



KOALA CONSERVATION POLICY

The National Koala Alliance (NKA) is a non-profit, non-government network, which represents community environment professionals and groups throughout Australia, and around the world through its network structure. The NKA is the peak advocacy alliance that works to protect the welfare of koalas, and is committed to the conservation of wild koala populations throughout their habitat range. The NKA strives to achieve this through advocacy, education, research and community empowerment. The NKA's vision/mission statement is:

“To provide a strong, united and cohesive voice for koala conservation and protection”.

1 FUNCTIONS TO PROTECT KOALA CONSERVATION

NKA's functions may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Action on matters of agreed policy related to koala conservation, and to advocate for the adoption of, or action on, policy by the appropriate authorities/industry;
- (b) To liaise with organisations dealing with koala conservation matters, including national and international bodies; and
- (c) To do any such thing as is determined from time to time by the Steering Committee to be in the best interests of koala conservation, without thereby committing member organisations to support such activities.

2 POLICY POSITION

The following list indicates the NKA's policy position on matters relating to koala conservation:

- (a) In relation to all direct and indirect human activity, core koala habitat and koala populations must be protected. No other means than retention and protection will deliver earnest conservation action for this species.
- (b) Strategic: Where infrastructure, mining or development may occur within koala habitat, the koala habitat that is implicated must be managed appropriately to ensure conservation of the local koala population. Management of all projects must include:
 - i. The avoidance of new development/infrastructure from traversing koala habitat and movement corridors wherever possible. When new development/infrastructure cannot avoid traversing koala habitat or corridors, then wildlife-proof fencing and appropriate wildlife barrier crossings must be provided. Existing transport infrastructure that is located within core habitat or corridor locations must be retrofitted with best practice fencing and wildlife barrier/crossing devices.
 - ii. Government and Industry must produce and adopt a scientifically-reviewed Koala Conservation Plan. The Koala Conservation Plan must include actions that provide best practice direction on its construction/maintenance operations; planned development/infrastructure; and fund proactive conservation actions over the short/medium term. The Koala Conservation Plan must identify and protect core koala habitat and movement areas.
 - iii. Wildlife-friendly hazard reduction burning protocols must be developed to minimise the ecological impacts of controlled/hazard reduction bush burning on koalas, other wildlife, and ecosystems. A 'wildlife-friendly practices' education program must be developed and conducted for staff that participate in these operations. Protocols should include engagement with local wildlife rescue groups through education and operations, including their phone contact details in case of emergency.
 - iv. Government and Industry represent the key decision-makers responsible for impacts on koalas and their habitat. The services that researchers and care providers deliver on the front-line are substantially under-funded, yet are the back-stop for koala conservation efforts. As responsible corporate entities the

onus is therefore on Government and Industry to meet the significant decline in koala populations and habitat, with increased funding support for research and veterinary care to act on koala conservation effectively.

- (c) Projects: Where infrastructure, mining or development **will occur within koala habitat**, the koala habitat that is implicated must be managed appropriately to ensure conservation of the local koala population. Management of all projects must include:
- i. No operational work or other conduct on-site until a comprehensive assessment of potential and likely impacts has been completed.
 - ii. Each koala population affected, or likely to be affected by an infrastructure, agricultural, mining or development project must be managed appropriately through a Fauna Management Plan which adheres to current best practice and maintains the animal's welfare at all times. The key priority of each project must be the avoidance of habitat removal and other significant impacts on koala welfare. All management plans for koalas must be prepared by an experienced consultant and approved by the relevant State authority, prior to approval of works.
 - iii. Measures to protect the entirety of core koala habitat areas from the direct and indirect impacts of development on koalas i.e. Retention of koala habitat trees; and provision of best practice infrastructure to mitigate car strike, dog attack, etc.
 - iv. The provision of adequate vegetated buffers to core koala habitat areas on the project site. This may also include non-koala food trees that have a broad canopy e.g. fig and mango tree species.
 - v. The retention of a sufficient and connected habitat corridor on the project site, to maintain safe koala movement, that is not impeded on by any other activity (e.g. future infrastructure/development).
 - vi. Revegetation with the appropriate local koala food tree species to enhance the quality of core habitat and integrity of movement corridors.
 - vii. Government and Industry must monitor and report annually on all koala habitat removal, revegetation and koala incidents that occur through their operations. This report must be made publicly available.