

Question on Notice

No. 681

Asked on Thursday, 23 June 2022

MR S O'CONNOR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide (a) a breakdown of koala priority areas in each Local Government Area (LGA), by year they were established for the last two years, (b) the total land area protected in each of these LGAs and (c) any funding provided for koala protection for each area?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The protection and management of koalas and habitat is critical for their long-term survival and this is an important focus of the Palaszczuk Government and the Department of Environment and Science in particular. Decisions that are based on science are the foundation for responsible management in order to protect koalas as well as balancing the needs of an expanding population.

On 7 February 2020, the Queensland Government commenced amendments to the planning framework, in relation to koala habitat protection, and released supporting koala habitat maps. The framework relies on two main data sets – the identification of core koala habitat through the Koala Habitat Areas (KHAs) (combined with Locally Refined Koala Habitat Areas (LRKHAs) from local governments) and the greater level of protection of koala habitat within the Koala Priority Areas (KPAs). Within these KPAs, clearing of core and locally refined koala habitat is prohibited subject to certain exemptions.

In order to provide certainty to landholders and businesses, the KPAs have not changed since their first release in early 2020. These areas will remain the same for the life of the South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2020-2025 (the Strategy) and will be reviewed in 2025, as part of the Strategy review. KHAs are amended annually to allow the Queensland Government to continue to accurately identify the best available koala habitat based on the latest data and science.

The following table is a breakdown of KPAs across the Local Government Areas (LGAs) and how much KHAs in hectares are within each LGA and within each KPA.

LGA	LGA Area (Hectares)	KPA (Hectares)	Koala habitat <u>within</u> a KPA (Hectares)	Koala habitat <u>outside</u> a KPA (Hectares)
Brisbane City	135,329	40,959	29,012	7,421
City of Gold Coast	130,705	47,202	29,298	14,993
Ipswich City	109,293	41,156	23,973	11,003
Lockyer Valley Regional	226,726	36,796	26,521	36,258
Logan City	95,707	44,171	26,378	9,716
Moreton Bay Regional	203,966	135,371	57,880	10,425
Noosa Shire	86,978	39,759	24,485	12,146
Redland City	52,056	21,183	8,182	19,716
Scenic Rim Regional	423,969	40,535	26,233	83,483
Somerset Regional	536,854	82,266	58,598	126,042
Sunshine Coast Regional	225,551	47,756	21,718	41,561
Toowoomba Regional	72,710	0	0	8,959
Total	2,299,845	577,155	332,278	381,762

KPA v1.0

KHA v2.0 +
LRKHA v2.0
within a KPA v1.0

KHA v2.0 +
LRKHA v2.0
outside a KPA v1.0

NOTES:

- This information is based on the current publicly available v2.0 release.
- Some areas will have additional protection through National Parks etc.
- All area values are in hectares and have been calculated in GDA MGA Zone 56.
- The sum of parts may not equal the total due to rounding and to minor differences between the LGAs, coastline and South East Queensland Regional Plan boundaries.

The expenditure for koala protection for each LGA is provided below.

Project	LGA	Actual Expenditure 2020-21 (\$ million)	Actual Expenditure 2021-22 (\$ million)
Ongoing support for SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network ¹	Sunshine Coast	1.000	0.750
	Brisbane	0.500	0.500
	Gold Coast	-	0.250
Community and Sustainability Action Grants <i>Which includes support for SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network</i>	Brisbane and Fraser Coast	0.470	0.050
	Gold Coast	0.705	-
	Logan City	0.057	-
	Redland City	0.155	0.020
	Sunshine Coast	0.456	-
	Toowoomba Regional	-	0.087
Other initiatives	All 12 LGAs	7.591	5.951
Total		10.934	7.608

¹ Payments based on actual expenditure with timing issues for payment linked to milestones.