

13 May 2024

### Success Prompts Extension of Koala Zone Trial

- Successful trial for designated koala zone with speed reduction measures and innovative signage.
- Koala zone extended for another 18 months, covering the next breeding season.
- Ongoing efforts aim to create safer roads for wildlife and drivers, with data analysis guiding future improvements.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) successfully trialed a new initiative aimed at protecting koalas on Tallebudgera—Connection road.

The trial which took place between July 2023 and January 2024, established a designated koala zone, speed reduction measures and innovative signage, to raise awareness of koala movements and reduce vehicle speed during peak times.

During the trial, TMR implemented a 10km speed reduction to 50km/h between 6pm and 6am in the koala zone. In addition, new speed signs were installed, including active (LED flashing) signs, and vehicle activated signs positioned within the zones. Speed limit compliant motorists were alerted with the image of a smiling koala and motorists exceeding limits were cautioned with 'slow down' alerts.

The trial revealed motorists drove slower within the koala zone, supporting the effectiveness of the speed management strategies. Results showed:

- 6% reduction in overall speeds
- 20% reduction in speeds above 60km/h
- 2-6% reduction in average speeds from day (6am to 6pm) to night (6pm to 6am) compared to before the trial.

Following the positive outcomes of the koala zone trial, TMR has plans to extend the koala zone initiative for another 18 months, including during the next koala breeding season that starts in July 2024.

Data will continue to be collected and analysed for ongoing monitoring of the effects of the koala zone.

### Quotes attributable to the Transport and Main Roads Regional Director Andrew Wheeler:

*"We're really pleased to see the results of the koala zone trial have produced such positive behaviour change from our Queensland motorists", Mr Wheeler said.*

*"It reinforces the fact that Queenslanders care about the protection of native fauna and support koala protection treatments and initiatives to help keep the koalas around our roads safe."*

*"Thanks to the success of the trial we are encouraged to continue our efforts in safeguarding these beloved creatures, extending the koala zone trial into the next year."*

*"We want to acknowledge and extend our gratitude to the local community for their invaluable contribution to the success of the trial."*

*"As we move forward, our team will continue to monitor the data, identifying valuable insights and opportunities for further enhancement, ensuring the well-being of wildlife and road users alike."*

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**ENDS**

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