



KOALA HABITAT INFORMATION SHEET

ABN: 79 126 214 487

Introduction

Council has prepared a Koala Plan of Management for the whole of the local government area. The Plan and accompanying Koala Habitat Maps can be viewed at Council. This information sheet provides a summary of the key matters which need to be addressed if development is proposed within or adjacent to koala habitat.

There are three types of koala habitat that have been mapped:

- Primary Koala Habitat
- Secondary Koala Habitat
- Tertiary Koala Habitat.

These categories relate to the value of the habitat with Primary Habitat being the most important and Tertiary Habitat the least important. The three habitat types are shown on the Koala Habitat maps held at Council. Different planning controls apply to the different habitat types; controls also apply to land adjoining Primary Koala Habitat.

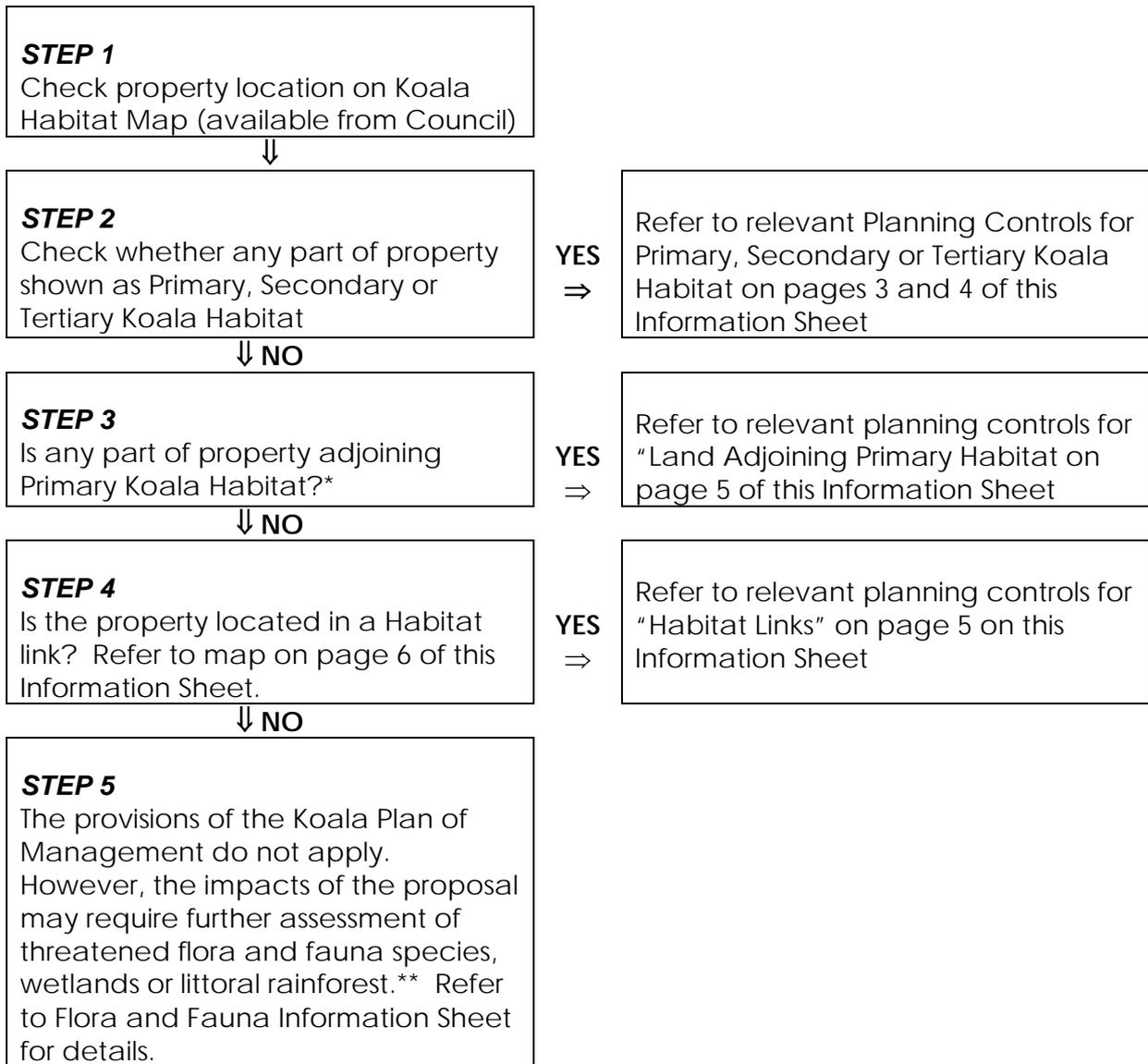
Specific controls, in addition to controls relating to koala habitat, apply to land containing littoral rainforest and wetlands. Refer to Flora and Fauna Information Sheet.

