



Koala Management

Introduction

Version 2 - June 2023

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Koala

Training Instructions

Things you need to complete this training:

- Koala Management Operating Guidelines
- Koala Field Guide for Queensland Forestry Operations
- Koala Training Quiz (this will be completed throughout the powerpoint)
- Koala Survey (excel or printed)

Options of delivery:

- Self-paced
- Permittee delivers training



Koala

Topics

- Regulatory requirements
- Koala information (characteristics, behaviour)
- Signs of koalas
- Required training
- Surveys (pre-harvest, daily harvest)
- Reporting and monitoring procedure
- Injured koalas and koala care

Remember, complete the quiz as we go!



Koala Background

“There are bigger priorities”

Environment and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

- Prior to 2022, the Koala was **listed** as ‘vulnerable’ under commonwealth legislation
- Now.... This has been **elevated** to **Endangered**, and therefore DAF were required to amend their Species Management Profile, to show greater level of protection for both the koala and it’s habitat.
- To add, the koala is **listed** as **Endangered** under Queensland’s *Nature Conservation Act (1992)*



SPECIES MANAGEMENT PROFILE

Koala - Phascolarctos cinereus

Conservation status:
(Queensland Nature Conservation Act and/or Commonwealth Environment and Biodiversity Conservation Act)

NEAR THREATENED

VULNERABLE

ENDANGERED
(Queensland and Commonwealth)

CRITICALLY
ENDANGERED

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Koala

Why are they endangered?

- Loss of suitable habitat
- Increase intensity and frequency of:
 - Drought
 - Heatwaves
 - Bushfires
- Declining nutritional value of foliage
- Clearing and degradation of koala habitat
- Threats from pests and diseases

- Particular focus on SEQ



Koala

Why are they endangered?

- What is being done?
 - Uplisting of protection
 - Regulative measures in all industries
 - Documents such as conservation plans, species management plans
 - Reporting sightings
 - Education and awareness
 - State-wide koala risk assessment under the EPBC act (DAF)
 - Habitat protection (OHP)
 - Research on habitat, density, location etc
 - Community involvement
 - Mapping and data collection



Koala

Why are they endangered?

- Why is the koala important?
 - Social licence
 - Cultural significance and connection to Traditional Owners and land
 - Australian Iconic species



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Koala Question?

The koala is currently listed as.....

Circle correct answer

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Koala Question?

The koala is currently listed as.....



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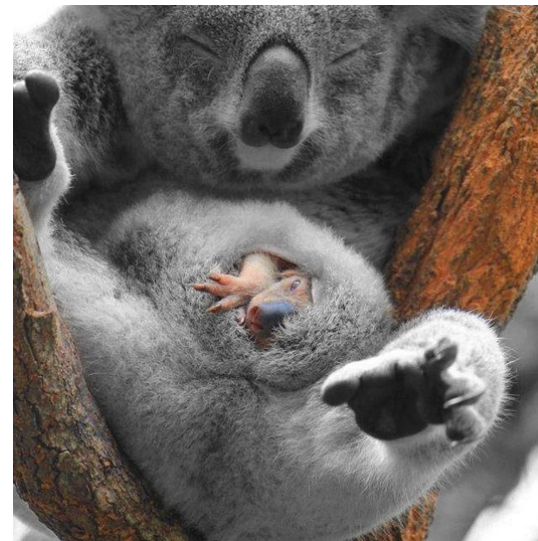
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Koala

Phascolarctos cinereus

Description

- A short compact body and large head, large ears, and no functional tail
- Dense fur, which is white below and brown to grey above with white patches, a prominent black nose, and large claws (distinct thumbs- 2 per hand)
- Males and females can look different in relation to size and colour, females have a pouch, with males having a broader face and scent gland which can be highly defined during the breeding season



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Koala- video

2 mins



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Koala

Habitat and Distribution

- Temperate, tropical, and woodland communities dominated by Eucalypts
- Distribution of koalas covers large areas of Queensland, extending from the south-east corner to the wet tropics in the north and semi-arid vegetation communities to the west

Diet

- Koalas commonly eat a variety of *eucalyptus* and related species such as *lophostemon*, *corymbia*, *angophora* and *melaleuca*
- **They do not eat all species!**
- They eat up to 500gms/day



