

Koala Map User Manual

Revision 5.1 August 2020

Welcome to Koala Map



LET'S GET STARTED



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Quick Reference Links:

[Donate here](#)

[Welcome](#)

[Background](#)

Contents

Map Features

[Overview of Map Features](#)

Detailed Map Features

- 1 [Default zoom level](#)
- 2 [Search for an address](#)
- 3 [Koala Habitats](#)
- 4 [Map Layers](#)
- 5 [Views](#)
- 6 [Boundaries](#)
- 7 [Mapping Tools](#)
- 8 [Account](#)
- 9 [Forgot your password](#)
- 10 [Print PDF](#)
- 11 [User Guide](#)

- 12 [Map Legend](#)
- 13 [Map scale](#)
- 14 [Information about details in map views](#)
- 15 [Zoom in/out tools](#)
- 16 [To Pan across a map](#)
- 17 [Koala Sightings](#)
- 18 [Add Sighting](#)
- 19 [My Sighting - Edit sightings](#)

[Important Information Regarding Koala Sightings](#)

[Terms & Conditions](#)

[Koala Habitat Atlas \(KHA\) Index](#)

[Overview of KHA](#)

[Australian Capital Territory](#)

[New South Wales](#)

[Queensland](#)

[South Australia](#)

[Victoria - AKF Mapping](#)

[Victoria – EVC Mapping](#)

[Potential Koala Habitat \(NVIS\)](#)

WELCOME

Welcome to this revised version of the Koala Map User Guide. We have added many new maps and updated others, part of an ongoing process that has finally covered the Koala's entire geographic range in eastern Australia.

We have even made the map scale easier to see!

The Koala Map will now operate on multiple interfaces not just PCs, laptops but mobile phones and tablets as well.

BACKGROUND

In 1992, the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) embarked upon an ambitious project we called the Koala Habitat Atlas (KHA). This Project's aim was to identify, map and rate all remaining koala habitat throughout the koala's entire geographic range of approximately 1.5 million square kilometres in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria.

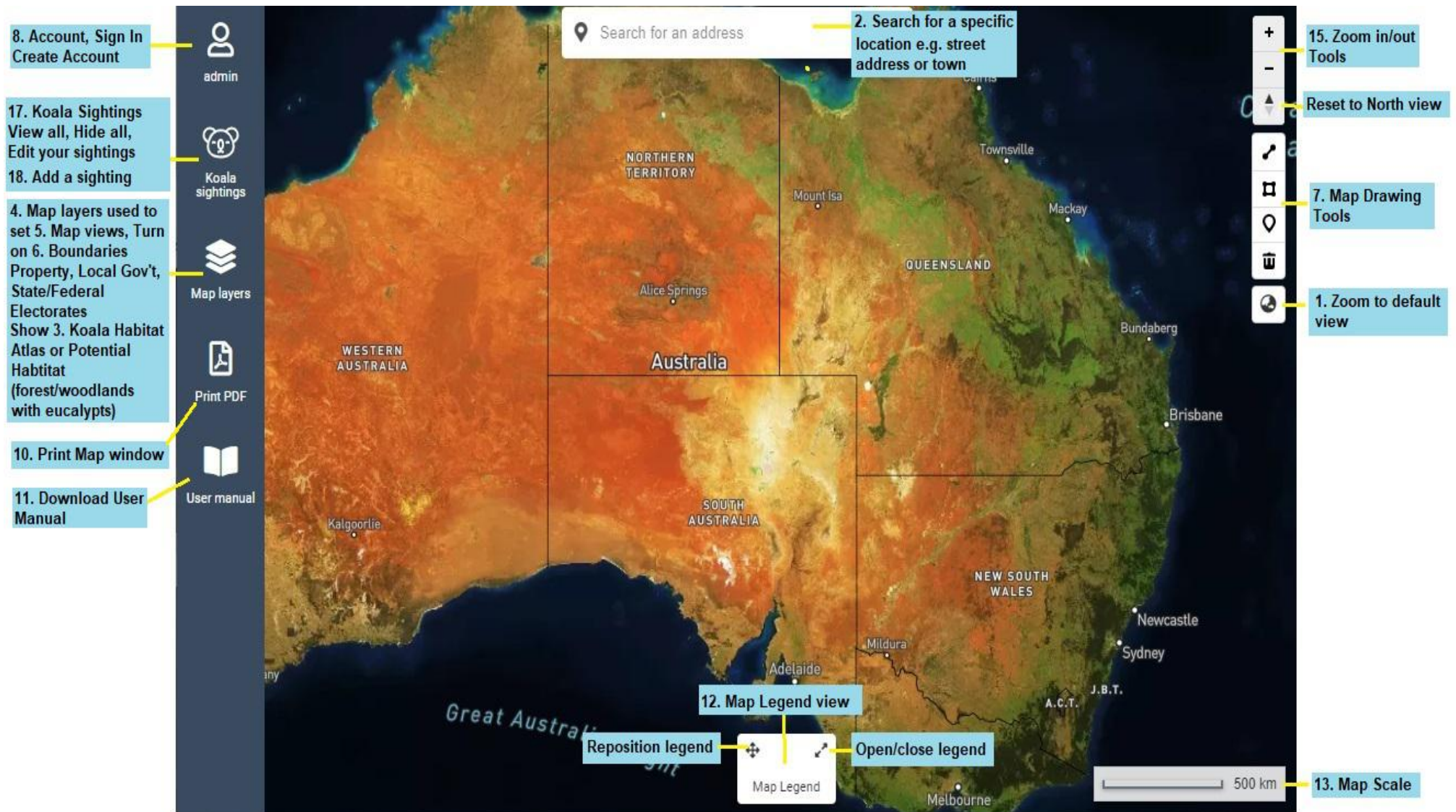
OVERVIEW OF MAP FEATURES

Koala Map is the Australian Koala Foundation's online, interactive Koala Habitat Atlas. Koala Map is user friendly and eliminates the need for mapping expertise. Users can record their koala sightings on the map and contribute to a nation-wide understanding of where koalas are and how they utilise their habitat.

We previously provided free public access to view the landscape and its suitability for koalas across the east coast of Australia, unfortunately due to misuse by the development industry general access was removed except to authorised users. Community groups wishing to protect Koala habitat can still access the KHA though the online [contact form](#).

