

## koala submission- save our species project

- fully support management of threats posed by dogs that include
- keeping dogs on leads at all times in known koala areas
- fence recreation areas of dogs
- establish dog free properties in koala areas
- report stray or roaming dogs to council rangers
- signage in recreation areas informing dog owners when koalas are most active on ground ( mating season from september - february + what times koalas are most likely to be moving on the ground such as during nights and early morning)
- local community awareness campaigns to raise awareness of impacts,importance of keeping dogs restrained on leads and in properly fenced enclosures
- promotion of responsible dog ownership to educate owners on enrichment activities available ( things to do when dogs are left in yards alone during periods when people are at work etc)using vets,wildlife care groups,RSPCA + dog training groups to educate owners on how to be a responsible dog owner + benefits of responsible dog ownership.
- support of projects to mitigate dog attacks in high priority koala areas + analysis of dog attack records + compliance rates,identify high risk areas+ develop community engagement programs.
- training of dogs not to attack koalas

## 11 recommendations NSW chief scientist + engineers report

- agree with many of the 11 recommendations
- however would like to see immediate high priority given to areas such as Wollondilly + Campbelltown added to recommendation 3
- strongly disagree with any changes to Biodiversity conservation bill + associated regulations ( recommendation 5) that weaken land clearing of koala habitat for urban development.

## Threats from cars

- agree with reporting branches touching + holes in fences to RMS
- agree with advising drivers to be vigilant when driving in koala areas + be aware of sign posts
- suggest improving signs along roads in koala areas that impact more on drivers
- would like blackspots identified in areas where road mortalities are high,report to councils + RMS
- like involving councils + RMS in discussing fencing,wildlife crossings + develop new technologies to reduce vehicle strike
- lower speed limits in high priority koala areas + use measures such as speed humps etc to slow vehicles in areas where wildlife are known to cross roads frequently
- agree that liaising with RMS + councils when developing new/existing roads that barriers are used in construction

## community engagement in koala conservation projects

- very strongly agree that volunteer programs like citizen science are used across NSW
- very strongly agree with using communication strategies in recovery actions across NSW
- very strongly agree with using landholder engagement + awareness programs to restore/maintain, improve habitat corridors + connecting habitat should be used as much as possible across NSW on crown + public land,schools,TAFE,universities.

- very strongly agree with support of wildlife rehabilitation groups + vets in care of sick/injured animals by training, provide materials + promote uniform state wide protocols that include genetic profiling, record keeping + releasing.
- very strongly agree with preserving habitat areas with creeks/rivers be maintained, monitored + improved during drought, extreme temperatures, low rainfall + encourage use of artificial water sources supplied by community engagement in conservation.
- very strongly agree with reporting koala sightings, sick/injured animals
- strongly encourage using on ground volunteer programs to aid in tree planting known koala food trees, koala sightings
- strongly encourage the use of SOS partnership grants that will contribute to increasing the number of threatened species, populations and communities secured in the wild in NSW through strategic co-investment
- encourage the alignment of efforts to manage threatened species and communities across NSW
- make decisions about the management of threatened species and communities based on best available evidence and evaluation of outcomes.
- support the use of zoos + wildlife parks to educate the community on how to lessen the threats of cars + dogs in koala areas

support for fauna rehabilitation

- more support is needed for carer + vet networks in treating koalas.
- support should include providing necessary rescue equipment.
- research into disease + build a database of where chlamydia is affecting populations the most.
- we must use research collaborated with vets, universities, wildlife groups + ecologists to improve understanding of chlamydia.
- we must use gene information + links between habitat disturbance + disease related morbidity.
- very strongly agree that a uniform state wide protocols need to be used when treating/rehabilitation for release.

lack of knowledge/poor understanding of animal movements + use of habitat

- we must improve understanding of koala movements, use of habitat through targeted research that involves GPS collars, marking recapture techniques + involve liaising with zoos, wildlife care groups to improve knowledge.
- very strongly agree the use of collation of koala survey records + monitor of information through a central database for statewide reporting, analysis + contribute sightings to NSW bionet.
- consider using cameras, specifically trained dogs + on ground volunteers to improve knowledge/understanding of what types of habitat koalas use.

intense prescribed burns or wildfires that scorch or burn the tree canopy

- support the use of best practice fire management protocols of in koala areas
- yes liaise with authorities + land managers for prescribed burns that minimise impacts on koala habitat + individuals, are based on best practice guidelines.

loss, modification + fragmentation of habitat

- very very strongly disapprove of large scale land clearing of high priority koala habitat for urban development .
- very very strongly support agreements with landholders that involve stewardship agreements that will that will protect + retain all koala habitat + will lead to connection of koala habitat.
- we must study, map koala habitat through standard methods + terminology.
- we must build a database of habitat through ranking , mapping of koala habitat.
- revegetation has to focus on expanding habitat + connecting habitat through corridors
- use resources to long term manage + monitor revegetated areas.
- use on ground volunteers to improve areas of degraded habitat on private land through food + shelter tree planting.
- educate farmers on benefits of improving + developing new koala habitat on their land. These benefits could include better crop + soil quality by revegetation of known koala food trees.
- build a database of where corridors have been made/reconnected + where degraded habitat occurs.