Juvenile
Eucalyptus



Lophostemon



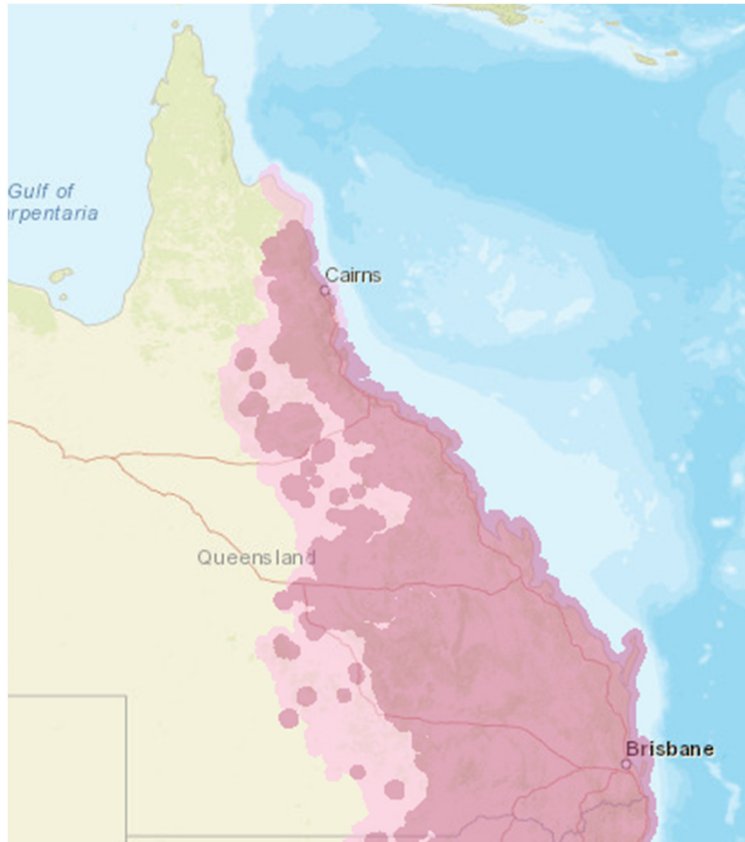
Angophora



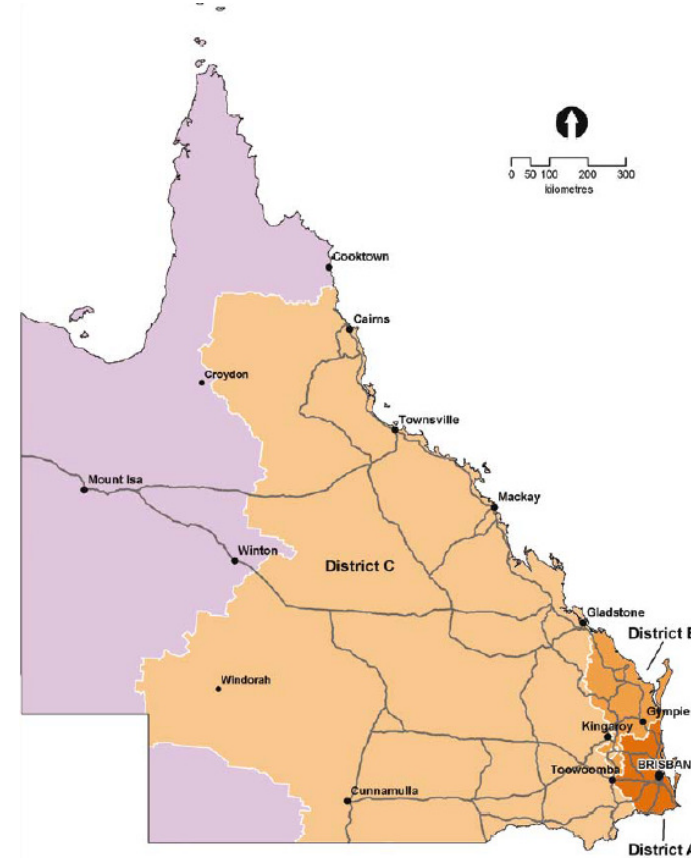
Corymbia

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Koala Distribution Map



The mapping of koala distribution is considered unclear. State and Federal Governments are working swiftly to obtain more information on koala distribution and density.



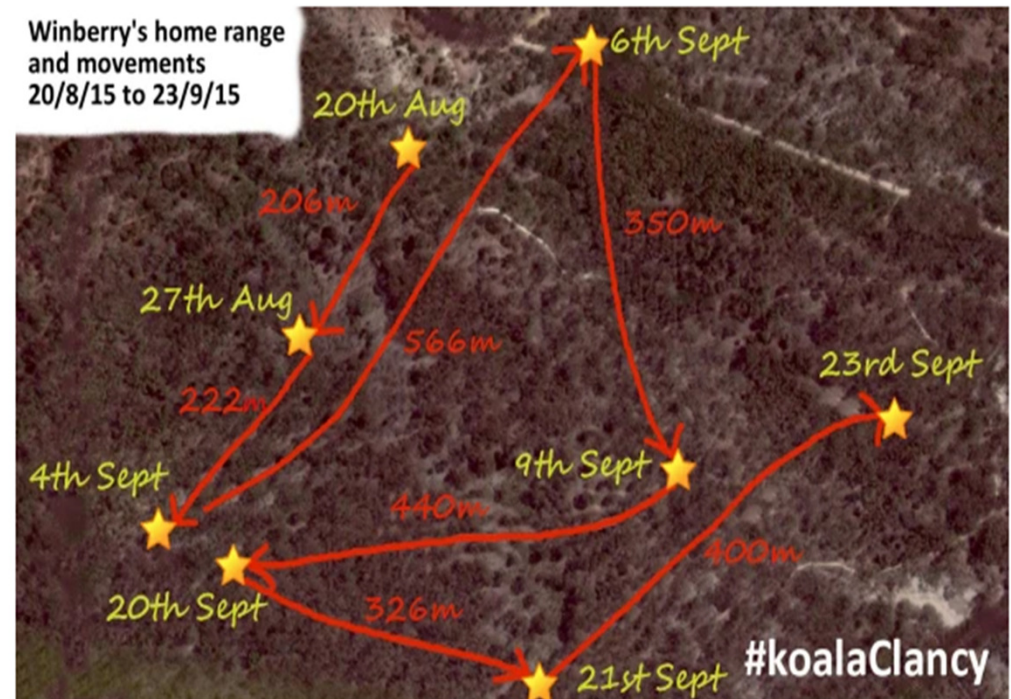
The Nature Conservation Plan identifies three koala districts: Koala District A, Koala District B and Koala District C. Each district has measurable objectives to ensure the protection of koalas and their habitat.

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Koala Behaviour

Behaviour

- Sleep for up to 21-22 hours a day due to their low energy diet, and the time it takes to digest
- Nocturnal, although they do move during the day if disturbed or relocating to a new tree
- Koalas breed from **August to February**, when males are increasingly mobile
- The male koala has been known to move kms in one day during breeding season



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Koala Question?

When is breeding season?

Circle correct answer

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Koala Question?

When is breeding season?

Typically August- February

Circle correct answer

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Koala Signs

Visual

Koalas can be found sitting in the trunk or between forks, commonly in **Non-Juvenile Koala Habitat Trees**- greater than 10cm diameter at DBH, and four meters tall

Sound

Distinctive calls, the male often grunts during breeding season, whilst the females make a low-pitched bellow

