



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

Draft National Recovery Plan for the Koala public consultation – FAQs

What is the National Recovery Plan for the Koala?

The National Recovery Plan for the Koala identifies national-level strategic actions to save the nationally threatened Koala. It aligns with state and territory planning, programs and strategies to ensure we are all working together to save the Koala.

The combined populations of Koalas in Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory are listed as threatened under national environment law—the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The Koala populations of Victoria and South Australia are not listed as threatened under the EPBC Act and therefore are not covered by this recovery plan.

What is the purpose of this consultation?

The 3-month public consultation process gives Australians the chance to have their say on the draft plan that sets out the research and management actions necessary to stop the decline, and support the recovery, of the nation's threatened Koalas.

All comments received during the public consultation period will be considered by the Minister for the Environment in making the final recovery plan.

Who can respond to the consultation?

Everybody can have their say and we encourage feedback from members of the general public as well as representative organisations, land managers, community groups and the scientific community.

How long is the consultation open for?

People have three months to **24 September 2021** to comment on the plan.

How can I provide my comments on the recovery plan?

You can provide your comments on the online form by visiting the Australian Government's consultation website, at: <https://haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/koala-recovery-plan>

Alternatively, you can send your submission via **post** to:

Protected Species and Communities Branch
Biodiversity Conservation Division
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601

Or **email**: Koala.consultation@environment.gov.au with "Recovery Plan" in the subject heading.

There are guiding questions in the Have Your Say website and in the recovery plan – do I have to answer them all? Can I comment on something else?

We want to hear from everybody, about any, and all aspects of the draft recovery plan. That means you can choose whether to provide information in response to one or more of the guiding questions, provide comments on another part of the recovery plan, or submit your comments on the recovery plan more generally.

When will this recovery plan be finished?

The public consultation for the draft Koala recovery plan will close on **24 September 2021**.

Comments received during the public consultation period will be considered by the independent expert panel – the Threatened Species Scientific Committee. The Minister for the Environment will consider the Committee's recommendations in making the final recovery plan.

The recovery plan is expected to be finalised by the end of 2021.

What is the government doing for Koala conservation?

In addition to developing the National Recovery Plan for the Koala, the Government is investing \$24.3 million over four years—from 2019-20 to 2022-23—in Koala conservation actions. This includes an [\\$18 million package](#) to support habitat restoration in bushfire-affected regions, data gathering and monitoring activities, and the coordination and delivery health outcomes for the Koala.

Is the Koala in danger of becoming extinct in the near future?

Australia's most at-risk Koalas, those in Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, are protected under national environment law by being listed as a Vulnerable species under the EPBC Act. It is important to note that Koalas populations in Victoria and South Australia are stable and are not listed under the Act.

The 2019/20 Australian bushfires had a devastating effect on some Koala populations. To ensure that the data we have on the Koala population remains accurate, the Threatened Species Scientific Committee is currently reassessing the listing status of the Koala to determine if the species should be uplisted to Endangered. This listing reassessment is ongoing, due to be finalised by October 2021.

The final reassessment will be considered and relevant changes, as required, incorporated into the final version of the recovery plan.

What are the biggest threats to Koala conservation?

The biggest threats to Koala conservation are habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation. While natural events such as drought and bushfires, exacerbated by climate change, also pose a serious threat to Koala conservation.

Some Koala populations were significantly affected by the 2019/20 bushfires. This consultation, along with the current listing reassessment and revising the recovery plan, are in response to these threats.

What are the different koala plans for comment? What about the listing assessment?

The National Recovery Plan is not the only koala planning document out for public consultation. The listing assessment (which is evaluating whether the koala needs to be uplisted to Endangered) and conservation advice have been released for public consultation as well. The public consultation period for these close on **30 July 2021** and can be found at <http://environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/nominations/comment>.