

South East Queensland koala maps



The koala maps for South-East Queensland identifies four important areas. They are:

Koala priority areas

These are large and connected areas that have the highest potential for supporting the long-term survival of koalas. They are also the areas that will be the focus for habitat protection, restoration and threat management efforts.

Clearing of koala habitat areas within a koala priority area is prohibited, subject to certain exemptions.

Core koala habitat areas

These are the areas that identify the best quality koala habitat areas. These areas were identified using koala sighting records, as well as areas that have suitable food and shelter vegetation and other biophysical measures, for instance climate.

Development within core koala habitat areas may be prohibited, require a development approval, or be exempt from requirements.



Locally refined koala habitat areas

These are areas of mature vegetation that might not meet the Queensland Government's criteria for core koala habitat, but may contain locally important vegetation for koalas, including some areas previously protected under local government planning schemes.

Locally refined koala habitat areas are subject to the same level of protections as core koala habitat areas. Development may be prohibited, require a development approval, or be exempt from requirements.

Koala habitat restoration areas

These areas identify parcels of land that could be restored and established as koala habitat areas. These areas particularly feature high conservation opportunities and low threats.



Introduction of the South East Queensland koala habitat mapping

The development of this new koala habitat mapping was recommended by the Koala Expert Panel and introduced in February 2020.

It overcomes limitations of previous mapping, such as inconsistencies in the way koala habitat was mapped across the 12 South East Queensland local council areas.

A feature of the new maps is an improved ability to update and refine the mapping as new data becomes available. This will ensure that the best quality habitat for koalas is protected now and into the future.



Amending a map

Landholders can apply to make, amend or revoke koala habitat area mapping on their property.

Request forms to seek a map amendment are available on the Department of Environment and Science's website.

Getting involved in koala habitat mapping

South East Queensland residents are encouraged to take part in citizen science projects that will provide new data to inform annual koala habitat map updates.

A new online reporting portal and koala sighting app will be developed and launched in 2021. People can use these online tools to upload information about local koala populations and habitats, including koala sightings.

Community pathway

The Queensland Government is also developing a process to allow local councils and community members to input into the annual update to the koala habitat map.

Accessing koala maps

Everyone in South East Queensland is able to download a free copy of the koala map. You can also access interactive maps where you can view a range of different mapping layers through the Queensland Globe.

Further Information

More information about koala habitat mapping, including a technical report on spatial modelling for koalas in South East Queensland, is available by visiting the Department of Environment and Science website at www.qld.gov.au/seqkoalas

Updating the koala habitat map

The next version of the koala habitat map is due for release in April 2021.

New versions will reflect changes in koala habitat and will incorporate new data and ongoing improvements in modelling techniques.

