

19.1 REVIEW OF STATE KOALA MAPPING AND LEGISLATION

Objective Reference:

Authorising Officer: David Jeanes, Acting General Manager Community & Customer Services

Responsible Officer: Chris Vize, Acting Group Manager City Planning & Assessment

Report Author: Jodi Poulsen, Principal Environmental Strategic Planner

Attachments:

1. Written confirmation of agreed 'transitional koala habitat' arrangements with Department of Environment and Science (undated)
2. Council submission on draft koala habitat map to Department of Environment and Science 18 December 2019
3. Koala habitat areas removed from State map
4. Proposed TLPI
5. Proposed TLPI map
6. Justification for proposed TLPI
7. Map showing balance areas (removed from State map, not proposed to be in TLPI)

The Council is satisfied that, pursuant to Section 275(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this agenda item is:

- (g) *any action to be taken by the local government under the Planning Act, including deciding applications made to it under that Act.*

PURPOSE

To outline the key findings and recommendations of the review of the changes to the regulatory planning framework, relating to koala habitat undertaken in accordance with the General Meeting resolution of 12 February 2020 (Item 7.1).

BACKGROUND

On 12 February 2020 Council resolved “...to urgently review the new State Koala mapping and legislation adopted last week [on 7 February 2020], and bring a report back to Council by 27 May 2020 that:

1. *Identifies the areas of the city that were previously regulated koala habitat but have been removed under the new State Government mapping.*
2. *Provides possible planning mechanisms to protect environmental values of areas that are considered critical for wildlife habitat and movement no longer protected by the State mapping.*
3. *Identifies potential costs for Council to undertake the additional assessments required under the legislation.”*

The background for the above resolution is as follows:

“The State Government released their draft koala mapping and legislation in December 2019. Under the proposed mapping approximately 7,675Ha of land protected for many years by State Government legislation as Koala Bushland and Rehabilitation Koala Habitat areas had been removed

in Redland City. On 18 December Council passed a resolution to provide feedback on the proposed mapping, with a second resolution passed on 29 January 2020 providing a submission on the proposed new State Government South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy.

Council's submissions on the proposed mapping and strategy outlined serious concerns about the loss of koala protections, lack of transparency and lack of time to effectively consult with the community. Despite the feedback from Council and the broader community, in addition to their still being a number of unanswered questions with regards to how the new legislation will affect the work currently being done by Council, the State Government passed the legislation last week, which is very concerning to Council."

ISSUES

The new framework

The new State Koala mapping and legislation framework is an outcome of the State Government's response to a 2016 report by Uniquist (University of Queensland) 'South East Queensland Koala Population Modelling Study'. This study identified a significant koala population decline, around 80% in the Koala Coast and 54% in the Pine Rivers area between 1996 and 2014, despite protection measures.

On 7 February 2020 Council was notified by the State Department of Environment and Science (DES) that amendments to the planning framework, relating to koala habitat, had taken effect. These included amendments to the *Planning Regulation 2017*, *Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2017*, *Vegetation Management Regulation 2012* and the *Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014*. The amendments to these instruments included a new regulatory map of koala habitat and new provisions relating to the clearing of koala habitat and other development on premises with mapped koala habitat.

How the new framework was developed

The following summarises the development of the new State Koala mapping and legislation framework:

- In response to the Uniquist report, a Koala Expert Panel (the Panel) was established in 2016 to provide the State Government with realistic and achievable recommendations to reverse the decline in koala population densities and ensure the long-term persistence of koala populations in the wild in South East Queensland (SEQ).
- The Panel undertook a year-long review of existing koala protection measures in SEQ, including seeking expert advice and consideration of the best available research. The Panel's review also included consultation with public and industry sectors.
- The Panel's final report 'Queensland Koala Expert Panel: A new direction for the conservation of koalas in Queensland' (2017) included six (6) key recommendations and a number of supporting actions under each recommendation aimed at addressing the ongoing decline in koalas in SEQ.
- The key Panel recommendations included:
 - Develop a SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy to implement the Panel's recommendations.
 - Identify and map connected priority areas for koala habitat protection, restoration and management i.e. Koala Priority Areas.

- Establish a Koala Advisory Council (KAC) to coordinate implementation of the koala conservation strategy.
- Do not permit clearing of core and non-core habitat (remnant, regrowth and scattered trees) inside a KPA.
- Do not permit clearing of core and non-core habitat (remnant and regrowth) outside of the Urban Footprint and outside of a KPA.
- Ensure that locally significant koala habitat, not captured by State mapping, or not in identified priority areas for koalas, can still be protected through local government planning schemes.
- The Queensland Government response to the Queensland Koala Expert Panel's Report was to accept all six (6) key recommendations with some of the supporting actions accepted in principle.
- The KAC was established in 2018 and is made up of members from State Government, the community, non-government organisations, industry and the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ). The first meeting of the KAC was held on 13 December 2018. The KAC make publicly available communiques and minutes from each meeting.
- The second meeting of the KAC was held on 12 March 2019. The new proposed State koala habitat mapping for SEQ was presented at this meeting. The KAC were advised that the mapping was built using an evidence-based approach of the most important factors for koala persistence in the wild with additional input from several State Government departments. This mapping also sought to balance koala protection including the provision of habitat connectivity with the requirements of housing and commercial development. The KAC recommended that consultation with industry and local governments be undertaken on the mapping.
- In June 2019, five meetings with local governments were held across SEQ with all participants required to submit a signed a Deed of Confidentiality and Privacy that limited the distribution of confidential material.
- Council officers attended the meeting held on 12 June 2019 at Logan City Council. At this meeting, a presentation on the broad direction of the koala regulatory reforms, including the introduction of a prohibition on the clearing of koala habitat in a Koala Priority Area (KPA) was provided. Mapping was also provided at a scale that did not allow any detailed review.
- Following the meeting, the spatial data for the new koala habitat mapping for Redland City was provided on 26 June 2019 for officer review and feedback. A broad review of the new mapping identified some significant issues, including a significant reduction in areas of State mapped koala habitat in Redlands Coast, resulting in inconsistent mapping outcomes whereby areas of vegetation with the same ecosystem and associated koala habitat values were mapped differently. This issue was highlighted in officer comments provided to LGAQ to be included as part of a coordinated local government submission to the State.
- LGAQ provided a submission to the State on 17 July 2019 making seventeen (17) recommendations in total, including:
 - State Government to work with local governments to ensure habitat not mapped by the State can be protected prior to the new mapping coming into effect.

