

South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2020–2025

The koala is one of the world's most iconic and well known species. But koala numbers continue to decline in South East Queensland and they are under increasing pressure from habitat loss, along with the combined threats of dog attacks, car strikes, disease and climate change.

The Queensland Government is leading the way with the SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy 2020–2025, a new path forward through state and local government, Traditional Owners, the building and development industries, the conservation sector and households working together in partnership.



Vision

Halt the decline of koala populations in the wild in South East Queensland (SEQ), and secure their long-term survival.

Targets

1. Populations: stabilise koala population numbers in SEQ.
2. Koala habitat: a net gain in the total core koala habitat area.
3. Koala habitat restoration: commence rehabilitation to restore 10,000 hectares of koala habitat.
4. Threat reduction: commence 10 programs in threat priority areas to support at least a 25 per cent reduction in disease, injury and mortality rates in those locations.

Actions

ACTION AREA 1 Habitat protection

The Queensland Government has introduced the strongest koala protections Queensland has ever seen. By amending the state planning framework, we have acted to restrict the clearing of koala habitat areas. New prohibitions prevent clearing of koala habitat areas within a koala priority area, unless the activity is allowed under a strict set of exemptions that ensure safety and appropriate land management. The Queensland Government is leading the assessment of development applications in these areas across SEQ, with local government playing a vital role in supporting compliance and regulation.

ACTION AREA 2 Habitat restoration

The Queensland Government will partner with landholders and local governments to restore koala habitat. This restoration work builds on an initial investment of \$1.96 million committed to habitat regeneration, and is further supported by the government's Land Restoration Fund, which aims to increase habitat for threatened species like the koala and give landholders a tangible way to create a better future for themselves and their families.

ACTION AREA 3 Threat management

The Queensland Government will develop a targeted and transparent threat reduction program in collaboration with local government, conservationists and the community.

In addition to this, new dedicated resources will be developed to support koala carers and improve information sharing across SEQ.

ACTION AREA 4 Improved mapping, monitoring, research and reporting

The Queensland Government has developed high quality koala habitat mapping across SEQ based on the best science to protect koala habitat. Mapping, monitoring and research programs will help measure changes in koala populations and threats over time, helping us to adapt management actions to improve conservation outcomes for koalas into the future.

ACTION AREA 5 Community engagement

Successful koala conservation relies on a collaborative approach—we all have our part to play. State and local government, Traditional Owners, the building and development industries, the conservation sector and households will work together on habitat restoration, citizen science projects, community engagement programs and threat mitigation.

ACTION AREA 6 Partnerships and strategic coordination

The Queensland Government will boost collective expertise and cross-sector collaboration by strengthening our partnerships with local government, natural resource management groups, environment organisations, researchers, wildlife care groups and others through the Koala Advisory Council. New partnerships will be established to increase restoration efforts and other koala conservation outcomes.

Measuring progress

We will establish a transparent monitoring and evaluation framework that measures our progress against the targets based on the best available science. The effectiveness of this Strategy will be evaluated by the Koala Advisory Council annually to allow for continuous improvement.

Partnering for success

We will work with local government, communities including Traditional Owners, business and industry, non-government organisations and wildlife hospitals and carers to coordinate and deliver actions to meet the targets.



**Queensland
Government**