

# National Koala Conservation and Management Strategy

## Attachment B

### Work Plan 2010

Policy/measure/action	Jurisdiction	Status/	Outcome sought/ Achieved	Comments (Issues/Constraints)
<b>Category 1 Habitat identification and protection</b>				
<b>1.01 Incorporate koala habitat conservation into existing multi-species or landscape-scale conservation programs</b>				
GIS analysis of koala distribution overlap with other threatened species.	NSW	In progress	DECCW has carried out recent mapping of koala distribution on the south coast of NSW. This will be overlaid on existing Threatened Species distributions.	
Great Eastern Ranges Initiative	NSW	Planned, ongoing 2009/10	Establish a conservation corridor along the NSW section of the Great Eastern Ranges	Partnership program amongst range of conservation groups and agencies. DECCW one of the lead agencies.
Northern Rivers Regional Biodiversity Management Plan	NSW/ Aust Government	Complete	Northern Rivers Regional Biodiversity Management Plan complete, incorporates koala management	
<b>1.02 Habitat protection on public land</b>				
Gunnedah koala conservation	NSW	Complete	DECCW worked with the Liverpool Plains Land Management Committee and the Gunnedah Council to implement koala actions as identified.	Public land includes State Forests and local councils.
National Park Plans of Management actions for habitat protection	NSW	Complete (ongoing)	Fire management strategies to reduce size, intensity and frequency of fires in significant koala habitat. Planting of food sources. Strategies to liaise with neighbouring land-holders to minimise adjacent clearing	40 National Parks and Reserves (762,000ha) have actions in their Plans of Management which involve koalas.  These strategies are typically supported by surveys of koala populations on-park.
Review conditions of Eden Regional Forest Agreement Region Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals and Threatened Species Licence related to koala protection.	NSW	In progress	DECCW and Forests NSW have been gathering and analysing data to support the review process. DECCW has held preliminary discussions with Forests NSW about potential reserve options. Ongoing negotiations in south east regarding habitat in Mumbulla, Murrah and Bermagui State Forests.	Options limited by commitments in Regional Forest Agreements, Forest Agreements and Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals

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Local Council Koala Plans of Management	NSW	In progress	Development and review of comprehensive Koala Plans of Management (PoM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Port Stephens: finalised</li> <li>- Kempsey: final draft</li> <li>- Coffs Harbour: 5 year review on public exhibition</li> <li>- Tweed LGA: \$40K provided to fund field surveys and habitat mapping for eastern coastal section</li> <li>- Northern Rivers PoM to be updated with Biodiversity Management Strategy</li> </ul>
River Red Gum forest conservation	NSW	Planned (Decision Announced – Pending legislation)	107,000 hectares of River Red gum forests and associated woodlands along the Major inland river systems in Southern NSW to be protected in a range of conservation reserves. Many of these reserves will adjoin newly created reserves in Victoria and create a national scale protected area corridor along the Murray, and parts of the Murrumbidgee and Lachlan Rivers. These riverine forests are known to be an important habitat for koala populations extending into semi arid regions of Southern NSW	<p>The koala populations in many of these forests are believed to be a mix of koalas of local provenance and descendents of koalas introduced from other areas.</p> <p>The decision has been announced but has yet to pass through parliament.</p>
<b>1.03 Habitat protection on private land</b>				
Develop incentive-based mechanisms to incorporate koala conservation into planning processes	NSW	Complete (Ongoing)	Incentive based mechanisms already exist in NSW including Voluntary Conservation Agreements, Property Vegetation Plans, BioBanking, etc.	Key example is "Woodville" adjacent to population of breeding koalas near Bermagui. Initiated by Far South coast Landcare Association with steering committee representation by DECCW, a Property Management Plan and whole of farm plan is being developed.
Local Council Koala Plans of Management	NSW		See 1.02	Local Council Koala Plans of Management provide a consistent approach to koala planning and management on private land.
Chain of Ponds Project	NSW	Ongoing March 2010-July 2010	Chain of Ponds project will enable conservation of 10ha of riparian vegetation (including primary koala habitat in Wapengo area adjacent to breeding association of koalas.	Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority initiated project
<b>1.04 Prioritise populations</b>				
Expert workshop to identify priority populations in South Coast and Snowy Mountains Regions	NSW	Planned Dec 2010	Identify priority populations within the region.	Planned fieldwork will assist identification of priority populations
Prioritise populations in Namoi Catchment Management Area	NSW	Complete	Desktop survey undertaken to determine where priorities lie in this region. Report is available from Namoi CMA.	Gunnedah and Pilliga forests are the best koala habitats in NSW.

