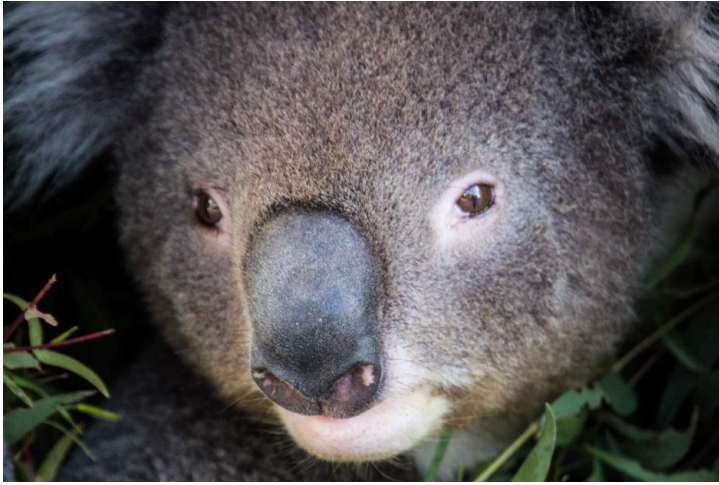


# Koala conservation: Dog bans, development restrictions could save south-east Qld population

1 Jul 2016 By [Stephanie Smail](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-07-01/new-development-restrictions-could-save-queensland-koalas/7559382>



The Queensland Government is being urged to consider dog bans and new development restrictions to save state's south-east koala population.

Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation director Al Mucci will join scientists and conservationists at a workshop next week to address the catastrophic koala population decline in the region.

"We need to learn how to live with them, not without them," he said.

"But we're heading for a world without koalas in the wild and what a shame that would be."

Earlier this year, the ABC revealed a report had found more than 80 per cent of the koala population has disappeared on the Koala Coast, in and around Brisbane, since 1996.

The report also found more than 50 per cent had disappeared in the Pine Rivers region north of Brisbane during the same period.

Mr Mucci said a range of measures should be considered, including dog bans, after success in New South Wales, particularly near Pottsville in the state's north.

**"Years on there's still koalas in that development, so let's use some of these wins that have occurred to build a better environment here in Queensland," he said.**

Mr Mucci does not agree it was too late to save koalas in some urban areas.

University of Queensland Associate Professor Jonathan Rhodes, who will lead an expert koala panel for the State Government, has previously suggested authorities might need to concentrate on saving animals that still had a chance, such as those in regional areas.

"If there are populations we really cannot do anything about, we should acknowledge that and focus on the populations where we can have success," he said.

But Mr Mucci said that was "a bit of a shame".

"I think fragmented koala populations have a place," he said.

"Why can't we make sure people who are living in that urban landscape respect the animals that live in that environment?"

The workshop is the first step toward establishing an expert panel who will deliver recommendations to the State Government about koala conservation.

**Photo:** [Koalas in southern Queensland are in rapid decline. \(ABC: Terri-Anne Kingsley\)](#)