

Local koala feed trees

(Occurring within a 10km radius of Armidale)

Ribbon gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*)
Blakely's red gum (*Eucalyptus blakelyi*)
Mountain white gum (*Eucalyptus dalrympleana*)
Yellow box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*)
Apple box (*Eucalyptus bridgesiana*)
New England peppermint (*Eucalyptus nova-anglica*)
Snow gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*)
Black Sally (*Eucalyptus stellulata*)

Other plants found in koala habitat

New England stringybark (*Eucalyptus caliginosa*)
Rough-barked apple (*Angophora floribunda*)
Fern-leafed wattle (*Acacia filicifolia*)
Hickory wattle (*Acacia implexa*)
Blackwood wattle (*Acacia melanoxylon*)
Honeysuckle banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*)
Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*)
Black sheoak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*)

A more comprehensive list of flora found in the peri-urban parts of Armidale is available in Council's Development Control Plan, 2007.



Quality koala habitat in the archery reserve with Ribbon gum, Rough barked apple, Fern-leafed wattle, native shrubs, groundcover plants and fallen timber. (Photo R Morsley)



Planting native trees and understorey in the peri-urban area can provide habitat for koalas, birds and mammals as well as providing shade and shelter. (Photo R Morsley)

References

Koala Foundation website
Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW),
Natural Resource Management Advisory Series: Note 9.
Two images from internet sources not credited.
Anecdotal reports and personal observations.

Further information & services

- ◆ Armidale Regional Council website (Development Control plans, koala sightings register, other documentation)
- ◆ Koala Foundation, www.savethekoala.com
- ◆ National Parks and Wildlife Service: Department Environment, Climate Change and Water, 85 Faulkner Street Armidale, 6776 0000
- ◆ Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers, 1800 008 290
- ◆ Wires, 33 John Street Uralla, 6778 4994
- ◆ Armidale Tree Group Nursery and Woodland Centre, 80 Mann Street Armidale, 6771 1620
- ◆ University of New England, Zoology Department 6773 2340 zoology@une.edu.au

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ARMIDALE
Regional Council

The survival of the koala is
in our hands



How you can play your part
in saving Armidale's
koala population

Koalas are an important part of Australia's natural and cultural heritage. Alarming, up to 75% of koalas have disappeared from their wider distribution in earlier times. The koala is now listed as a vulnerable species in NSW.

The biggest threat facing koalas is habitat loss and fragmentation due to urban expansion. Other threats include clearing for agriculture, bushfire, road kills, urban fencing, disease and domestic dogs.

Koalas thrive best in large areas of continuous woodland. Around Armidale, fragmentation of woodland on the urban rural fringe (peri-urban area) and the wider landscape, makes it harder for young koalas to find new home ranges and adult koalas to find mating partners.

Koalas feed on and shelter in many different locally occurring eucalypts, however they appear to prefer some trees over others (refer to list). Koalas also rely on non-eucalypt understorey plants such as wattles, for shelter and behavioural purposes.

Koalas are largely solitary animals, however they will often live in groups within a home range or territory. Some koalas will seek new habitats up to 50 km away and often males will disperse during breeding times between September and March.



Everyone can contribute to the survival of the koala.
(Photo internet source not credited)

What can I do for koalas?

- ◆ Keep dogs secured while you are not at home and preferably indoors at night. Consider owning a small dog.
- ◆ Dogs must be on a leash at all times when outside the home. Notify Council if you see dogs roaming or un-leashed.
- ◆ Erect koala friendly fences. Open form fencing (wire, post and rail) or piling, not colorbond panels. If you have seen koalas in your area, consider a fence bridge if you have colorbond.
- ◆ If you live in a peri-urban area, maintain healthy bushland and plant a variety of local feed trees and shrubs.
- ◆ Drive slowly and cautiously in peri-urban areas, particularly at night.
- ◆ If you have a swimming pool, drape a secured piece of rope, shade cloth or gutter guard into the pool to enable koalas to climb out if they fall in.

What is Council doing for koalas?

- ◆ Development control in accordance with State Environmental Policy No.44 – Koala Habitat.
- ◆ Conservation of urban bushland reserves and the development of a network of walking tracks on unformed road reserves that conserve valuable habitat and serve as wildlife corridors.
- ◆ Registering koala sightings to determine the extent of the local koala population to assist with planning and koala conservation.

Koala sightings in Armidale

Koala sightings have been reported from these parts of Armidale:

- ◆ Northern and eastern areas including UNE grounds, Rockvale Road, Archery reserve, Arundel Drive, Stoney Ridge Road, Box Hill Drive, Apple Tree Hill Road, Ellowera Road
- ◆ Armidale Golf Course & Bundarra Road area
- ◆ Southern peri-urban areas, south and east from the Armidale Cemetery grounds
- ◆ Urban areas including Presbyterian Ladies College grounds, Duval High School grounds, UNE and surrounds, Apex Lookout Reserve and scattered sightings on the creeklands and in other parts of town

If you see a koala in the Armidale area, please log details of your sighting on Council's webpage.

www.armidaleregional.nsw.gov.au

Once we know where they live and where they travel, we can begin to protect our koalas and their habitat.



Koala on a Blakely's red gum within an Armidale town garden (Photo by W Hyde)