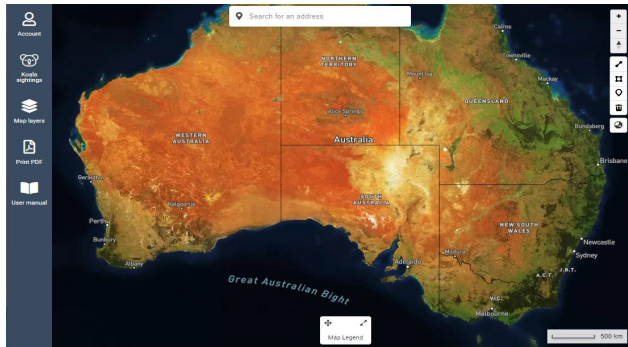
AKF's aim is to use Koala Map to show the landscape from the Koala's perspective. We hope that the community will utilise this resource and feel empowered to insist on better land use, planning decisions and custodial protection for koalas.

To keep Koala Map live and free to the public, please make your donation at <https://www.savethekoala.com/donate>



DETAILED MAP FEATURES

1.  **Default zoom level:** This button resets the map screen back to the original extent of the map shown when Koala Map starts.
2.  **Search for an address** **Search for an address** field is used to search for a specific location.



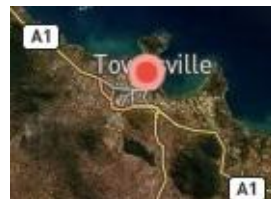
Type in a Street Address into the field and a list will drop down of streets or roads, etc. with that name.



Double mouse click on the street, suburb, State you are looking for. Koala Map will then zoom to that location.

Displaying this red circle symbol.

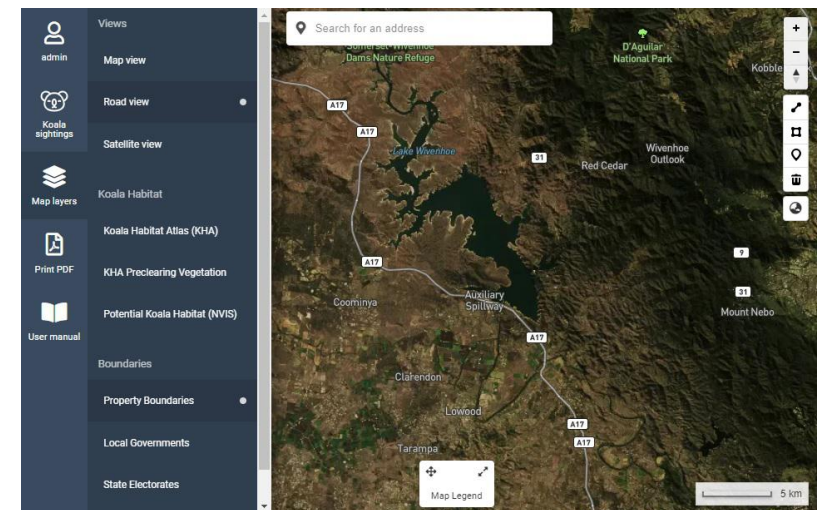
Zoom in for more detail.



3. We recommend that if you want to create a Koala sighting you use the Find Address button to get to the general area first. To find a general location you can just enter Suburb/Town and State.



4. **Koala Habitat:** This list in Map layers turns the different habitat maps on and off, appears as shown below.



There are three options available. The **Koala Habitat Atlas (KHA)** shows existing Koala Habitats (see the KHA Index on page 10 for areas covered), **KHA Preclearing** Vegetation shows what Koala Habitat was like before 1788 (again, not in all areas, refer to page 12), **Potential Koala Habitat (NVIS)** shows where eucalypt forests and woodlands occur throughout the entire geographic range of the Koala but only gives a general overview of where Koala habitat is. Click on a Habitat layer will display it over the existing map view. Click on another Habitat layer will turn off the one shown and display the new selection.

Koala Habitat Atlas (KHA) – classification of areas based on relative quality of Koala Habitat (Note: only available to authorised users)

The KHA provides a comprehensive assessment of where koala habitat remains, ranked in order of its suitability for sustaining koala populations. A KHA will also include areas of habitat that for a variety of reasons no longer support living koala populations, but could do so in the future as koalas recover in numbers.

KHAs have been progressively “rolled out” depending primarily on when suitable vegetation maps become available, and secondly, where koalas are most under pressure. 1,500,000 square kilometres of Koala habitat can be viewed as a KHA in areas as diverse as the Queensland Mulga Lands, South-east Queensland, Port Stephens on the Central Coast of NSW, Ballarat and the Strathbogie Plateau in Victoria, and everywhere in between.

For details on individual KHA areas see the [Koala Habitat Atlas \(KHA\) index](#) at the end of this document.

Koala Habitat Atlas categories developed by AKF (and incorporated in the NSW Recovery Plan for the Koala

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/threatenedspecies/08450krp.pdf>)

are -

PRIMARY HABITAT: Capable of supporting high-density koala populations.

Areas of forest or woodland where primary koala food tree species comprise at least 50% of the overstorey trees.

SECONDARY HABITAT (CLASS A): Capable of supporting high to medium-density koala populations. *Areas of forest or woodland where primary koala food tree species comprise less than 50% but at least 30% of the overstorey trees; or where primary koala food tree species comprise less than 30% of the overstorey trees but together with secondary food tree species comprise at least 50% of the overstorey trees; or where secondary food tree species alone comprise at least 50% of the overstorey trees.*

SECONDARY HABITAT (CLASS B): Capable of supporting medium to low-density koala populations. *Areas of forest or woodland where primary koala food tree species comprise less than 30% of the overstorey trees; or where primary koala food tree species together with secondary food tree species comprise at least 30% (but less than 50%) of the overstorey trees; or where secondary food tree species alone comprise at least 30% (but less than 50%) of the overstorey trees.*

SECONDARY HABITAT (CLASS C): Capable of supporting low-density koala populations if some secondary food trees are present. *Areas of forest or woodland where koala habitat is comprised of secondary and supplementary food tree species (primary koala food tree species absent), where secondary food tree species comprise less than 30% of the overstorey trees.*

OTHER VEGETATION: Not capable of supporting koala populations. *Areas of vegetation without eucalypts but which may have important supplementary koala habitat values such as habitat buffers and habitat linking areas.*

UNKNOWN HABITAT QUALITY: Areas of vegetation lacking the information required to assign one of the above classes.

Pre-clearing KHA

Using this layer you can view the landscape as it was prior to the land clearing that occurred following European settlement. Understanding your property's pre-clearing landscape is an important first step towards restoring the land for koalas and biodiversity. This layer is available for Queensland and Victoria, and Preclearing KHAs have the same habitat categories as remnant KHAs.

