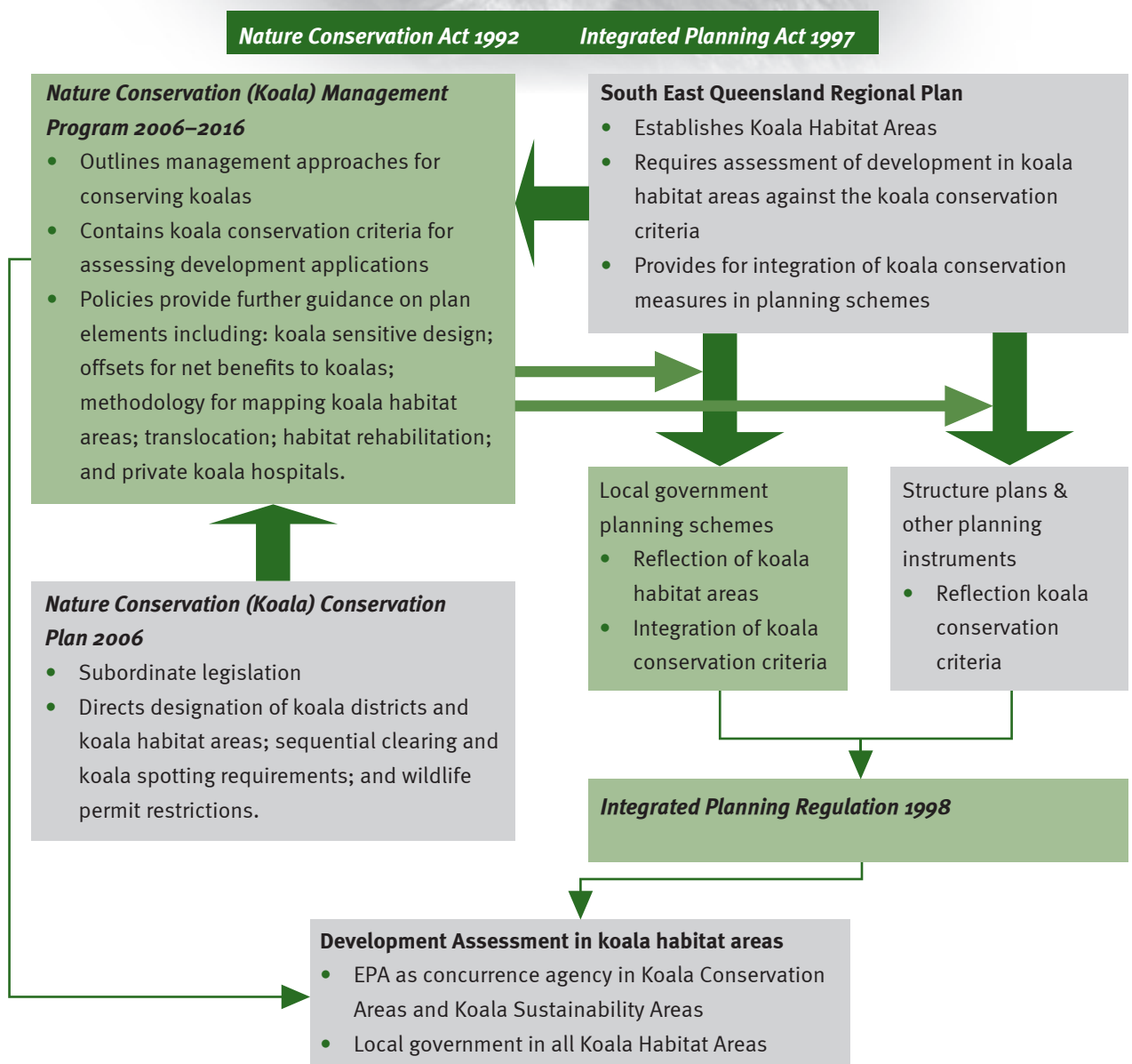


3 Framework

The statutory and policy framework for koala conservation in Queensland is linked to both the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* through the *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2005–2026*. The components of the framework are outlined in figure 2.

Figure 2



3.1 Nature Conservation Act 1992

The Nature Conservation Act provides for the conservation of nature and prescribes management principles for protected wildlife. Specific requirements to recover or conserve wildlife can be prescribed within a conservation plan.