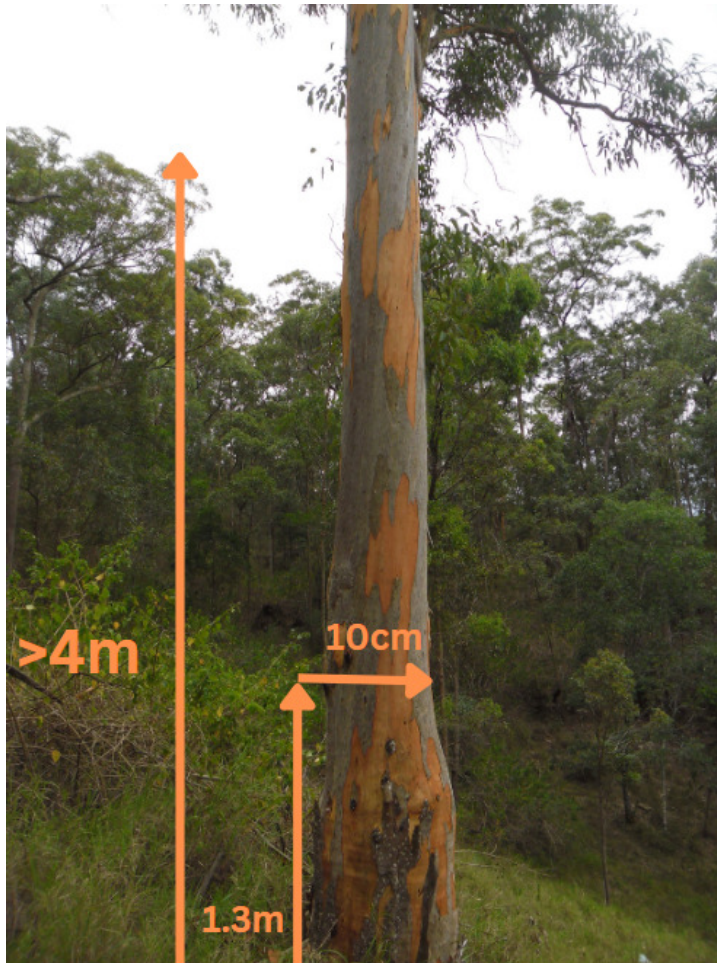


[Koala sounds - Compilation - Bing video](#)

Males can be heard up to
1km away!!

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Koala NJKHT



← Non-Juvenile Koala
Habitat Tree
Or also known as
“NJKHT”

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Koala Signs

Scratches

- Koalas are arboreal species, using their sharp claws used for climbing.
- When climbing, koalas leave behind characteristic scratches (from their double thumb) in the bark
- This can be more difficult to find on rough bark trees (Tallowoods)

Scent marking

- Male koalas mark their scents on trees. This can sometime be smelt, when you're aware of the smell. This is easier to see on smooth barked trees



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Koala Signs

Scats

- Scats are typically strong eucalyptus smelling and sticky
- Scats can be visible around the base of an inhabited tree and extend to drip line
- It is noted that scats are a main indicator of recent koala presence
- Scats can be difficult to find under bark that has recently shed
- Important to look at the dripline of the tree too!



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Koala Behaviour

Distressed koala

- Excessive movement up and down the trunk, to the canopy and onto the ground
- Can shut down and not move at all

Operator safety

- A distressed koala can be aggressive as it may be fearful for its life
- Koala bites or scratches can be severe, and if an injury does occur via a bite or scratch, medical attention should be considered if occurs

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Koala

Recap on regulatory requirements

EPBC Act 1999 (Commonwealth)

- Endangered

Nature Conservation Act 1992 (QLD)

- Endangered

Additional documents to support

- *Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan (2017)*
- *Planning Act 2016 (SEQ Planning area)*
- Species Management Profile- DAF
- SEQ Conservation Strategies
- Conservation Plans
- Timber Queensland Documents.

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Koala

Koala Spotter

What does a 'koala spotter' mean?

- The Nature Conservation Plan (2017), and subsequently the SMP (DAF document), requires a person undertaking sequential clearing to be trained as a *koala spotter*.
- The following extract is taken from Nature Conservation Plan (2017)

(4) In this section—

koala spotter means a person who has qualifications and experience, or demonstrated skills and knowledge, in—

- (a) locating koalas in koala habitats; or
- (b) conducting arboreal fauna surveys.

- To address this, we are taking the **demonstrated skills and knowledge approach**



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Koala Question?

**What does it mean to be a koala
spotter?**

Write correct answer

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Koala Question?


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- locating koalas in koala habitats;
- conducting arboreal fauna surveys.

Koala

Species Management Profile

 **Queensland Government**

SPECIES MANAGEMENT PROFILE


Koala - *Phascolarctos cinereus*


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Koala scats (actual size)


Distinct fresh scratches (left) and numerous deep scratches indicating frequent use (right)

While koalas may be difficult to spot in the canopy of trees, occupation or frequent use can be indicated by numerous faecal pellets or scats and distinct deep scratches on the trunk often characterised by scratches from their double thumb arrangement. Recent use is evident by fresh, wet, sticky appearing scat with a strong scent, fresh scratches on the trunk, or a musk scent from males rubbing their scent gland found on their chest against the trunk. During the spring-summer breeding period, the male's deep, harsh, bellowing mating calls or grunting can be heard over long distances. Screaming, wailing, and squealing are also often heard from both females and males when disturbed.


Distribution
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- DAF written and governed document
- Updated in 2022
- Provides 5 operational actions, with various steps to align with legal obligations
- Ensure you have obtained the NEW version (see TQ or your local DAF FRIC to receive this).
- The SMP is implemented when undertaking ‘felling’ including -
 - Harvesting, snigging
 - Landing construction
 - New snig tracks, new roads and road maintenance
 - Anything that require felling of trees

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- SMP includes QPWS Code of Practice measures that relate or influence koala management-
 - **Schedule 3-** Watercourse protection
 - Aids connectivity and prevents clearing along waterways
 - **Schedule 6-** Habitat and recruitment trees
 - Provide connectivity, shelter and habitat trees
 - Important- mark as per The Code
 - **Schedule 8-** Forest road and track management
 - Minimise road length, road network and interference to drainage and natural features

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Koala

Important- Cutter Select Trial

- Are you currently involved in the Cutter Select Trial?
 - Cypress and
 - Select hardwood crews
- Meaning, are you responsible for certain tasks that DAF typically use to undertake?
 - Waterway marking
 - Habitat and Recruitment Tree Identification and
 - Product selection/marketing.
- If so, that might mean that you don't physically mark habitat and recruitment trees...
- If that is the case then through the Koala Management Operating Guidelines, where it states to mark high use trees, as per habitat and recruitment trees. You will just need to identify them and communicate to others on the ground
- If unsure- **always ask!!**
- TQ is available to assist you understanding this


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Koala

Species Management Profile

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ACTION 1: Any tree which shows the following indicators for **high usage (see next slide)** by koalas must be retained and protected as a habitat tree or retained tree

- Protect and retain habitat or retained tree when:
 - multiple scratches or 20 or more faecal pellets found OR
 - significantly greater usage indicators (multiple scratches, faecal pellets, and rubs from scent marking) **relative to other trees in the broader area** (e.g. State forest or region)
- Apply Schedule 6 of the QPWS code, to minimise damage and manage harvest residue

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Koala

High Use Tree (as per SMP)

What's this mean...?

What is 'High Use'?
>20 scats
Multiple scratches
Rub/scent marks

We need to inspect to determine if there are 20+ scats, multiple scratches and evidence of scent marks.

It is recommended to visually inspect:

- For **hand felling**

This occurs at the time of felling, a visual assessment is made of the tree.

