



A voice
for koalas
in the Redlands

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

KAG Newsletter

July–September 2025

DIARY DATE

Saturday September 27

9.30am-12.30pm

Koala Watch Forum

Redlands Performing Arts
Centre - 2/16 Middle St,
Cleveland

Hear from koala experts plus
learn about Council's new Koala
dashboard. Lunch provided,
bookings are essential.

[https://events.griffith.edu.au/
event/a9ddf7eb-2d21-4b4f-
b8f0-df5a37ee28d8/](https://events.griffith.edu.au/event/a9ddf7eb-2d21-4b4f-b8f0-df5a37ee28d8/)

[summary-page](#)

Email the Indigis team at koala@redland.qld.gov.au
for further info or call 38248611.

Saturday October 11

NSI Minjerrabah Urban

Koala Survey

All day event

Call the Indigis team on
38248611 if you're interested
in volunteering and want more
information.

Sunday October 12

**Welcome Back Shore-
birds Festival**

8am-12pm

GJ Walter Park, Cleveland
Free fun family event to
celebrate the arrival of mi-
gratory shorebirds following
their mega journey across
the world.

A morning of guided koala/
wildlife walks, birdwatching,
nature displays, food, drink
and music.

**Redlands IndigiScapes
Nursery**

10am-3pm Monday-Friday and
9am-12pm on the first Saturday of
each month.

All plants are only \$3.00 each.
Redland City Council residents can
obtain 5 free koala food trees to
plant on Redland properties to pro-
vide habitat.

Ormiston College Plan to remove 652 trees

A proposed expansion development at Ormiston College threatens to destroy protected State mapped koala habitat in one of the region's most ecologically significant areas.

KAG believe this development should not proceed, and is urging the Queensland Government to reject the proposal in its current form.

The area under threat is home to mature Koala habitat including old growth Eucalyptus tereticornis (Blue gum), one of the koala's most important food sources. These trees range from hundreds of years old to young saplings, creating a highly productive and healthy environment for koalas. This habitat is not just valuable for koalas; it also provides shelter and foraging opportunities for other wildlife. With climate change intensifying, this land also serves as a climate refuge, as the soil moisture here ensures the trees remain healthy even in drought conditions.

The land forms part of a critical wildlife corridor connected to the Hilliards Creek system. If this area is cleared, the wildlife corridor will be reduced to just 30 metres wide, well below the recommended 100-300 metres that are necessary for koala movement. This fragmentation would isolate koala populations, increase the risk of vehicle strikes and dog attacks, and make it much harder for the koalas to move between habitats.

KAG questions the methodology used to support the ecological report for this development. It relies on the Spot Assessment Technique, which is known to underestimate koala presence in dense urban habitats such as this. It also fails to account for local koala sightings recorded on scientific databases, and overlooks the importance of large, mature trees that provide stepping-stone habitat for koala movement. Without more reliable survey methods, such as detection dogs or drone surveys, KAG cannot accept the report provides a complete and forthright assessment of the site's ecological value.

The local koala population has already seen an 80% decline since the 1990s, and this habitat loss would only exacerbate the problem. Urban koala populations, like the one in Ormiston, play a vital role in sustaining the broader bushland populations. Habitat destruction in urban areas cannot be compensated for elsewhere. This loss also directly undermines Council's local conservation efforts, such as the Koala Conservation Action Plan and Koala Safe Neighbourhoods initiative, which have been running since 2018.

Furthermore, the proposed development is situated on flood-prone land, which could require substantial fill to level the site. This disruption to natural hydrology could adversely affect the health of the remaining trees and wetlands.

Even the claim of "no net loss" through revegetation is misleading, as it would take decades for newly planted trees to provide the same ecological value as the mature trees being cleared.

KAG wants the Queensland Government to reject this proposal and encourage Ormiston College to consider alternative options that avoid the destruction of such important habitat. We must protect these critical koala habitats, preserve the integrity of local wildlife corridors, and ensure the survival of our endangered Koala population.



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Executive Members
Chris Bray
Carmel Rackemann
Tanya Golitschenko

Koala Sightings

July-September 2025

Birkdale: Bailey Rd, Byng Rd, Old Cleveland Rd E, Spoonbill St.

Capalaba: Coolnwynpin Way, Howlett Rd, Mt Cotton Rd, Ney Rd.

