

APPIN KOALA FACTS

*** If you find an injured Koala Ph. WIRES 0466 318 688, Sydney Wildlife 9413 4300.**

Habitat

- Appin and surrounds have a thriving koala population, with one koala for every ten to twenty hectares of habitat.
- Koala habitat is located on shale and shale-sandstone transition soils and occurs in ribbons of remnant vegetation on rural lands linking Appin to the Nepean River. There is also a narrow strip of koala habitat linking Appin and Wilton.
- Despite there being extensive areas of National Park and water catchment, these areas are not good koala habitat as the soils are generally very poor. Koalas are typically not found in these areas.

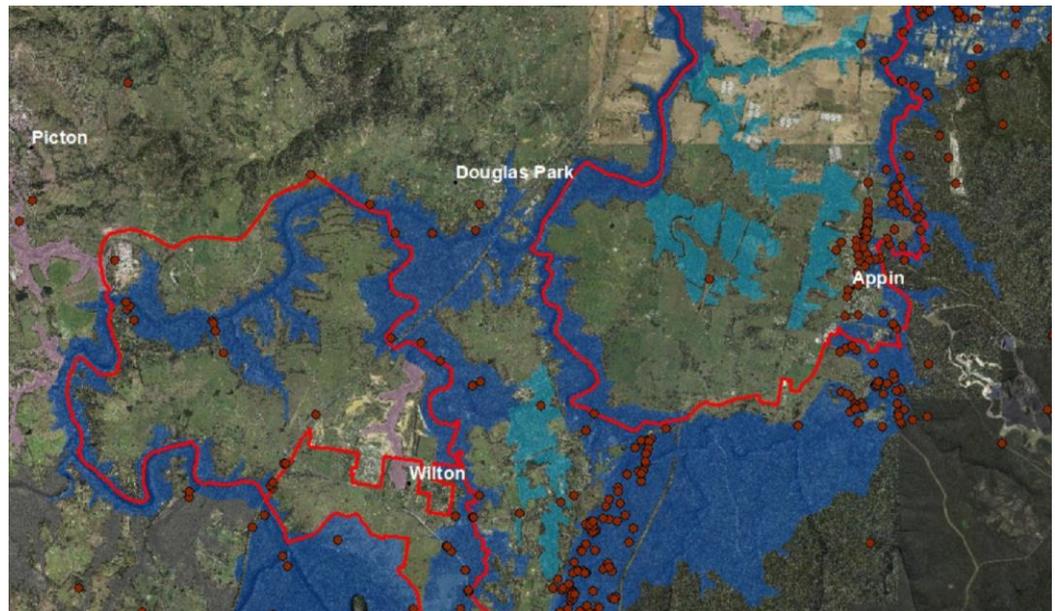
Disease free!

- Appin koalas are part of the disease free population that extends into Campbelltown and further north. This is reported to be the only disease free population in NSW.

Conservation Areas

- The most important areas for the conservation of koalas in the Appin area are shown on map 1 below.

Map 1 – Koala Conservation Areas



Legend

- Core koala habitat, well connected to other areas of core habitat.
- Core habitat that is not as well connected.
- Core habitat that is narrow and poorly connected.
- Records of koalas.
- Macarthur and Wilton priority growth areas.

**For more
information contact**

Council's Environmental
Education Officer on
4677 1100

WOLLONDILLY KOALA CONSERVATION PROJECT

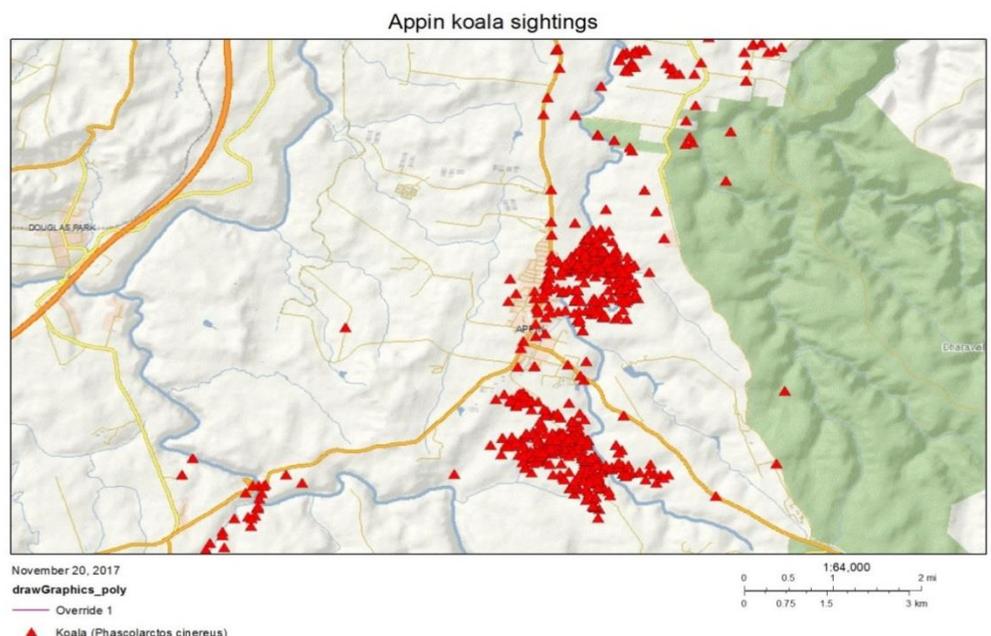
Wollondilly Koala Hotline

- In January 2015 Council set up the Wollondilly Koala Hotline in response to repeated sightings of koalas by Appin residents.
- Since the koala hotline was set up there have been over 60 confirmed koala sightings reported by the Appin community.