A conservation plan for koalas has been prepared following its listing as a vulnerable species within the South East Queensland Bioregion in 2004. The *Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006* forms part of a broader policy framework directed towards redressing the current decline

in koala populations, particularly in south-east Queensland. This broader policy framework is outlined by this document, the *Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006* and *Management Program 2006–2016*.

3.2 South East Queensland Regional Plan 2005–2026

The *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2005–2026* (SEQ Regional Plan) sets out a blueprint for how future development should be accommodated in the South East Queensland region (SEQ region) while also protecting the region's natural assets. It specifies desired outcomes,

policies, and regional land use categories and includes regulatory provisions to achieve particular outcomes in relation to these elements.

The SEQ Regional Plan has incorporated regional policies for koala conservation and by doing so seeks to integrate koala conservation with development and land use planning. The SEQ Regional Plan, in Map 5, identifies Koala Conservation Areas and Koala Sustainability Areas for the SEQ region.

The Koala Plan provides further guidance on the interpretation of the SEQ Regional Plan's koala conservation policies.

SEQ Regional Plan

2.2 Koala Conservation

Principle

Assist the survival of koalas in SEQ by protecting identified koala habitat areas and adopting conservation measures to reduce conflict between urban development and koalas

Policies

- 2.2.1** Define significant areas of koala habitat in South East Queensland under one of three koala habitat areas: Koala Conservation Area, Koala Sustainability Area and Urban Koala Area¹.
- 2.2.2** Assess development in koala habitat areas against the koala conservation criteria contained in the *Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006 and Management Program 2006–2016* or, prior to the adoption of the Conservation Plan, the *Interim Guideline: Koalas and Development*.
- 2.2.3** Ensure development in Koala Conservation Area and Koala Sustainability Area is compatible with the conservation of koalas, except where there are development commitments and, under certain circumstances, in areas required for extractive industry or community infrastructure.
- 2.2.4** Ensure development in Urban Koala Area includes measures to assist koala survival, having regard to the planning intents and requirements set out in structure plans and planning schemes.
- 2.2.5** Ensure local government considers koala conservation throughout their local government areas and encourage the identification of koala habitat areas in planning schemes.

¹Refer to SEQ Regional Plan, Map 5 — Koala Management Areas

**SEQ Regional Plan Interim
Guideline: Koalas and Development**

The *Interim Guideline: Koalas and Development* is superseded by the koala conservation criteria contained in section 5 of the Koala Management Program.

3.3 Application of the Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006 and Management Program 2006–2016

The Koala Conservation Plan establishes three koala districts (A, B and C) in order to group similar management regimes. The boundaries

of the districts have been determined on the basis of the conservation status of the species and the significance of threatening processes affecting the species. Koala districts are identified in Map 1.

The objectives for each koala district include the following:

- to ensure measures are adopted for the district to achieve the purposes of this plan;
- to monitor koala populations in the district and threats to their survival;
- to monitor and review the effectiveness of conservation measures for koalas and koala habitats in the district;