- State Government to continue to hold one-on-one meetings with local governments, as necessary, prior to finalising the state-wide mapping of koala habitat, KPAs and restoration areas. State Government to ensure the mapping and mapping methodology was updated to appropriately address concerns raised by local government including gaps and inconsistencies between State and local mapping. The LGAQ also recommended local government be able to view and comment on the final version of the mapping before its release.
- An urgent meeting of the KAC was held on 30 July 2019 to consider local government feedback. LGAQ advised that the outcomes from the meeting were for the State to hold one-on-one meetings with local governments and develop options to protect koala habitat not mapped by the new State mapping.
- One-on-one meetings with local governments subsequently occurred in August 2019. Officers from the DES and the Department of State Development Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDMIP) met with Council officers on 7 August 2019. At this meeting, the State officers provided an interim solution to protect existing State mapped koala habitat included in the City Plan (as required by the State Planning Policy) but not included in the proposed new State mapping under a two (2) year transitional arrangement.
- On 21 August 2019 the DES requested that local governments in SEQ nominate koala habitat currently mapped in local planning schemes by 30 August 2019 that should be included as transitional habitat in the new State Koala Habitat Map for SEQ.
- In light of the confidential deed agreement in place at the time, Council's Acting CEO provided a written response to DES on 29 August 2019. The response to DES:
 - Highlighted significant concerns with the ad-hoc officer consultation process undertaken by the State on the proposed changes to the koala planning framework including the extremely limited time provided to nominate transitional koala habitat.
 - Provided spatial data of State mapped koala habitat included in the City Plan (as required by the State Planning Policy) on both the mainland and North Stradbroke Island (NSI) (Minjerribah) that had not been included in the new state koala habitat mapping.
- A letter was also sent from the Mayor to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts further expressing concerns with the lack of transparency and limited time provided for the consultation process undertaken with Council officers on the koala reforms.
- In response to the letter, Council received a written commitment from DES (Attachment 1) confirming that *"The RCC Planning and Assessment team has provided feedback and associated spatial data on the areas of locally identified koala habitat for inclusion as part of the transitional process for the State's koala habitat mapping. Based on this data, DES has incorporated these additional areas into the koala habitat mapping that will apply from the commencement of the new koala planning regulations"*.
- Despite the written commitment from DES the additional areas were not in the koala habitat mapping released for comment in December 2019.
- Council considered draft mapping at its General Meeting on 18 December 2019 and lodged a formal submission to the draft regulatory map on 20 December 2019. A copy of Council's submission is attached (Attachment 2).

- DES responded to Council’s submission on 11 February 2020, stating that “Your application has been reviewed and found not to warrant any changes to the Koala Habitat Map as you requested additions to the map.”
- A handful of very small areas were mapped as ‘locally refined’ koala habitat – some of which do not actually contain habitat or even vegetation.
- The new regulatory framework that commenced on 7 February 2020 only incorporated very minor changes to the habitat map as a result of the State smoothing irregular boundaries and removing some errors. DES did not respond to the concerns Council raised in relation to:
 - weaknesses and omissions in mapping,
 - inadequate consultation period,
 - reduction in area of mapped koala habitat,
 - inability for local government to map habitat (in spite of Koala Expert Panel’s recommendation),
 - inaccuracy of labelling for “Locally Refined Koala Habitat Area” as these are State mapped areas to be removed,
 - not identifying North Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah) as a Koala Priority Area.

What the new framework does

The main elements of the new regulatory framework include:

- Koala Conservation Plan Map, which maps Koala Priority Areas and Koala Habitat Areas
- Definition for ‘interfering’ with koala habitat
- Regulatory provisions in the *Planning Regulation 2017* that apply in these areas, including a prohibition on ‘interfering’ with koala habitat in some areas.

Comparison between the previous framework and the new framework

The previous framework also included mapping, and specific provisions in the *Planning Regulation 2017*. The following section outlines how the new mapping and provisions differ.

Previous regulatory mapping included both a trigger map and a habitat map. The trigger map identified the ‘priority koala assessable development area’ or PKADA and Koala Assessable Development Areas ‘KADA’. The PKADA was limited to the area known as the ‘Koala Coast’ (which included Redland City Council’s mainland area) and parts of Moreton Bay Regional Council. The habitat map then identified the value of habitat – separating bushland habitat into categories of high value, medium value and low value. Rehabilitation areas were also identified and regulated, with less stringent protections. Provisions then depended on whether or not the proposed development was in a PKADA or KADA area and what value the habitat was mapped as.

The new framework still includes a trigger map, now known as ‘koala priority areas’. The new mapping significantly increases the extent of priority area across the South East Queensland region. The Redlands Coast mainland has been retained as a priority area. Despite Council submissions explaining the significance of habitat and koala populations on NSI, the State Government did not identify NSI as a priority area.

Koala habitat is mapped in the new Koala Conservation Plan Map, which identifies koala habitat areas and koala habitat restoration areas. The area of koala habitat that is mapped across the SEQ

region has increased. However, the new Koala Conservation Plan Map reduces the area of koala habitat that is mapped in the Redlands Coast mainland. This will be discussed further in the next section of this report.

As outlined above, the new framework includes a new definition that is *'interfering'* with koala habitat. *'Interfering'* is a broader term that encompasses more than the existing definition and regulation of vegetation *'clearing'*. *'Interfering'* with koala habitat is now defined in schedule 24 of the *Planning Regulation 2017*:

"Interfering with koala habitat—

(a) means removing, cutting down, ringbarking, pushing over, poisoning or destroying in any way, including by burning, flooding or draining, native vegetation in a koala habitat area; but

(b) does not include destroying standing vegetation by stock, or lopping a tree."

Importantly under the new framework, only mapped koala habitat areas are protected by provisions in the *Planning Regulation 2017*. There is no regulatory protection for koala habitat restoration areas.

The new provisions in the *Planning Regulation 2017* prohibit (with some exemptions) *'interfering'* with koala habitat where it is mapped within a Koala Priority Area. Where development is proposed to be undertaken on a premises that has mapped koala habitat, but it is *not interfering* with koala habitat, it must be assessed against the benchmarks set out in the *Planning Regulation 2017*. The Redlands Coast mainland is mapped within a Koala Priority Area.

North Stradbroke Island is outside of the koala priority area and so *interfering* with koala habitat is not prohibited, but is subject to the provisions set out by the *Planning Regulation 2017*. The State will now be responsible for assessing applications which involve *'interfering'* with koala habitat on NSI.

Areas of the Redlands Coast that were previously regulated, that have been removed

A critical issue for the Redlands Coast is the removal of protection over areas of koala habitat and rehabilitation areas on the mainland that were previously regulated. The new SEQ Koala Conservation Plan Map significantly reduces the area of previously mapped koala habitat. Of most importance, just under 6,155ha of koala habitat that was previously protected to some degree, has no protection under new regulatory framework which commenced on 7 February 2020. These are areas that have been subject to long-standing planning controls, including in some cases development prohibitions on the clearing of bushland habitat.

The focus of this report is to examine the areas of the mainland that were previously afforded some level of protection, which have been removed from the new regulatory mapping and to consider potential protection strategies.

To further explain the impact of these mapping changes, the following analysis is presented. This analysis has been broken down into three scenarios:

- Areas previously mapped as bushland habitat (low, medium and high) or rehabilitation areas that have been entirely removed from the latest mapping and therefore no longer protected under the State's new regulatory framework.
- Areas previously mapped as bushland habitat (low, medium and high) that have been included as 'restoration' areas in the latest mapping and no longer afforded any protection under the State's new regulatory framework.

- Areas previously mapped as bushland habitat (low, medium and high) that continue to be mapped as koala habitat area and therefore protected under the State's new regulatory framework.

In considering the above scenarios it is important to note that the State Government's previous regulatory koala habitat map was more than ten years old and had not been updated during this time. Accordingly, as identified in Council's previous submissions, some areas of the Redlands Coast mainland had justifiably been removed from the latest koala habitat mapping where koala habitat values no longer existed. In this regard Council's previous submission to the draft mapping supported the removal of these areas which were in the order of 585ha. The map provided as Attachment 7 shows these areas.