Cleveland: Coburg St E, Goleby Esp, Long St, Longland St, Middle St, Shore St E. Mt Cotton: Sunrise St, West Mt Cotton Rd. **NSI:** Ballow St, Birch St, Claytons Rd, Geera St, Kawana St, Oxley Pde, Petrie St, Yabby St, Wallum Ck Dr.

Ormis-

ton: Darcelle Pl, Delancey St, Stevens Pl, Sturgeon St. **Redland Bay:** German Church Rd, School of Arts Rd. **Sheldon:** Avalon Rd. **Thorne-**

side: Mooroondu Rd. **Thornlands:** Gymkhana Dr, Melanie Ct, South St. **Victoria Pt:** Illidge Rd, Orana St. **Wellington Pt:** Bibury St, Grosvenor St, Hilliards Pk Dr, Mossip Ct, Nelson Rd, Starkey St.

Other LGA's: SDRC: Pratten.

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=c1959:22Redland%20\(C\)%22&fq=occurrence_decade_i:%222020%22&page=100](https://biocache.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?q=text:koala&fq=c1959:22Redland%20(C)%22&fq=occurrence_decade_i:%222020%22&page=100)

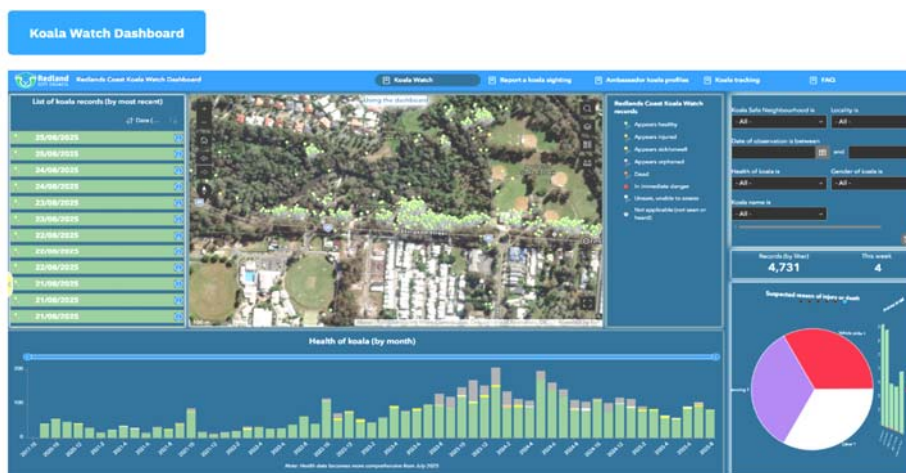
Council's new Koala Dashboard

Redland City Council has launched a new Koala Watch interactive dashboard to view koala sightings across Redlands Coast. This dashboard features maps of koala sightings across Redlands Coast since 2020. You can filter by koala name, location, date and health status, and even track individual koala movements.

KAG is pleased that koala data and other information is now all in the one place, therefore can be much more easily accessed by environmental groups and community members.

Our group has been asking for more transparency and data sharing for some time. The movement tracking maps will allow the community to better understand how koalas are moving around neighbourhoods and help raise awareness of where they are crossing roads etc.

The vital role that wildlife corridors play in enabling koalas and other wildlife to move around Redlands increasingly built up environment is apparent after viewing some of the Koala movement maps. It is increasingly important to protect the remaining open space that is being heavily relied upon by koalas if they are to remain living in the Redlands.



Koala Chlamydia Vaccine Update

A major scientific breakthrough offers renewed hope for Australia's beloved but endangered Koalas. Researchers at the University of the Sunshine Coast have developed a single-dose vaccine to combat chlamydia, a disease that affects over 50% of koala populations and is a leading cause of blindness, infertility, and death in the species.

After more than a decade of research, the vaccine has now been approved by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. Field studies over the past 10 years have shown that vaccinated koalas experience significantly reduced infection rates and improved overall health, particularly among breeding-age animals.

The rollout is expected to begin in early 2026, starting with koalas in wildlife hospitals and eventually expanding to wild populations. Professor Peter Timms, lead researcher, said chlamydia outbreaks often spike due to environmental stress from habitat loss, drought, and bushfires. While habitat destruction remains the biggest threat to koalas, the vaccine offers an immediate and impactful solution to a growing health crisis.

