

MEDIA STATEMENT

23 August 2023

Roadside initiatives assist native fauna on the move

- Koala breeding season has started
- Transport and Main Roads' North Coast region is looking to continue the success of koala protection initiatives
- Last year there were zero deaths on targeted roads during the 'Koalas on the Move' campaign

With koala breeding season underway once again, Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is looking to reproduce the success of native fauna protection initiatives in the North Coast region.

In the past two years, TMR has contributed to several key programs to protect native wildlife from vehicle strikes on state-controlled roads in priority areas.

Recent initiatives implemented in the area include:

- The Koalas on the Move Campaign delivered by Noosa Council, the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation and TMR to increase driver awareness of the koala breeding season and the presence of koalas on our roads.
- \$5 million Queensland Government funding to maintain wildlife exclusion fencing on state roads in the region. More than 115 kilometres of fencing has been maintained and repaired since October 2021.
- \$4.5 million Queensland Government funding for the City of Moreton Bay's Green Infrastructure Network Delivery Program (GINDP) to deliver fauna management treatments on prioritised state roads in the council area.

Results from Wildcare Australia's Noosa & Sunshine Coast region Koala Rescue Team indicated zero deaths on the roads targeted by Koalas on the Move during the five months of the campaign in 2022.

Wildcare Australia also reported a reduction in koala, kangaroo and wallaby deaths where fauna exclusion fencing was maintained.

The infrastructure being delivered this year as part of the GINDP varies between priority state roads in the City of Moreton Bay area and includes 'Koala Zone' LED signs, fauna movement underpasses, fauna rope bridges, refuge poles, and fauna exclusion fencing.

Quotes attributable to Transport and Main Roads Acting General Manager (Program Delivery and Operations) Scott Whitaker:

"TMR is getting on board again with the Koalas on the Move Campaign by placing variable message sign trailers on Cooroy-Noosa Road and McKinnon Drive, which have historically been areas of high koala strike rates.

"Through prominent roadside signs, and regular content on our social media channels, TMR is alerting motorists to drive with care where koalas were likely to be active.

"To have zero deaths on the targeted roads through the five months of the Koalas on the Move Campaign in 2022, particularly during koala breeding season, is a fantastic result and reflects the effectiveness of a collaborative effort. We're aiming for a repeat performance.

"Collaborating with other organisations to deliver these initiatives means we can pool our resources and produce positive outcomes that have a widespread reach.

"We're looking forward to seeing the results of teaming up with City of Moreton Bay to deliver fauna management treatments that will help reduce road-related impacts on native wildlife, including koalas.

"The fauna exclusion fencing maintenance in the region includes repairs to gaps and other damage caused by storms, erosion and, unfortunately vandalism. We're also clearing vegetation on both sides of the fencing to help prevent koalas from climbing over.

"Not only are these initiatives protecting our native fauna - they are also reducing the impacts of animal collisions on motorists travelling on our roads."

For more information visit:

[Green Infrastructure Network Delivery Program - City of Moreton Bay](#)

[Koalas on the Move! - Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation | Noosa, Qld](#)

Images and video available [here](#). Password: koala