

Protecting Alexander Clark Park koalas from disease



Reducing the Threat of Chlamydia in SEQ's Wild Koalas program

A collaboration between Healthy Land & Water, research partners, local councils, wildlife hospitals, and veterinary experts.

WHAT: Healthy Land & Water, Queensland Government Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI), Logan City Council and project partners are undertaking proactive koala health and disease management works within Alexander Clark Park. The project aims to identify, assess and treat koalas affected by chlamydial disease, one of the most significant threats facing South East Queensland's koalas. Alexander Clark Park has been identified as a key site for delivering the [Reducing the Threat of Chlamydia in SEQ's Wild Koalas program](#).

This targeted program provides chlamydia treatment and vaccination (when possible) to suitable candidates within wild koala populations across South East Queensland (SEQ) to reduce this critical threat to koala survival.

WHY:

- Chlamydia is one of the top three threats to koala populations in SEQ.
- Alexander Clark Park has been identified as having koalas suffering from chlamydial infection.
- Chlamydia significantly impacts koala health, survival, fertility and population survival.

WHERE: Alexander Clark Park, Dewar Drive, Loganholme.

WHEN: September 2026.

WHO: Healthy Land & Water, Logan City Council, Veterinary Ecology Team (VET), Queensland Wildlife and Ecological Services (QWES) and the SEQ wildlife hospital network.

KOALA WELFARE COMES FIRST

The health and welfare of every koala is the highest priority of this project.

- Experienced wildlife veterinarians will assess each koala identified during the program to determine its health and wellbeing. Healthy koalas will be returned to Alexander Clark Park following their assessment. Some koalas may require treatment or ongoing care at a wildlife hospital before they can be released.
- Unfortunately, chlamydia and other health conditions can cause significant pain, suffering and reduced quality of life. When treatment is no longer in the animal's best interests, humane euthanasia may be recommended to prevent further suffering. These difficult decisions are made only by qualified wildlife veterinarians and are guided by strict animal welfare standards.
- While this may temporarily reduce the number of koalas visible within the park, these actions are undertaken to improve animal welfare and support the long-term health and recovery of the local koala population.

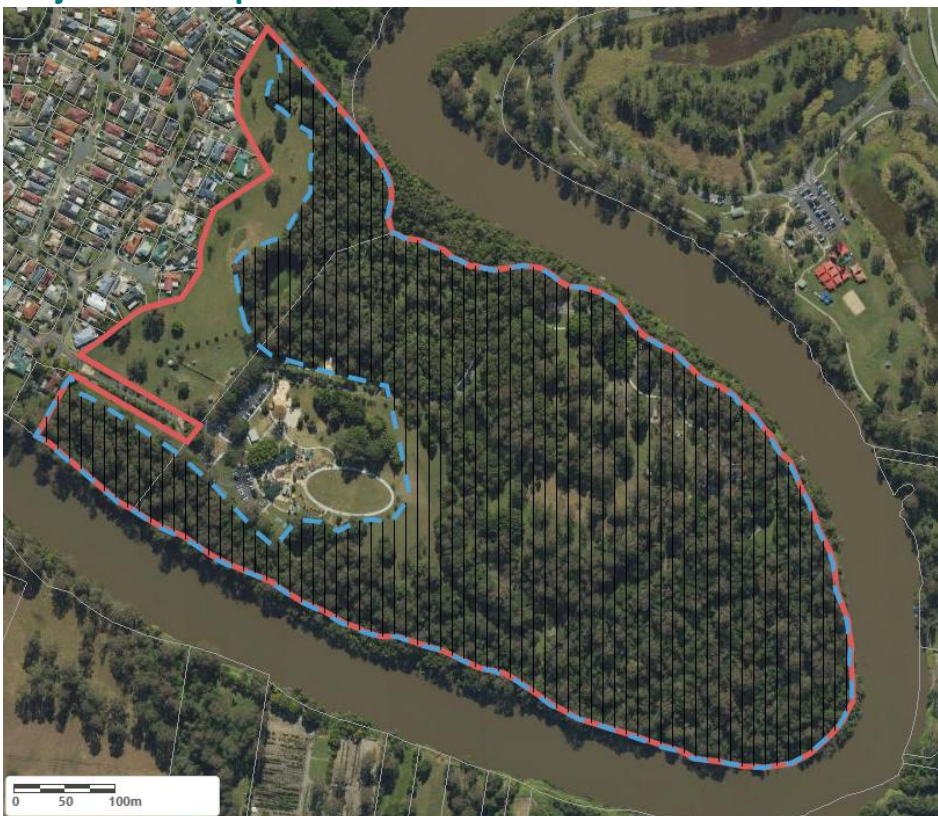
Program activities

1. Detection of koalas using live thermal imaging drone surveys.
2. Health assessments of koalas located within the park by an experienced wildlife veterinary team.
3. Treatment of koalas presenting with chlamydial disease.
4. Administering vaccines to suitable koala candidates when possible.
5. Release of healthy koalas back into Alexander Clark Park.
6. Transfer of koalas requiring additional care to specialist wildlife hospitals. Post treatment, release of healthy koalas back into Alexander Clark Park.
7. Humane end-of-life care for koalas experiencing severe disease or suffering where treatment is not possible.