Development should be designed to protect Koala Habitat, reduce threats to koala survival and health, allow for free movement of koalas across the site where appropriate and provide enhancement planting where possible. This should be achieved through innovative design, landscaping, location of urban services and appropriate ameliorative measures.

Threatened Species Conservation Act

In NSW Koalas are a threatened species listed as 'Vulnerable' on Schedule 2 of the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. Independent of any assessment or compliance with planning controls detailed in this information sheet and the Koala Management Plan, an assessment as to whether any development is likely to result in a significant effect on threatened species (including the Koala) may be required. Section 5A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 sets out an eight part test to be considered in deciding whether there is likely to be a significant effect on threatened species. Refer to Flora and Fauna Information Sheet for further information.

Flow Chart



Note:

* *Property adjoining Primary Koala Habitat means any land that abuts Primary Koala Habitat.*

** *Proponents should also check with the Department of Land and Water Conservation to determine if approval is required for clearing bushland under the Native Vegetation Conservation Act. This approval should be sought before seeking approval from Council.*

Primary Koala Habitat

Objective

To prevent further clearing, disturbance, fragmentation or isolation of existing primary koala habitat, and where appropriate, restore habitat and encourage sympathetic management to ensure the maintenance of koalas.

Controls

The following tree species should not be removed.

Tallowwood *Eucalyptus microcorys*,
Swamp Mahogany *E. robusta*,
Broad-leaved Paperbark *Melaleuca quinquenervia*,
Flooded Gum *E. grandis*,
Blackbutt *E. pilularis*,
Forest Red Gum *E. tereticornis*,
Small-fruited Grey Gum *E. propinqua*, or
Forest Oak *Allocasuarina torulosa*, unless the development will not destroy, damage or compromise the values of the land as koala habitat. In assessing an application Council will take into consideration:

- that there should be zero net loss of Primary Koala Habitat;
- the threats to koalas which may result from the development;
- the likely impacts to adjacent or nearby Primary Koala Habitat and existing or potential koala movement corridors;
- all other options for preventing or ameliorating impacts from the development on koalas;
- whether the land is accredited under the Timber Plantation (Harvest Guarantee) Act 1995

Council will seek the advice from the NPWS for all development proposals within areas defined as Primary Koala Habitat Type.

Note: *Koala Movement Corridors are shown on page 6.*

Secondary Koala Habitat

Objective

To minimise further loss, fragmentation or isolation of existing secondary koala habitat and the creation of barriers to koala movement and, where appropriate, to encourage restoration of koala habitat.

Controls

The following tree species should not be removed:

Tallowwood *Eucalyptus microcorys*,
Swamp Mahogany *E. robusta*,
Flooded Gum *E. grandis* (except when part of a forest plantation),
Forest Red Gum *E. tereticornis*, or
Small-fruited Grey Gum *E. propinqua* unless the development will not significantly destroy, damage or compromise the values of the land as koala habitat. In assessing an application, Council will take into consideration:

- that there will be minimal net loss of Secondary Koala Habitat;
- the level of significance of koalas of the trees proposed to be removed;
- the number of trees proposed to be removed in relationship to the extent and quality of adjacent or nearby Primary and/or Secondary Koala Habitat;
- the threats to koalas which may result from the development;
- all other options for protecting koala trees;
- the impacts to existing or potential koala movement corridors; and
- whether the land is accredited under the Timber Plantation (Harvest Guarantee) Act 1995