Potential Koala Habitat (NVIS)

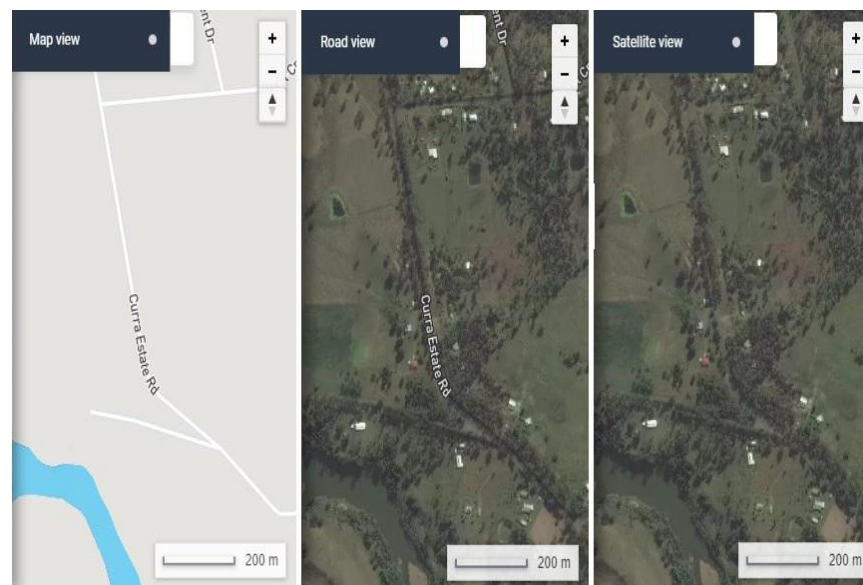
The Potential Habitat layer is derived from the National Vegetation Information System (NVIS), a collaborative Federal, State and Territory Government vegetation mapping project which depicts different vegetation types across all States and Territories. Koala Map now uses NVIS Version 5.1 with 84 different broad vegetation groups, however In Koala Map we have simplified this by combining different groups so that only eucalyptus forests and woodlands throughout the koala's range are shown. This layer has limitations of accuracy and particularly detail (no habitat classes) and should only be used for an overview of where Koala habitat was prior to European settlement and where that habitat remains. This layer is suitable only for general display and analysis of eucalypt forests and woodlands within the Koala's range.



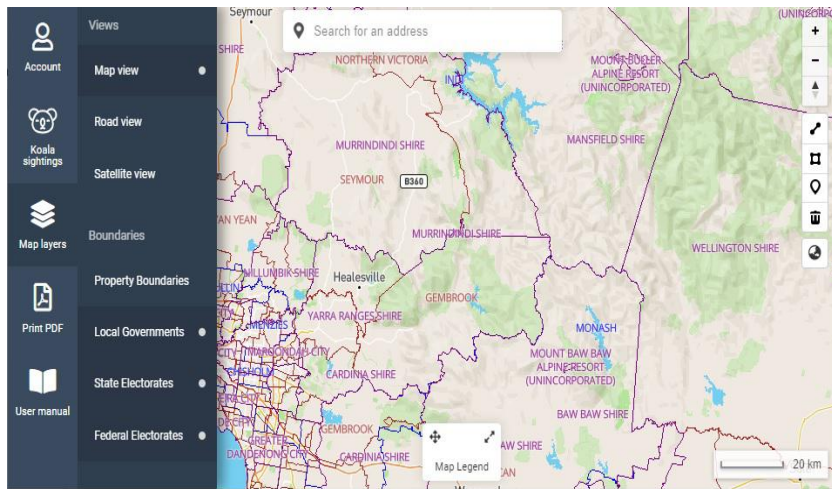
5. **Map Layers** button opens the menu for **Views**, **Boundaries** and **Habitats** selection list. If selected a white dot is shown to the right of the view or boundary name. (For **Habitats** see previous section 3)



6. **Views** list provides alternative ways of viewing the map as shown below. Views to choose from are Map view, Road view and Satellite view. Note that in some areas with coarse aerial images you may have to use the Roads Only option if you zoom in too closely.



7. **Boundaries** **Boundaries** list provides a way to view the **Local Governments, State Electorates, and Federal Electorates**.

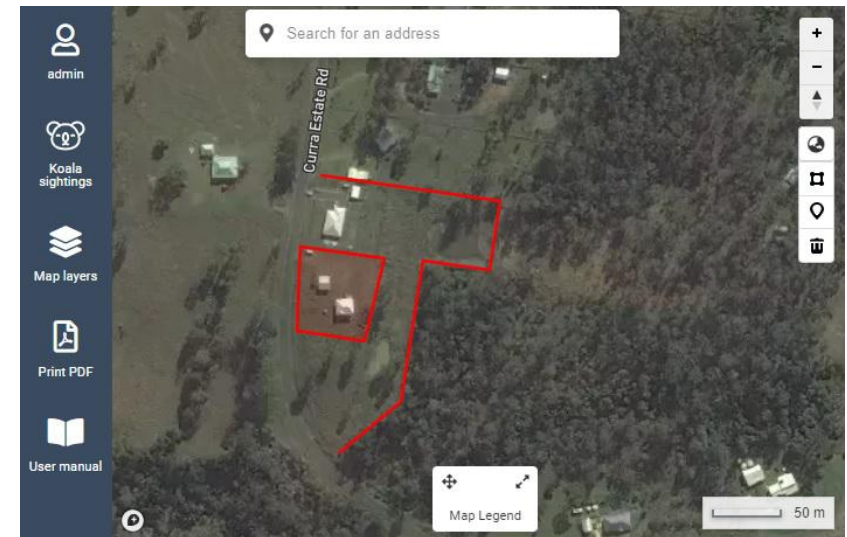


Mouse clicking on **Local Governments, State Electorates, and Federal Electorates** will display the boundaries listed over the top of any other layers you may have selected.

Each boundary polygon is colour-coded at the edge, and the polygon is labelled in the same colour. All boundary layers can be viewed simultaneously and switched off by mouse click on the name.

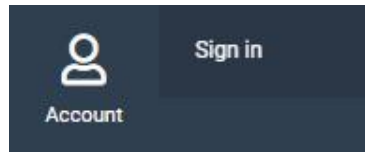
Note the Property layer dataset only starts to appear when at a suitable zoomed in level.

8. **Map Drawing Tools:** These tools allow you to draw on the map screen, and will appear on any map you print out. You can lines (in blue), areas (blue outline with blue fill) and draw points (yellow dot with a white circle) as shown below.

