

I would like to contribute advice to the strategy & be involved in helping protect the Koala in the Tweed area. I reside in the Koala Beach estate, Pottsville NSW. The Koala Beach Estate supports a small colony of Koalas, that traverse the bushland corridor along the Tweed Coast region. The Koala's here are endangered & require priority conservation action immediately to ensure their survival.

The Koala Beach estate is in the Tweed Shire & is respected by many conservationists nationally as the estate was designed from the beginning to protect Koala habitat before any housing was introduced. As a consequence vast areas of bushland & Koala food trees are protected, there is a no cats or dogs policy & traffic speeds are 40klms. This was a success story where scientists, environmentalists & the developer worked together to reach a satisfactory outcome where the primary aim was to protect a small colony of Koala's that resided in the area. The Estate also supports other threatened species & many species of wildlife have benefited from the environmentally friendly design of the estate.

Pressure for further development along the east coast of the Tweed Shire, threaten Koala's in this region. The bushland area's are being impacted on the edges by human activity & Koala's are being forced to navigate increasingly risky areas, busy roads & pinch point corridors. Refuge areas or the Koala to escape from the extremities of weather conditions are not commonly found.

As a relatively new resident of the estate, it was shocking that my first sight of a Koala in 2016, was when one ran across busy Coronation Drive Pottsville (main road into the town) in front of my car whilst I was driving near the Sea Breeze Estate.. The Koala needed to make this crossing to reach the southern side of the corridor to its habitat in the Black Rocks area of Pottsville. It is highly dangerous here not only due to the many cars that use this road but also that it is a very narrow area, depleted of vegetation & surrounded by housing & domestic animals. Although Council have now designed the road to force cars to slow down & put Koala signage up, it will require further considerations ie the acquisition of land, strict zoning controls, lower the speed zone to 40kph & increase the are range the speed limit applies to. Constructing an under/over pass could also be considered.

My recent background had been in volunteer conservation ie bushregen, plant nursery, habitat creation, wildlife care & rescue. I have retired but am interested in contributing positively to the protection of the Koala in this area. To this aim I have created & manage a website [www.koalabeach.weebly.com](http://www.koalabeach.weebly.com)

In respect to your draft action plan, could you please give consideration to the fact that in some cases it is the canopy & vegetative structure rather than the tree species that may be vital to protecting Koala in some locations & conditions. Koala's need areas they can retreat to for shade during extreme hot weather & some species of trees or forests offer the structural densities necessary to provide relief. In some cases they could be non indigenous species.

Thank You  
Irene Timmins