



Support the endangered Koala

Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) has a long history of conserving and managing Eucalypt forests and woodlands, and currently protect the endangered Koala at three sanctuaries. Population fragmentation and a loss of suitable habitat has resulted in dramatic Koala population decline, such that the species was listed as endangered in 2022. AWC supports threatened populations by preserving Koala habitat, as well as pursuing new and innovative research techniques that provide crucial data on population density, distribution and potential threats. This crucial research provides insights into the most effective areas to promote koala conservation and recovery in the future.

Restoration and Revegetation

One of the greatest threats to Koala populations is not having access to suitable habitat and food. Deforestation and fragmentation have caused dramatic declines to Koala populations, so one of the most effective activities for Koala conservation is the restoration of habitat. These activities are in full force at the newly-established Waulinbakh Wildlife Sanctuary, in NSW.

The first step is to remove and control the presence of invasive weeds, which inhibit the growth of native trees and eucalypt. AWC land management officers and volunteers work together to undertake the meticulous process of removing weeds of national significance (namely lantana) by spray and physical removal.

In the western section of the property is a site that had historically been cleared for land use. A council-led restoration effort brought volunteers together to donate and plant 400 saplings, most of which were preferred Koala feed trees, to help rehabilitate the bare patch of land. This is a great step towards rebuilding a rich ecosystem that's supportive of Koala populations, and couldn't have been possible without your support. Thank you so much for your contribution.





Koala with joey. AWC.



Koala with joey. AWC.

Koalas at Waulinbakh

The Koala is a difficult species for scientists to monitor, and it was almost a year before the first koala had been captured on camera at Waulinbakh Wildlife Sanctuary. Spending most of their time motionless in tall trees, Koalas are not only hard to find, they also don't respond well to baiting methods. Despite this, ecologists are determined to study the species distribution of koalas at Waulinbakh Wildlife Sanctuary.

For the first few months, ecologists and land management officers were only able to find traces of Koala's - the scratch of a claw mark in a tree, or a tuft of fur. Eventually, a mother Koala was captured on camera, with a baby joey backpacking along.

Since this initial sighting, Koalas have been captured multiple times in camera trap images, and spotted in the wild during daily tasks across the sanctuary. The most recent encounter was in September, when a mother and joey were spotted lounging in a young eucalyptus tree. Each of these sightings is a positive outcome for the species, and we hope to continue building habitats that encourage population growth for the species.

AWC is also hoping to learn a lot more about its koala populations by deploying bioacoustic monitors across suitable Koala habitat across its sanctuaries. By high-tech 'listening', ecologists hope to conduct larger-scale monitoring of the species and establish baseline data about the presence and abundance of Koalas on sanctuary. At Curramore, ecologists will also use thermal drone surveys to compare the effectiveness of both technologies.

Acoustic recorders are useful for monitoring cryptic, but vocal species - such as frogs and Koalas. The devices can be left out in the field for extended periods of time, allowing ecologists to collect a high volume of quality data more efficiently than ever before. This particular survey method will take advantage of Koala vocalisations, relying on a repertoire of grunts, growls and barks to provide important data that will be essential for informing the conservation of this endangered and iconic species.

Thank you for supporting this project – your contribution to conserving the endangered Koala has been essential in ensuring continued progress for the species.