However, other areas have been removed from the new mapping that continue to contain koala habitat values without the State Government undertaking any detailed investigation. Council's previous submission on the draft mapping had requested that these areas (1,340ha) be reinstated as transitional habitat and protected for two years to accurately determine the koala habitat values of these areas. Despite previous written assurances from DES that these areas would be included in the final koala habitat map, the new regulatory framework removed these areas without any detailed assessment to determine whether or not they had koala habitat values that warranted protection.

Areas previously mapped as bushland habitat or rehabilitation areas that have been entirely removed from the latest mapping

In the final map that commenced on 7 February 2020 approximately:

- 465ha of land on the mainland that had previously been mapped as high and medium value bushland habitat was removed
- 2065ha of high and medium value rehabilitation habitat was removed
- 4.3ha of low value bushland habitat was removed.

Council officers have used the data in the above analysis to review and evaluate the areas that have been removed from koala habitat mapping across the City.

This evaluation found that in urban areas, much of the removed koala habitat in terms of physical area is located on Council or State owned land. As would be expected in many of these instances, this land is also included in the conservation, environmental protection or recreation and open space zones.

Officers have also identified a number of large, privately owned lots that are well vegetated that will no longer have any State regulation protecting the vegetation. Key examples include:

- the peri-urban area (boundary of Thornlands and Victoria Point), where there are many large lots with existing vegetation, which have been removed from the new regulatory mapping,
- rural and semi-rural parts of Sheldon and Capalaba, particularly those located within the watershed catchment of Leslie Harrison Dam, and
- other rural zoned areas in Mount Cotton and Redland Bay.

Areas previously mapped as bushland habitat that have been included as 'restoration' areas in the latest mapping and no longer afforded any protection

Approximately 1,505ha of land that was previously mapped as 'high and medium' value bushland habitat on the mainland is now mapped as 'restoration area' while an additional 19ha of land that was mapped as low value bushland habitat is now mapped as 'restoration area'.

As noted earlier in the report under the new planning framework there are no regulatory protection mechanisms for land identified as being within a mapped koala habitat restoration areas. In addition approximately 3,633ha of land that was previously mapped as high or medium value rehabilitation is now mapped as 'restoration area'. Under the previous planning framework any development proposal on land on the mainland mapped as being within a koala rehabilitation area was required to seek to avoid, minimise and, where this was not possible, offset any loss of non-juvenile koala trees. There are no specific planning requirements to be addressed where development is in a koala restoration area under the new regulatory planning framework.

Areas previously mapped as bushland habitat that continue to be mapped as koala habitat area and therefore protected under the State's new regulatory framework

A number of areas will continue to be protected by the State's new framework. These include approximately 5,985ha of land on the mainland previously identified as of 'high and medium' value bushland habitat under the repealed mapping.

The following table provides a brief summary of the areas that have been removed or retained in new Koala Habitat Mapping (for the mainland only). Attachment 3 maps all areas that have been removed.

Scenario	Original mapping	Area removed (ha)
Not mapped and no longer protected	High, Medium and Low Value Bushland Habitat	465
	High and Medium Value Rehabilitation areas	2,065
Mapped but no longer protected	High, Medium and Low Value Bushland Habitat	1,524
	High and Medium Value Rehabilitation areas	3,633
Mapped and continues to be protected	High, Medium and Low Value Bushland Habitat	6,038.6
	High and Medium value Rehabilitation Areas	455.1

Table 1: Summary of areas removed from koala habitat mapping (Mainland only)

Possible planning mechanisms to protect environmental values

Despite Koala Expert Panel recommendations to allow local governments to map and protect locally significant koala habitat through local planning schemes the State has made a very clear direction that there will be only one koala habitat map. It is therefore not an option for Council to have its own regulatory koala habitat map. There is also currently no formal mechanism for local government to request changes to the State koala habitat map. At this stage the only mechanism that exists to change the regulatory mapping is for land owners to request changes on their own properties. The State is continuing discussions with the LGAQ and local government in this respect.

Consequently, officers have identified alternative options to provide both interim and ongoing regulation on areas of vegetation that are no longer protected by the State Government's regulatory koala mapping. These measures are intended to only apply to previously mapped areas. This will include areas of removed bushland habitat that are vegetated as well as picking up some removed

rehabilitation areas, which are vegetated and have been mapped by Council in 2015 as containing regional ecosystems.

Option 1 – continue negotiations to reinstate removed areas in State Government koala habitat mapping

The first option is to continue to request that the State Government reinstate the removed areas in their koala habitat map.

This option is the most appropriate as it would provide the greatest level of protection. As mentioned above, these discussions are ongoing. However at this stage it is uncertain whether the State would be prepared to consider reinstating these removed areas from its koala habitat map.

Option 2 – request that the State Government map locally refined MSES (Regional Ecosystem mapping)

If the State is not prepared to make changes to its koala habitat map Council could pursue a request to include those areas that are identified in Council's 2015 Regional Ecosystem mapping, (currently mapped as Matters of Local Environmental Significance (MLES) in City Plan) as locally refined MSES mapping as 'regulated vegetation'. The State Planning Policy (SPP) Guideline identifies mapping layers that *"can be locally refined by a local government in a local planning instrument in a way that achieves the relevant state interest policy"*. These are identified as 'category 2' mapping layers, and includes 'regulated vegetation'. The *'Method for mapping Matters of state environmental significance for the State Planning Policy 2017 Version 6.0'* sets out a process for this.

The methodology above also sets out a timeframe for this process; at least three (3) months. If supported by the State, Council would then need to make a minor amendment to the planning scheme to reflect the new MSES map. Council officers have sought and are awaiting advice from the State Government on this process.

The benefit of this option is that it maintains a level of protection for these areas. However, unlike the inclusion of these areas in the State's koala habitat map, it would not include a prohibition on interfering with koala habitat. Applications within these areas would be assessed on the basis of avoid, minimise or offset rather than a prohibition and would not therefore have the same level of protection as mapped areas of koala habitat in the mainland of the City.

Option 3 – rely on MLES layer in City Plan

If the State does not accept Council's 2015 Regional Ecosystem mapping for inclusion in its MSES layer, an alternative option available to Council is to protect these areas as MLES. As discussed in the previous analysis section, vegetated areas that have been removed from the State koala regulatory map are also generally mapped as MLES. In the current version of the Environmental significance overlay (ESO) map, this MLES is not visible as it is 'masked' by the MSES value. With the adoption of the new koala regulatory provisions in February, previously protected areas removed from the new koala habitat mapping are no longer shown as MSES. However to date the ESO map has not been changed to reflect the new MSES layer as this will require an amendment of City Plan. When the MSES layer in the City Plan is updated the MLES, based on Council's 2015 regional ecosystem mapping, should be exposed providing some level of protection to vegetated areas removed from the State's koala habitat map. Officers consider that this would require a minor amendment to City Plan.

In pursuing such an approach Council would need to ensure it can provide a clear delineation and rationale between a matter of 'State' environmental significance and a matter of 'local'

environmental significance. MLES cannot be included specifically for the purpose of koala habitat as this would conflict with the State MSES koala habitat mapping. Accordingly, the inclusion of these areas would need to be for a broader purpose than simply koala habitat. In this regard officers are satisfied that areas covered by Council's Regional Ecosystem mapping, where removed from the current state koala habitat map could reasonably be identified as 'MLES – local biodiversity areas'. This would map and protect areas that contribute to the local areas' biodiversity and ensure the broader biodiversity value of the area could be considered in future development decisions.

