Koalas

South East Queensland was once home to one of Australia’s largest population of koalas. Today, they are under serious threat from development, cars, dogs and stress-related diseases.

Make your backyard koala-friendly

Everyone has a role to play in protecting Queensland’s koalas. Here are some ways to help make sure koalas are here for keeps.

Koalas drown in swimming pools

Install:

- a tethered rope (5 cm in diameter and 2 m long—marine rope is ideal) with a float (or a used milk bottle) to help the koala climb out of a pool (see photo below)
- a koala-proof pool fence (e.g. transparent glass, perspex or steel), or
- a pool with a beach-type access where the water is level with part of the pavement so koalas can get out easily.

Keep dogs inside or tethered in your backyard

A dog doesn’t need to bite a koala to seriously cause harm—a barking dog can severely stress a koala which can cause the stress-related disease Chlamydia.

Have koala-friendly fencing

- Make it climbable—use timber posts and rail, chain wire or slats with at least a 1 cm gap between each slat (see photo below)
- Put a plank along the top of the fence to provide a koala walkway
- Plant trees close to both sides of the fence so koalas can cross over
- For steel fencing (such as Colorbond), place wooden poles (at least 10 cm wide) at a 45° angle to the base of the fence so koalas can climb up, as pictured. It is a good idea to also speak to neighbours to see if they can put a pole on their side so a koala can climb safely to and from the ground.