1. Cabinet considered a submission regarding the koala population in South East Queensland.
2. The Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006 and Management Program 2006-2016, known as the ‘Koala Plan’, commenced on 2 October 2006 to protect the koala throughout its range in Queensland and to stop the decline and recover the South East Queensland population. However, recent studies indicate that the rate of decline in the South East Queensland koala numbers is more severe than thought in 2006.
3. A joint mapping survey for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Moreton Bay Regional Council highlights a 45 percent decrease in koala densities in urban areas of Pine Rivers since 2001. This study contains similar findings to an EPA report released in 2007 covering the Koala Coast population south east of Brisbane, which reported an overall reduction in the population of 26 percent in six years and a 42 percent reduction in koala numbers in urban areas over the same period.
4. These are the two most significant and well known koala populations in South East Queensland.
5. The main threats to koalas in urban areas are well documented. They are loss of trees, vehicle strike, dog attack and loss of free movement due to barriers such as main roads and fences. Disease is also a significant threat to koalas but is generally understood to be exacerbated by stress associated with these other factors.
6. Studies have suggested that habitat capable of supporting approximately 5,000 – 7,000 animals is required in order to ensure long-term survival of koala populations within the Koala Coast.
7. Cabinet approved the development of new measures to improve the effectiveness of the Koala Plan.
8. *Attachments*
* [Moreton Bay Regional Council - Report for Koala Habitat Survey and Mapping](Attachments/koala%20report_prepared_by_GHD.pdf)