Both Option 2 and Option 3 would ensure areas previously mapped in Council's 2015 Regional Ecosystem mapping, but subsequently removed through the new State regulatory koala mapping, would trigger assessment where proposed assessable development involves removal of vegetation above the thresholds identified in the current City Plan. Option 2 would allow offsets to be required, however because of the interplay between MSES and MLES Option 3 would limit Council's ability to require offsets.

Interim protection through a Temporary Local Planning Instrument

All of the above options are subject to ongoing negotiations with the State and may also require an amendment to the City Plan. Recognising these circumstances it is likely any of the options will take time to be finalised and put in place.

Accordingly, there is a risk that previously protected vegetated land under the former koala regulations could be removed before the proposed changes could take effect. To address this risk it is recommended that Council consider the use of a Temporary Local Planning Instrument (TLPI) seeking to provide immediate protection to these areas. It is proposed that this TLPI would map vegetated areas removed from the new koala habitat map, identifying them as 'Transitional Koala Habitat'. The draft TLPI and map are provided in Attachments 4 and 5. Attachment 7 maps the areas that have been removed by the State Government's new koala habitat mapping, that are not proposed to be included in the TLPI map.

The justification for the TLPI is set out in detail in attachment 6. In summary, the purpose of the proposed TLPI is to ensure ongoing interim protection of those areas removed from the new regulatory mapping and framework while Council pursues long term regulatory protection of these areas.

The TLPI is proposed to be supported by a map, only for mainland areas, that shows:

- all removed koala habitat (which are areas previously mapped as high/medium/low value bushland habitat as well as high/medium rehabilitation areas), but
- only where it overlaps with existing MLES mapping (so will only show 'vegetated' areas) (Noting that the existing MLES is based on Council's Regional Ecosystem mapping, on lots that are greater than 1,000m² within the urban footprint, unless already in an open space, conservation or environment protection zone).

The draft TLPI could then apply the State's new provisions to the mapped areas to ensure an appropriate level of protection is immediately put in place while Council continues discussions with the State to resolve an accepted way forward. This would in effect be similar to the Council submission on the draft mapping, which requested that the removed areas be protected for a transitional two (2) year period to confirm, or otherwise, the koala habitat values of these areas.

Section 23(1) of the *Planning Act 2016*, provides that a local government can make a TLPI if the local government and Minister decide:

- There is significant risk of serious adverse cultural, economic, environmental or social conditions happening in the local government area.
- The delay involved in using the process in sections 18 to 22 to make or amend another local planning instrument would increase the risk.
- The making of the TLPI would not adversely affect State interests.

The proposed TLPI No.1 is considered to satisfy each of these requirements. This is detailed in attachment 6. It should be noted that informal discussions have been held with officers from DSDMIP and it has been indicated that in general terms they are reluctant to support a TLPI. No specific advice has been received from DSDMIP officers on whether or not the proposed TLPI meets the guideline.

How this will affect the Environmental Major Amendment Package 01/04

Council already has a major amendment package in progress, being the Environmental Major Amendment Package 01/04. An update was provided to Council on 6 November 2019, and Council formally resolved to respond to the pause notice in November 2019. DSDMIP has responded with a small number of outstanding issues for Council to resolve. This will be brought back to Council for consideration in a separate report to Council.

The proposed response to DSDMIP's outstanding issues is proposed to be brought to a future Council meeting for consideration.

Potential costs for Council as a result of these changes

In addition to existing benchmarks, Council officers will be required to assess applications for development against the new benchmarks set out by the new regulatory framework. Environmental assessment officers within the City Planning and Assessment Group at this stage are satisfied that the new regulatory framework is effectively cost-neutral from the perspective of officer time and resources. This position will be reviewed as more development applications are received and the impacts of the new regulatory koala framework is better understood.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Legislative Requirements

The proposed TLPI will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Minister's Guidelines and Rules, a statutory document under the *Planning Act 2016* and *Planning Regulation 2017*.

Risk Management

Undertaking a TLPI will ensure planning for the Redlands Coast remains current and consistent with community expectations.

Financial

The proposed TLPI will be funded as part of the existing operating budget of the City Planning and Assessment Group.

People

The staff resourcing required to make the proposed TLPI will be primarily drawn from the Strategic Planning Unit of the City Planning and Assessment Group.

Environmental

The proposed TLPI will help to achieve the overall aim of the *Redland Koala Conservation Strategy 2016* and *Redland Koala Conservation Action Plan 2016-2021*, which is to “*help retain a viable koala population, and conserve and manage suitable habitat both on the south east Queensland mainland areas and North Stradbroke Island*”.

Social

The proposed TLPI will also contribute to the liveability of the Redlands Coast, protecting scenic natural landscapes and habitat corridors. The City Plan’s strategic framework identifies these as important components in providing ‘liveable communities’.

Human Rights

There are no known human rights implications for this report.

Alignment with Council's Policy and Plans

Redland City Council’s Corporate Plan 2018-2023 establishes a commitment to promoting:

“A diverse and healthy natural environment, with an abundance of native flora and fauna and rich ecosystems, will thrive through awareness, commitment and action in caring for the environment.

- 1. Redland’s natural assets including flora, fauna, habitats, biodiversity, ecosystems and waterways are managed, maintained and monitored.*
- 2. Threatened species are maintained and protected, including the vulnerable koala species.”*

Council understands that key to the delivery of this outcome is the maintenance of sufficient wildlife habitat across the City to support the ecological functions of the flora and fauna that live within or migrate through the Redlands.

On 3 June 2015, Council adopted the Natural Environment Policy POL-3128, consolidating former environmental policies. Council resolved to prepare updated strategies and plans to progress the Natural Environment Policy, identifying a number of priorities; including Koalas. This plan will relate to the following sections of the Natural Environment Policy:

“1. Protect, enhance, restore the natural values of the City that include:

- a. Koalas and other native animal and plant populations and habitats;*
- b. core habitat areas as sanctuaries for wildlife;*
- c. safe wildlife movement corridors across the landscape;*
- d. maintaining no net loss of native vegetation as defined in the Vegetation Management Act 1999;*
- e. biological diversity and ecosystem services;*
- f. waterways, foreshores, wetlands, coasts, aquatic ecosystems and Moreton Bay;*

2. Enhance and restore Council’s protected areas and strengthen the connection between core habitats through public open space plantings, pest management and appropriate street tree planting programs in accordance with SEQ Natural Resource Management targets.

3. A conservation acquisition program that prioritises acquisition of land for rehabilitation, offsets, corridors and long term protection to achieve cost effective environmental outcomes that contribute to facilitating biodiversity conservation (e.g. koala survival) and has community benefits.

4. *Manage protected areas to provide the best possible buffering of the City's natural and cultural heritage values from the impacts of a changing climate."*

The purpose of the proposed TLPI ensures alignment with Council's current strategic policy position related to the ongoing protection of Koala habitat.

