Koala Research Centre of Central Queensland

Conserving Central Queensland’s Koalas

Developing the framework for koala conservation in the face of increasing human populations, widespread resource extraction and intensifying infrastructure development as well as environmental uncertainty in a changing climate.

A Koala Research Centre of Central Queensland workshop.

Date: 1st to 3rd February 2012

Conveners: Dr Alistair Melzer, CQUniversity, Dr William Ellis, University of Qld, Dr Sean Fitzgibbon, University of Qld

Location: CQUniversity, Rockhampton, Qld

Invitation

We invite you to an expert workshop on the conservation of Central Queensland’s koalas. Specialist koala researchers, captive population managers, conservation managers and planners are meeting in February to plan a future for koalas across the species’ range in tropical Australia. The workshop is open to all with an interest in practical approaches to conserving this great Australian icon and we particularly encourage land managers and property owners to join the discussion.

The theme of the workshop, “Conserving Central Queensland’s koalas”, encompasses a review of research and monitoring, strategic planning in regional landscapes and the significance of local and international captive populations for global koala conservation.

We seek to achieve a more holistic and strategic approach to koala conservation founded on the application of ecological knowledge and principals.

The aim of this workshop is to bring together those with practical knowledge of koala ecology, captive animal managers and conservation practitioners to develop conservation principles informed by direct experience of koalas, their habitat and the environment within which they persist.
The workshop follows on the recent review by the Australian Senate into the status of the koala and the forthcoming re-assessment of the classification of the koala in Queensland. It will provide both researchers and managers with a structure for monitoring and managing conservation processes in a rapidly changing region.

**Issues and topics**

- Overview of regional research and monitoring of koalas and their habitat
- Reviewing information gaps and future needs for informed conservation management
- Fragments, captive colonies and genetics: Captive management in global koala conservation (local, national & international refuges for koala genotypes)
- Drought responses in koala populations at a local and landscape level: Developing conceptual models informed by science & natural history in conservation planning
- Role of disease (including koala retrovirus & chlamydia) in koala ecology and importance for conservation planning.
- Significance of fire, drought, severe weather events and climate change predictions in conservation planning.
- Influence of resource extraction and regional land management practice on regional koala persistence.
- Regional planning for long term conservation (accommodating population growth, resource extraction, highways & infrastructure corridors)
- Habitat management & restoration and population recovery with climate uncertainty.

**Objectives / Outputs**

- A framework (informed by research & natural history) to support practical conservation and management actions;
- Publication of the proceedings and conclusions of the workshop;
- Dissemination of position statements in relation to regional koala conservation, management and monitoring.

**Registration**

A registration fee of $165.00 (or $55.00 per day) including GST will be payable at the commencement of the workshop (or each day for daily attendance). The fee covers costs associated with the running of the conference, tea breaks and lunch. Publications and outputs will be purchased separately when they become available. On line registration is available at:


Please send registration details to Dr Alistair Melzer by email (a.melzer@cqu.edu.au) or traditional mail to:

Building 6, CQUniversity, Bruce Highway, Rockhampton, Qld 4702.