



A voice for koalas in the Redlands

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

# KAG Newsletter

October–December 2025

## DIARY DATE

**Saturday November 29  
9am-11am**

**Eucalyptus Walk & Talk  
(hosted by IndigiScapes)**

Redlands IndigiScapes  
Centre 17 Runnymede Rd,  
Capalaba.

Learn about the different  
species of gum trees on the  
five seedlings to expand  
vital habitat for koalas and  
other wildlife.

Bookings essential: [https://  
www.eventbrite.com.au/e/  
eucalypt-walk-and-talk-at-  
redlands-indigiscapes-  
centre-tickets-  
1778940471839?](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/eucalypt-walk-and-talk-at-redlands-indigiscapes-centre-tickets-1778940471839?aff=oddtcreator)

[aff=oddtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/eucalypt-walk-and-talk-at-redlands-indigiscapes-centre-tickets-1778940471839?aff=oddtcreator)

More info call 38248611.

**Saturday December 13  
4.30pm until 7.30pm**

**KAG XMAS PARTY**

Cleveland Scout Hall 26  
Bainbridge St, Ormiston



**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

**Come along and catch up  
with like-minded folk to  
celebrate the end of the  
year.**

**Refreshments and food  
will be provided.**

Please RSVP to -  
[admin@koalagroup.asn.au](mailto:admin@koalagroup.asn.au) or  
0407094799 by December 8 to  
assist with catering.

## South Thornlands Development Threatens Ecological Values

KAG is calling for urgent revisions to the State Government's proposed development in South Thornlands Priority Development Area (STPDA), with serious concerns over habitat destruction and inconsistencies with the Interim Land Use Plan (ILUP).

The ILUP outlines a clear vision for sustainable development that protects biodiversity, preserves critical habitat corridors, and mitigates natural hazard risks. However, the current development application falls short of these principles, particularly in its treatment of koala habitat and ecological connectivity.

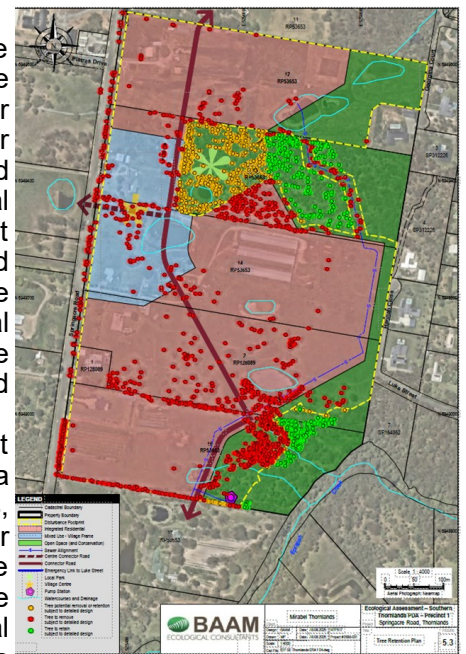
According to the BAAM Ecology Tree Retention Plan, over 100 trees within the designated Regional Ecological Corridor (along Eprapah Creek) are marked for removal. This includes vegetation classified as Matters of State Environmental Significance (MSES) – critical wildlife habitat for endangered species. The proposed stormwater detention basins within the corridor further compromise its ecological function and KAG recommends relocating the stormwater infrastructure to existing cleared areas.

The BAAM Koala Habitat Assessment reveals high levels of koala activity in a concentrated area of Precinct 1. Despite this, the development plan includes a triangular intrusion of 'Urban Living' into this core habitat, increasing fragmentation and edge effects. Additionally, a proposed recreational park is located in the zone of highest koala usage, raising concerns about noise, disturbance, and habitat loss. KAG recommends the triangular urban section is removed and the park is relocated to the southern cleared section which is better suited for community sporting facilities and avoids critical habitat.