In granting consent to the carrying out of development in areas identified as Secondary Koala Habitat Type, Council will need to be satisfied that:

- the proposal will not result in significant barriers to koala movement;
- boundary fencing does not prevent the free movement of koalas;
- lighting and koala exclusion fencing is provided where appropriate on roadways adjacent to koala habitat;
- tree species listed above under Secondary Koala Habitat are retained, where possible;
- new local roads are designed to reduce traffic speed to 40 km/h in potential koala blackspots;
- preferred koala trees are used in landscaping where suitable;
- threats to koalas by dogs have been minimised, i.e. banning of dogs or confining of dogs to koala proof yards;
- fire protection zones, including fuel reduced zones and radiation zones, are provided generally outside of Secondary Koala Habitat.

Tertiary Koala Habitat

Objective

To protect koalas and their habitat within the rural areas of the LGA by encouraging minimal removal or disturbance to preferred koala tree species and reducing barriers to koala movement.

Controls

Development in areas identified as Tertiary Koala Habitat should not be carried out unless it can be demonstrated that the development will not destroy, damage or compromise the values of the land as koala habitat in the locality. In assessing an application, Council will take into consideration:

- the impacts of any development on Tertiary Koala Habitat;
- the number of trees proposed to be removed in relationship to the extent and quality of adjacent or nearby Tertiary Koala Habitat;
- the impacts to existing or potential koala movement corridors; and,
- the threats to koalas which may result from the development.

Proponents must also demonstrate that appropriate measures are taken, where appropriate, to:

- minimise barriers to koala movement;
- reduce the risk of koala mortality by road kill by appropriate road design, lighting and traffic speed limits;
- minimise the removal of koala tree species listed above;
- provide preferred koala trees in landscaping where suitable;
- minimise threats to koalas by dogs, i.e. banning of dogs or confining of dogs to koala proof yards;
- minimise removal or disturbance of Tertiary Koala Habitat in fire protection zones, including fuel reduced zones and radiation zones.

Land Adjoining Primary Koala Habitat

Objective

To minimise impacts on Primary Koala Habitat from development proposed on adjoining lands, particularly where such areas may contain scattered preferred koala trees, and to maintain opportunities for free movement of koalas between areas of habitat.

Controls

Development on land adjoining Primary Koala Habitat shall not be carried out unless it can be demonstrated that:

- the proposal will not result in barriers to koala movement;
- boundary fencing does not prevent the free movement of koalas;
- lighting and koala exclusion fencing is provided where appropriate on roadways adjacent to koala habitat;
- tree species listed above for Primary Koala Habitat are retained where possible;
- new local roads are designed to reduce traffic speed to 40 km/h in potential koala "blackspots";
- preferred koala trees are used in landscaping where suitable;
- threats to koalas by dogs have been minimised (i.e. banning of dogs or confining dogs to koala proof yards);
- fire protection zones, including fuel reduced zones and radiation zones, are provided outside the area of Primary Koala Habitat.