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<b>1.05 Revegetate habitat</b>				
"Bear Care" habitat revegetation in Gunnedah study	NSW	Implement ed (Ongoing)	Determine the extent that the Koala population uses environmental plantings of trees and how far they will travel across open paddocks to plantings.	Satellite-tracking project underway. Use of revegetated habitat is the central question being addressed. Revegetation was initiated to address rising water tables and associated salinity and trees planted were suitable for koalas. This population is of prime interest as it is expanding in contrast to the rest of the state.
Narrandera Common revegetation/restoration program	NSW	Ongoing	Narrandera Common revegetation/ restoration program for the 527 ha of River Red Gum forest.	Being undertaken by Narrandera Shire Council in conjunction with Murrumbidgee CMA river restoration project this should improve important koala habitat.
<b>1.06 Develop standard monitoring protocols</b>				
Develop consistent protocols that enable population numbers or density to be compared between the same place at different times and between different habitats.	NSW	In progress	DECCW and Forests NSW have been gathering and analysing data and reviewing protocols for habitat assessment and monitoring, specific to koalas, on the south coast of NSW.	
Statewide koala distribution survey	NSW	Completed /In progress	Determine statewide geographic distribution of koalas and changes of distribution via 'public survey' technique. A 2010 low-cost web-based survey will follow-up on the 2006 NSW survey and 1986/87 national survey.	The statewide survey is community based. Whilst highly effective, the 2006 postal survey was in fact costly. The 2010 follow up is web-based and low cost, but to date is not as effective in its reach, but is quick and economical.
Workshop to review monitoring methods	NSW	Planned December 2010	Workshop to review monitoring methods (transect and RGBSAT)	
<b>1.07 Establish national database</b>				
Contribute to central data repository	NSW	Implement ed (ongoing)	All data from all surveys is logged onto the NSW Wildlife Atlas and is available to all users, including any national databases.	In addition to the repeated statewide survey, the NSW recovery plan has identified a series of locations for monitoring and assessment or audit of the effectiveness of previous surveys and management.
<b>1.08 Establish/continue monitoring</b>				
Develop larger-scale survey and monitoring programs.	NSW	In progress	Forests NSW is developing a landscape-scale biodiversity monitoring program, which should also be relevant for koala monitoring.	Pilot programs have been established in Western Region and in Central Region.

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Statewide determination leading to prioritisation	NSW	Implement ed/ Planned	The NSW 2008 Koala Recovery Plan identified a series of local surveys and management plans to audit for their effectiveness. These studies should yield an up to date determination of the status of the koala in NSW and a series of local areas.	Two areas implemented: Gunnedah and Campbelltown.
Continue Monitoring in the South Coast region	NSW	Ongoing July 2009 – June 2010	- Phase 1 of Escarpment and Hinterland Koala survey - Review of results of Escarpment and Hinterland Koala survey to assess whether additional work is required - Ongoing transect monitoring program in Morton and Tarlo NP (approximately 15 500 m x 40 m transects)	
Study on distribution and movement of koalas across private and public land in Campbelltown	NSW	Complete	Publication in press that reports on distribution and movement of koalas across private and public land and assessment against five different koala habitat mapping techniques.	The Campbelltown population is historically significant
<b>1.09 Incorporate other causes of habitat loss in planning (e.g. drought, climate change)</b>				
"Bear Care" habitat revegetation in Gunnedah study (see 1.05)	NSW	Implement ed (ongoing)	Drought and climate change are two major components of the current population study in Gunnedah.	At west of range, extreme heat may be a limiting factor for koala populations.
Strategy to minimise impacts of fuel reduction burn	NSW	Ongoing July 2009- June 2010	Implementation of strategy to minimise overlap between areas where fuel reduction burns are undertaken (particularly in Strategic Fire Advantage Zones areas) in the Bermagui, Murrah, Mumbulla and adjacent private forests and koala activity cells delineated in 2007-9 koala survey	
<b>Category 2 Over-browsed habitats</b>				
<b>2.03 Develop national translocation guidelines</b>				
State translocation policy	All states	Implement ed/ ongoing		All states have policies on translocations in place or in development.
<b>Category 3 Direct mortality of individual koalas</b>				
<b>3.02 Implement protection of koalas from dogs</b>				
Population Viability Analysis of effect of dog predation	NSW	Complete	A Population Viability Analysis was conducted by DECCW and published in 2007 on the koala populations in Port Stephens. This analysis informed the development of the Port Stephens Koala Plan of Management under SEPP44.	PVA showed that mortality due to dog predation is a significant threat to koala populations.

