

Support the endangered Koala

Thank you for supporting Australian Wildlife Conservancy's (AWC) work to protect the endangered Koala. AWC has a long history of conserving and managing Eucalypt forests and woodlands, protecting Koala populations at three sanctuaries and across nearly 65,000 ha. We support these endangered populations by preserving the forests they call home, as well as pursuing new and innovative research techniques that provide crucial data on population density, distribution and potential threats, which can then be used to inform conservation activities.

Koalas at Gorton Forest

In the last year, Gorton Forest - AWC's newest sanctuary in NSW - has undergone a phase of establishment. AWC staff have taken residence in the homestead and begun important land management and conservation work, and kickstarted our science program with the deployment of audio-moth recorders, as well as the installation of the suite of camera traps that our incredible community of donors have helped to purchase.

The first images from these camera traps have been analysed, excitingly confirming the first sightings of the endangered Koala on sanctuary! The discovery of this mother Koala, with joey on board, would not have been possible without the support of our community, and signals the start of an exciting year for Koala conservation. Prior to these images, the only indication ecologists had of the presence of Koalas was in the form of claw marks that could be found scratched into the trunks of Eucalypt trees. This confirmed sighting has been an exciting update for the whole team, and will help inform further conservation objectives at Gorton.





Koala. Brad Leue/AWC.

Revegetation in the Sunshine Coast

AWC has also recently undertaken a significant revegetation project in the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast, involving the planting of thousands of eucalypts and other native species at Curramore Wildlife Sanctuary (Kabi Kabi country). The project aims to increase habitat for the endangered Koala, and involved up to 20 staff and skilled workforce interns from AWC and Barung Landcare spending five days planting up to 4,300 seedlings of 10 key Koala food trees and other local species across six hectares of the sanctuary. The land, prior to being purchased by AWC, had suffered from agricultural and urban development and while the central and western areas of the sanctuary consist of healthy remnant forest, the eastern portion had previously been utilised as a cattle grazing paddock, and cleared of canopy.

Senior Field Ecologist Andy Howe, who is leading the revegetation project, has said that although revegetation has not been a major part of AWC's program at Curramore previously, he is confident that the replanting will help improve connectivity of habitat across the sanctuary and regionally.

"This restoration project is designed to increase and connect Koala habitat at Curramore, while also encourage other wildlife, such as bandicoots, gliders and owls, to return to the revegetated area."

This revegetation work is part of a three-year conservation plan at Curramore, and at Mount Zero-Taravale Wildlife Sanctuary in northwest of Townsville. The project received grant funding from the Australian Government's, and includes a research component - utilising thermal drone and bioacoustics monitoring to determine the presence and abundance of koalas at both sanctuaries.

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