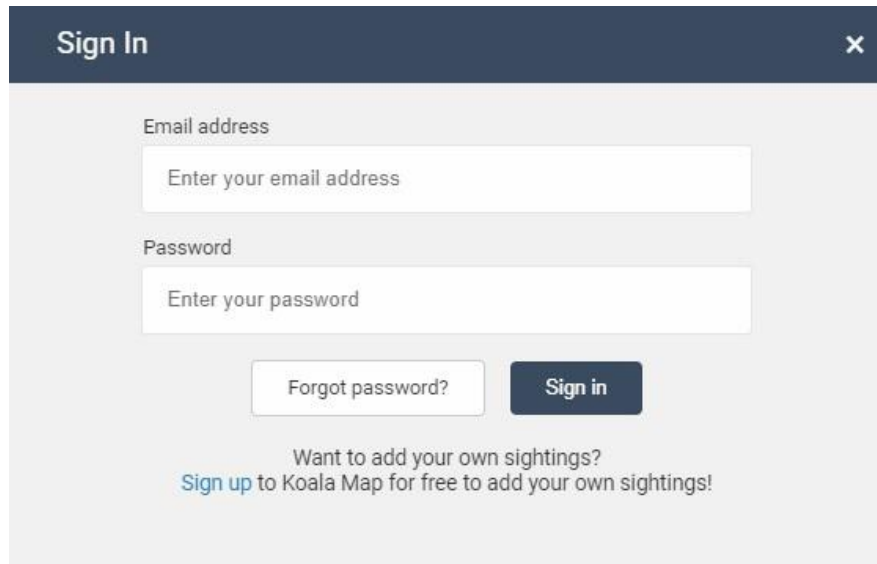


To delete a point, line or polygon left mouse click on the item so that it changes colour and then click on the trash can symbol and the selected item will be deleted.

9. **Account:** You need to create an account before you can add your koala sightings in Koala Map. To create an account, click on **Account > Sign In**.



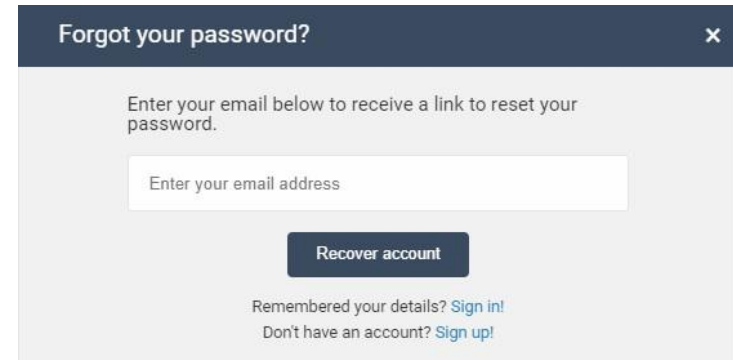
In this window, click on [Sign up!](#)



The 'Sign In' window has a dark blue header with the title 'Sign In' and a close button. Below the header, there are two input fields: 'Email address' with the placeholder 'Enter your email address' and 'Password' with the placeholder 'Enter your password'. Below these fields are two buttons: 'Forgot password?' and 'Sign in'. At the bottom, there is a link 'Sign up to Koala Map for free to add your own sightings!' and a prompt 'Want to add your own sightings?'.

Another larger window pops up where you have to fill in some information about yourself. AKF does not share this information with any third party. Fill out all the fields (your email address will be you login name) and click [Create account](#). The account will be created and Koala Map will log you in immediately. You can now add sightings in Koala Map.

10. **Forgot your password?** **Forgot your password:** If you ever forget your password, in the sign window click on [Forgot password?](#) field, this window then opens



The 'Forgot your password?' window has a dark blue header with the title 'Forgot your password?' and a close button. Below the header, there is a text prompt 'Enter your email below to receive a link to reset your password.' and an input field 'Enter your email address'. Below the input field is a button 'Recover account'. At the bottom, there are two links: 'Remembered your details? Sign in!' and 'Don't have an account? Sign up!'.

Type in your email address and select **Recover Account**. An email with a secure link for you to reset your password will be sent to your email address.

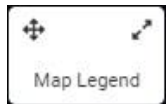


11. **Print PDF:** Clicking this button will give you two options **Print as A4** or **Print as A3**. Select one and a PDF download is created. Select  [KoalaMap_a4_02_0....pdf](#) to view the printable PDF, where you can print the map including anything you have drawn on it with the map drawing tools. The icons and buttons will not appear, but the map legend and scale will be printed. If the PDF is not created you may need to check your browser settings to determine why the PDF result was not displayed or it may have been put directly into the downloads directory.

Alternatively, you can use the Print Screen button on your computer keyboard and paste it into Microsoft Word, Paint, Microsoft Publisher, email etc. This will print the whole screen including icons and buttons.



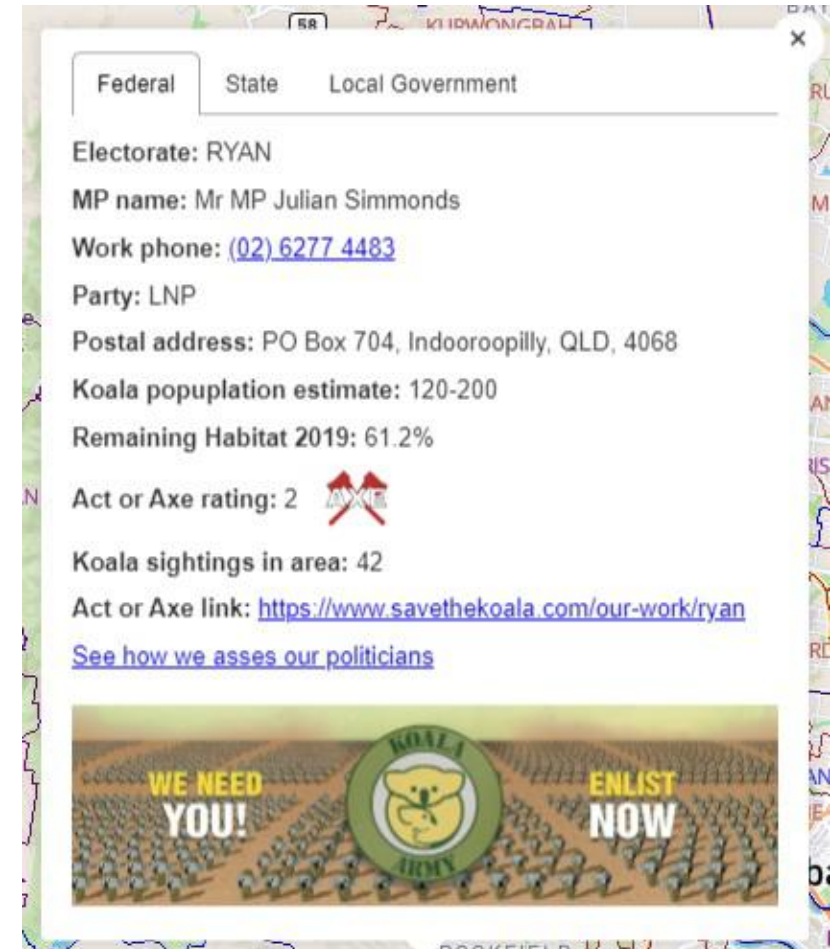
12. **User Manual:** Clicking this button will download a copy of the User Guide. But you must already know that if you are reading this ☺