- For **mechanical**

Unless scratches and scats are visible from the cab, then the tree should be *searched*, either using the pre-harvest or daily pre-harvest survey method



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Multiple High Use Trees

When there are multiple high use trees...

Consider:

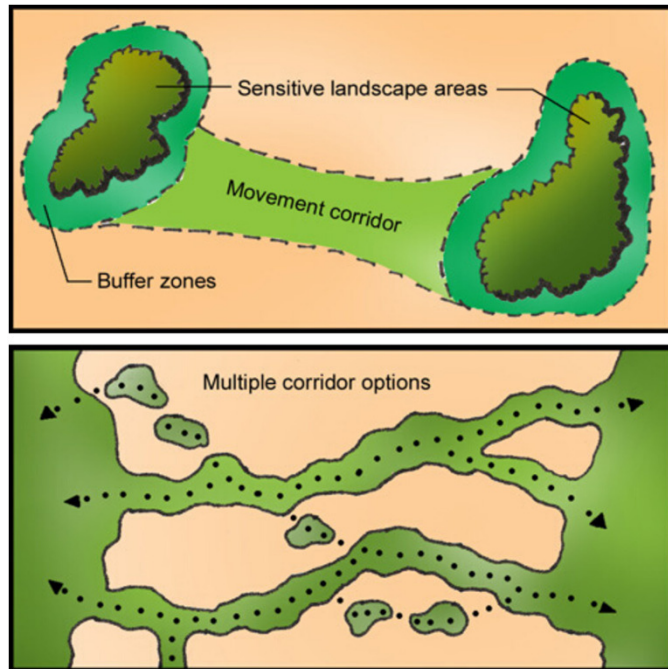
- Is it a commercial tree species
- Themes or traits in the area (along gully/water, tree species)
- Can I exclude the area (with DAF approval)
- Impact to harvest operations?
- Benefit to the koala population in the area

What is 'High Use'?
>20 scats
Multiple scratches
Rub/scent marks

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Koala

Species Management Profile



- **ACTION 2:** Consistent with the *Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2017* (the Plan), harvesting is to address koala spotting and sequential clearing requirements:
 - Harvesting of trees is conducted in a way that ensures that appropriate **habitat links** are maintained within the harvesting site, and between the site and adjacent areas, to allow koalas that are present to move out of the site of their own accord
 - The operator responsible for harvesting trees has requisite training or **experience as a 'koala spotter'**
 - **All trees** are inspected for koalas by a 'koala spotter' prior to harvesting.

Koala Question?

What is a high use tree?

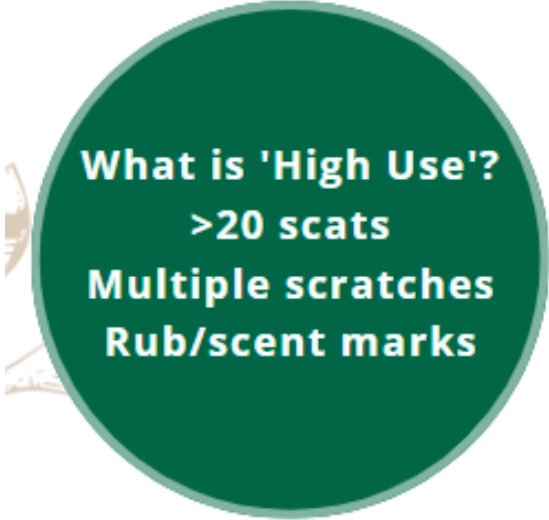
Write correct answer

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Koala Question?

What is a high use tree?




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Species Management Profile

 **SPESIES MANAGEMENT PROFILE**

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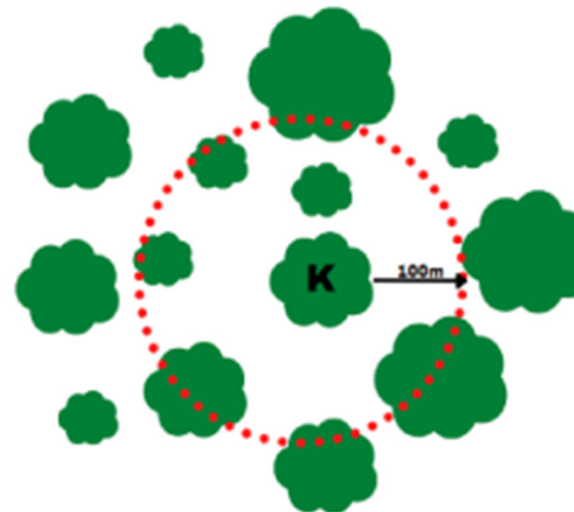

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ACTION 3: where a koala is observed in a tree:

- Apply a **100m exclusion** area with directions marked on tree
- **Cease operations** within exclusion area
- Operations must only recommence after **6am** the following day, or when the koala is no longer located in excluded area



Applying 100m exclusion zone

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Koala

Species Management Profile

 **QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT**

SPECIES MANAGEMENT PROFILE


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Fragmented sub-populations of the Koala occur throughout Queensland and the distribution extends inland from the East Coast: from the Wet Tropics bioregion (Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia) region into the Emerald Uplands bioregion in the north of the state; from the Central Mackay Coast bioregion, through the Brigalow Belt North bioregion to the

ACTION 4: if an injured koala is found you must:

- Apply 100m exclusion in all directions
- Cease all operations within the exclusion area
- Do not interfere or transport the injured animal
- Call 1300 animal and DAF ASAP



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Koala

Species Management Profile

Queensland Government

SPECIES MANAGEMENT PROFILE

Koala - *Phascolarctos cinereus*



Conservation status: (Queensland Nature Conservation Act and/or Commonwealth Environment and Biodiversity Conservation Act)

NEAR THREATENED VULNERABLE **ENDANGERED (Queensland and Commonwealth)** CRITICALLY ENDANGERED


Description
The koala has a short compact body and large head, large ears and no functional tail. It has dense fur, which is white below and brown to grey above with white patches, a prominent black nose and large claws (Krockerberger et al. 2012). Length: head and body 680-820mm; weight: 4100-9100g.

