

You Can Help

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.

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

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*)



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

Council Plan

Council helps koalas

- Council promotes retention and restoration of koala habitat and carries out restoration projects with landholders.
- Council protects koala habitat in urban areas through its Tree Preservation Order.
- Council restores its bushland and provides land for koala food tree plantings.
- Distinctive koala road signs in key habitat areas caution motorists that koalas may cross.
- Restrictions on dog ownership apply in some local communities.
- Council has mapped koala habitat and prepared a comprehensive plan of management for south-east Lismore.

For more information

Lismore City Council

1300 87 83 87 www.lismore.nsw.gov.au

Office of Environment and Heritage

131 555 www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority

(for funding and incentives to restore koala habitat)
6627 0170 www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au

Friends of the Koala Inc.

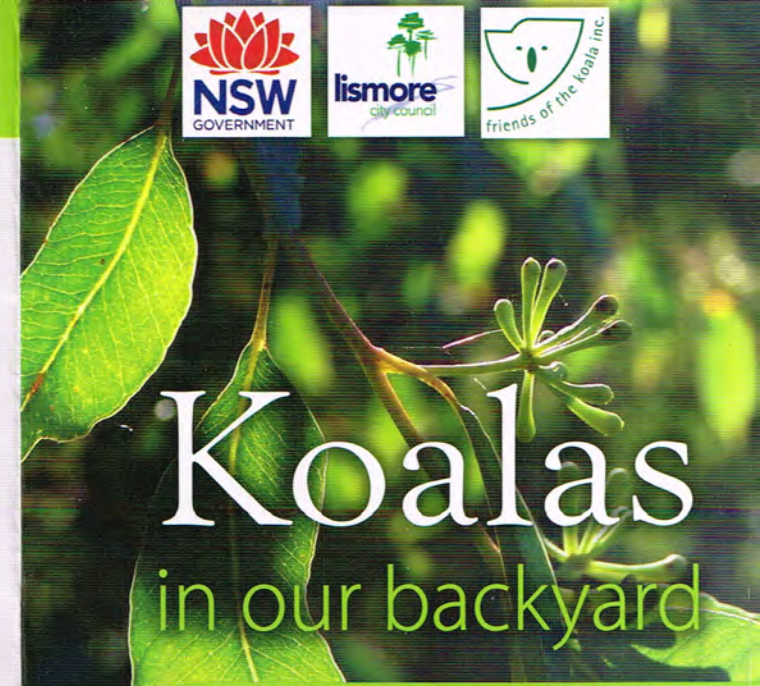
(to report injured koalas or sightings, food tree planting info and other advice)
6622 1233 (24-hour) www.friendsofthekoala.org

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Koalas are important to Lismore.

Their survival depends on our community being aware and involved.

Vulnerable

Local koala populations have State significance

Koalas 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. Koalas have complex social structures, living in established home ranges that interconnect. Young animals, especially males, must eventually leave the home range of their mothers, often travelling long distances seeking suitable habitat.

The more we understand koalas, the better we can address their needs.

Find out more by visiting the Office of Environment and Heritage website and search under 'animal fact sheet':
www.environment.nsw.gov.au



Koala Signs

Large distinctive footprints.



Small pock marks or larger rake marks on smooth barked trees may have been made by a koala.



Olive-pit shaped droppings at the base of a koala food tree.



Take Care

Is that koala sick or healthy?

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

Sick koalas have a brown, dry matted coat; crusty, red or pussy eyes; are unresponsive; and have difficulty climbing.

If you see a sick koala phone the Friends of the Koala Inc. 24-hour Rescue and Information Service immediately: 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.