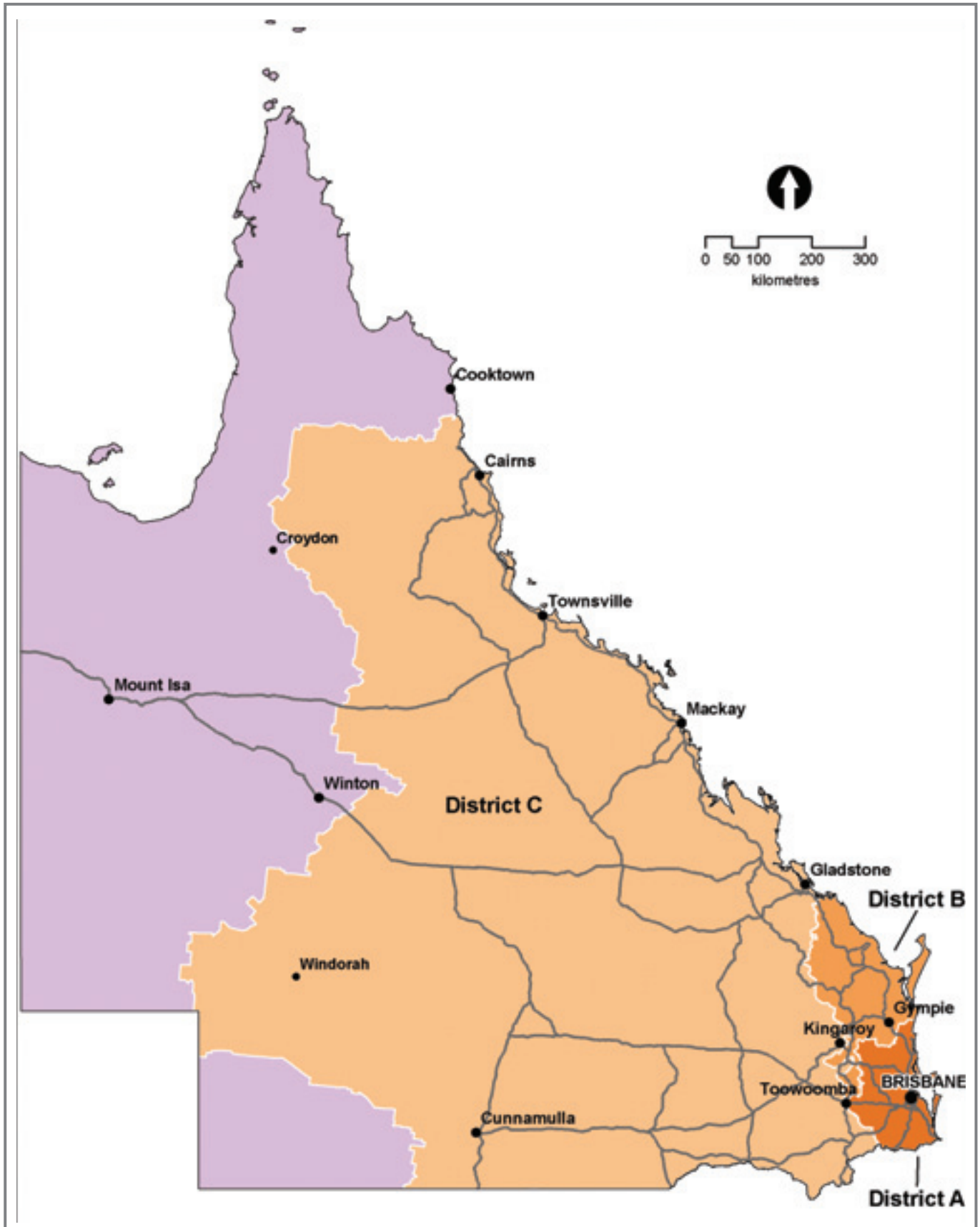
- to provide education and management strategies to help manage threats to the survival of koala populations in the wild, including, for example, threats caused by dog attacks or vehicle strikes.

The districts are aligned to local government authority boundaries of local governments shown in Table 1, to ensure the physical boundaries are easily identified.

Table 1 Wildlife districts and local government authority boundaries

Koala District A Vulnerable wildlife <i>Highest threat</i>	Koala District B Vulnerable wildlife <i>Moderate to high threat</i>	Koala District C Least concern wildlife <i>Lowest threat</i>
Beaudesert, Boonah, Brisbane, Caboolture, Caloundra, Esk, Gatton, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Kilcoy, Laidley, Logan, Maroochy, Noosa, Pine Rivers, Redcliffe, Redland, Toowoomba.	Biggenden, Bundaberg, Burnett, Cherbourg, Cooloola, Crows Nest, Gayndah, Hervey Bay, Isis, Kilkivan, Kolan, Maryborough, Miriam Vale, Murgon, Nanango, Perry, Tiara, Woocoo.	Aramac, Atherton, Balonne, Banana, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Bauhinia, Belyando, Bendemere, Blackall, Booringa, Bowen, Broadsound, Bungil, Burdekin, Cairns, Calliope, Cambooya, Cardwell, Charters Towers, Chinchilla, Clifton, Dalby, Dalrymple, Douglas, Duaringa, Eacham, Eidsvold, Emerald, Etheridge, Fitzroy, Flinders, Gladstone, Goondiwindi, Herberton, Hinchinbrook, Ilfracombe, Inglewood, Isisford, Jericho, Johnstone, Jondaryan, Kingaroy, Livingstone, Longreach, Mackay, Mareeba, Millmerran, Mirani, Monto, Mount Morgan, Mundubbera, Murilla, Murweh, Nebo, Paroo, Peak Downs, Pittsworth, Quilpie, Rockhampton, Roma, Rosalie, Sarina, Stanthorpe, Tambo, Tara, Taroom, Thuringowa, Townsville, Waggamba, Wambo, Warroo, Warwick, Whitsunday, Woorabinda, Wondai, Yarrabah.