13. **Map Legend:** This button generates a map legend which shows all the currently-visible layers in Koala Map.  Reposition the legend to another location on the screen.  Open/Close Legend

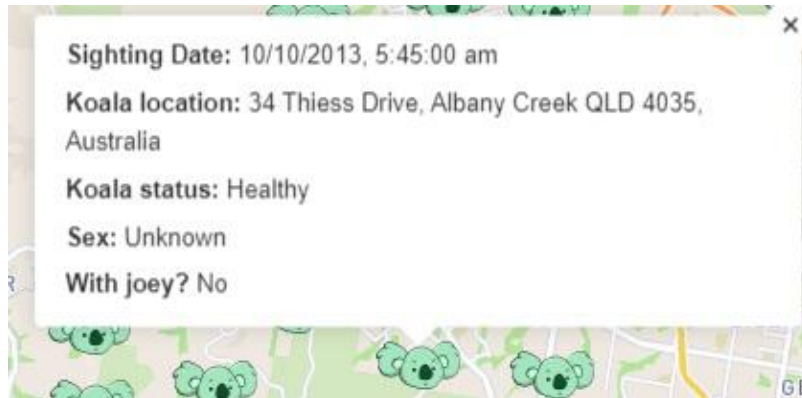


14. **Map scale:** The scale bar changes when you zoom in or out. It only shows metres and kilometres, 1 kilometre is about 0.6 miles.
15. **Information about details in the map views:** Depending on what layers you have visible (activated) means what information you can view, when you mouse click in the map view
- For example, if you are displaying Local Government Areas, State and Federal and Electorates, you will see something like this:



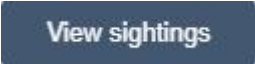
If you mouse click on State or Local Government in this query result, you can view their information.

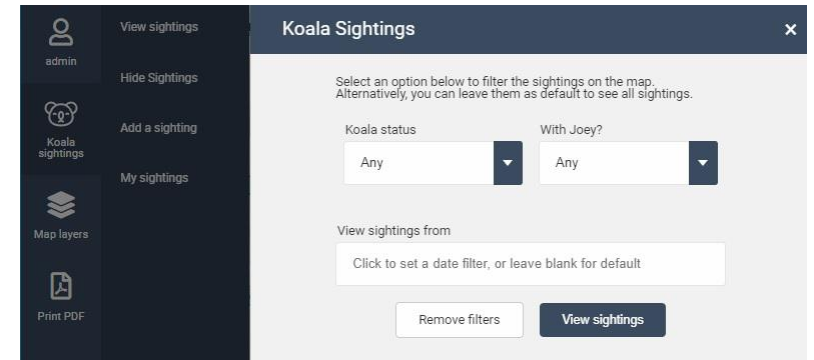
If you are displaying koala sightings in the map view and mouse click on a koala sighting, you will see this:



16. **Zoom in/out tools:** Use  to zoom in by clicking on button and the map will zoom in by a set factor. Use  in the same way to zoom out.

17. **To Pan across the map:** Hold the left mouse button down in the map area and drag your mouse in the direction you want to pull the map across the viewing area.

18. **Koala Sightings:** Select **Koala Sightings > View Sightings** Then select the  will display all sightings in your viewing window.



As you zoom in or out of your viewing window the koala symbol numbers will change depending on the display space and how many is a suitable fit to that view.

If required, **koala sightings can be filtered from a certain date**, click in



the **View Sighting from** field and a calendar will be displayed. Change the month, year and select a date from when you want the sighting displayed.

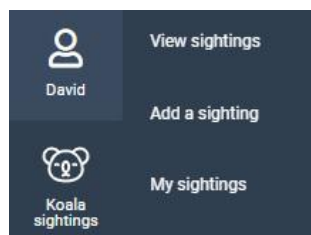
Also, in **Koala Status** you can select condition **Health Status - Healthy, Sick/Injured or Deceased**. These are colour-coded accordingly in the



Map Legend

If you want to display Koala sightings **With Joey** select **Yes** or **No** in this field

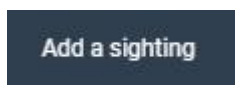
When you have created an account and are logged in, you can also use this **Koala Sightings** menu to add sightings, edit and move your own sightings, or download them into a spreadsheet.



19. **Add a sighting:** You can report your koala sightings using this function. This automates and replaces AKF's previous system – Report a Koala Online Survey Form.

You need to create an [Account](#) to add sightings (go to section 8).

There are three ways to Add a Sighting,



- A. Click **Add a sighting** and the Add a Koala Sighting form will be displayed. Search for an address to be used for the sighting's location. Add the details filling in as many details as you can.

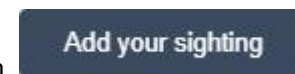
- B. If you do not know the address, click on the **Not sure of the location?** [Use my current location](#) and the position is taken from the location of your device or

- C. You can **choose a location on the map use** [Choose here](#)

For help identifying the sex of a koala follow the **More info** link to our Physical Characteristics of the Koala page <https://www.savethekoala.com/about-koalas/physical-characteristics-koala>

For help identifying a sick koala follow the **More info** link to our Disease & Injuries page <https://www.savethekoala.com/about-koalas/what-do-if-you-find-sick-injured-or-dead-koala>

You have the option to upload a photo with your sighting (the size limit is 2 Megabytes). If you would like to provide video footage, follow the *upload a video* link and follow the directions provided.



