

Forest red gum and tallowwood are the most common koala food trees in the Lismore area.

Friends of the Koala has a native plant nursery that provides koala food trees for a very nominal charge to residents who wish to establish koala habitat in their backyards or on their farms.



Tallowwood, small-fruited grey gum and forest red gum prefer well drained soils



Swamp mahogany prefers damp to wet conditions

How we can help

Council helps koalas by:

- promoting the retention and restoration of koala habitat and carrying out restoration projects with landholders
- protecting koala habitat in urban areas through its Tree Preservation Order
- restoring bushland and providing land for koala food tree plantings
- installing distinctive koala road signs in key habitat areas to caution motorists that koalas may cross
- restricting dog ownership in some local communities
- mapping koala habitat and adopting a comprehensive plan of management for south-east Lismore.

Find out more

For koala habitat and land-use planning, conservation incentives and education:
Lismore City Council: 1300 87 83 87
www.lismore.nsw.gov.au

For koala conservation policy, legislation and land-use compliance:
Office of Environment and Heritage:
131 555
www.environment.nsw.gov.au

To report injured koalas or sightings, food tree planting information and other advice:
Friends of the Koala Inc.
6622 1233 (24-hour)
www.friendsofthekoala.org

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In partnership with:



Koalas are important to Lismore



Office of Environment & Heritage

Koala

Phascolarctos cinereus

Vulnerable

The survival of koalas in our backyards depends on our community being aware and involved. The more we understand koalas, the better we can address their needs.

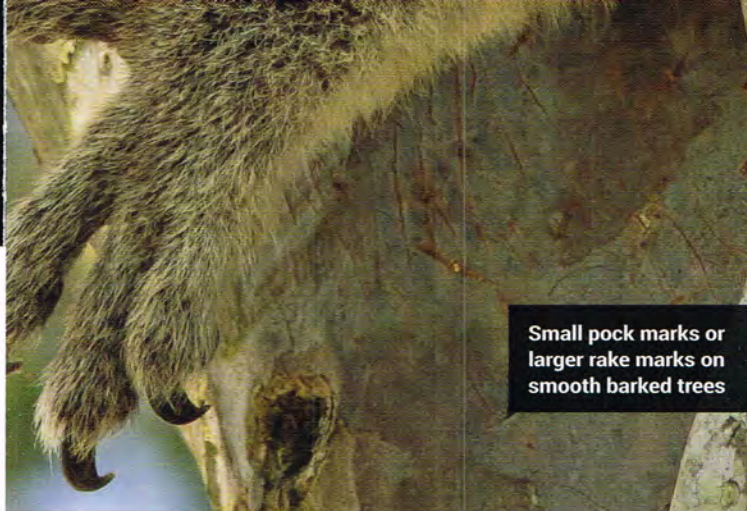
You can help.

The Lismore Koala population has State significance, and are listed as a vulnerable species under State and Federal legislation. This is due to the continued decline in koala numbers as a result of land clearing, disturbance of habitat, high levels of disease, attacks by dogs, and fatalities on roads.

Be informed

Koalas are fussy eaters and prefer only a small number of mainly eucalypt trees. They have complex social structures, and live in established home ranges that interconnect. Young animals, especially males, must eventually leave the home range of their mothers, and often travel long distances seeking suitable habitat.

Signs of koalas include large distinctive footprints, small pock marks or larger rake marks on smooth barked trees, and olive-pit shaped droppings at the base of a koala food tree.



Small pock marks or larger rake marks on smooth barked trees

Take care

Is that koala sick or healthy?

Healthy koalas have a thick grey coat, a full rounded belly, and bright alert eyes. They are responsive when startled; and spend their time in trees.

Sick koalas have a brown dry-matted coat, and crusty or red eyes. They are unresponsive, and have difficulty climbing. If you see a sick koala, phone the **Friends of the Koala** 24-hour Rescue and Information Service immediately on 6622 1233.

Be a responsible dog owner

Koalas are often killed or injured by domestic dogs. Their main defence is to climb a tree. If you are a dog owner:

- Secure your dogs at night – koalas may visit your backyard or neighbourhood.
- Be aware of your responsibilities in owning a dog under the Companion Animals Act 1998.
- Please report stray dogs to Lismore City Council.

Roads

Koalas are often killed on roads in their habitat. **Be aware** of koala signs, **slow down** and **watch** for koalas crossing in these areas, especially at night.



Restore habitat

The greatest threat to the survival of koalas is clearing and modification of their habitat. Landowners and residents can help by protecting and restoring koala habitat and planting local koala food trees in suitable places. Areas of habitat can be joined to form corridors along which koalas can move freely.

Only a few types of trees are favoured by koalas. However, koalas may also feed or rest in other native trees at different times of the year. Koalas in the Lismore area prefer the following trees:

- forest red gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*)
- tallowwood (*Eucalyptus microcorys*)
- swamp mahogany (*Eucalyptus robusta*)
- small-fruited grey gum (*Eucalyptus propinqua*).



Olive-pit shaped droppings at the base of a feed tree