

Koala Friendly Fencing Guide



Ipswich City Council has prepared and adopted the *Koala Conservation and Habitat Management Plan* to help conserve local koala populations. Ipswich supports a number of significant koala populations within semi-urban, rural and conservation areas. The future of these populations will depend in part upon the ability of koalas to move through these areas safely.

Assisting with safe koala movement

Koala friendly fencing can greatly assist with safe koala movement and dispersal through backyards and residential areas. Some fence designs can trap a koala and make it vulnerable to attack by domestic dogs, as well as restrict access to important food and shelter trees.

What Koala friendly fencing can do

- Allow a koala an alternative route over the fence. You can assist with this by:
 - ✓ Planting or retaining trees or sturdy shrubs near the fence.
 - ✓ Installation of timber posts or logs of at least 125mm diameter leaning against the top of the existing fence at an angle no greater than 60 degrees with the ground.



- ✓ Installation of a koala bridge – timber logs of at least 125mm diameter on either side **of the fence, connected between the two at the top with a shorter log** so the koala can easily climb up one side and down the other (particularly good for barbed wire topped security fences).
- ✓ Adding a continuous series of flat boards at the top of the fence to allow a koala to walk along the fence without needing to come to the ground.

- Allow a koala to climb over the fence by using:

- ✓ Posts with close horizontal rails that allow at least 20mm between rails or with open rails and closed vertical slats spaced at least 10mm apart to allow room for koalas to grip.



- ✓ Fences made from materials that koalas can easily grip and climb, such as round timber posts or chain wire mesh.

- Allow a koala to move under or through a fence by using:

- ✓ Posts and open horizontal rails with a gap of at least 300mm between rails.



- ✓ Solid fencing material that a koala is unable to climb but may pass under via a 300mm gap between the ground and the bottom of the fence.



Koala exclusion fences

Sometimes the best option is a fence that excludes koalas from entering your yard if you have dogs or need to keep koalas out of a dog confinement area.

- Koala exclusion fences can be constructed using metal sheeting (such as smooth Colorbond steel) or rendered brick services that do not provide grip for a koala to climb.
- A strip of Colorbond or Perspex sheeting can be added to the top section of an existing fence to prevent a koala from climbing that side. The sheeting should be at least 900mm wide with the top edge of the sheeting at least 1.5m above ground level.
- If you install koala exclusion fencing, it is vital to ensure that the fence is at least 3m away from trees or sturdy shrubs from which a koala could jump to the fence top. Existing trees can be shielded from koala access by applying a smooth metal tree guard.
- Remember that you only want to apply the exclusion features to the outside of the fence, whilst ensuring a koala could easily climb out of the yard just in case it managed to find a way inside.

For more information

To find out more about how you can help protect populations in Ipswich visit Ipswich.qld.gov.au/koalas

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