Source: <https://www.indailyqld.com.au/news/just-in/2025/09/10/queensland-koala-vaccine-breakthrough-gives-human-hope>

Please report koala sightings to:

<https://www.redland.qld.gov.au/Environment-and-sustainability/Koala-conservation/Redlands-Coast-Koala-Watch>

President report - KAG AGM 2/8/25

Over the past year, KAG has remained a strong advocate for koalas and their habitat in the Redlands, despite numerous challenges such as increasing development pressures.

KAG members continue to be involved in various Bushcare groups across the Redlands and also support Council's community plantings such as National Tree Day and Community Koala tree plantings.

In my travels around the Redlands, I continue to take great pride in seeing the results of almost four decades of plantings that KAG undertook that have helped create habitat linkages and shady green spaces. What were once vast amounts of unused bare grass, often with an ugly concrete storm water drains down the middle, have been transformed into now beautifully vegetated corridors that are home to wildlife and help trap rubbish to prevent it from entering our creek systems and ultimately into Moreton Bay Marine Park.

KAG has consistently opposed environmentally destructive proposals, including the Toondah Harbour development, the Birkdale Olympic White-water Centre, Heinemann Road Sporting Precinct plus Shoreline and Double Jump Road masterplans.

We have long held concerns that Redlands biodiversity is being eroded away, particularly with the increasing usage of our precious conservation areas for recreational activities such as mountain biking which we believe should not be allowed in the more sensitive areas of vegetation nearest to waterways.

It's now been more than three years since the Federal Government upgraded the koalas' status to endangered, yet approvals for large-scale habitat clearing continues, highlighting weak environmental laws and the ongoing gap between policy and the reality of what's happening on the ground.

KAG continues to support koala research, conducted by the University of the Sunshine Coast and Griffith University, contributing to vital studies on genetics, movement patterns, and habitat use. We also support Council initiatives such as Redlands Koala Watch, Koala Ambassadors, and Koala Safe Neighbourhood programs to improve public awareness and participation in conservation. It is of utmost importance to log koala sightings and detect signs of disease to allow earlier treatment.

Looking ahead, KAG will:

- Advocate for stronger habitat protections in local, state and federal planning processes.
- Continue to collaborate with Toondah Harbour and Birkdale Land Alliance groups to push for greater transparency and sustainable planning.
- Continue supporting koala research and community education.

My heartfelt thanks go to our members, donors, volunteers, and committee members, who contribute tirelessly, often behind the scenes to protect koalas and their habitat. Your efforts ensure that KAG remains a vital voice for koalas in the Redlands.

Debbie Pointing, President KAG

Latest data from ACF shows failure of Australia's Environmental Laws

The Albanese government has approved the destruction of 4,000 hectares of koala habitat in 2025, the equivalent of four Sydney Airports. This makes it the worst year on record for federally permitted clearing of the endangered marsupial's habitat. According to a new report from the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), another 2.3 million hectares of koala habitat have been cleared without approval due to loopholes in the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.

Despite koalas being officially listed as an endangered species in 2022, habitat loss remains a major factor contributing to their decline. The koala has suffered more habitat destruction than any other threatened species, with nearly 38,000 hectares cleared since 2011. The main drivers of this loss include agriculture, native forest logging, and coal mining approvals. One notable case is the Vulcan South Coal Mine in Queensland, which was permitted to clear 1,166 hectares of koala habitat, representing 30% of all koala habitat cleared in 2025.

A separate report in 2024 revealed that land clearing in Queensland and New South Wales kills three koalas every day and displaces or injures 100 million native animals each year. Associate Professor Desley Whisson from Deakin University emphasized that stopping the destruction of habitat is essential to prevent koalas from going extinct, adding that "habitat loss is the leading cause of koala decline, yet deforestation continues unchecked." He further argued that preventing extinction is straightforward: "We need to stop deforestation by strengthening our national laws."

In response to ongoing concerns, Environment Minister Murray Watt brought forward the timeline for a review of the EPBC Act in June, acknowledging that the current legislation is "utterly broken." He stated that these reforms are critical for both the environment and business, noting that national priorities—such as delivering homes, renewable energy, and protecting the environment—cannot be met without overhauling the laws.

In 2022, the Albanese government pledged to prevent any new extinctions of Australian wildlife, with koalas identified as a priority species. However, the continued destruction of their habitat presents a significant challenge to this commitment.