The ILUP encourages retention of mature trees in streets and public spaces. Yet, the current plan shows no tree retention within the residential precinct. Over 1,000 trees are expected to be cleared, including mature koala trees along Springacre Road, despite uncertainty around future road widening. KAG recommends retention of roadside and boundary vegetation and incorporating significant trees into urban design to support koala movement and enhance community amenity.

Koala movement across the site is currently unobstructed, but the proposed dense housing will block traditional pathways. The eastern Transition Corridor is only 20 metres wide, less than half the 50-metre minimum shown in ILUP Map 2. No safe fauna crossings are planned, despite known koala vehicle strikes in the area. KAG recommends widening the Transition Corridor to 50 metres and implement a fauna movement plan that includes underpasses, fauna exclusion fencing and koala-sensitive street design.

The current development proposal undermines the ILUP's vision and fails to meet community expectations for environmental stewardship. Without significant changes, the development risks irreversible damage to koala populations and the broader ecological landscape.



*The Tree Retention Plan shows that well in excess of 1000 koala trees (red dots) will be removed under the State Government's current plan.*

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Tanya Golitschenko

## Koala Sightings

### September – October 2025

**Alexandra Hills:** William St. **Birkdale:** Old Cleveland Rd E, Sunnybay Dr. **Capalaba:** Redland Bay Rd. **Cleveland:** Coburg St E, Fitzroy St, Island St, Long St, Longland St, Middle St, Passage St, Russel St, Shore St E, Shore St N, Shore St W, Sommerssea Dr, South St. **Mt Cotton:** West Mt Cotton Rd. **NSI:** Ballow St, Basin Dr, Birch St, Claytons Rd, Cook St, Dickson St, Dunbar St, East Coast Rd, Flinders Av, Kawana St, Kindara St, Llewellyn St, Mallon St, Miles St, Nuggin St, Oxley Pde, Toompany St, Wallum Ck Dr. **Ormiston:** Beckwith St, Delancey St, Dundas St W, Stevens Pl, Sturgeon St. **Redland Bay:** Bedarra St, Boundary St, Mill St. **Sheldon:** Avalon Rd. **Thorneside:** Beatty Rd, Mooroondu Dr. **Thornlands:** Buttercup Cct, Clifford Perske Dr, Kerder St, South St. **Victoria Pt:** Illidge Rd, Lakefield Dr, School Rd. **Wellington Pt:** Belford Dr, Bibury St, Celsa St, Jacob St, Hilliards Pk Dr, Main Rd, Marlborough Dr, Mossip Ct, Nelson Rd, O'Connell Pde, Pitt Rd, Poloni Pl, Riverton Dr, Sawmill Dr, Starkey St, Whepstead Av.

**Other LGA's: MBRC:** Petrie.

Primary data sources:

<https://biocollect.ala.org.au/project/index/edad0555-32a6-473e-8956-c70cf80329c4>

[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)

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/76c06e811c5d4f6b0f065e652d7f66b>

## **Federal Environmental Reform Bills (EPBC Act) don't go far enough**

The federal government's long awaited proposed reforms to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act have been tabled in Parliament, marking a critical opportunity to strengthen Australia's environmental laws. While the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) acknowledges several positive steps, it warns that the bills contain serious flaws that could undermine their effectiveness.

Among the welcome changes are stronger penalties for environmental breaches, the introduction of National Environmental Standards, and new limits on approving projects with unacceptable impacts. These elements reflect key recommendations from the Samuel Review, which called for clearer, enforceable standards to restore public trust.

However, EDO Managing Lawyer Revel Pointon says the reforms still leave major loopholes. "This reform moment must be about fixing the failures of the past," she said. "But these bills retain wide ministerial discretion and fail to require assessment or control of greenhouse gas emissions or large-scale deforestation—two of the biggest threats to our environment."

The EDO highlights that ministerial discretion remains a core issue. The Samuel Review - <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/epbc-act-review-final-report-october-2020.pdf>

found that excessive discretion had led to poor environmental outcomes and public distrust. Yet the new bills expand these powers, allowing ministers to make rulings and protection statements under broad "national interest" exemptions. These powers, the EDO warns, are open to misuse.