Habitat Links

Objective

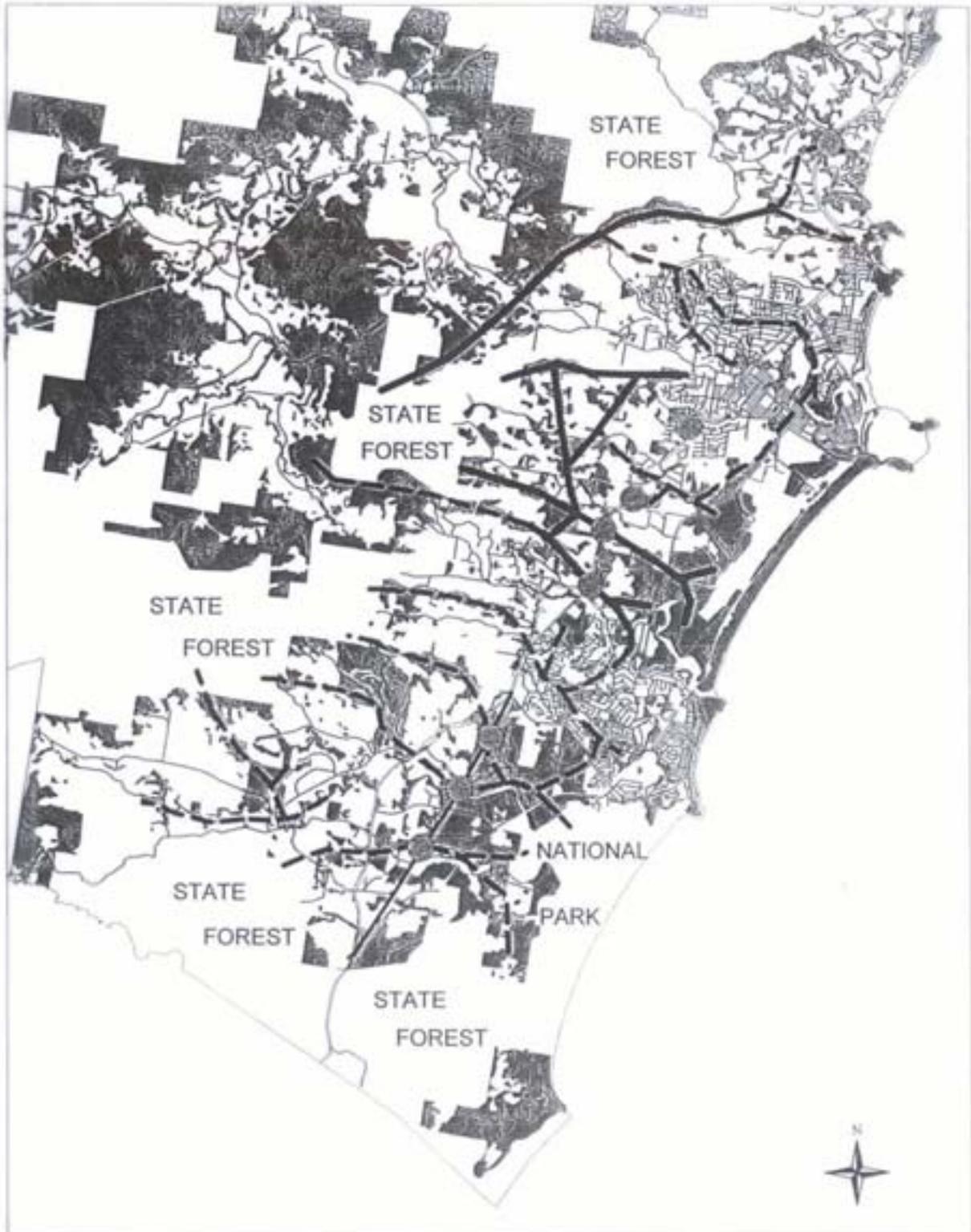
To ensure that forested areas, whether continuous or not, which provide corridor links for movement of koalas between areas of identified koala habitat are recognised and protected, particularly where such areas are important to the functioning of amelioration measures for roads constructed and/or proposed by the RTA and Council.

Controls

Council shall not grant consent to development in areas which function as koala habitat links, including those shown on page 6 of this Information Sheet, unless it is satisfied that:

- the proposal will not reduce the effectiveness of the area in acting as a koala habitat link between areas of secondary and/or primary koala habitats;
- the significance of the area in contributing to the functioning of amelioration measures constructed and/or proposed by the RTA or Council for roadways has been considered; and
- enhancement planting of preferred koala trees has been included in the proposal.

Locally significant links (dotted lines) are required to provide resources across the landscape for koalas to maintain normal social behavioural patterns. In addition, regionally significant links (solid lines) provide for wider dispersal from larger habitat areas and the opportunity for re-establishment of koalas.



- Regionally significant links
- Locally significant links
- Roads
- Coffs Harbour Vegetation
- New Pacific Highway upgrade
- RTA Pacific Highway fauna ameliorative measures proposed or present

1 0 1 2 3 Kilometers

Habitat Links