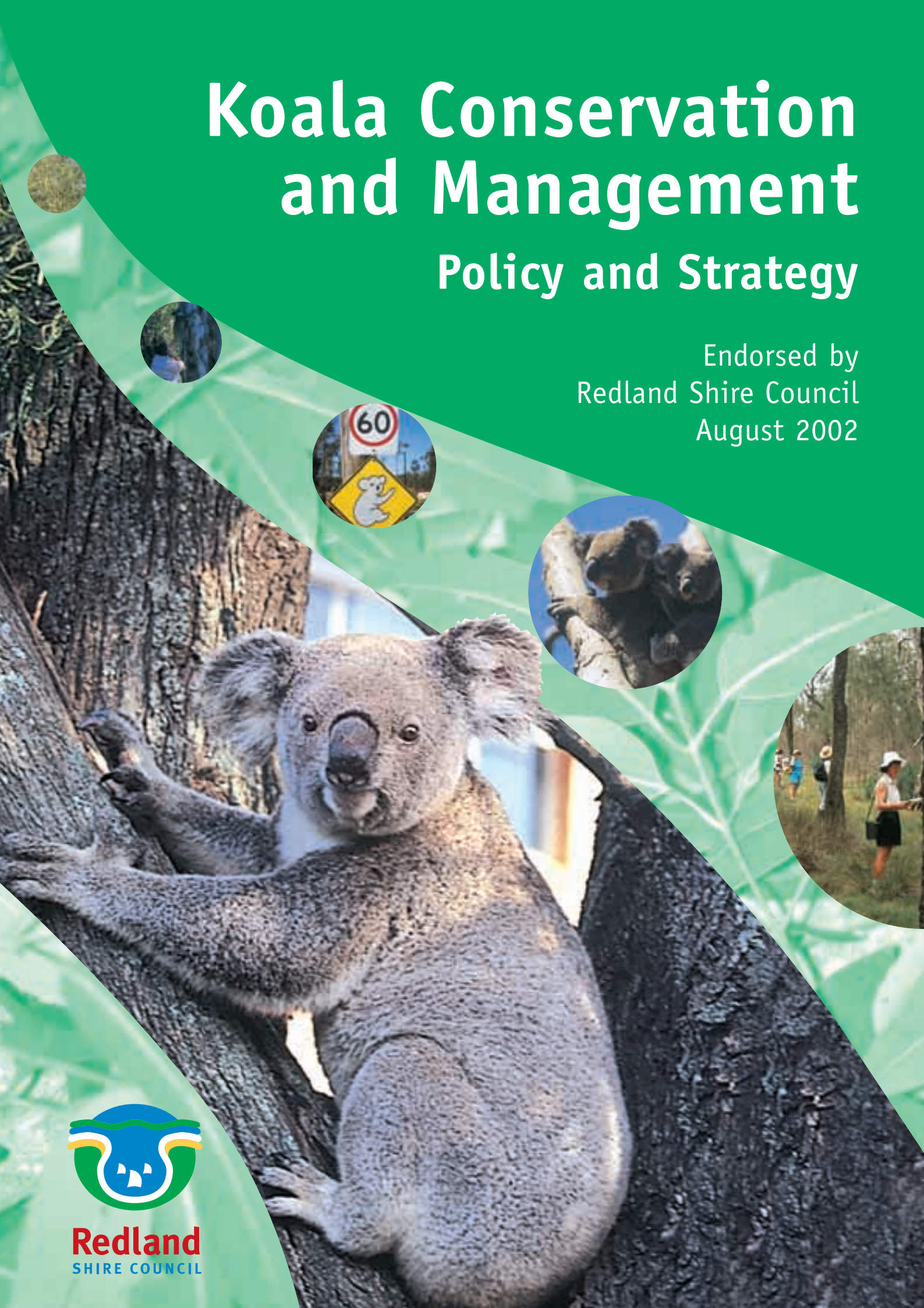


Koala Conservation and Management Policy and Strategy

Endorsed by
Redland Shire Council
August 2002



Redland
SHIRE COUNCIL

Introduction

Redland Shire makes up over half the area identified as the Koala Coast under the State Planning Policy 1/97 – Conservation of koalas in the Koala Coast. Research undertaken from 1996 to 1999 by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service concluded that approximately 6,000 koalas live within the Koala Coast, with over half of these living in Redland Shire (refer Figure 1). Koalas can be found on both the Redland Shire mainland and North Stradbroke Island.

