



# Saving Our Species Habitat restoration for Gunnedah and Liverpool Plains koalas



SAVING OUR SPECIES







## Habitat restoration for Gunnedah and Liverpool Plains koalas

Funded under the NSW Government's 'Saving Our Species' (SOS) program, the Koala Habitat Restoration Project will see the establishment of 45 hectares of new koala habitat on private properties across the Liverpool Plains by the end of 2021.

Koala-friendly food and shelter trees, along with native shrubs, are being planted in corridors that will connect existing remnants of native vegetation.

Project stakeholders gathered at 'Breeza Station' in April 2021 to celebrate the achievements of 16 landholders in creating multi-species corridors for koalas.

Pictured at front: Member for Tamworth, Kevin Anderson MP with Landcare Coordinators Penny Milson and Lana Andrews. Photo by Marie Low.



Local ownership and guidance for project implementation has been achieved via a steering committee.

The committee includes representatives from Gunnedah Urban Landcare Group, both Councils, Local Land Services North West, Gunnedah's Project Koala, Tamworth Regional Landcare Association, DPIE and North West Ecological Services.

Pictured: Members of the steering committee. Photo by Marie Low.

Front cover: Photo by Maree Kelly, Curlewis.





Most landholders planted out their corridors with the help of family members. Pictured: Duffy family planting at Easter 2021, Marys Mount.



Participants were encouraged to take advantage of the WIRES *Water for Wildlife* project and set up permanent watering points for koalas on their property.

Pictured: Rob Frend demonstrates the TREE TROFF arboreal drinker.



Landcare experts in farm revegetation provided support to participating landholders at a field day held in Gunnedah in October 2020. Pictured: Mark Kesby, Gunnedah Urban Landcare Group.

Aerial view of a newly planted 1 ha koala refuge zone, Wandobah Rd, Gunnedah.

Part of a larger project that will see 2.1 hectares of new habitat created. More than 600 trees and shrubs were planted out in Autumn 2021.

Photo: Sharon Borchardt and Mick Stahl.



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*Almost anything humans do today can be seen to have a negative impact on our unique planet, from ploughing a paddock to opening a plastic bottle of water. As farmers, it is nice to do something that is purely positive for the planet - such as planting a koala tree corridor. The SOS funding has been very much appreciated, however we found just as much value in the deadline and accountability that signing a funding contract provided. It forced us to act on something that we intrinsically wanted to do, but unfortunately may have taken a number of years to become a priority under the normal stresses of running a business and trying to remain profitable. The experience has been extremely satisfying; we are very proud of our completed corridor and look forward to watching it grow!*

**PETER LOVERIDGE, EMERALD HILL**



Tim and Annette Ryan from Werris Creek undertook a 1 ha project which saw a diverse number of trees and shrubs planted including White box, Bimble box, River red gum, Tumbledown red gum, River oak, Kurrajong, Wilga, Silver Cassia, Native olive, Native orange and others.



Koala using a young tree planted just four years ago on a participating property at Ghoolendaadi, near Gunnedah.

Photo: Jo and Scott McCalman, May 2021.



Landholders received 50% of the estimated cost of establishing a koala corridor with funds needed for fencing, site preparation, tube-stock natives, mulch, guards, stakes and watering.

All participants had a property visit and expert guidance from an ecologist with regards to appropriate tree and shrub species for supporting koalas and general biodiversity. Most corridors were at least 30 metres wide.



## Project facts



### Funded by

Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE); Saving our Species



### Managed by

Tamworth Regional Landcare Association (TRLA)



### Local Government Areas (LGAs)

Gunnedah and Liverpool Plains Shire Council areas



### Localities

Emerald Hill, Marys Mount, Ghoolendaadi, Gunnedah, Curlewis, Breeza, Piallaway, Quirindi, Werris Creek and Wallabadah



### Landholders

16



### Outcomes

45 hectares of new koala habitat  
(equivalent to 67 Rugby League fields)

42 hectares of conserved koala habitat

## Find out more

For further information please visit the Tamworth Regional Landcare Association website: <http://www.trla.org.au/become-involved/projects/koala-habitat-restoration-project/>

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