When you are done, at the bottom of the form click on

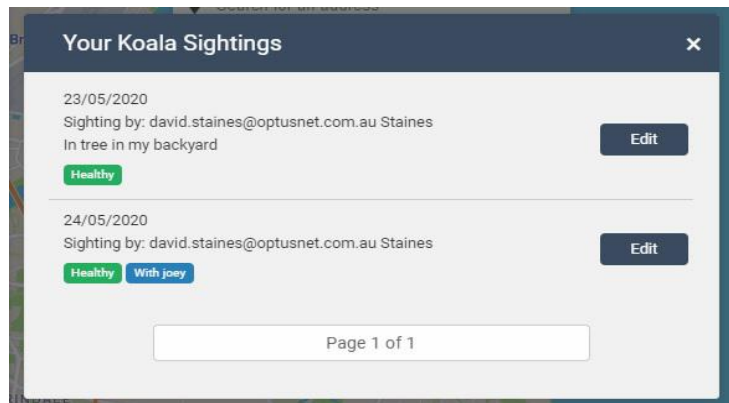
Please note: Although your koala sighting will be visible when you are logged in, it will not be visible to others until it is validated by an AKF Koala Map Administrator. This process should take less than 24 hours.



20. **My sighting:** allows you list all your sightings and you

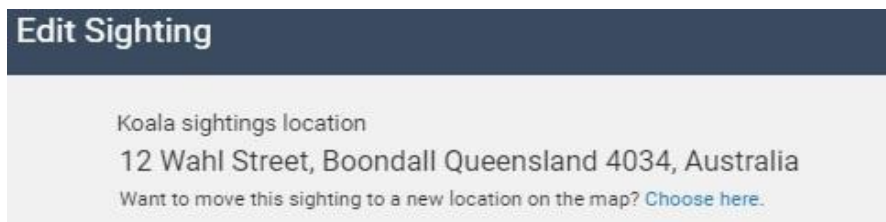


have an **Edit** option on each one. You can edit the Sighting, Date time, Sex, Status and With a Joey? fields.



Click **Edit** then click on field to change. **Update sighting** to save the changes or **Cancel** to exit the edit screen

To **Move a sighting** to a new location, click on **Edit** then from 'Want to move the sighting to a new location on the map? [Choose here](#)' select **Choose here**



then click on the new position on the map view. The Koala symbol will display in the new position. The Koala Map Administrator will have to reverify the sighting before all users can view the sighting in the new position.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING KOALA SIGHTINGS

The Australian Koala Foundation believes community koala sightings are very important. Several sightings in a small area over a period of months or years might indicate a persistent breeding population, one isolated sighting might indicate that a young adult Koala was passing through the area.

With additional sightings over time patterns become apparent and show us where Koalas are in the landscape and how they use their habitat. This is vital for targeted habitat protection. Community koala sightings add greatly to our scientific knowledge, and raise local awareness of Koala activity and help empower the community to demand better protection for “their” koalas and habitat. However, **sightings alone cannot be used for koala population estimates.**

You can use this link to see how many Koalas AKF estimates to be in your Federal electorate: [Population estimates for each Federal Electorate](#)

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DATA SOURCES

Data for the KHA comes from the sources listed below. Access to third-party data is provided under the [Creative Commons licence](#)

Acknowledgments are gratefully extended to these third-party providers:

ACT: The Vegetation Communities of the ACT (2016)

(www.ACTMapi.act.gov.au ©Australian Capital Territory) was completed in February 2016 as was the Jervis Bay Territory (based on NSW OEH data).

NSW: Office of Environment and Heritage. State Vegetation Type mapping for Border Rivers-Gwydir, Central Tablelands, Murray and Riverina, Central West-Lachlan, Western, Sydney Metro. Other areas compiled from various Vegetation Information System mapping (VISmap) but will use SVT when they are completed by OEH. © by OEH and individual agencies.

Queensland: Regional Ecosystems (Version RE 8), High-Value Regrowth and Preclearing Ecosystems (Version 5) © the State of Queensland (Department of Environment and Resource Management) 2013. Will be updated with release of RE 11 (released in late December 2018) by the end of February 2019.

South Australia: Remnant Native Vegetation (Structural and Floristic) mapping (last updated 2011). © South Australia Department for Environment and Water. No apparent update program.

Victoria: Vegetation data for Ballarat and Golden Plains LGAs, Hanging Rock/Mt Macedon and Nagambie areas © AKF 2011, all other areas Ecological Vegetation Class Mapping © the State of Victoria (Department of Environment and Sustainability) 2005. No apparent update programs.

Nation-wide: National Vegetation Inventory System (NVIS) (Version 5.1) © Australian Government (Department of Sustainability, Environment, Population and Communities).

KOALA HABITAT ATLAS (KHA) INDEX

OVERVIEW OF KHA

The KHA (as of February 2018) now covers the entire geographic range (1,487,000 square kilometres) of the Koala (Figure 1) and is available for each Local Government Area (LGA). The scale at which the maps are produced (nominally 1:25,000 in coastal areas to 1:100,000 in inland areas) is suitable for LGA-wide planning purposes, some areas mapped by AKF are suitable for finer-scale use (e.g. part of Port Stephens). A scale of 1:5,000 may accurately depict the Koala habitat on your property whereas a scale of 1:25,000 may not.

Metadata (data about data) statements are available for each LGA on request, these provide additional information including data sources, lineage, methodology and revision status.



Figure 1: The Koala's geographic range. The KHA covers the entire area (© AKF 2018).

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

The ACT KHA was completed in February 2016, based on 2015 data. No apparent update program.

NEW SOUTH WALES

New South Wales was poorly-covered by detailed vegetation mapping and there was little consistency between vegetation datasets. Beginning in 1996 AKF commissioned its own mapping in Campbelltown, Port Stephens (see below), Greater Taree, Richmond River and Tweed Coast LGAs. These Koala-specific datasets have enabled AKF to apply the KHA methodology to third-party datasets which may be of a more general nature. The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage now has over 600 vegetation maps available, AKF has evaluated every one of these maps and combined about 100 of the best maps to produce a State-wide KHA. The KHA incorporates the new State Vegetation Type Map (SCTM) where available which will eventually provide consistent and complete vegetation mapping for the whole State. As of October 2018, SVTM covers the area shown in Figure 2.

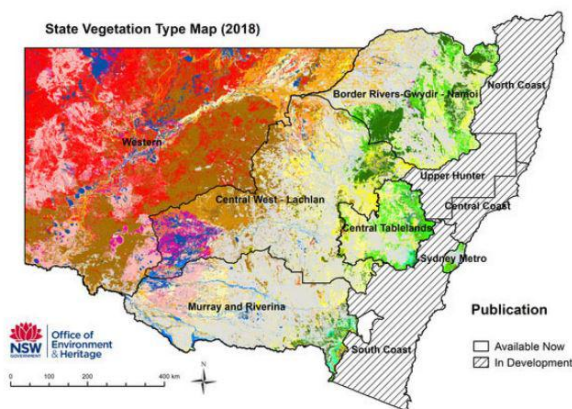


Figure 2: State Vegetation Type Maps for NSW (Oct 2018) used for the KHA (image © OEH).