The Redland's koala population is recognised as being significant due to the number of koalas within the urbanised environment and their level of interaction with the human population. The close proximity to the State's capital city, Brisbane, also adds to the value and significance of the Redland's koala population. There is no where else in Australia where so many people consistently interact with a natural population of koalas.

The koala is well recognised as the faunal emblem of Redland Shire. The Redland's community has a strong affiliation with the koala, with high levels of community support for, and involvement in, activities focused on koala conservation and management. The aim for the future is to further foster this involvement and encourage increased stewardship and personal action within the community to achieve the aims of koala conservation and management.

The Koala Conservation and Management Strategy outlines actions required to meet the objective of Council's Koala Conservation and Management Policy (refer page 3) which is:

Conserve and manage the Shire's estimated population of 4,000 koalas in good health, where health is measured as greater than 75% of mature females breeding and less than 15% of koalas showing clinical signs of disease annually.¹



The Strategy is viewed as a living document and will be modified to incorporate any actions identified that will contribute to achievement of the Policy's objective.

The Koala Conservation and Management Policy and Strategy are non statutory documents which aim to clearly articulate Council's position and actions in relation to Shire's koalas. These documents are separate from the State Planning Policy 1/97 – Conservation of koalas in the Koala Coast, and do not override or change the State Planning Policy.

Redland Shire Council actively seeks to encourage and involve the community, adjoining local governments and State and federal government agencies in the achievement of the Policy objective and the ongoing conservation and management of koalas in the Koala Coast.

¹ Research findings of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service have been used to develop the Policy Objective. Future research findings may result in amendments to the Policy Objective.