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Fox and dog baiting	NSW	Ongoing From July 2009	Fox and dog baiting program throughout areas sustaining koalas in Morton NP and Bungonia SRA, Biamanga NP, Bermagui NR, Murrah and Mumbulla SF and in Nature Reserves sustaining koalas in North East Monaro.	
<b>3.03 Disease assessment and treatment</b>				
Monitoring	NSW (DECCW and DII)	Complete (ongoing)	Fauna rehabilitation groups are licensed by DECCW and work with veterinarians to assess and treat disease in koalas.	
	NSW	Planned	Discussions are underway with veterinarians at the University of Sydney to study the prevalence and geographic distribution of koala diseases, particularly Chlamydia.	
<b>Category 4 Community involvement</b>				
<b>4.01 Provide extension and advisory services for koala protection on private land</b>				
Great Eastern Ranges Landscape scale conservation program	NSW	Planned, ongoing 2009/10	As per 1.01	
<b>4.02 Develop and distribute education material</b>				
Distribute education material in the NSW South Coast Region.	NSW	Completed March 2010	Public release of <i>Interim Report on Surveys conducted in 2007-2009 for Koalas in the Coastal Forests of the Bermagui/Mumbulla Area</i> and associated media, website and email networks distribution Distribution of bilingual (English and Dhurga, the main Aboriginal language of the NSW South Coast) booklet to schools and Aboriginal land councils on local koala history and ecology Distribution of survey methods educational kit (RGSAT method) to science students from local high schools, Bournda Environmental Educational Centre and Crossing land Education Centre DECCW maintains a threatened species website which includes a profile page for the koala and the listed endangered populations.	

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Publication: <i>Climate Change How will it affect the natural environment in NSW?</i>	NSW	Complete	Publication on the effects of climate change on the natural environment in NSW published in September 2009, including information on the koala.	
<b>4.03 Extend community involvement and engagement</b>				
Develop and maintain community partnerships and involvement in the South Coast Region	NSW	Ongoing July 2009- June 2010	1. Koala Survey program involving volunteers undertaking approximately 50 field trips to assess sites for koala evidence. 2. Koala survey program working with Aboriginal Land Council representatives undertaking approximately 20 field trips to assess sites for koala evidence	Part of a broader program in which the distribution and abundance of Koalas in escarpment and hinterland forests to the south west of Bega (primarily South East Forests National Park). Participants search for Koala faecal pellets at predetermined locations (grid intersections) using a consistent and repeatable method. Analysis of data gathered enables koala activity to be quantified. Other ecological data are also gathered at the sites.
Local council engagement	NSW	Implement ed (ongoing)	DECCW is working with councils (eg. Great Lakes Council and the Hawks Nest Koala Working Group) to implement actions from the Hawks Nest Koala Recovery Plan.	
"Backyard Buddy" program and the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife	NSW	Implement ed (ongoing)	The Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife continues to support fund raising for koala conservation, improving public awareness and engagement in koala conservation by providing discussion forums, information and access to scientists.	The "Backyard Buddy" program includes a koala mascot.
<b>Category 5 Caring for koalas in captivity</b>				
<b>5.01 Develop guidelines for handling and care</b>				
Guidelines	NSW	Completed	DECCW has 'Guidelines for the Care of Koalas' (June 1997).	The document will be reviewed within the next two years.
<b>Category 6 Research</b>				
<b>6.01 Develop and use broad-scale habitat analysis</b>				
Bermagui-Mumbulla Forests surveys	NSW	Ongoing Jan 2010 - June 2010	Peer review of statistical analysis of data gathered in 2007-9 in Bermagui-Mumbulla Forests. Based on review, kernel density estimation will be undertaken to map habitat attributes.	

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Leaf-compound study (ANU & DECCW) undertaken in Bermagui-Mumbulla Forests completed and results factored into habitat mapping	NSW	Completed	Understanding of role of leaf nutrients in determining koala habitat suitability	
Broadscale habitat analyses	NSW	Complete	A series of broadscale habitat analyses undertaken with the University of Queensland over the last 6 years, enabled by National ARC linkage grants. Papers have been published linking on ground conservation problems with broadscale landscape approaches.	
<b>6.02 Identify and prioritise knowledge gaps</b>				
Develop tool to evaluate and prioritise koala conservation actions	Australian Government/ Qld/NSW	Planned	A joint project is under discussion between NSW, Queensland and DEWHA to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of existing strategies for koala conservation	
<b>6.05 Develop methods to compare disparate data on koala distribution and abundance</b>				
Develop standard methods on the South Coast	NSW	Ongoing	Participation in process comparing disparate data on koala distribution and abundance	