Another concern is the absence of the final National Environmental Standards, which are meant to underpin the entire reform framework. Without seeing these standards before the legislation is passed, it's impossible to ensure they meet the promise of clear, enforceable protections.

The EDO also criticizes the continued exemptions for destructive activities like broadscale land clearing and native forest logging. These outdated carve-outs, it argues, have no place in modern environmental law.

On climate regulation, the EDO refutes claims that the Safeguard Mechanism addresses emissions at the project approval stage. In reality, it only applies after projects are approved, meaning it cannot prevent climate harm before it occurs.

To deliver on the government's promise of stronger, fairer, and more transparent nature laws, the EDO urges Parliament to:

- Remove exemptions that allow unsustainable impacts
- Limit ministerial discretion
- Require full climate impact assessments
- Release and enforce robust National Environmental Standards

Australia's natural environment and its incredible wildlife, such as koalas depend on effective legislation and unless the government make serious changes, vulnerable and endangered species of wildlife will continue to disappear from our landscape, which would be a travesty.

Source: [www.edo.org.au](http://www.edo.org.au)

**Thank you to everyone who donates funds through the 'Containers for Change' recycling program.**

**KAG's account ID code is C10146563.**

**You will need to quote this code when you deposit cans and bottles at a Centre near you.**

**<https://www.containersforchange.com.au/qld/where-to-return>**



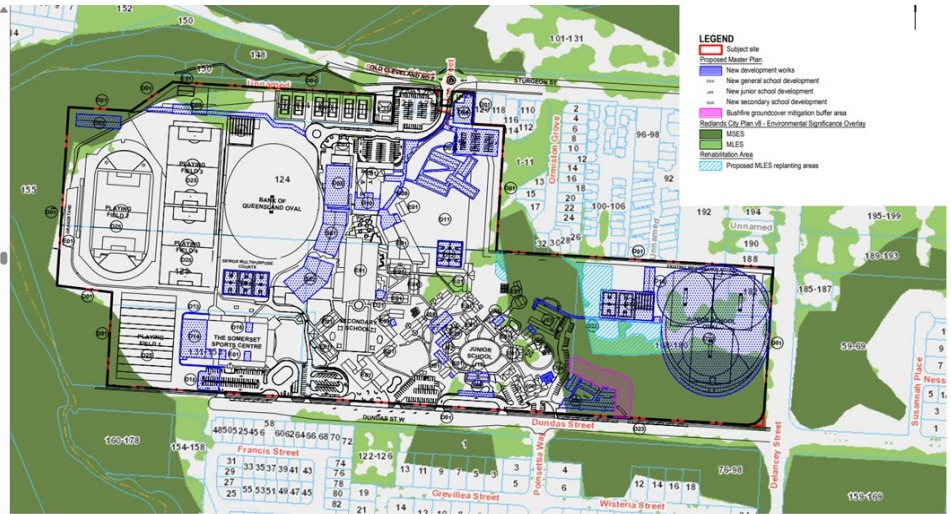
## Ormiston College Campaign Continues

Momentum is growing in the community as more become aware of the extensive expansion plans being proposed by Ormiston College that will result in more than 650 koala trees being destroyed. The majority of the habitat earmarked for removal is mapped by the Queensland Government as 'Core Koala Habitat' and 'High Ecological Wetland', recognising its importance to the local koala population.

The expansion include three new sports ovals, a 50 metre pool, indoor sporting courts and boarding accommodation.

Since August, community volunteers have been raising awareness conducting roadside action holding signs containing key messages. By far the majority of people passing by express support with thumbs up and car horn toots.

The recent production of a musical video aimed at the



*The dark green shading indicates 'Core Koala Habitat' areas and shows how much the College expansion plans (navy blue) encroach on this protected habitat and important movement corridor*

younger age demographic will be distributed through social media channels and is aiming to raise further community awareness of the importance of the trees to the local koalas.

The video encourages viewers to contact Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Infrastructure Jarrod Bleijie who will make the final decision on whether the College will be permitted to proceed with their plans.