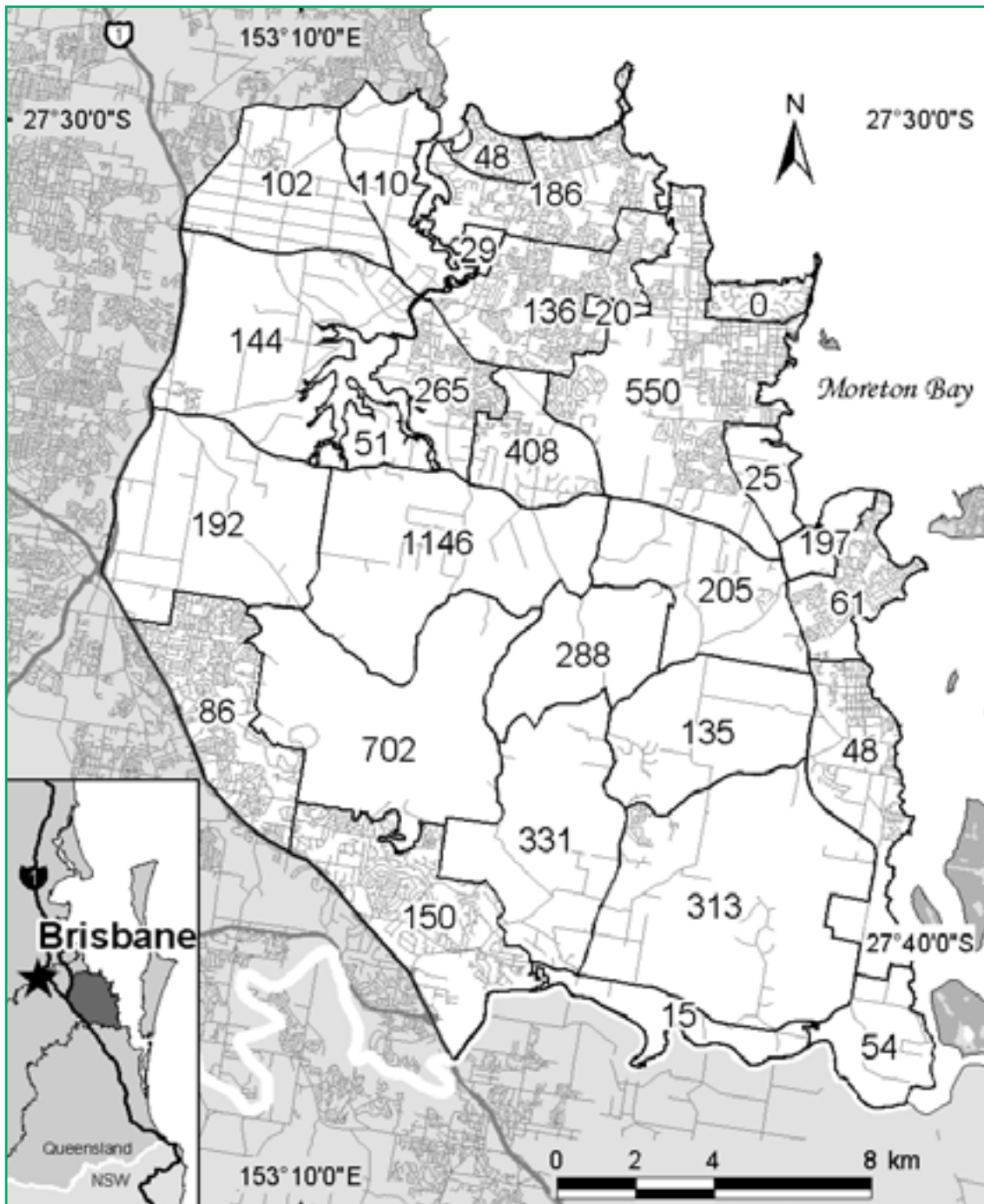


Figure 1 – Estimated number of koalas in the Koala Coast

The estimated number of koalas in the Koala Coast is 5997. The number of koalas was estimated from repeated systematic koala surveys conducted at 27 sites throughout the Koala Coast from 1996–1999. (Sourced from Dique *et al.* in press).

Policy Document

Corporate Policy – 362

Koala Conservation and Management

Head of Power

This policy supports Council's Corporate Plan 2002-2006 Objective 1.2 "to ensure the sustainability of the Shire's koala population".

It also supports Council's long term objective for koalas and native animals being "to protect, maintain and enhance the health of the Shire's koalas and native animals".

Policy Objective

Conserve and manage the Shire's estimated population of 4,000 koalas in good health, where health is measured as greater than 75% of mature females breeding and less than 15% of koalas showing clinical signs of disease annually.¹

Policy Statement

In order to conserve and manage koala populations within the Shire, Council will support, develop and implement integrated strategies which:

- 1 Protect, enhance and manage habitat required to maintain a stable, healthy population of koalas;
- 2 Enhance existing, and improve future development and infrastructure provision to achieve outcomes compatible with koala conservation and management;
- 3 Promote and market the koala, and educate the community and stakeholders, to facilitate responsibility and support for koala conservation and management;
- 4 Achieve appropriate domestic and pest animal management which is compatible with koala conservation and management; and
- 5 Encourage research into, and monitoring of, health, welfare and sustainability of koala populations within Redland Shire and the Koala Coast.

¹ Research findings of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service have been used to develop the Policy Objective. Future research findings may result in amendments to the Policy Objective.



Koala Conservation and Management



Strategy

Corporate Guideline – 362



Redland
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Policy Statement 1:

Protect, enhance and manage habitat required to maintain a stable, healthy population of koalas

