

## REDLANDS COAST KOALA WATCH

# How to spot a koala

### Physical signs

Sometimes the easiest way to spot a koala, is to look down, instead of up.

- **Scat:** look around the base of trees for signs of scat (poop)
- **Claw marks:** look at the trunks of trees for claw marks.

These are both signs a tree is regularly used by a koala and it may be part of the koala's home range.



*Koala scat is usually about 2cm long and less than 1cm wide*

### Weather

The time of day and the season will give you a clue of where to look. Koalas will sit high up on a sparse branch if they are looking for some warmth and sunshine.

You can use your own experience as a guide - If you're feeling hot or cold while outdoors, chances are, they are too.

- **When it's cold:** on a cold winter's morning, a koala may be sunning itself high up on a bare branch.
- **When it's warm:** in the middle of a hot summer's day, a koala may be seeking shade in a dense tree.



*Spot the koala – koalas are great at hiding and may often look like a bump in the tree*

### Use your nose

If a male koala is nearby, you may also smell a distinctive musky scent if he has been scent marking recently.

### Listen up

If you live in a koala's home range, you may also hear them at night during breeding season. Male koalas make a bellowing noise when they are looking for a mate that is quite loud, females will make a return bellow that is lower in pitch.

They are also quite noisy when mating. If you hear one during the night, check out your neighbouring trees in the morning.



*Koala in fork of tree*

### Other tips

- Try looking for a fork in the branches, as koalas like to find a nice supportive seat for a nap.
- Look out for lumps: koalas may appear as just a bump on the tree if they are tucked in tight.
- Look at things from a different angle: circle the tree, as koalas may be completely hidden from one angle.
- Keep in mind that koalas will use a range of trees, not just eucalyptus, and they sleep for up to 20 hours a day. See our information sheet 'What types of trees do koalas use?' for tips on what types of trees to look in.