CONSULTATION

Consulted	Consultation Date	Comments/Actions
Senior Adviser, Environment, Community and Customer Services	20 February 2020	Discussing options/possibility of locally refined MSES
Principal Planning Officer, Planning Development Services (SEQ South), Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning	28 February 2020 and 16 April 2020	Discussing options for mapping locally refined MSES
Planning officer, Planning Services South Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy	9 April 2020	Discussing options for mapping locally refined MSES
Environmental Assessment team	30 April 2020	Confirming costs of assessment

OPTIONS

Option One

That Council resolves as follows:

1. To seek approval to commence a Temporary Local Planning Instrument (TLPI) as outlined in Attachment 4 & 5 pursuant to Chapter 3: Part 2 and Section 7.1 of the Minister's Guidelines and Rules under the *Planning Act 2016*.
2. To submit the proposed TLPI to the Planning Minister for approval in accordance with Chapter 3: Part 2 and Section 7.1 of the Minister's Guidelines and Rules under the *Planning Act 2016*.
3. To submit a further submission to the Planning Minister seeking formal advice on the options as outlined in this report to provide ongoing protection to areas of previously mapped koala habitat removed from the new State koala habitat regulatory map adopted on 7 February 2020.
4. To bring a report back to Council once a written response has been provided from the Planning Minister in regards to recommendations 2 and 3 as outlined above.
5. To maintain this report and attachments as confidential until such time that the TLPI takes effect, or the Planning Minister confirms that a TLPI will not be approved, subject to maintaining the confidentiality of legally privileged, private and commercial in confidence information.

Option Two

That Council resolves as follows:

1. To submit a written submission to the Planning Minister seeking formal advice on the options as outlined in this report to provide ongoing protection to areas of previously mapped koala habitat removed from the new State koala habitat regulatory map adopted on 7 February 2020.
2. To bring a report back to Council once a written response has been provided from the Planning Minister in regards to recommendation 1 above.
3. To maintain this report and attachments as confidential until such time that Council has fully considered any written advice provided from the Planning Minister in response to

recommendation 1, subject to maintaining the confidentiality of legally privileged, private and commercial in confidence information.

Option Three

That Council resolves as follows:

1. To note the areas of the City that were previously regulated koala habitat that have been removed from the new State koala habitat regulatory map adopted on 7 February 2020 and its implications for protecting these areas.
2. To maintain this report and attachments as confidential, subject to maintaining the confidentiality of legally privileged, private and commercial in confidence information.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves as follows:

1. To seek approval to commence a Temporary Local Planning Instrument (TLPI) as outlined in Attachment 4 & 5 pursuant to Chapter 3: Part 2 and Section 7.1 of the Minister's Guidelines and Rules under the *Planning Act 2016*.
2. To submit the proposed TLPI to the Planning Minister for approval in accordance with Chapter 3: Part 2 and Section 7.1 of the Minister's Guidelines and Rules under the *Planning Act 2016*.
3. To submit a further submission to the Planning Minister seeking formal advice on the options as outlined in this report to provide ongoing protection to areas of previously mapped koala habitat removed from the new State koala habitat regulatory map adopted on 7 February 2020.
4. To bring a report back to Council once a written response has been provided from the Planning Minister in regards to recommendations 2 and 3 as outlined above.
5. To maintain this report and attachments as confidential until such time that the TLPI takes effect, or the Planning Minister confirms that a TLPI will not be approved, subject to maintaining the confidentiality of legally privileged, private and commercial in confidence information.



Department of
Environment and Science

Our Ref: CTS 23498/19

Mr Andrew Chesterman
Chief Executive Officer
Redland City Council
GPO Box 21
CLEVELAND QLD 4163

Andrew
Dear Mr Chesterman

I refer to the letter of 29 August 2019 to Mr Jamie Merrick, Director-General, Department of Environment and Science (DES) from Mr John Oberhardt, Acting Chief Executive Officer regarding the State's proposed koala planning reforms and our phone call on 12 September 2019. The Director-General has asked me to reply on his behalf. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I appreciate that the short timelines and confidentiality requirements of the recent consultation process have been challenging for Redland City Council (RCC) in considering and responding to the proposed planning reforms and koala habitat mapping. Consultation with local governments has been an iterative process as DES has responded to the feedback and provided input. This resulted in changes to the proposed regulations and mapping with changes in timelines designed to allow local governments more time to provide feedback. I also hope that you can appreciate the importance of the confidentiality arrangements in relation to this sensitive material.

The RCC Planning and Assessment team has provided feedback and associated spatial data on the areas of locally identified koala habitat for inclusion as part of the transitional process for the State's koala habitat mapping. Based on this data, DES has incorporated these additional areas into the koala habitat mapping that will apply from the commencement of the new koala planning regulations.

As I discussed during our phone call, I note the RCC request for current regulatory provision of the City Plan to apply to the locally identified koala habitat areas. Unfortunately, it is not practical under the proposed planning regulations to apply varied exemptions in each council area and this outcome would not be consistent with the recommendations of the Koala Expert Panel. As discussed, while these additional areas are included in the koala habitat mapping they will be subject to the same assessment provisions for all koala habitat in South East Queensland.

Additionally, I note your concern regarding planning provisions providing scope for development that is operational works. The planning reforms provide a variety of exemptions that mirror many exemptions already in place, and as such, it is expected that the combination of exemptions proposed will provide an on-ground outcome for rural residential purposes which is very similar to the intent of the existing RCC Planning Scheme.

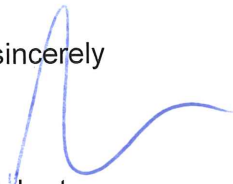
GPO Box 2454 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone 07 3330 5818
Website www.des.qld.gov.au
ABN 46 640 294 485

While the period for substantive feedback on the koala planning regulations has now closed, I would like to assure you that DES will continue to work closely with all councils to provide support for implementation of the new arrangements. Additionally, during the transition period, DES will work with all local governments across South East Queensland to develop a consistent approach to identifying local koala habitat areas for inclusion in State mapping.

I would encourage RCC to continue to contact DES officers with any questions about the implementation of the koala planning reforms.

If you have any question, please contact Ms Mandy Downes, A/Executive Director, Conservation Policy and Planning Branch of the department on (07) 3330 5818 or by email at mandy.downes@des.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Tony Roberts
Deputy Director-General
Environmental Policy and Programs

18 December, 2019

Our Ref: A4279590
Contact: Strategic Planning

Mr Jamie Merrick
Director-General
Department of Environment and Science
PO Box 2454
Brisbane QLD 4001

Via email: SEQKoalaStrategy@des.qld.gov.au

Dear Jamie,

Re: Submission on draft South East Queensland (SEQ) Koala Habitat Map Consultation

I refer to the recent release of the draft Koala Habitat Map for SEQ on 8 December 2019 for public consultation. Please accept this letter, attachments and spatial data as a formal submission on behalf of Redland City Council.

Council considered the draft SEQ Koala Habitat Map at its General Meeting on 18 December 2019. At this meeting, Council resolved to make a submission on the draft SEQ Koala Habitat Map based on the following:

1. Council supports the adoption of new mapping and regulatory provisions aimed at facilitating the long term protection of a sustainable population of koalas in South East Queensland however the draft mapping as released has a number of inherent weaknesses and omissions that are likely to result in further net loss of currently protected koala habitat in Redland City (an existing priority area for koalas).
2. The two (2) week consultation period on the draft SEQ Koala Habitat Map is inadequate and should be extended to align with the consultation period for the SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy 2019–2024 (31/01/2020). Council also questions the timing of the release of these important reforms and the commencement of the public consultation period in mid-December 2019.
3. The draft SEQ Koala Habitat Map proposes a significant reduction in the area of currently mapped koala habitat that have been subject to long-standing planning controls including a prohibition on clearing. Specific issues are as follows:
 - (a) Approximately 1,935 hectares of mapped and protected koala habitat under the current koala regulations in the Planning Regulation 2017 (primarily high and medium value koala bushland) has been removed from the draft Map. This area, where identified as koala habitat or remnant vegetation or high value regrowth in accordance with Council's 2015 mapping (approximately 1,340 hectares of the 1,935 hectares proposed to be removed) should be reinstated in the new koala

habitat map and identified as transitional habitat (Locally Refined Koala Habitat Area) on the SEQ Koala Habitat Map which will ensure these areas are protected while a State led review of this habitat is undertaken over the next two (2) years.

