



Fact Sheet #2

Creating Koala Hubs on your land

Koalas need a lot of trees. A koala home range in the You Yangs is 5 to 50 hectares, comprising thousands of trees. Shape is critical - a long single line of trees isn't a viable habitat for a koala. They need blocks of habitat with a mixture of trees & shrubs.

Why are river bend koala hubs important to koalas?

Deep river bends are prime koala habitat - compact, biodiverse, on fertile soil, with water on 3 sides. They are cool in summer, and hold water well into droughts.

The trees growing in the river bends are sheltered from extremes, and are better food trees for koalas. Often the bends have more healthy trees than the straight stretches.

The urgency

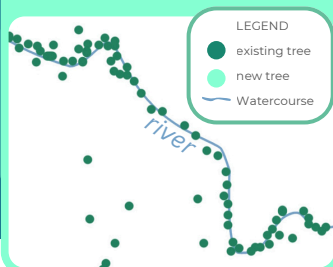
Along Western Plains rivers right now, few trees remain even in the river bends. Those isolated trees are under constant pressure from insect dieback, drought and disease.

Revegetation & fencing is the best way to preserve these old trees, and help koalas.

Example:

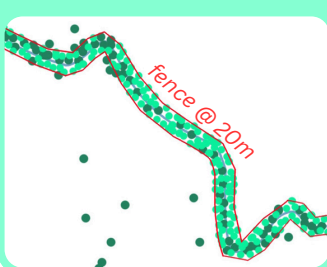
A. Current situation:

No fence
No effective koala habitat



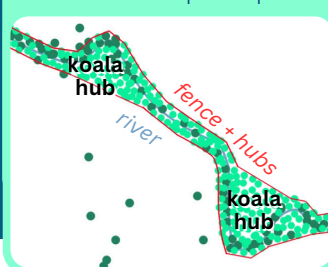
B. Expensive scenario:

Long, expensive fence
No effective koala habitat



C. Best scenario:

Shorter fence saves \$\$\$\$
Koala habitat quadrupled



This fact sheet was produced by Koala Clancy Foundation as a Melbourne Water Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways Project.



How to create a koala hub

Revegetation of the bends to make koala hubs is the cheapest way to get maximum benefit for koalas, with the least disturbance to the landowner.

Rather than fencing that follows the curves (diagram B), a river bend is fenced off across the neck (diagram C). Fencing off a deep bend is up to 7 times cheaper than fencing that follows the curves of the river. A short run of fencing is also easier to maintain.

Revegetation with native species inside a fenced-off bend is more successful than a long linear planting. This plantation will survive better, grow faster, suppress weeds more quickly, require less maintenance and is more likely to develop into a natural ecosystem with breeding koalas.

For koalas, a fenced-off bend koala hub is somewhere to live, not just a movement corridor.

How wide should it be?

The wider, the better!

As a minimum, a koala hub in a river bend that is average 100m wide and 100m long is one hectare. Five of those, connected to each other by a 50m wide corridor is one small koala habitat.

It is advisable to create larger koala hubs (2 to 5ha) where possible to facilitate a breeding population.

What trees to plant?

River Red Gum *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*

Manna Gum *Eucalyptus viminalis*: on stony spots and slopes, also forested gullies

Yellow Box *Eucalyptus melliodora*: on slopes

Red Box *Eucalyptus polyanthemos*: dry plains

Grey Box *Eucalyptus microcarpa*: on the plains & dry slopes, especially in clay or stony soil

Lightwood *Acacia implexa*: hardy, anywhere

Black Wattle *Acacia mearnsii*: dry slopes, beside Yellow, Red and Grey Box

Blackwood *Acacia melanoxylon*: sheltered, moist areas, beside Red Gum in the valley

Sweet Bursaria *Bursaria spinosa*: anywhere

Tree Violet *Meliccytus dentatus*: anywhere

Drooping Sheoak *Allocasuarina verticillata*: anywhere, dry slopes.

Buloke *Allocasuarina luehmannii*: limited, on plains, Balliang & Little River.

Hop Bush *Dodonea viscosa*: anywhere.

Manna Gum

Drooping She-oak

Yellow Box &
Manna Gum

Sweet Bursaria

Lightwood

River Red Gums

Blackwood

Hop Bush

Tree Violet

Red & Grey Box

Buloke*

Yellow Gum

Black Wattle

rocky rise

terrace

floodplain

river channel

rocky slope

More information



koalacancyfoundation.org.au/landowners



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