

## Koalas

### Make your backyard koala-friendly

Everyone has a role to play in protecting Queensland's koalas.

Here are some ways to help make sure koalas are here for keeps.

#### Koalas drown in swimming pools

Install:

- a tethered rope (5 cm in diameter and 2 m long—marine rope is ideal) with a float (or a used milk bottle) to help the koala climb out of a pool (see photo below)
- a koala-proof pool fence (e.g. transparent glass, perspex or steel), or
- a pool with a beach-type access where the water is level with part of the pavement so koalas can get out easily.

#### Keep dogs inside or tethered in your backyard

A dog doesn't need to bite a koala to seriously cause harm—a barking dog can severely stress a koala which can cause the stress-related disease *Chlamydia*.

#### Have koala-friendly fencing

- Make it climbable—use timber posts and rail, chain wire or slats with at least a 1 cm gap between each slat (see photo below)
- Put a plank along the top of the fence to provide a koala walkway
- Plant trees close to both sides of the fence so koalas can cross over
- For steel fencing (such as Colorbond), place wooden poles (at least 10 cm wide) at a 45° angle to the base of the fence so koalas can climb up, as pictured. It is a good idea to also speak to neighbours to see if they can put a pole on their side so a koala can climb safely to and from the ground.

South East Queensland was once home to one of Australia's largest population of koalas. Today, they are under serious threat from development, cars, dogs and stress-related diseases.