Expected outcomes

- Improved welfare outcomes for koalas suffering from illness, injury or disease.
- Identification and treatment of koalas affected by chlamydial disease.
- Reduced prevalence of chlamydial infection and disease in wild populations.
- Improved koala fertility, survival and population viability.
- Supporting long-term koala conservation in South East Queensland.
- Collection of valuable health information to guide future conservation actions, particularly in relation to chlamydial disease on koalas in South East Queensland.
- Supporting long-term koala conservation in South East Queensland.

Project site map



Alexander Clark Park boundary (red), project area boundary and restricted access area (blue hash)



Questions about the program?

Check out the FAQs page.

If you, any friends or local residents have a **question about the program**, make sure you reach out directly to us:

Project inquiries – Indigo Kuss-Patterson – indigo.k@hlw.org.au or 0419 133 543.

To learn more about the broader program scan the QR code below.



This sub-program is funded by the Queensland Government Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation and runs in collaboration with Logan City, Currumbin Wildlife Hospital, Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, Moggill Koala Rehabilitation Centre, RSPCA, Veterinary Ecology Team (VET), Queensland Wildlife and Ecological Services (QWES) and koala conservation experts



Frequently asked questions

Why is this work being undertaken at Alexander Clark Park?

Alexander Clark Park is a well-known koala hotspot and a popular location in Logan for viewing koalas in the wild. A recent thermal drone surveys identified a high density of koalas within the park, and recent and historical wildlife hospital records indicated the presence of koalas affected by chlamydial disease. This project will help assess the health of local koalas, provide treatment where needed, and support the long-term welfare and conservation of this important population.

What is chlamydia and why is it a problem for koalas?

Chlamydia is a bacterial disease that affects many koalas. It is different from the form of chlamydia that affects humans. While some infected koalas may appear healthy, the disease can cause serious health problems if left untreated. Chlamydia can cause pain, blindness, infertility, incontinence and death in koalas and is one of the top threats to koalas. With early detection and treatment of infected individuals, we can improve koala welfare and potentially increase survival and reproduction rates in the population. This will improve the long-term population health.

I visit Alexander Clark Park regularly and the koalas look healthy. Why is this project needed?

Koalas are very good at hiding signs of illness. Like many wild animals, they often continue eating, resting and behaving normally even when they are affected by disease. Some health conditions, including chlamydia, can be difficult to detect without a veterinary examination. This project helps identify koalas that may require treatment before their condition worsens.

Does every koala at Alexander Clark Park have chlamydia?

We don't know. The project is being undertaken because koalas affected by chlamydial disease have previously been identified in the park. The health status of individual koalas within the park is not known until they are assessed. This program will help determine the extent of disease within the local population and provide treatment where needed.

How do you find and monitor koalas?

We use live-feed thermal drone surveys to locate koalas. When necessary for health assessments, koalas are captured following strict animal welfare and ethically approved protocols.

How are koalas captured and handled?

All captures are conducted by experienced professionals using established and ethically approved protocols that aim to minimise stress. Each koala receives a thorough health assessment, and handling time is kept to a minimum.

Where happens to koalas after they are captured?

All koalas will be assessed either on-site or at a wildlife hospital by a registered veterinarian. If they are deemed healthy, they will be released at their point of capture. If they are unwell or injured, they will be transported to the nearest wildlife hospital for treatment.



How are koalas with severe health conditions managed within the program?

Koala health and welfare are our absolute top priorities. Our program's primary goal is to improve koala health outcomes through intervention before conditions reach such advanced stages. In some cases, veterinary professionals may identify koalas with advanced chlamydial disease or other severe health conditions that cause significant suffering and are beyond effective treatment. In these situations, veterinary experts may recommend humane end-of-life care as the most compassionate option. These difficult decisions are made only by qualified wildlife veterinarians after thorough health assessments, always with the individual koala's welfare and quality of life as the guiding principle.

How do you ensure koalas are treated humanely?

All work is undertaken by qualified wildlife professionals operating under approved animal ethics protocols. Every aspect of the program, from locating koalas to assessment, treatment and release, is guided by the welfare and wellbeing of the individual koala.

Will there be fewer koalas visible in the park after the project?

Possibly. Some koalas may require treatment at a wildlife hospital and may not be immediately returned to the park. The project may also identify koalas suffering from previously undetected disease. While visitors may notice fewer koalas in the short term, these actions aim to improve animal welfare and support a healthier koala population over time.

Can I report a koala sighting to help the program?

Yes! Community sightings are valuable. Please report sightings of koalas via QWildlife app, CSIRO Koala Spotter app, Atlas of Living Australia, iNaturalist or directly to Logan City Council.

What are the signs of a sick koala?

Signs of illness can include:

- wet or stained fur around the rump
- red, swollen or crusty eyes
- discharge from the eyes
- weight loss or a thin appearance
- sitting low in a tree or remaining in the same place for long periods
- unusual behaviour or reduced alertness

How do I know if I am in a koala habitat area?

Property-scale maps, including koala habitat areas and koala priority areas, can be accessed by downloading a free vegetation management report on the Queensland Government website. Koala habitat mapping is also available via the Queensland Globe, an interactive map where users can view a range of spatial layers. To find out more about the maps and how to access them, visit <https://shorturl.at/rfFkN>.

How you can help koalas every day?

- Slow down when driving in koala habitat areas.
 - Keep dogs inside at night.
 - Report sick and injured koalas to a wildlife rescue organisation.
 - Report koala sightings.
 - Make your pool koala safe.
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