

Koala Conservation Partnership

CASE STUDY



Albert the Koala, captured using Council's hired wildlife cameras.

BACKGROUND

Sam and Shane, owners of a property in the Purga Creek sub-catchment area, were inspired to enter into a Koala Conservation Agreement with Ipswich City Council in February 2017. They were motivated by an encounter with a koala they named Albert, who frequented the property.

The encounter prompted Sam and Shane to consider their role in the conservation of native flora and fauna on their property and in the wider area.

KEY ACTIONS FOR SAM AND SHANE

Among the key steps taken to improve and re-establish the corridor for wildlife and native flora on the property over the past year, Sam and Shane have implemented a property management strategy.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Eligible for Ipswich City Council's annual Nature Conservation Grant (subject to selection and approval criteria)
- Eligible for a maximum of 500 koala food trees, OR
- Eligible for up to \$3,000 in grant funding for predator-exclusion fencing (applications will be assessed against specific criteria and on-ground assessments made by a Council Officer)
- Eligible for up to \$800 Environmental Weed Control Rebate annually
- 200 free plants each year
- Invitations to special events and activities
- Access to newsletters, workshops, technical support and more



Purga Creek

Actions of the property management strategy have included:

- Implementing a koala conversation area.
- Planting approximately 150 koala-friendly native species to assist in increasing the wildlife corridor for food and shelter as they travel through the landscape.
- Aerating the soil of the property using 'keyline' principles. This breaks up soil compaction, increases water holding capacity and improves soil health.
- Implementing some fire management practices.
- Bringing in native bees for pollination.
- Implementing weed and pest management practices.
- Excluding cattle from the koala conservation area and Purga Creek
- De-silting the dam and planting a range of native wet area plants, including Lomandra and sedges. These species are available in the Queens Park nursery and are commonly planted along riparian areas to stabilise banks, increase habitat and reduce sediment runoff into our rivers.

OUTCOME

With a noticeable increase in native wildlife (approximately 4ha), Sam and Shane and their Purga property are a great example of how cooperation between Council and landholders can result in positive outcomes such as:

- Revegetating with native plants, particularly koala food trees to increase koala habitat and connections to other conservation areas.
- Minimising erosion and protecting waterways and creeks by introducing off-stream watering for cattle and planting native plants along the creek line.
- Controlling and managing weeds to wildlife corridors and the connectivity between remnant bushland and allowing for natural regeneration to occur.



Ipswich Koala Protection Society's recently rescued joey koala



Voluntary Conservation Agreements offer educational materials, an environmental weed control rebate, free plants, newsletters, exclusive workshops and access to technical advice for your property. To discuss this further or for more information about conservation partnerships, please email Partnerships@ipswich.qld.gov.au or phone (07) 3810 6666. The partnership program is an enviroplan funded initiative from Ipswich City Council. Visit www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/landholderpartnerships

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