- (b) Approximately 60 hectares of land that meets the new koala habitat methodology being remnant ecosystems or high value re-growth ecosystem with high to very high koala habitat suitability has been removed based on Property Map of Assessable Vegetation (PMAV) applications. These areas should be reinstated in the koala habitat area mapping recognising the State has identified these areas as having high to very high koala habitat suitability.
- (c) Approximately 5,680 hectares of mapped high and medium value koala rehabilitation areas under the current koala regulations in the Planning Regulation 2017 that includes scattered koala habitat trees and small stands of koala habitat has been removed. This area needs to be retained and separately identified in the new koala habitat map to allow existing planning control, the avoid, minimise and offset hierarchy, to be retained.
- (d) The Koala Expert Panel's recommendation to allow local government to map and protect locally significant koala habitat through local planning schemes be implemented in the new SEQ koala planning framework to support coordinated action on koala protection by both the State and local governments in SEQ.
- (e) Areas identified on the new koala map as Locally Refined Koala Habitat Area should be identified as Transitional Habitat recognising these areas are State mapped koala habitat that are being proposed to be removed by the new mapping.
- (f) North Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah) be identified as a Koala Priority Area to ensure the strictest clearing controls apply to protect the Island's koala habitat and unique local koala population.

Importantly, while Council supports the recommendations of the Koala Expert Panel and the proposals to extend strong protections for koala habitat across SEQ, it strongly opposes the removal of a significant areas of existing State mapped koala habitat and related strong planning controls in existing koala priority areas like the mainland of Redland City.

The areas of State mapped koala habitat on the mainland of Redland City that are being proposed to be removed without any ground verification process have been subject to a long-standing prohibition on clearing of koala habitat (koala bushland habitat areas) or avoid, minimise and offset planning controls (high and medium value koala rehabilitation habitat areas). The removal of these areas in a koala priority area along with the long-standing and established planning controls that protect this important habitat is contrary to the Koala Expert Panel's recommendations aimed at reversing the decline of the koala population in SEQ and protecting koala habitat to support for a long-term sustainable koala population in SEQ.

In support of Council's submission, please find attached:

1. A copy of Council's General Meeting report 'Submission to South East Queensland Koala Habitat Map Consultation' for further details on the recommendations.

2. Independent ecologist reports and spatial data supporting Council's 2015 mapping of koala habitat, and remnant ecosystems and high value regrowth areas referred to in Council resolution 3(a).

If you require any clarification in relation to this submission please contact Michael Beekhuyzen in Council's Strategic Planning Unit on 3829 8999.



Yours sincerely,

Andrew Chesterman
Chief Executive Officer
Redland City Council

Koala habitat areas removed from State mapping

N
1:65,000

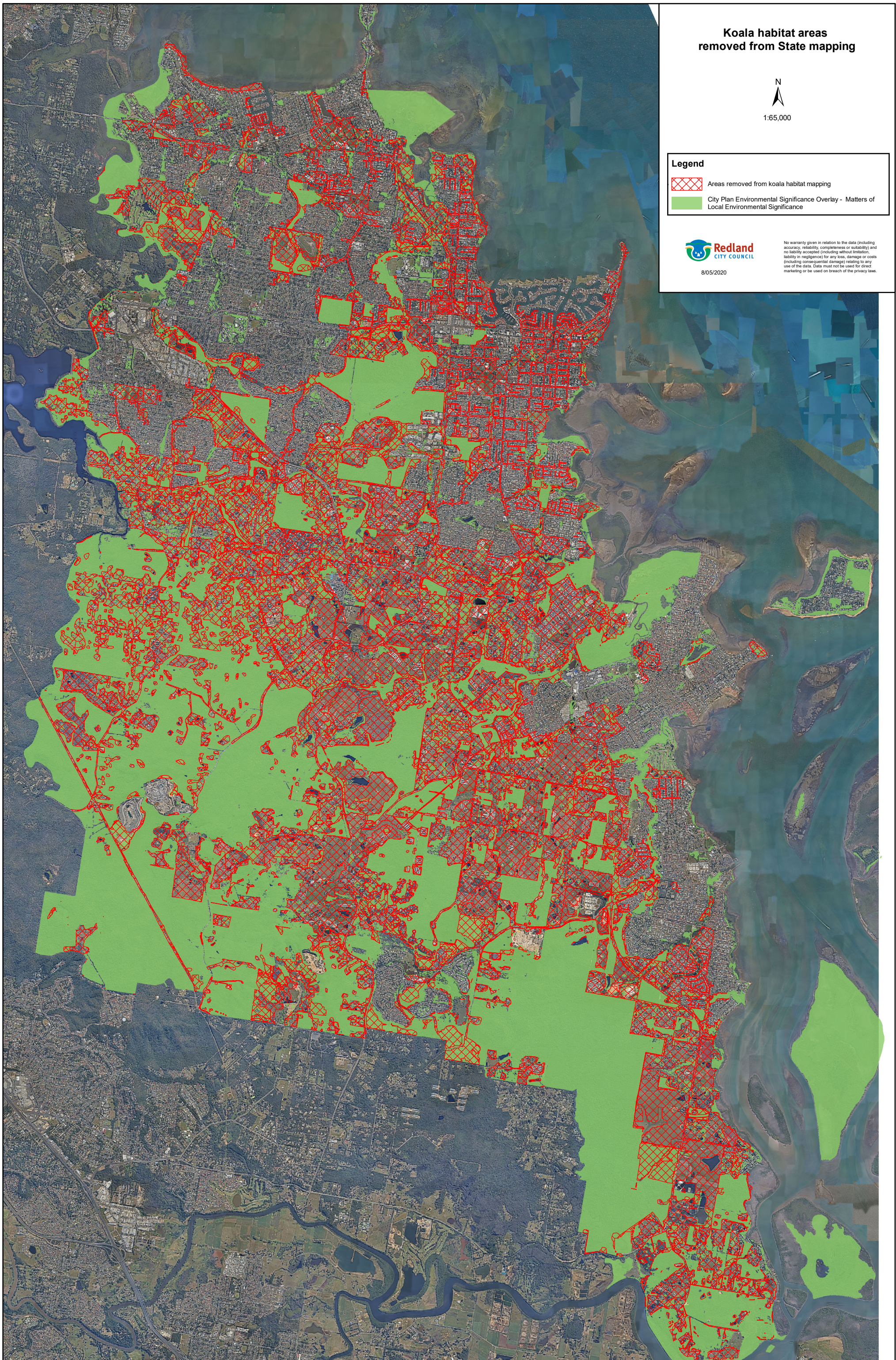
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-  Areas removed from koala habitat mapping
-  City Plan Environmental Significance Overlay - Matters of Local Environmental Significance



8/05/2020

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Temporary Local Environmental Instrument No. 1
(Protection of Traditional Koala Habitat) 2020

Redland City Council

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Part 1 Preliminary

1. Short title

This temporary local planning instrument may be cited as Temporary Local Planning Instrument No. 1 (Protection of Transitional Koala Habitat) 2020.