KAG has also approached the Federal government asking for the proposal to be called in and assessed under the EPBC Act. Ormiston College do not intend to refer the project for assessment, with their ecological report incredulously citing there will not be a significant impact on koalas.



*One of the local koalas in a gum tree on the College grounds. This tree is earmarked for removal if the current plan is approved*

## Birkdale Olympic Whitewater Centre Update

KAG, along with numerous other community groups from the Birkdale Alliance continue to raise concerns about this project that surveys show is not supported by the majority of the Redlands community. It is also still unclear what the immediate and ongoing costs to Redlands ratepayers will be with no finalised Project Validation Report (PVR) being made public.

A petition and community signed letters have been recently presented to Council requesting they: ***“urgently resolve to advise the Queensland State Government that Redland City withdraws its offer of land in the Birkdale Community Precinct for the building of the 2032 Olympic Whitewater Centre and that Council resolve to make its priority the urgent planning and provision of new Olympic standard 50-metre public swimming pools to service the longstanding unmet needs of the people of the Redlands”.***

Alarmingly, both the State and Federal governments have so far given the project the green light without completion of the PVR which is intended to show if the proposal is financially viable. Furthermore, the Federal government have confirmed that the Conservation Agreement between themselves and the Council has still not been finalised and the project has not yet been referred for assessment under the EPBC Act.

KAG is still firmly of the opinion that there will be devastating environmental impacts on this ecologically sensitive site that contains underground aquifers, and that koalas and their habitat are at dire risk if the construction of an industrial sized Whitewater Centre is allowed to proceed.

**REDLANDS' KOALAS IN OLYMPIC PERIL** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rg3WBAo8z00>

*(We'd like to acknowledge and thank Jim Stevens, who assisted the Birkdale Alliance to produce this short video)*

## State of the Environment Report 2024 - a snapshot!

Queensland is one of Australia's richest states for wildlife and plant life, and home to:

- **85%** of native mammals
- **72%** of native birds
- **Over half** of native reptiles and frogs
- **14,000+** native plant species

Each species depends on specific environmental conditions — its **habitat** — to survive. When habitats are damaged, the species that rely on them are also at risk.

Queensland's native flora and fauna are vital for **healthy ecosystems** and support environmental, cultural, and economic values.

- **Plants** produce oxygen, store carbon, and provide food and shelter.
- **Animals** help with pollination, seed dispersal, and pest control. Protecting biodiversity sustains **tourism, agriculture, and Indigenous cultural heritage**.

From **2019–2024**, Queensland saw increases of **48 threatened fauna** and **66 threatened flora species**, reflecting new listings and updated conservation assessments.

By **2021**, the state had lost:

- **22%** of threatened fauna habitat
- **29%** of threatened flora habitat
- National parks currently protect only **10.2%** of fauna habitat and **8.2%** of flora habitat, highlighting the need for continued conservation

**Threats: Fauna:** habitat loss, invasive animals, climate change, human impacts, and fire regimes.

**Flora:** habitat loss, small populations, weeds, fire, and illegal plant collection.

Although the **rate of habitat clearing** has declined since 2018, **pasture development** remains the main cause. Other pressures include habitat fragmentation, invasive species, disease, and poor fire management. Protecting Queensland's unique species ensures thriving ecosystems, resilient landscapes, and a sustainable future for generations to come.

[https://www.stateoftheenvironment.detsi.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/2038503/SoE-2024\\_0109\\_Interactive.pdf?v=0.1.0](https://www.stateoftheenvironment.detsi.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/2038503/SoE-2024_0109_Interactive.pdf?v=0.1.0)

**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)**

### Report koala sightings to -

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

**OR**

**Report a Koala Sighting – Koala Action Group Qld Inc ([www.koalagroup.asn.au](http://www.koalagroup.asn.au))**

**KAG Membership: Application/Renewal** Please complete the following and forward to: KAG: PO Box 660, Capalaba Qld 4157 or email [admin@koalagroup.asn.au](mailto: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