Koala Surveys

- In April 2016, Council, with the assistance of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), commissioned a pilot koala study and engaged wildlife ecologists to undertake spotlighting surveys from Appin through to Wilton. Of the 58 sites surveyed, koalas were sighted on over 20% of those sites.
- The information gathered from the pilot study enabled the Wollondilly Koala Conservation Project to receive \$90,000 from the OEH Saving Our Species Fund. This project was the second highest funded koala project in the state for 2016/17. The project has since received a further \$101,000 to continue survey work and habitat mapping in 2017/18.
- As part of the study over 830 koala sightings were recorded in the Appin area. These sightings are logged into Bionet, the state government database of wildlife sightings. 90% of those recordings have been gathered in the last 12 months. As can be seen in the map below there are still a number of areas that need to be surveyed as part of the 2nd years funding for the project.

Map 2 Koala Sightings in Appin registered on Bionet



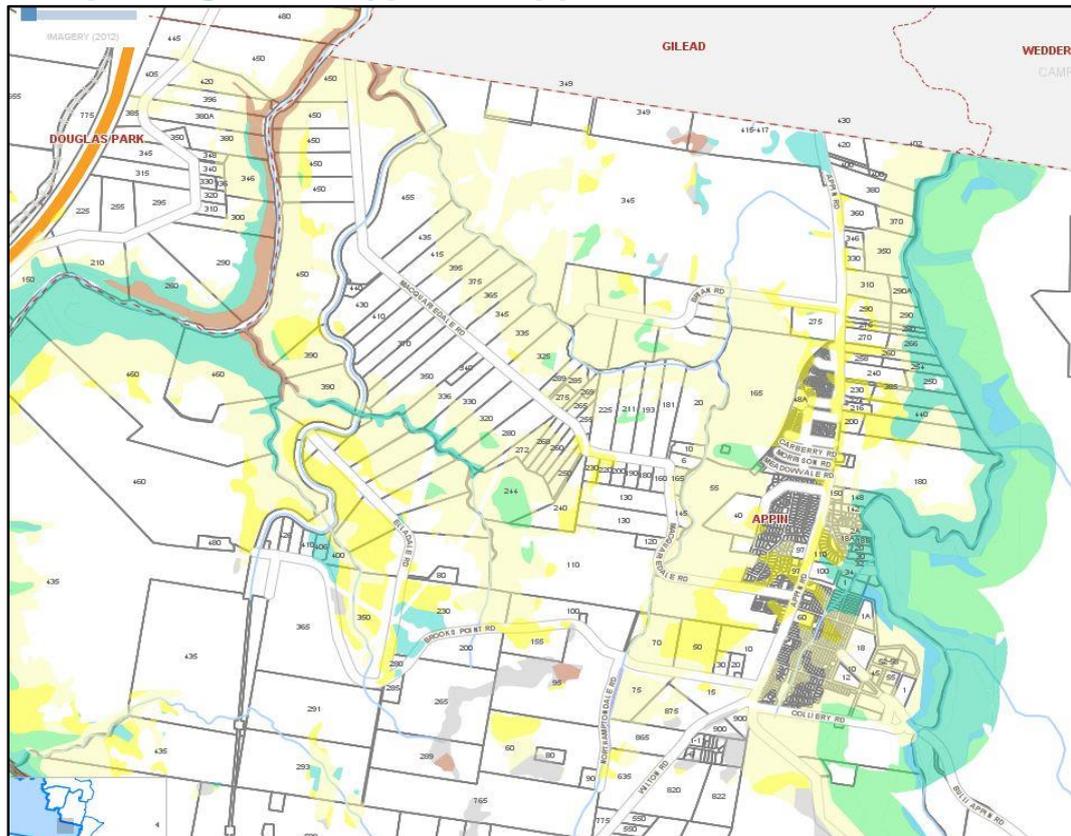
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Koala Food and Shelter Trees

- Food trees for koalas include Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), Grey Gum (*Eucalyptus punctata*), Grey Box (*Eucalyptus moluccana*), Woollybutt (*Eucalyptus longifolia*), Blue-leaved Stringybark (*Eucalyptus agglomerata*), Thin-leaved Stringybark (*Eucalyptus eugenoides*), and White Stringybark (*Eucalyptus globoidea*).
- Shelter Trees for koalas include Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*), Sydney Green Wattle (*Acacia decurrens*), Sydney Peppermint (*Eucalyptus piperita*), and Narrow Leaved Iron Bark (*Eucalyptus crebra*).
- Koala food trees generally occur on clay soils which is what makes Appin a hotspot for koalas. Shale Sandstone Transition Forest and Cumberland Plain Woodland are forest types that occur in the region. The map below shows the distribution of these habitat types.

Map 3 Vegetation types of Appin



Legend

- Shale Sandstone Transition Forest (High Sandstone Influence)
- Shale Sandstone Transition Forest (Low Sandstone Influence)
- Shale Hills Woodland
- Moist Shale Woodland

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information contact**

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