Map 1 The State map – koala districts



Koala District A

District A comprises 18 local government authorities in the southern portion of the South East Queensland Bioregion, where koalas are listed as *vulnerable*. District A also corresponds to the SEQ region under the SEQ Regional Plan.

In District A, koala population densities are the highest, however the threats associated with habitat destruction and human impacts are also the greatest, resulting in a reduction in the long-term viability of some koala populations.

Within this district, the State has identified known koala habitat and areas where koalas live. Koala Habitat Areas are statutory areas identified by the SEQ Regional Plan under the

Integrated Planning Act, and are referred to as:

- Koala Conservation Areas;
- Koala Sustainability Areas; or
- Urban Koala Areas.

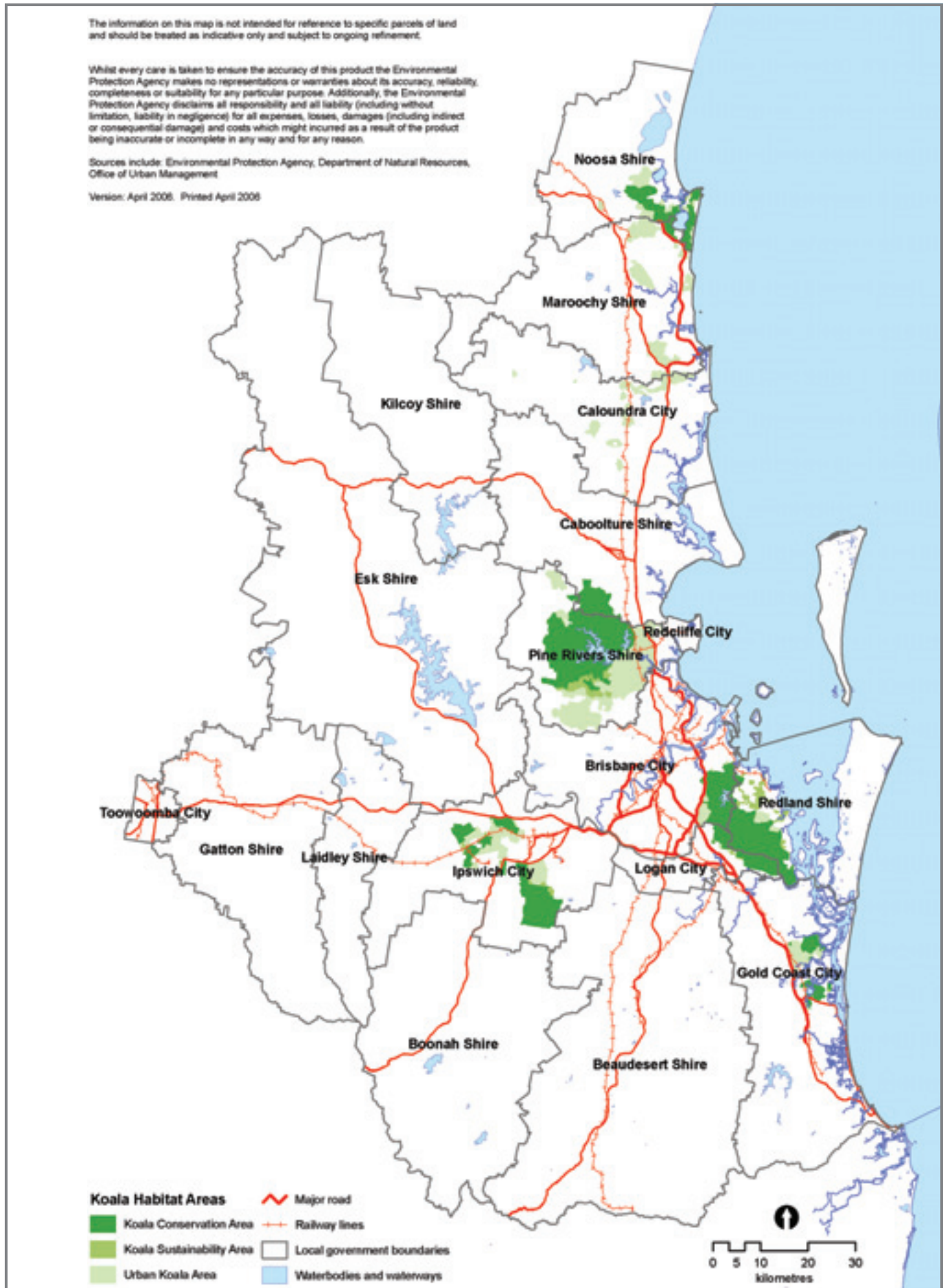
These areas are shown on Map 2, Summary of Koala Habitat Areas².