Source: ['Total failure': 2025 sees more koala habitat approved for destruction than ever before | SBS News](#)

Urban Wildlife Captured on Cameras

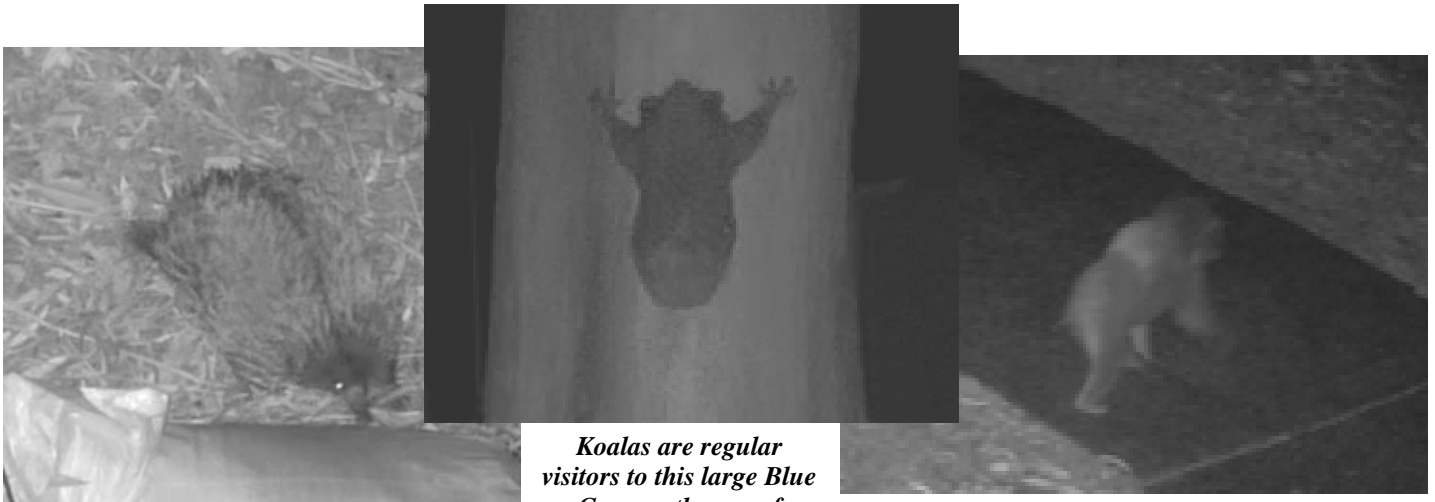
Wildlife cameras supplied by Griffith Uni and installed by KAG about 15 months ago in various sites across Redlands have unveiled the secret life of koalas and other urban wildlife once the sun goes down.

The program developed by researchers at Griffith Uni uses an AI-powered koala monitoring system and smart cameras to track koalas in real time, aiming to predict road-crossing behavior and reduce vehicle-related deaths. Expanded across SEQ in partnership with 10 councils and community groups, the project is funded by Qld's Community Sustainability Action Grant to enhance koala conservation strategies.

The cameras located in Birkdale, Ormiston, Cleveland and Thornlands are monitored by KAG on a dashboard and verified for AI accuracy. The program recognizes numerous different species of wildlife (koalas, possums, kangaroos, turkeys, birds) and also pest species, such as foxes. They also recognize humans, dogs, cats and vehicles.

KAG has enjoyed participating in the project to help train the AI cameras, at the same time witnessing plenty of native wildlife, such as koalas, echidnas, wallabies, possums, bandicoots, tawny frogmouths and bush stone curlews. Unfortunately, it has highlighted the large number of foxes and cats that are roaming around after dark.

The pest sightings have been reported to Redland City Council's Biosecurity team.



An echidna captured by the camera on Old Cleveland Rd East at Birkdale (near tip entry) in July this year

Koalas are regular visitors to this large Blue Gum on the cnr of Passage and Long Sts at Cleveland

A female koala with back rider joey heading to the 'Family Tree' in Shore St East, Cleveland this month

**To report a sick or injured koala contact
Redlands Wildlife Rescue Service on 3833 4031 or Koala Rescue Redlands and
Surrounds 0435 504 222 (24 hrs)**

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: Suncorp no longer accept cheques or money orders)

Name -----

Address -----

Phone/email -----

Please specify membership type. Annual membership rates:
Single:\$15; Family:\$25; Pensioner:\$10; Under 18:\$10 Donation(optional)

Please indicate if you are interested in any of the following.
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.

Note: KAG has a Public Liability Policy with a limit for any one occurrence of \$ 30,000,000