1.1 PROTECTION OF EXISTING KOALA HABITAT					
No.	Issue	Action	Outcome Achieved	Finish By	Responsibility
1.1.1	Identification of koala habitat	Review koala habitat information in light of emerging research from the Koala Research Unit, other research agencies, recent mapping of the Shire's vegetation and assessments done as part of the development assessment process	Koala habitat mapped and prioritised	June 2003	• Environmental Management
1.1.2	Broader conservation issues	Develop a Biodiversity Strategy for the Shire	Biodiversity Strategy details actions to protect and manage the Shire's flora and fauna	June 2004	• Environmental Management
1.1.3	Protection of habitat – private land	Develop conservation designations within the Redland Planning Scheme	Planning Scheme provides for the designation of properties for conservation purposes	Mar 2003	• Land Use Planning
1.1.4		Develop appropriate environmental assessment criteria within the Redland Planning Scheme	Planning Scheme provides for assessment and mitigation of impacts on habitat values	Mar 2003	• Land Use Planning • Environmental Management
1.1.5		Continue to implement the Land for Wildlife program	Increase in habitat protected and managed through Land for Wildlife	Ongoing	• Operations and Maintenance
1.1.6		Develop and implement a Voluntary Conservation Agreement program	Habitat on private land protected and managed through Voluntary Conservation Agreements	Feb 2003	• Environmental Management • Operations and Maintenance
1.1.7		Continue to utilise Local Law No.6 (Protection of Vegetation) to protect koala habitat	Local Law effectively used to protect habitat	Ongoing	• Environmental Management • Assessment Services
1.1.8		Continue to actively pursue contribution of koala habitat through the development assessment process	Identified koala habitat obtained	Ongoing	• Assessment Services
1.1.9		Continue to identify, prioritise and purchase land for conservation purposes	Significant habitat is protected through purchase	Ongoing	• Environmental Management
1.1.10		Continue to investigate and develop additional strategies for habitat protection on private land, particularly tree retention in urban areas	Identified areas protected effectively	Ongoing	• Environmental Management
1.1.11	Protection of habitat – Council managed land	Promote recognition of the environmental values of all Council managed land to other users within Council and the community	Council land managed for its dominant purpose while acknowledging its contribution to the environment	Ongoing	• All Groups
1.1.12	Protection of habitat – other lands (education institutions, transport corridors etc)	Consult and lobby external government authorities in regards to the protection of environmental values on Crown and State land	External authorities implement management actions in line with koala conservation and management	June 2003	• Environmental Management

1.2 ENHANCEMENT² OF KOALA HABITAT

No.	Issue	Action	Outcome Achieved	Finish By	Responsibility
1.2.1	Enhancement planning	Continue to implement the Vegetation Enhancement Policy and Strategy to guide enhancement activities undertaken within the Shire	Enhancement activities use appropriate species	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management • Operations and Maintenance • Assessment Services
1.2.2		Review and implement the Pest Management Plan	Reduction in the impact of pests on koala habitat	Oct 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management • Assessment Services • Operations and Maintenance
1.2.3		Develop and implement Bush Fire Management Plans for the Shire's areas of bush fire risk	Reduction in the impact of bush fire on koala habitat	Dec 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management • Operations and Maintenance • Assessment Services
1.2.4		Develop a Habitat Linkage Strategy for the Shire	Habitat linkages identified and strategies for their retention and/or enhancement developed and prioritised	Dec 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management
1.2.5	Enhancement – Council land	Prioritise Council managed lands for enhancement	Program of works developed and implemented which consolidate habitat areas and strengthen links	June 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management • Operations and Maintenance
1.2.6		Develop management standards for all Council managed land	Plans of Management developed and implemented which include provisions for habitat protection and enhancement	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management • Community and Social Planning • Infrastructure Development • Operations and Maintenance • Redland Water and Waste
1.2.7	Enhancement – private property	Encourage habitat enhancement on private property through Council programs (Land for Wildlife, Voluntary Conservation Agreements etc.)	Increase in integrity of habitat on private land	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations and Maintenance • Environmental Management
1.2.8		Develop and implement a habitat enhancement program for residential and industrial/commercial areas	Increase in habitat value of identified areas	Feb 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management • Operations and Maintenance
1.2.9	Enhancement – other land	Consult, lobby and assist external government authorities in regards to management and enhancement of significant Crown and State land	External authorities implement actions in line with koala conservation and management	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management • Operations and Maintenance

² As defined in the Australian Natural Heritage Charter 2nd Edition 2002, enhancement means the introduction of additional organisms, genotypes, species or elements of habitat or biodiversity to those that naturally exist in a place





Policy Statement 2:

Enhance existing, and improve future development and infrastructure provision to achieve outcomes compatible with koala conservation and management

