



Living with koalas Lifestyle Guidelines

Introduction

Let us all play a part in protecting and supporting the local koala population.

Koalas are listed as vulnerable species under the Commonwealth Government's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and the Queensland Government's Nature Conservation Act 1992.

As the estate gradually evolves into a full community, it is essential for all residents to proactively play a part in co-existing with this vulnerable species or native animals in this area.

The peripheral area, which includes the Bundamba Creek Environmental Corridor has been intentionally set aside, protected and rehabilitated to ensure the existing local koala or any native animal usage of the site continues. As a new resident, you will be part of the future custodians of this Bundamba Creek Environmental Corridor.

Koala friendly landscaping

Do not destroy any eucalyptus and native vegetation in the surrounding areas which could potentially be important food trees or habitats for the koalas.

Currently none of the street trees or landscaping away from the Bundamba Creek includes new koala food trees or habitat plantings. These have been deliberately excluded from the estate to avoid attracting koalas into residential development areas.

In order to discourage koalas from entering the housing areas, please refrain from planting large gum trees around your own house and gardens. Also, remember to limit, or if possible cease the use of garden sprays, pesticides and creosote which can be harmful to koalas. These toxic chemicals can get into soils or waterways which may result in endangering the lives of the koalas. Koalas sometimes eat soil and can potentially absorb these poisons through the pads on their feet.

Be responsible as a pet owner

All dog breed and sizes do have the ability to harm koalas and can result in serious injury or death to them.

Most koala attacks occur at night as koalas are mostly nocturnal animals, sleeping mostly during the day and moving around and feeding at night. Keep your dog inside or in an enclosed deck or verandah at night to reduce any likelihood of it chasing or catching a koala.

Dogs can behave differently when you are away, particularly if a strange person or animal enters what they consider to be their territory. Make sure your lot is securely fenced at all times, and that your dog is kept within the lot when you are not at home.

Inform your neighbors if a koala happens to be in the vicinity and suggest they restrain their dogs until the koala moves off.

Walking paths along the Bundamba Creek Environmental Corridor should only be utilised by dogs on a lead in constant control by the pet owner. If you prefer your pet to roam freely, Pebbles Park (Address: 622 Ripley Road, Ripley QLD 4306) is a dog offleash park which you can utilise.



Make it a koala friendly backyard at night

Ensure your backyard is a koala friendly backyard by keeping outdoor lighting to a minimum from 6pm at night to 6am the next morning.

Keep koalas safe from swimming pools

Even though koalas can swim, some do drown in swimming pools because they often are unable to climb back out if they fall in. If you have a swimming pool in your backyard, secure a sturdy rope to a tree or post at the side of the pool and place the end in the pool, or alternatively fence the pool area with koalaproof fence.

Create a koala friendly community

If you see a koala, do not pester or throw things at it to make it move. Wild koalas can become stressed very easily.

Educate your children to love and appreciate all wildlife. It is important to tell and teach them about things they can do to help.

Road etiquette for koala safety

Drive slowly and carefully at night, especially in koala areas and watch for koalas crossing roads at night. Look out for any awareness signage and keep to the speed limit at all times.

Report and sick, injured or orphaned koala

If you happen to encounter a sick, injured or orphaned koala, do not try to handle the koala yourself, as you may put yourself and the animal in a situation where there is risk. Leave the koala undisturbed and ensure it is safe from any threats. You can then contact the following for assistance:

Ipswich Koala Protection Society (IKPS)

10 Brass Road, Mount Forbes QLD 4340 Phone: (07) 5464 6274 Website: www.ikps.com.au

Daisy Hill Koala Centre

Daisy Hill Road, Daisy Hill QLD 4127 Phone: (07) 3299 1032



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Tenancy 1, 20 Main St, Ripley, QLD 4306 0474 848 028

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