A fourth category, Koala Living Area, has also been identified. This category does not form part of the Koala Habitat Area due to its non-statutory intent.



²For more detailed information at a cadastral scale, refer to the State Map of Koala Habitat Areas in section 5: Koala conservation criteria for development assessment.

Map 2 Summary of Koala Habitat Areas



The Koala Plan recognises Koala Conservation Areas and Koala Sustainability Areas as the most critical to the continued existence of viable koala populations in the wild. The following table (table 2) provides general characteristics of both the Koala Habitat Areas and Koala Living Area.

Table 2 Koala Habitat Areas

Koala Conservation Area	Koala Sustainability Area	Urban Koala Area	Koala Living Area
Statutory, Habitat and Locational Characteristics			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory intent • Located within the Regional Landscape and Rural Production Area under the SEQ Regional Plan • Important koala habitat - critical source areas for the survival and dispersal of koalas across the landscape • Large areas of relatively intact remnant or regrowth eucalypt-dominated forest and woodlands • Area may include cleared areas and areas of fragmented forest and woodlands • Area generally reflects high connectivity between patches • Area contains high koala habitat values and/or generally high koala densities (relative to the local government area) • Habitat contains a mosaic of private lands, public lands and park estate with limited infrastructure or urban development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory intent • Located within either the Urban Footprint or Rural Living Area under the SEQ Regional Plan • Important koala habitat — critical to the survival and dispersal of koalas across the landscape • Areas of relatively intact and/or fragmented remnant and regrowth eucalypt-dominated forest and woodlands • Area may include cleared areas • Area generally reflects medium/high connectivity between patches • Contains high koala habitat values and/or generally high koala densities (relative to the local government area) • Habitat contains a mosaic of private lands, public lands and park estate. Increase levels of infrastructure and urban development • Habitat may contain open space areas and existing rural residential development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory intent • Located within either the Urban Footprint or Rural Living Area under the SEQ Regional Plan • Area subject to a recognised urban planning intent within local government planning instruments • May contain patches of fragmented remnant and regrowth eucalypt-dominated woodland • May include cleared areas • Varied levels of connectivity • Contains areas with both high and lower koala habitat values and/or koala densities (relative to the local government area) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-statutory intent • Located within either the Regional Landscape and Rural Production; Rural Living Area or Urban Footprint under the SEQ Regional Plan • Area may support small bushland areas, vegetated creek lines, parks, scattered trees, residential areas with landscaped gardens and cleared areas • Area is known to support pockets of highly fragmented koala habitat and/or lower density koala population • Area may be highly urbanised with a high level of infrastructure provision or be located in a highly modified rural or semi rural environment



Koala Habitat Areas and Koala Living Areas have been identified using a range of data sources including:

- existing studies both undertaken by the EPA and local government;
- koala sightings and koala hospital records;
- expert panel knowledge and data; and
- koala habitat suitability modelling.

Koala District B

Koala District B comprises 18 local government areas in the northern portion of South East Queensland Bioregion, where koalas are listed as *vulnerable*. The district supports koala densities generally lower than 0.2 koalas/ha and characteristically contains habitat in areas zoned for rural purposes.

Koala District C

Koala District C comprises the remaining 77 local government authorities where koalas are found. Although there is evidence of decline in this district, koalas are classified as *of least concern wildlife* under the Nature Conservation Act due to a generally lower perceived threat to their survival.