2.1 TRANSPORTATION					
No.	Issue	Action	Outcome Achieved	Finish By	Responsibility
2.1.1	Management of koala and vehicle interaction	Develop and promote alternative forms of transport including public transport and cycling in line with the recommendations of the Integrated Local Transport Plan	Reduction in vehicle trips	Mar 2003 - Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure Development Land Use Planning Department of Main Roads Qld Transport
2.1.2		Monitor vehicle-related koala incidents via the available casualty data every month to identify hot spots (including mapped and written data on the exact location of each incident)	Baseline information used to determine actions and measure outcomes	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Management Qld Parks and Wildlife Service
2.1.3		Investigate and implement any measures which the Council sees fit to help mitigate incidents between koalas and vehicles	Reduction in koalas hit by cars at identified locations	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure Development Department of Main Roads Environmental Management
2.1.4		Amend road design standards to include a range of wildlife compatible features (eg vegetation retention, crossings, speed calming, lighting, fencing, planting)	Reduction in koalas hit by cars at identified locations	June 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure Development Department of Main Roads
2.1.5		Work with the various departments of the State government (ie. Qld Transport, Qld Parks and Wildlife and Main Roads) to produce a commitment to and action supporting the conservation of koalas in the Redlands	Actions jointly developed and implemented to reduce number of koalas hit by cars	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Management Qld Parks and Wildlife Service Department of Main Roads Qld Transport
2.1.6	Management of koala and rail interaction	Continue to monitor rail-related koala incidents via Qld Parks and Wildlife Service casualty data every 6 months, or as available, to identify hot spots	Baseline information used to determine actions and measure outcomes	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Management Qld Parks and Wildlife Service
2.1.7		Work with Qld Rail to investigate and implement wildlife friendly design measures to mitigate hot spots	Reduction in koalas hit by trains at identified locations	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Management Infrastructure Development Qld Rail
2.1.8		Work with Qld Rail to review rail design standards to include a range of wildlife compatible features (eg vegetational retention, crossings, fencing, planting)	Reduction in koalas hit by trains at identified locations	June 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Management Qld Rail

2.2 LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

No.	Issue	Action	Outcome Achieved	Finish By	Responsibility
2.2.1	Appropriate development design	Review subdivision planning and design criteria	New subdivisions allow for habitat retention and enhancement, and unrestricted fauna movement	Mar 2003	• Land Use Planning
2.2.2		Ensure planning documents are consistent with koala conservation and management objectives	Development outcomes do not compromise koala conservation and management objectives	Ongoing	• Land Use Planning
2.2.3		Continue to lobby government regarding broadening of and clarification of conservation land in community land Infrastructure Charges Plans	Funding obtained through contribution mechanisms contributes to koala conservation and management outcomes	Mar 2003	• Land Use Planning

2.3 INTERNAL OPERATIONS

No.	Issue	Action	Outcome Achieved	Finish By	Responsibility
2.3.1	Internal operations	Develop standard operating procedures for development and infrastructure provision undertaken by Council to ensure that koala management objectives are appropriately considered.	Development and infrastructure provision implemented by Council are consistent with koala management objectives	June 2003	• Environmental Management • Infrastructure Development • Land Use Planning





Policy Statement 3:

Promote and market the koala, and educate the community and stakeholders, to facilitate responsibility and support for koala conservation and management

3.1 EDUCATION					
No.	Issue	Action	Outcome Achieved	Finish By	Responsibility
3.1.1	Level of knowledge within the Shire regarding koala issues	Undertake a survey of Council staff, schools, external authorities and the Redland's community to determine the current level of knowledge of koalas and koala management issue	Reliable benchmark of current levels of knowledge used to determine actions and measure outcomes	June 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management • Communications • Qld Parks and Wildlife Service • Main Roads
3.1.2		Develop and implement a communications strategy, including a media campaign, addressing koala conservation and management issues and Council's policy position	Increased general knowledge in regards to koala conservation and management	Dec 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management • Communications • Qld Parks and Wildlife Service
3.1.3		Develop an in-schools education program for local environmental issues including koala conservation and management	School children have a better understanding of koala conservation and management issues	June 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management • Communications • Operations and Maintenance
3.1.4		Review existing and develop additional interpretive materials addressing koala conservation and management issues	Increased community knowledge about koala issues (ie. habitat requirements, causes of mortality, appropriate management)	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management • Communications • Operations and Maintenance
3.1.5		Continue the operation of the Redland's Afterhours Wildlife Ambulance	Ambulance provides a reliable wildlife rescue and education service	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations and Maintenance
3.1.6		Support initiatives of the Daisy Hill Koala Centre	Increased community knowledge about koala issues and the Koala Coast	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management • Operations and Maintenance
3.1.7		Support and encourage community groups and volunteers to educate the broader community on koala conservation and management	Increased community knowledge about koala issues	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations and Maintenance