Habitat
The koala inhabits a range of temperate, sub-tropical and tropical forest, woodland and semi-arid communities dominated by *Eucalyptus* species. The species of tree and the extent of tree cover are the most important characteristics for the koala. The diet of the koala is restricted mainly to species of *Eucalyptus* (about 50 different species of *Eucalyptus*) and some related genera including *Corymbia*, *Angophora* and *Lophosiemon*. However, the koala also feeds on a number of other species, including species from the *Melaleuca* and *Leptospermum* genera. Preferences for eucalyptus species vary regionally and locally. Commonly preferred food trees in Queensland include members of the red gum group (e.g. *Eucalyptus tereticornis* blue gum, *E. camaldulensis* river red gum), grey gums (e.g. *E. prostrata*, *E. biturbinata*), *E. microcorys* tallowwood, *E. resinifera* red mahogany, *E. populnea* poplar box, and *E. thauziana* mountain yapunyah. While woodland and forests dominated by *Eucalyptus* species are koalas preferred habitat, cypress forests may present suitable habitat and shelter due to their proximity to poplar box and ironbark woodland.

While koalas may be difficult to spot in the canopy of trees, occupation or frequent use can be indicated by numerous faecal pellets or scats and distinct deep scratches on the trunk often characterised by scratches from their double thumb arrangement. Recent use is evident by fresh, wet, sticky appearing scat with a strong scent, fresh scratches on the trunk, or a musk scent from males rubbing their scent gland found on their chest against the trunk. During the spring-summer breeding period, the male's deep, harsh, bellowing mating calls or grunting can be heard over long distances. Screaming, wailing, and squealing are also often heard from both females and males when disturbed.

Koala scats (actual size)



Distinct fresh scratches (left) and numerous deep scratches indicating frequent use (right)

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ACTION 5: For all koala sightings, you must notify the **DAF as soon as possible** including:

- Whether Koala is alive or dead
- Location (GPS coordinate and info, use record sheet)
- Date and time



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Koala Question?

**If a koala is sighted during
harvesting, what must you do?**

Write correct answer

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Koala Question?

If a koala is sighted during harvesting, what must you do?

- Apply 100m exclusion
- Cease harvesting in the exclusion area
- Notify others including DAF
- Collect GPS points and information
- Not recommence harvesting until 6am the next day, or until no longer there
- Visually assess for injury

Koala

How to put the SMP into practice?

This is up to the permittee and contractors to manage...

The **Species Management Profile** supplied by DAF is the **minimum requirement** to meet legislative requirements.

The **delivered documents** during this training (see next slide) are **recommended approaches**, designed and implemented by Timber Queensland.

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Koala

How to put the SMP into practice?



Koala Field Guide
For Queensland Forestry Operations

Koalas are listed as 'endangered' in Queensland under the *Nature Conservation Act (1992)* and the Commonwealth Government's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)*. Both levels of government have conservation strategies in place to help address the decline of koala populations in key habitat areas.

Purpose.
This field guide aims to inform Queensland timber harvesting operators of their obligations under relevant koala legislation, planning, and general duty of care. Ensuring harvesting in State-Owned forests is undertaken in such a way that koala populations and habitat are protected.

Relevant documents
Documents to be read in conjunction with this field guide include:

- Koala Management Operating Guidelines
- *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)* (EPBC)
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992*
- *Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2017*
- Koala- Species Management Profile (DAF, 2022)
- QPWS Code of practice 2020

Acknowledgments
This field guide is a product of Timber Queensland's Native Forest Operations Capacity Building Project, funded by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Forest Products).

Disclaimer
Information provided in this document is for general guidance only, it does not replace koala prescriptions outlined in Commonwealth and State Government legislation. This field guide applies to Queensland State Forest only, it does not apply to private native forestry, or timber plantations.

The field guide is tailored to mechanical felling operations, but principles should be applied for all operations.

In Partnership with:

Queensland Government | Verterra | Ecological Engineering

1. Koala Management Operating Guidelines

- Overarching document, designed for permittees
- More background and detailed information
- Includes two printable step by step guides for the two survey methods types

2. Koala Management Field Guide

- Key field document
- Operators to refer to as quick reference

3. Koala Management Introduction/Training

- For all attendees
- Permittees will be able to deliver this Powerpoint



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Koala

How to put the SMP into practice?

Provided documents

- Koala Management Operating Guideline (only permittees)
- Koala Field Guide
- Step by step guides for the two survey methods types (extracted section from the back of the Koala Management Operating Guideline)
- Koala survey
- Koala quiz

Koala

Koala Management Operating Guidelines

- Koala information
- Signs of koalas
- Forest operations
- Regulatory requirements
- Contractual requirements (SMP, sales permit, and OHP)
- Required training
- Spotting procedure (survey timing and methods)
- Reporting and monitoring procedure

This document is designed for the Permittees and will be delivered to them for internal review.

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Koala

Koala Management Field Guide

- A brief summary of the Koala Management Operating Guidelines
- Designed for:
 - Contractors (cutters, machine operators)
 - Anyone commencing felling
 - To be used as a quick guide
- The step-by-step guide can be used to assist the operators with more detailed instructions.

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Koala Field Guide

For Queensland Forestry Operations



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The field guide is tailored to mechanical felling operations, but principles should be applied for all operations.

In Partnership with:



Koala Survey Timing

Pre-harvest survey	Daily pre-harvest survey (most common)
Occurs prior to operations starting during planning Aimed to identify high use trees	Occurs on the day (prior to harvesting)- non negotiable Aimed at identifying koalas, and incidentally high use trees
Survey entire area or Systematic area (1 week, 1 month, entire sales area etc)	Inspect every tree (for koala presence and high usage) prior to harvesting
Use walkover method (see future slide)	Recommend using the spiral method, slight differences for mechanical and manual felling
Beneficial when habitat and recruitment or product marking is occurring, undertake at same time Completed by the responsible person for habitat and recruitment or product marking (if this occurs).	Conducted by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1-2 people conducting the method daily prior to harvesting.• Survey<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Operator getting out of the cab to conduct survey method prior to felling.- Hand feller undertaking method at the time of felling- Using a non-feller to conduct survey method, providing safety distances are adhered to.

Koala Survey Timing

The daily pre-harvest method
will be the most common
timing for all.

