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Gladstone's koalas under threat

13th February 2012

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Tags: development, koala, research

WILDLIFE researchers are concerned the growth of Gladstone could have a detrimental effect on our koala population.

Central Queensland Koala Research Centre co-ordinator Dr Alistair Melzer said koala populations in the region have been declining and it will take about 30 years to build it back up again

He said koala sightings in the Gladstone area have become scarce and very infrequent.

"With the drought years ago there was widespread decline in koala numbers then, also decline is associated with the increase of development," he said.



A koala named Yana has a snooze at the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.

Blainey Woodham

The koala research centre noticed this decrease in koala sightings and used an unusual method to locate them.

As a part of a research project to keep track of koala sightings the CQUniversity sent out 'wanted' posters across Gladstone.

Then people out on a Sunday drive or on a bushwalk could text an SMS hotline where and when they had spotted the koala

How to make a koala friendly home

Make sure your pets, such as dogs, do not attack the koalas

When doing your fire regime make sure no koalas live in the area

Don't scorch leaves that may be a food source to the koala

Plant eucalyptus trees around your home

You can donate a tree or adopt a koala through the Australian Koala Foundation

Go to savethekoala.com

If you've spotted a koala recently - let us know. Email ryanna.clayton@gladstoneobserver.com.au

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