Port Stephens LGA – Medowie, Tilligerry and Anna Bay areas

AKF has been mapping Koala habitat in Port Stephens since 1996 for the Port Stephens Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management. In 2005 AKF mapped at a finer scale (1:10,000) the Medowie and Tilligerry areas. Further mapping was completed in 2014 and expanded mapping coverage to the east, covering the Anna Bay and Soldiers Point areas and to the outskirts of Nelson Bay. The KHA is derived from the most extensive AKF fieldwork to date, and AKF's underlying vegetation map is considered by many as one of the most detailed and accurate data sets in Australia. These maps are incorporated into the Port Stephens Planning Scheme through the Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management. This map is available separately to other datasets.

Status: final Area: 9,987 ha Nominal scale: 1: 5,000

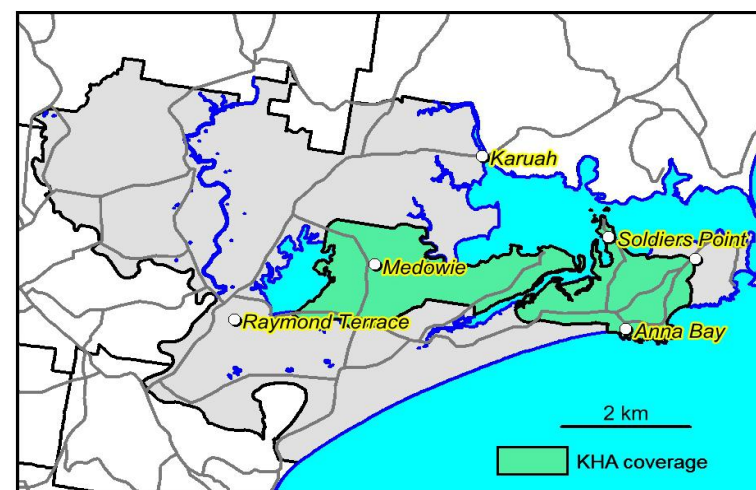


Figure 3: Port Stephens LGA showing AKF KHA area (green)

QUEENSLAND

The KHA is based on the Queensland Herbarium's 2011 Remnant Regional Ecosystem (Version 8.0) vegetation mapping. Additionally, a High-Value Regrowth layer intersected with Preclearing Regional Ecosystem mapping identified areas of valuable Koala habitat not covered by Remnant Regional Ecosystem mapping.

The final KHA is a seamless amalgam of these three datasets and covers 490,000 square kilometres. A Preclearing KHA also covers the same area.

Status: Entire range of Koala in Queensland has been completed using RE v8 and will be updated with the latest Regional Ecosystem RE11 (due for release in December 2018) in February 2019.

Nominal scale: 1:50,000 in south east to 1:100,000 in west and north.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In 2015 AKF obtained vegetation mapping from the SA Department of Environment and Natural Resources in 2015. The Remnant Native Vegetation (Structural and Floristic) dataset is consistent across the Koala's range in SA, and though it is quite broad in detail was suitable for KHA purposes.

VICTORIA – AKF Mapping

AKF commissioned vegetation mapping suitable for the KHA in the City of Ballarat and parts of Golden Plains, Mount Macedon and Strathbogie LGAs. These maps are suitable for use at a nominal scale of 1:5,000 in urban areas and 1:10,000 elsewhere.

City of Ballarat: The KHA covers the entire City of Ballarat LGA and uses vegetation mapping completed by AKF in 2004. It forms the basis of Ballarat Council's Koala Plan of Management incorporated into the Planning Scheme's Environmentally Significant Overlay (ESO).

Status: complete. Area: 73,860 ha. Nominal scale: 1:25,000

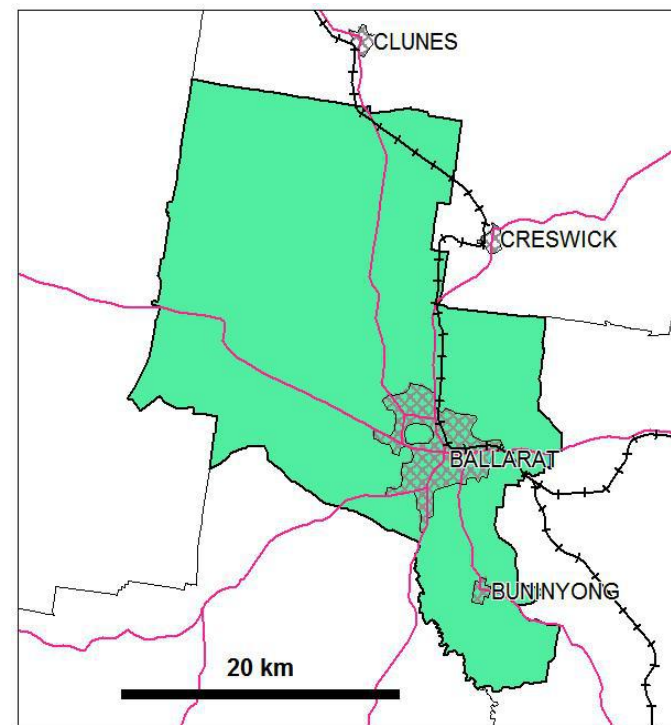


Figure 4: Ballarat KHA

Golden Plains LGA

Vegetation mapping and Koala field work was completed by AKF in 2008. Coverage is limited to the northern forested areas (including Enfield State Forest and Brisbane Ranges National Park west of the Geelong-Ballarat Road) and riparian areas extending to the south including the Moorabool River. The northern part of the KHA abuts the City of Ballarat KHA and includes some of Moorabool LGA.

Status: complete Area: 174,000 ha Nominal scale: 1:25,000

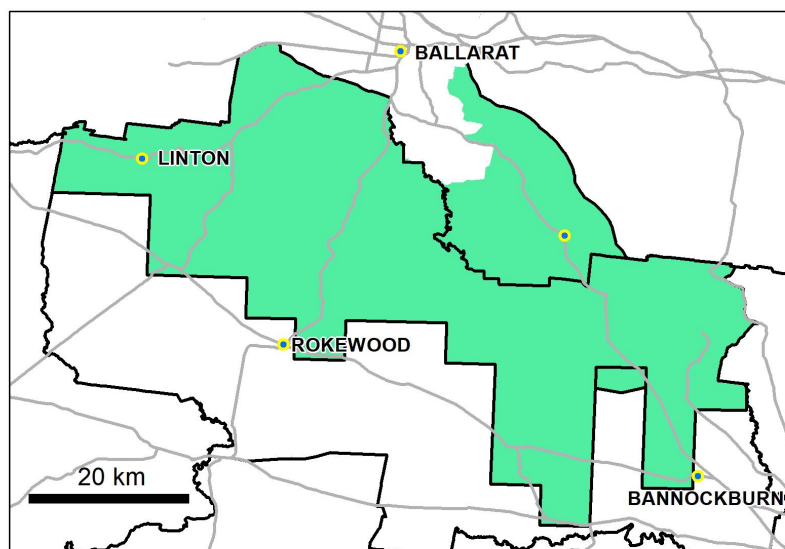


Figure 5: Golden Plains KHA. Green area is mapped.