2. Object

The object of this temporary local planning instrument is to ensure development on the mainland avoids adverse impacts on Transitional Koala Habitat and where adverse impacts cannot be reasonably avoided, they are minimised and any impact is offset by:

- (a) identifying Transitional Koala Habitat in Appendix A Map 1 Transitional Koala Habitat (Mainland);
- (b) triggering code assessment for operational work involving the clearing of an area greater than 500m² of native vegetation where mapped as Transitional Koala Habitat;
- (c) affecting the operation of the City Plan in accordance with sections 6-9.

3. Dictionary

The dictionary in Schedule 1 defines particular words used in this temporary local planning instrument.

4. Interpretation

Where a term used in this temporary local planning instrument is not defined under section 3 (Dictionary), the term shall, unless the context otherwise indicates or requires, have the meaning assigned to it by—

- (a) The *Planning Act 2016*;
- (b) The City Plan, where the term is not defined in the *Planning Act 2016*.

5. Duration of temporary local planning instrument

This temporary local planning instrument will have effect in accordance with section 23(6) of *the Planning Act 2016* for a period not exceeding two years from the commencement of this temporary local planning instrument.

The commencement date of this temporary local planning instrument is dd mm 2020.

Part 2 Application of the temporary local planning instrument

6. Area to which temporary local planning instrument applies

This temporary local planning instrument applies to the area identified as Transitional Koala Habitat as shown in Appendix A Map 1.

7. Relationship with City Plan

If the City Plan is inconsistent with this temporary local planning instrument, this temporary local planning instrument—

- (a) prevails to the extent of the inconsistency; and
- (b) has effect in place of the City Plan, but only to the extent of the inconsistency.

8. Application of Temporary Local Planning Instrument

This temporary local planning instrument applies to operational work involving the clearing of native vegetation where mapped as Transitional Koala Habitat.

Part 3 Effect on the City Plan

9. Affected provisions of the City Plan

This temporary local planning instrument affects the operation of the City Plan by:

- (a) providing the following categories of assessment and assessment benchmarks for development in an area mapped as Transitional Koala Habitat.

Development	Categories of development and assessment	Assessment benchmarks for assessable development and requirements for accepted development
<p>Operational work involving clearing of native vegetation in an area mapped as Transitional Koala Habitat</p> <p>Note—Clearing for purposes mentioned in part 1 of schedule 21 of the Regulation is not made assessable by this planning scheme. Essential management, as defined in the Regulation, is also not made assessable by this planning scheme.</p> <p>Editor's note—"Urban area" is defined under the Regulation. Refer also to section 1.7.3 of this planning</p>	<p>Accepted if clearing native vegetation of an area 500m² or less of Transitional Koala Habitat, except where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) located in an emerging community, environmental management, low-medium density residential, medium density residential or tourist accommodation zones; or(2) within the conservation and recreation and open space zones, other than clearing undertaken by Redland City Council or on Council land and in accordance with a	

scheme. Editor's note - Referral or approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and Water Act 2009 may also be required.	Council resolution.	
	Code assessable, if not accepted.	Environmental significance overlay code

(b) Achieving the following overall outcomes:

- a. impacts on Transitional Koala Habitat are avoided, and where avoidance is not reasonably possible, minimises and mitigates impacts;
- b. Clearing does not contribute to fragmentation of Transitional Koala Habitat or increase the risk of death or injury of koalas.

(c) Achieving the following-benchmarks for development that is assessable development:

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
For assessable development in areas mapped as Transitional Koala Habitat	
Retaining Transitional Koala Habitat areas	
PO1 Development involving the clearing of Transitional Koala Habitat) does not occur unless it is demonstrated that the clearing of Transitional Koala Habitat has: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. been reasonably avoided; or 2. been reasonably minimised where it cannot be reasonably avoided; and 3. mitigated the impacts of the interfering with koala habitat values; and 4. provides an offset if, after demonstrating all reasonable avoidance, minimisation and mitigation measures are undertaken, the development results in an acceptable significant residual impact on koala habitat values. 	No acceptable outcome is nominated
Transitional Koala Habitat connectivity	
PO2 The location of any clearing of Transitional Koala Habitat avoids fragmenting Transitional Koala Habitat within the site.	No acceptable outcome is nominated
Koala safety from construction activities	
PO3 The clearing of Transitional Koala Habitat does not increase the risk of injury or death of koalas.	AO3.1 A koala management plan is provided that includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. activities that may cause injury or death of koalas from clearing activities; and 2. acceptable measures to avoid and mitigate injury or death of koalas from clearing activities <p>Editor's note: To demonstrate compliance with this acceptable outcome, a koala management plan must be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person.</p>
	AO3.2 Clearing of Transitional Koala Habitat complies with the sequential clearing and koala spotter requirements under section 10 and 11 of the <i>Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2017</i> .

Schedule 1 Dictionary

Transitional Koala Habitat are areas of native vegetation mapped in Map 1 Transitional Koala Habitat (Mainland).

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Temporary Local Planning
Instrument No. 1
(Protection of Transitional Koala Habitat):
Map 1
Transitional Koala Habitat (Mainland)