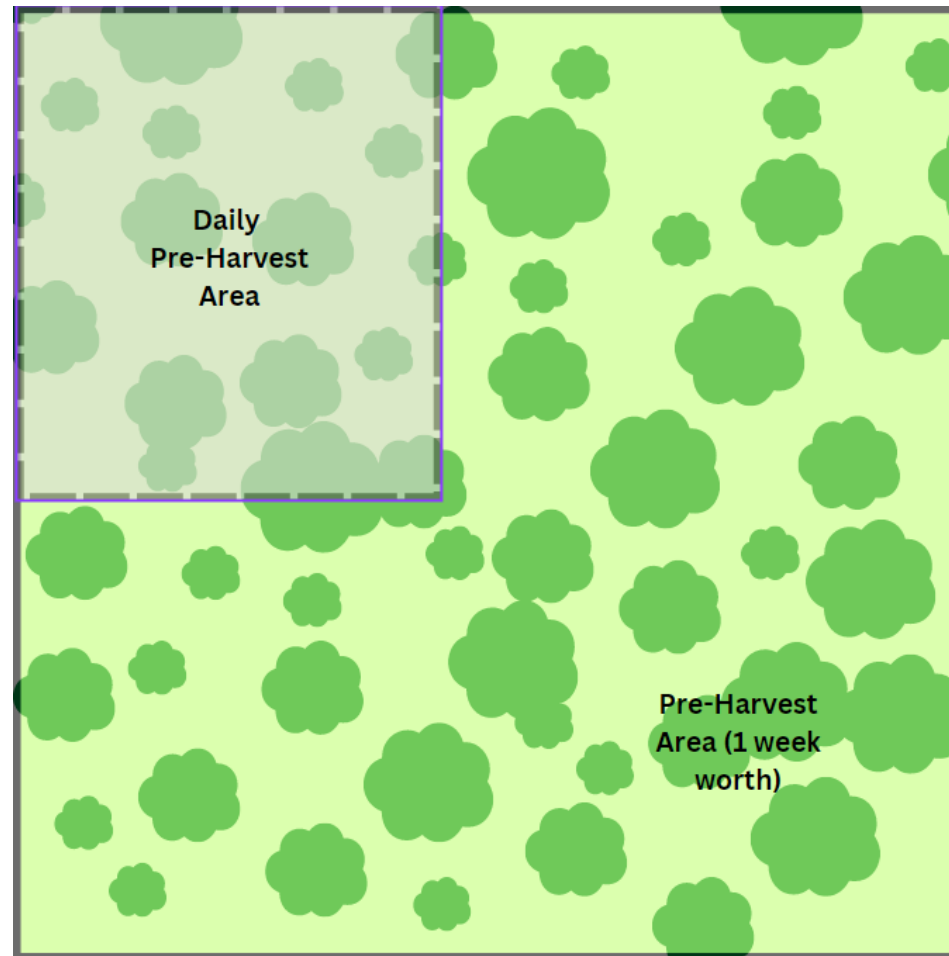
The pre-harvest survey is
beneficial for people to
undertake if they are required
to complete any marking.

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Koala Survey Timing

Explained....



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Koala Question?

**When can a survey be
undertaken (name the two
introduced)?**

Circle correct answer

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Koala Question?

**When can a survey be
undertaken (name the two
introduced)?**

Pre-harvest survey and
Daily pre-harvest survey

Circle correct answer

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Koala Survey Method

Legislative requirements we need to meet:

- Qualified as koala spotting (as per NCA) including conducting survey methods
- Meet SMP requirements (actions 1-5)

There are many survey methods that can be used to conduct koala management.

To take into consideration time and resources the following survey methods have been recommended:

- Walkover Method
- Spiral Method

These survey methods are recommendations only. Alternative methods and approaches can be implemented.

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Koala Survey Method

Walkover Method

Used in pre-harvest survey

Systematically walk through area looking for high use indicators and H&R trees

Mark trees as per the code, these contribute to H&R numbers

Can cover small and large areas (i.e one week or entire sales area)

*If not marking habitat and recruitment trees, then this step may not be required**

Spiral Method

Used in daily pre-harvest survey

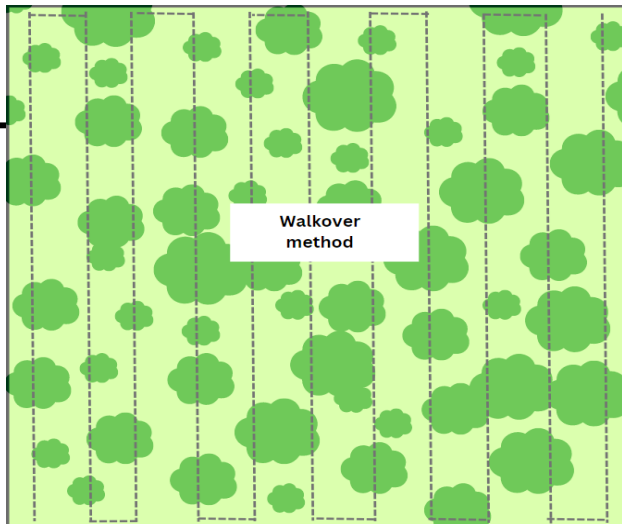
Conduct 360 degree surveys of trees looking for presence of koalas

Mark any unidentified high use trees and indicators

Aims to view trees from multiple directions- mid-upper canopy

Can be undertaken per tree, or for numerous trees- depends on visibility

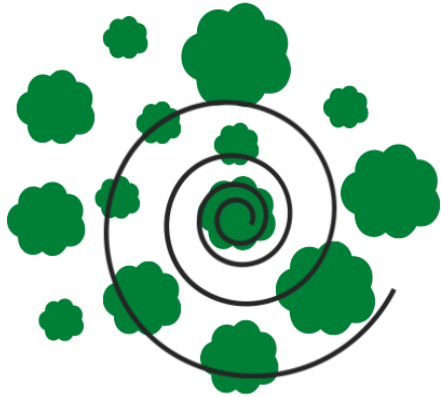
Can be completed from a tree marked as a high use indicator tree



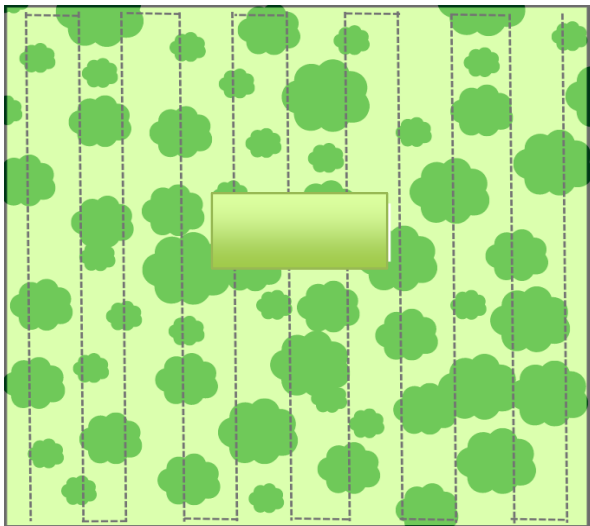
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Koala

Question?



What are two survey methods to observe koalas? Name any discussed, and others that you are aware of.