Hanging Rock

Vegetation mapping and the KHA were completed by AKF as the basis for a Management Plan for Hanging Rock in Macedon Shire. Research was carried out on behalf of the Hanging Rock Management Committee to provide information on Koala Management in the aftermath of Koala decline in the Hanging Rock Reserve. Mapping extends considerably beyond the 71 hectare Reserve.

Status: complete. Area: 11,090 ha

Nominal Scale: 1:1,000 in Hanging Rock Reserve, and 1:10,000 in surrounding areas.

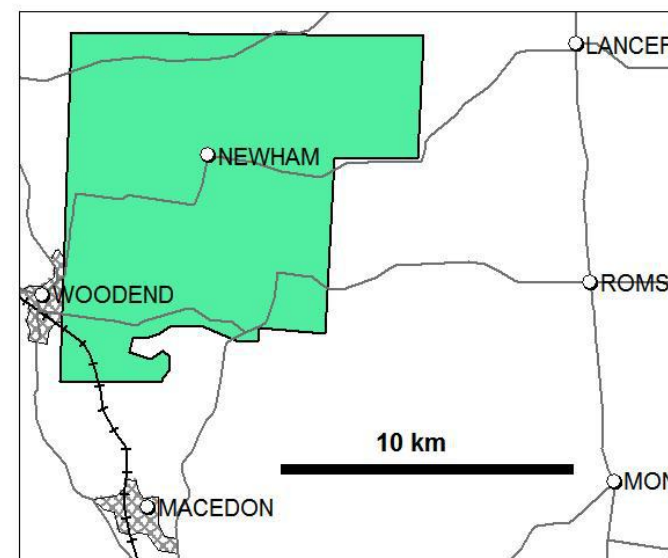


Figure 6: Hanging Rock KHA

Nagambie Area

Commissioned by Tahbilk Estate, vegetation mapping and Koala field work were completed by AKF in 2007. Area covered is similar in size to Hanging Rock. The Tahbilk KHA is in Strathbogie Shire.

Status: complete. Area: 11,140 ha Nominal scale: 1:10,000

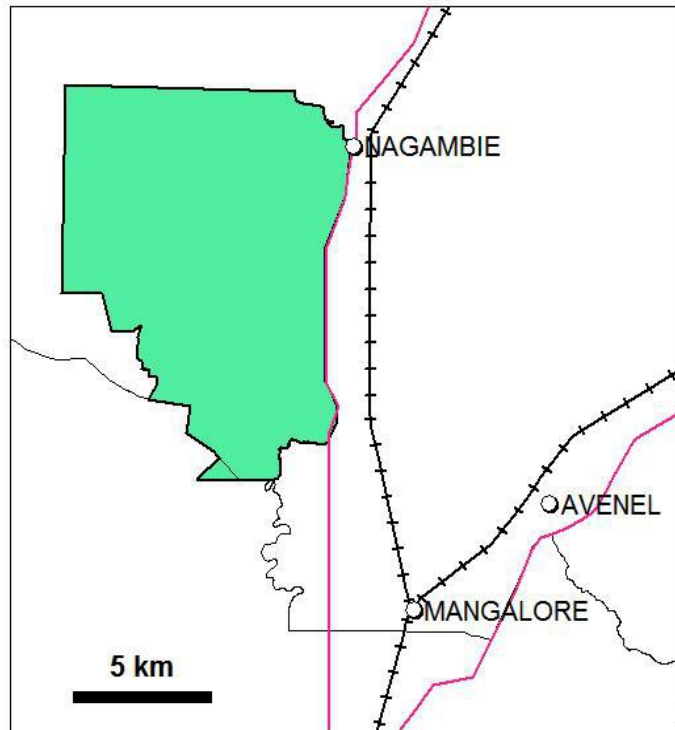


Figure 7: Nagambie area, Goulburn Valley

VICTORIA – EVC Mapping

This KHA is derived from the *Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI)* Ecological Class (EVC) mapping with Koala categories assigned on the basis of AKF field work in Ballarat, Golden Plains and Mt Macedon Shires and South Gippsland and Nagambie areas. It covers approximately 180,000 square kilometres, the entire Koala range in Victoria (Figure 17). The four current AKF KHAs in Victoria have been “cut in” to this dataset to provide a seamless coverage. The Preclearing KHA consists entirely of 1750 EVC mapping.

Status: provisional, requires some Koala field work and verification of EVC mapping which only lists characteristic species for each EVC. Updates: DEWLP has of Oct 2018 abandoned an attempt to provide a better-quality dataset.

Area: 180,000 sq. km. Nominal scale: 1:100,000

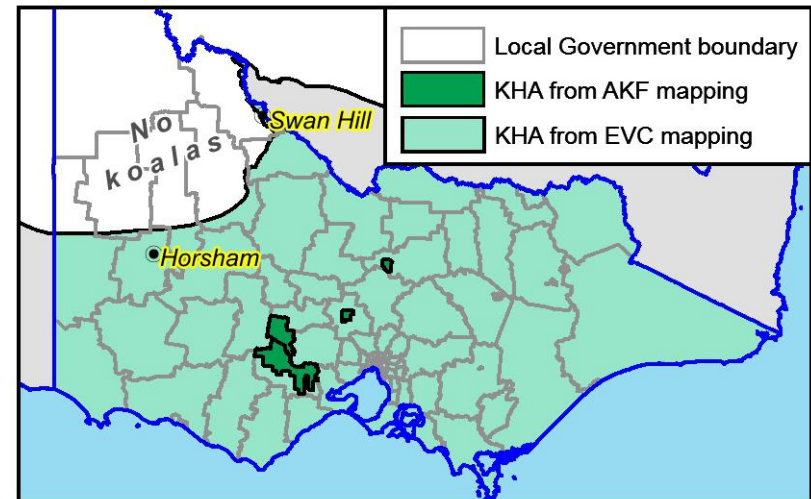


Figure 8: Victoria KHA coverage (EVC and AKF mapping)