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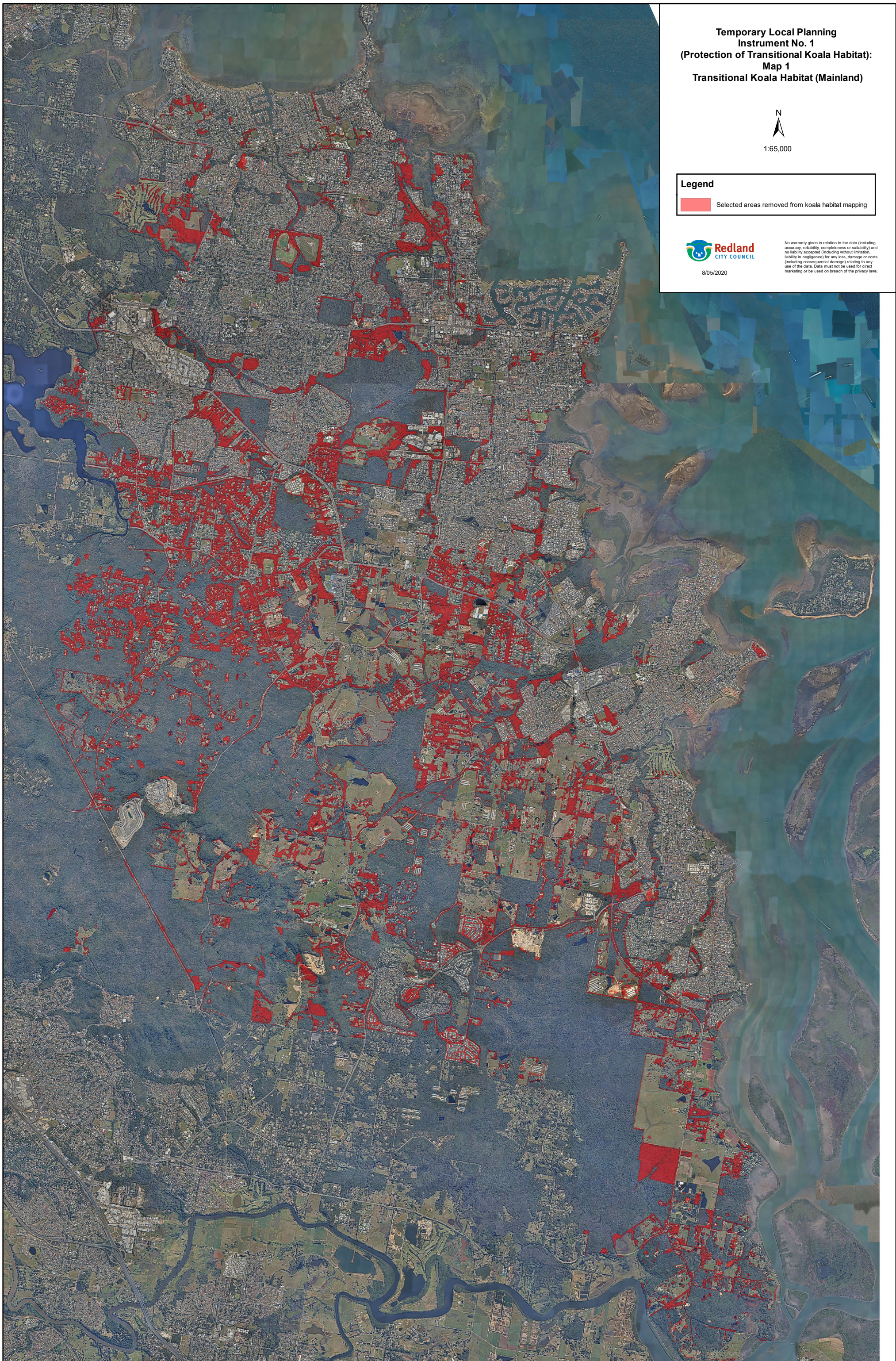
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 Selected areas removed from koala habitat mapping



8/05/2020

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**Temporary Local Planning Instrument No. 1
(Protection of Transitional Koala Habitat) 2020**

**Written statement as to why the local government
proposes to make the TLPI and how the proposed TLPI
complies with section 23(1) of the Planning Act 2016**

Redland City Council

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Written statement as to why the local government proposes to make the TLPI and how the proposed TLPI complies with section 23(1) of the Planning Act 2016 as required by the Minister's Guideline and Rules – July 2017, Schedule 3

Description of the proposed TLPI

Why the local government has proposed to make the TLPI

How the proposed TLPI complies with the Act section 23(1)

DRAFT

Written statement as to why the local government proposes to make the TLPI and how the proposed TLPI complies with section 23(1) of the Planning Act 2016

This section provides information that is required by the Minister's Guideline and Rules – July 2017, Schedule 3.

Description of the proposed TLPI

The proposed temporary local planning instrument is cited as Temporary Local Planning Instrument No. 1 (Protection of Transitional Koala Habitat) 2020 (proposed TLPI).

The proposed TLPI applies to the area of land identified as Transitional Koala Habitat in Appendix A. Map 1, included in the proposed TLPI.

The proposed TLPI seeks to affect the operation of the current Planning Scheme being the City Plan 2018 Version 4.

The proposed TLPI proposes using the State's existing assessment benchmarks in the *State code 25: Development in South East Queensland koala habitat areas* for the assessment of development applications, to ensure development on the mainland avoids adverse impacts on Transitional Koala Habitat and where adverse impacts cannot be reasonably avoided, they are minimised and any impact is offset.

Under the Planning Act 2016 (the Act) section 23(6), a temporary local planning instrument operates for up to two years.

Why the local government has proposed to make the TLPI

On 7 February 2020, the State Government commenced its new regulatory framework for the protection of koala habitat. This framework included new State koala habitat mapping across South East Queensland. The new State koala habitat mapping significantly reduces the mapped koala habitat within the Priority Koala Area on the mainland of Redland City.

The removal of protection over areas of previously mapped koala habitat and rehabilitation on the mainland is a significant issue for the Redlands Coast community and its long standing commitments to protect koalas. The SEQ Koala Conservation Plan Map, which took effect on 07 February 2020, removes any protection from approximately 6,155ha of koala habitat. These vegetated areas have previously been subject to long-standing planning controls, including in some cases development prohibitions on the clearing of bushland habitat.

The purpose of the proposed TLPI is to ensure ongoing protection of these areas while Council continues ongoing discussions with the State Government, requesting consideration of the inclusion of these areas in its regulatory Koala mapping or as locally refined MSES.

Section 23(1) of the Planning Act 2016, provides that a local government can make a TLPI if the local government and Minister decide:

- there is significant risk of serious adverse cultural, economic, environmental or social conditions happening in the local government area; and
- the delay involved in using the process in sections 18 to 22 to make or amend another local planning instrument would increase the risk; and
- the making of the TLPI would not adversely affect State interests.

The proposed TLPI No.1 is considered to satisfy each of these requirements.

Significant adverse environmental conditions

As set out above a significant area of previously protected habitat within the mainland of Redland City no longer has regulatory protection with the recent commencement of the State's new koala provisions. The removed areas have been subject to the State's previous regulatory regime for at least the last ten years.

Increase in risk to delay in amending City Plan

Redland City Council is seeking the State Government include removed vegetated areas in its regulatory Koala mapping or as locally refined MSES. In addition Redland City Council is also considering an amendment to City Plan to in part address this issue if the above options are not supported by the State. Given any of the statutory processes described will take a number of months to finalise there is significant risk of loss of habitat if a TLPI is not immediately put into effect

Not adversely affecting State interests

The intention of this TLPI is to augment State protections. The state mapping is undertaken at a large scale across Queensland 1:50,000. Council's mapping is of a finer grain 1:5,000.

Council's analysis has confirmed the removed areas of previously mapped koala habitat and rehabilitation, identified in the TLPI as Transitional Koala Habitat have been mapped by Council's locally refined regional ecosystem mapping. The State Planning Policy Guideline (the SPP guideline) identifies mapping layers that "*can be locally refined by a local government in a local planning instrument in a way that achieves the relevant state interest policy*". These are identified as 'category 2' mapping layers, which are:

MSES – Wildlife habitat

MSES – High ecological value waters (wetland and watercourse)

MSES – Regulated vegetation

MSES – Regulated vegetation (intersecting a watercourse)


The Department also has published interim plan drafting guidance in February 2020, which outlines how local government may seek to integrate the State Planning Policy state interest policy 5 under the Biodiversity state interest when making or amending a planning scheme:

Viable koala populations in South East Queensland are protected by conserving and enhancing koala habitat extent and condition. The guideline makes clear that the State intends on ensuring that there is a single koala habitat map for SEQ. The provisions also allow for an interim period, where identified 'locally refined koala habitat' areas to be further assessed and considered before possibly being adopted into the formal koala habitat map. The mapping released on 7 February 2020 currently only identifies very few small areas within the mainland of Redland City as 'locally refined koala habitat'. The proposed TLPI would effectively extend that consideration over the removed vegetated areas previously subject to long-standing State planning controls.

**Koala habitat areas
removed from State mapping**

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1:65,000

Legend

 Balance of areas removed from koala habitat mapping



8/05/2020

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