

Trees for Koalas - Assessing your property

You can make a difference by planting as few as five koala food trees, but you may be able to support more. Use these suggestions below to get an idea of your capacity.



1. Think about how many trees you have room to plant.

Eucalyptus trees grow very big – don't plant one somewhere where it will get in the way later – for example where it will create too much shade on solar panels, or drop leaves into a pool.

It's easier for koalas to climb trees that branch fairly low down. To get trees to grow like this they should be planted more than 5 metres apart, ideally 8-10 metres apart.

Use this as a guide to work out how many trees you have room for.

2. Think about where koalas would like the trees to be located.

Koalas prefer healthy trees that are growing in the right environment. Look around your area to see where other Eucalyptus trees are growing well and try and select a site that has a similar aspect.

Koalas thrive best in areas of connected habitat. For example, if your block is mostly clear, but next to another block where there are already some trees, it would be best to plant your koala trees close to your neighbours existing koala trees, so that the koalas have one nice big area.

Even just a small number of trees planted next to an area of existing habitat can be beneficial. If you already have koala trees on your block, plant next to them.

3. Think about your capacity to look after the trees.

It takes Eucalyptus 2-3 years to grow up high enough to look after themselves. For the first couple of years they will need a bit of care, including weeding round the base and maybe even watering if it is dry. So think about how many trees you have the capacity to care for.

Think about water. During dry times you will have to water your trees for a couple of years, so don't plant them somewhere where you can't access to water them. But also, don't plant them in a spot that is regularly underwater during floods, as they don't tolerate inundation very well.

4. Think about fire risk

Don't plant trees in any existing asset protection zones, where they may have to be removed later. For Eucalyptus trees, it is safest to plant them up-slope of infrastructure like sheds and houses.

Your notes: