

## Saving our Species project 2013-14 annual report card Koala

### Species attributes

Scientific name:	<i>Phascolarctus cinereus</i>
NSW status:	Vulnerable
Commonwealth status:	Vulnerable
Management stream:	Iconic



Photographer: L. Morrell

**Key management site:** Ballina  
Richmond Valley  
Bellingen  
Lismore  
Moree-Gunnedah  
Coffs Harbour

**Project partners:** OEH  
Ballina Shire, Richmond Valley, Bellingen Shire, Lismore City and  
Coffs Harbour Councils  
Waggamba Landcare Group  
Forestry Corporation of NSW  
Various private landholders

### Summary of outcomes

The completion of the koala survey and habitat mapping project for the Richmond Valley Council will provide a basis for developing a Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (CKPoM) for priority areas of the shire. Delivery of final draft CKPoMs for Ballina and Bellingen Councils are important milestones for koala conservation in these council areas. Lismore City Council's koala habitat restoration project and other on-ground works in progress under an agreement with Waggamba Landcare Group in the Moree-Gunnedah area have achieved significant on-ground outcomes for koala habitat on private lands. Research into the efficacy of koala management has also produced data that will inform future investment and policy decisions.

**Total expenditure = \$177,000**

## **Project objectives**

- Reverse the decline of the koala in NSW – koala populations in NSW are declining due to the impacts on habitat
- Loss, fire, dogs, cars, disease, drought and heat
- Ensure adequate protection, management and restoration of koala habitat
- Maintain healthy breeding populations of koalas throughout their current range.

## **Management Site Outcomes**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Key outcomes</b>
Ballina	\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finalisation and endorsement of draft CKPoM</li><li>• Additional vegetation and koala habitat mapping</li><li>• Implementation of plan via landholder engagement</li></ul>
Richmond Valley	\$20,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Field survey and mapping of habitat</li></ul>
Bellingen	\$30,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finalisation of draft CKPoM</li><li>• Interpretative signage and education</li></ul>
Lismore	\$40,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Habitat restoration and establishment (e.g. weed control, planting, fencing) on private properties in key areas</li></ul>
Moree-Gunnedah	\$27,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Established network of carers for injured Koalas</li><li>• Capacity building for community groups involved in Koala management and habitat restoration works</li><li>• Engaging local landholders in koala conservation</li></ul>
Coffs Harbour	\$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased understanding of koala declines in Coffs Harbour LGA 2009-2011</li></ul>