Write correct answer

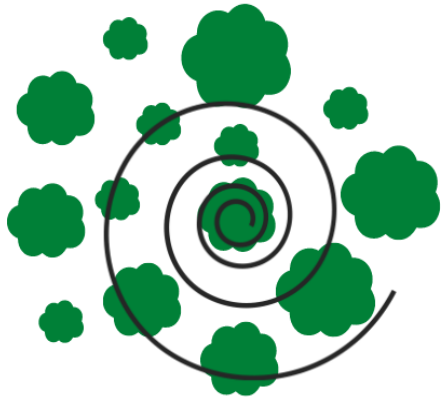
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Koala

Question?



What are two survey methods to observe koalas? Name any discussed, and others that you are aware of.

- Walkover method
- Spiral method
- Drones
- Detection Dogs
- Spotlight
- Playback calls
- Strip transect

Write correct answer

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Koala

- We have now discussed:
 - Survey timing (pre- harvest and daily pre-harvest) and
 - Survey methods (walkover and spiral method).

Now to put it all together...

Write correct answer

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Koala

Pre-Harvest Survey

- The aim of the pre-harvest survey is to conduct a survey using the **walkover method** to determine any tree which shows the following indicators for **high usage** by koalas and **therefore aims to protect the habitat and the koala.**
- This section will be completed by the responsible person for Habitat and Recruitment tree marking.
- If H&R marking is NOT required under the Cutter Select Model, then this step is *optional*
- Other requirements include identifying hollows etc. The trees marked count towards the H&R code requirements



Traditionally DAF completed the tree marking and therefore this step

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Koala

Pre-Harvest Survey

When evidence of high use is found:

- The high use tree is to be protected as a H&R tree
- The tree is not to be felled, (nor should felling occur during the planning phase)
- Thoroughly inspect tree, to determine whether there is a koala in the tree

When a koala is observed during pre-harvest survey:

- Collect GPS point and fill out survey record
- Assess the koala for general condition, or physical harm
- The area may need to be re-assessed for high-use indicators thoroughly prior to commencing harvest. This is dependent on the time between survey and commencing harvesting

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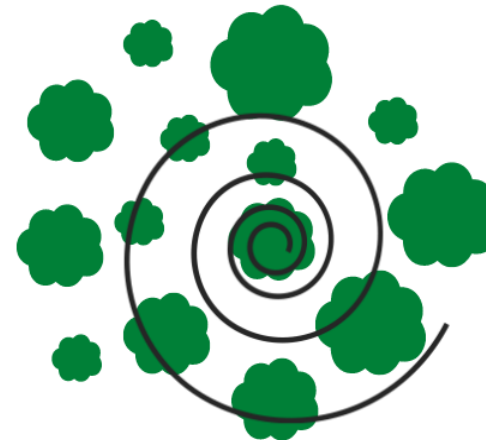
Koala

Daily Pre-Harvest Survey

The aim of the **daily pre-harvest** survey is to use a **spiral method** to determine if there is a **koala present** in the tree, and **indirectly** to determine any tree which shows the following indicators for **high usage**

If the high usage indicators are located, then the tree will be marked (unless otherwise advised) or protected as a Habitat Trees. If a **koala is present**, then **protection measures will apply**

The spiral method occurs **daily**, **prior to felling commencing** on that **day and during the entire term** of the operation



IMPORTANT NOTE: Every feller (or another nominated person) is responsible for daily pre-harvest surveys.

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Koala

Daily Pre-Harvest Survey

How?

- This can occur systematically (doing small sections throughout the day) or
- Survey the entire daily area for koala presence and indirectly for high use trees.

Mechanically felling.

- The spiral method generally requires a ground crew of at least two people working together (can undertake with 1) and is to be conducted as soon as there is adequate daylight for it to be safe and effective
- This occurs in the daily operation area:
 - ahead of the machine OR
 - involve the operator getting out of the cab OR
 - using an independent person to conduct survey

Hand felling.

- The spiral method can be undertaken at the time of felling if being undertaken by a hand faller

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Koala

Daily Pre-Harvest Survey

Safety note

If an independent person is commencing the koala surveying (not the feller), then they must maintain constant communications during the operation to ensure operators know where you are always.

A person/s who is working collaboratively with the feller must ensure they are a **minimum of 100m from** any machinery or felling activities.

Koala

Daily Pre-Harvest Survey

When **evidence of high use** is found during **daily pre-harvest** inspection:

- The high use tree is to be marked and/or protected as a habitat tree
- The tree is not to be felled
- Thoroughly inspect tree, to determine whether there is a koala in the tree



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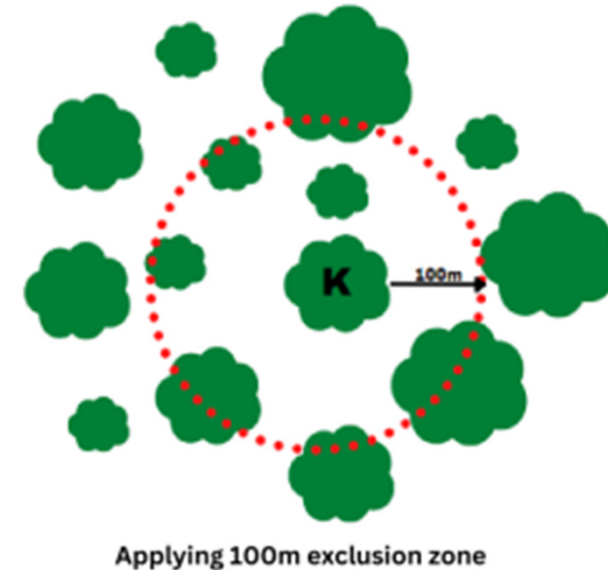


Koala

Daily Pre-Harvest Survey

When a koala is **observed** during daily pre harvest inspection:

- Cease all harvesting activity, apply 100m exclusion zone and move to different area outside the 100m exclusion zone
- Collect GPS point and information
- Instruct operators to keep a minimum of 100m away
- Marking an exclusion may be required- using tape, Avenza, paint etc
- Assess the koala for general condition