3.2 MARKETING and PROMOTION

No.	Issue	Action	Outcome Achieved	Finish By	Responsibility
3.2.1	Contribution to the Shire's economy	Determine the contribution of the koala to the Shire's economy (tourism benefits, marketing, use of koalas in naming/logos in developments, shopping centres etc.)	Substantiated data used for education/promotion and to lobby for greater protection	Dec 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management • Economic Development
3.2.2		Develop a Sustainable Tourism Scoping Study	Identification of tourism opportunities which duly consider koala conservation and management	Dec 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development
3.2.3		Take all opportunities to promote the Redland Shire as the Koala Capital of Australia, and to ensure that this message is conveyed to all economic development enquiries and publications	Identification of opportunities that are economically and environmentally beneficial	June 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications
3.2.4	Lobbying	Lobby State and federal government for improved protection of koalas and koala habitat under legislation. This includes all strategies relating to koala conservation, such as Land Tax relief, as well as the endorsement of more stringent protection of habitats, road safety and animal control	Improved outcomes for koala conservation and management	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Groups
3.2.5		Encourage greater support from business and industry for koala conservation and management activities	Support (financial, in-kind) for koala conservation and management actions	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management





Policy Statement 4:

Achieve appropriate domestic and pest animal management which is compatible with koala conservation and management

4.1 DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

No.	Issue	Action	Outcome Achieved	Finish By	Responsibility
4.1.1	Management of koala and dog interaction	Review existing Local Law No.2 (Keeping and Control of Animals) to manage koala-dog interactions	Local Law effectively used to reduce dog attacks on koalas	June 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and Social Planning
4.1.2		Develop an education program focusing on dog management issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> exclusion/inclusion fencing behaviour/training appropriate restraining habitat enhancement 	Increase community knowledge resulting in reduced dog attacks on koalas	June 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and Social Planning Environmental Management Assessment Services
4.1.3	Habitat and animal management	Develop and implement assessment guidelines for the keeping of livestock within koala habitat areas	Impacts of livestock on koala habitat managed appropriately	Dec 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Management Land Use Planning Community and Social Planning
4.1.4		Seek support of the RSPCA for animal management initiatives	RSPCA contribute to and support initiatives	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and Social Planning

4.2 PEST ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

No.	Issue	Action	Outcome Achieved	Finish By	Responsibility
4.2.1	Manage impacts of pest animals on koalas and habitat	Determine extent of pest animal populations and impacts.	Information used to develop strategies and measure success	June 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Management
4.2.2		Review the Pest Management Plan to include management of pest animals	Reduction in the impact of pest animals on koala habitat	Oct 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Management Assessment Services Operations and Maintenance



Policy Statement 5:

Encourage research into and monitoring of, health, welfare and sustainability of koala populations within Redland Shire and the Koala Coast

5.1 RESEARCH and MONITORING

No.	Issue	Action	Outcome Achieved	Finish By	Responsibility
5.1.1	Understanding of koala ecology	Support ongoing monitoring of the Shire's koala population, including an annual community koala population count which is comprehensive enough to determine actions and measure success (The mapped results of the count will be made available within a month to the public and press. The count will be completed over more than one day, with a separate map produced for each day's sightings. The count will be in late September or October each year, using Council officers and community volunteers, and be publicised widely enough to ensure more accurate results)	Data which is used to measure success of actions	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qld Parks and Wildlife Service • Environmental Management • Operations and Maintenance • Community
5.1.2		Continue to support and undertake koala habitat and population research (ie. disease, habitat preference, effects of human interactions)	Information used to determine actions and measures success	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management • Operations and Maintenance • Qld Parks and Wildlife Service • Universities
5.1.3	Koala health	Continue to support the operation of the Redlands Afterhours Wildlife Ambulance and koala hospital	Ambulance delivers a prompt and reliable rescue service	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations and Maintenance • Qld Parks and Wildlife Service
5.1.4		Continue to support the collection of data on koala health by the Redlands Afterhours Wildlife Ambulance and Qld Parks and Wildlife	Data which is used to develop actions and measure success	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations and Maintenance • Qld Parks and Wildlife Service
5.1.5	Flora research	Support and undertake flora research (disease impacts, new tree varieties etc.)	Research used to enhance to koala habitat	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management • Operations and Maintenance • Qld Parks and Wildlife Service