) on February 18, 2023 to express concern regarding the school's plans to expand their campus into an area that contains protected koala habitat. We have not received a reply from Minister Steven Miles who will be responsible for the decision to approve the development. Neither has our group received a reply from the local MP Don Brown who was also copied into the letter below.

The Koala Action Group is writing to express serious concerns about the plans to expand the Ormiston College school campus. The plans are quite extensive which is surprising considering when the College purchased the site many years ago they would have been aware of the development constraints that applied over much of the area.

Our group understands that a development application was lodged with Redlands Council in 2021 and was not accepted due to the proposal being deemed prohibited as the site is situated in a koala priority area and koala habitat area.

Upon inspection of the site this afternoon (Saturday 18/2/23), two koalas were sighted from Delancey St in trees that would be earmarked for removal to construct new sporting ovals. It was also noted that many significant aged koala habitat trees will need to be removed to accommodate the extensive expansion list the College has planned for the site.

There is little doubt that other koalas would also inhabit this site which needs to be verified by proper koala surveys that should be conducted over a longer period of time, both during breeding and non-breeding months.

Our group is both disappointed and disturbed by the extent of clearing that is being proposed and it appears the College is attempting to side-step Council's planning legislation by applying for the development through a State government ministerial approval that we understand can effectively ignore/override the Council's environmental zoning and habitat protection overlays. Given that the listing of the koala was elevated to 'endangered' only twelve months ago, our group expects the project will be referred to the Federal government for assessment under the EPBC Act and we ask that you advise what the process will be?

A Koala Success Story

There are positive signs in parts of Brisbane City Council (BCC) area that koala numbers are on the increase with BCC reporting that after decades of absence koalas have returned to the Mt Gravatt Conservation Reserve and are breeding successfully.

During a recent visit to the Reserve and Mt Gravatt Lookout it was encouraging to easily find two healthy koalas.

Also of interest was the wildlife drinking troughs that have been installed to support koalas and other wildlife during times of drought. [Mount Gravatt Environment Group https://megoutlook.org](https://megoutlook.org)

KAG believes these would greatly benefit koalas and other wildlife living in many of the parks and reserves in the Redlands, for example Nandeebie Pk, GJ Walter Pk, Stevens Place Pk and Bligh St Conservation Area to name a few.



**To report a sick or injured koala contact
Redlands Wildlife Rescue Service (24 hours) on 3833 4031**

Report koala sightings to - Redlands Koala Watch

<https://yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au/koalawatch>

OR

[Koala Action Group Qld Inc www.koalagroup.asn.au/report-a-koala-sighting/](http://www.koalagroup.asn.au/report-a-koala-sighting/)

KAG Membership: Application/Renewal Please complete the following and forward to: KAG: PO Box 660, Capalaba Qld 4157 or email admin@koalagroup.asn.au
Fees can now be made via direct debit to: Koala Action Group Qld Inc. Suncorp Bank BSB: 484-799 Account No. 001748631 and include your name in the ref. line. Please note: If paying by cheque or money order, ensure the payee line includes the full name - Koala Action Group Qld Inc. (the bank does not accept abbreviations)

Name -----

Address -----

Phone/email -----

Annual membership rates (please indicate membership type). Single: \$15;
Family or Organisation: \$25; Pensioner: \$10; Under 18: \$10 Donation (optional):

If you're interested in any of the following, please indicate.
Tree planting { } Help with displays { } Letterbox drops { } Wildlife Rescue { }
I apply for membership of the Koala Action Group Qld Inc and enclose my membership fee.

Signature: Date:

All membership renewals are due in June unless otherwise stated on newsletter envelope's address label. Email recipients will receive an email renewal advice.