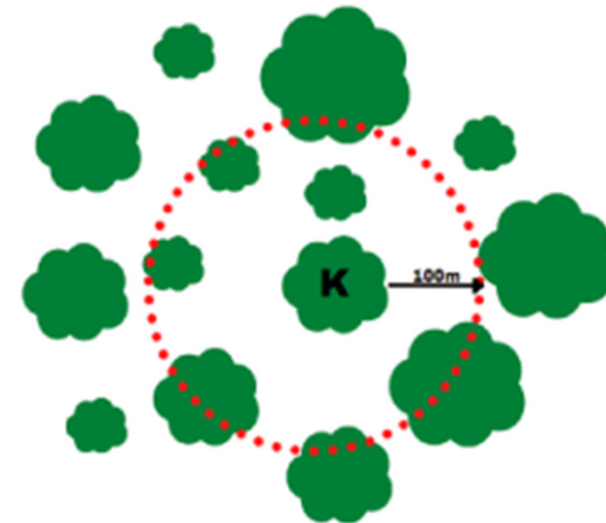
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Koala

Daily Pre-Harvest Survey

When a koala is **observed** during daily pre harvest inspection:

- Ensure no operations commence in this exclusion area
- Maintain habitat links when harvesting
- Operations within the excluded area may only recommence after 6am of following day and only if the koala is no longer located in the excluded area.
 - If the koala is still present, then you cannot harvest here until 6am the next day.
- Complete koala survey record



Applying 100m exclusion zone



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Koala Question?

What size is the exclusion zone?

Circle correct answer

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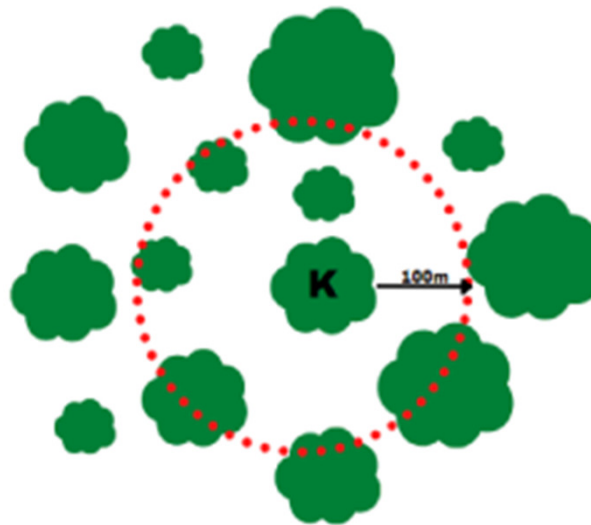


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Koala Question?

What size is the exclusion zone?

Minimum 100m



Applying 100m exclusion zone

Circle correct answer

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Koala

Koala Management Operating Guidelines

Considerations

- Weather (rain, wind, heat)
- Koala breeding season (may be likely to frequently shift)
- Safety
 - Adverse weather,
 - hazards,
 - communications,
 - number of people surveying,
 - slips trips and falls
- Dense vegetation
- Timing before commencing harvesting
- Interlocking canopies

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Koala

Survey Considerations

- Size of inspection
- Integrated Sales Permits/Harvesting (who is responsible for tree marking and managing the site)
- Re-surveying
- Cutter select trial/ if habitat and recruitment trees or product trees are not marked
- Weather (rain, wind, heat)
- Koala breeding season (may be likely to frequently shift)
- Timing before commencing harvesting
- Interlocking canopies
- Potential increase of habitat trees
- Species- difficult to see high use indicators in some types of bark and hard to see scats when trees shed bark
- Safety
 - Adverse weather,
 - hazards,
 - communications,
 - number of people surveying,
 - slips trips and falls
- Potential for future survey methods
 - Drones
 - Detection Dogs
 - Other large scale surveys

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Koala

Any Survey

Who to notify of koala sightings?

- Those working in the operational area
 - Anyone conducting felling operations or snagging etc
- Permittee (is sub-contractor commencing the surveying)
- DAF or other via phone call and record sheet
- If injured advise 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625), follow Koala Care Response Plan

If an injured koala is found?

- If an injured koala is found at any stage, you must:
 - Paint/mark the tree, apply an exclusion area of 100m in all directions from the injured koala
 - Cease all operations within the exclusion area
 - Not interfere with or transport the injured animal
 - Note details on the record
 - Advise **1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)** and the DAF as soon as possible

Koala

Koala Care Response

- **STOP:** If you see a koala at any time stop operations and establish an exclusion zone around the koala for checking, assessment, and protection.
- **CHECK:** Without causing stress to the koala, make a visual assessment of the koala to determine if veterinary assistance is required. Look to see if the koala:
 - Has any visible injuries
 - Is not placing weight on limbs
 - Has weeping eyes Has poor body condition Is smaller than normal, i.e., a joey
- **CALL:** If the answer to any of the above is yes then koala care is required.
- **ACTIONS:** If an injured koala is found you must:
 - Apply an exclusion area of 100m in all directions from the injured koala.
 - Cease all operations within the exclusion area.
 - Not interfere with or transport the injured animal.
 - Advise 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625) and the DAF as soon as possible.
- **SEARCH:** Inspect the exclusion zone, immediate and broader area for any further evidence of koalas. This can be completed using the spiral survey method. Remember to up and down for signs of high use.

The Koala Care Response Plan is in the Koala Management Operating Guidelines and the Koala Management Field Guide for Forest Operations.

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Koala

Koala Care Response

- 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)
 - Koala Rescue Queensland 0466 439 947
 - Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital(07) 5436 2000
- RSPCA
- (07) 3429 9910 - Brisbane
 - (07) 5442 8057- Eumundi
- Currumbin Wildlife Hospital(07) 5534 0813
 - Moggill Koala Rehabilitation Centre 1300 130 372
 - Daisy Hill Koala Centre(07) 3078 3101

Or your nearest wildlife veterinary clinic.



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Koala Question?

What do you do when an
injured koala is found?

Write correct answer

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Koala Question?

**What do you do when an
injured koala is found?**

Mark 100m exclusion

Cease operations within the
exclusion area

Not interfere or transport

Record details

Advise DAF and 1300 Animal

Write correct answer

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Koala Reporting

Reporting

- Reporting and monitoring is **recommended**
- This demonstrates a process is in place and documentation provides evidence of undertaking koala management
- We suggest using the provided koala record sheet
 - Provided in an excel version or
 - Printable version



Koala

Overview

Survey Timing

- Pre-Harvest Survey



- Daily pre-harvest survey (**most common**)



Survey Method

- Walkover Method
 - High use indicators and koalas

- Spiral Method
 - Koalas and high use indicators

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Training Completion



Upon training completion

- Ensure the koala quiz is completed
- Send the completed koala quiz to: alex@timberqueensland.com.au
- Have the koala management documents with you in the forest
- Implement the training
- Within 1-2 weeks you will receive certificate

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