

Qld koala habitat clearing linked to beef production: 2018-19

23 February, 2022

Summary

- Approximately 92,718 ha of likely or known koala habitat in Queensland was cleared in the year 2018-19. This represents 14% of the total forest and bushland cleared throughout Queensland in that year.
- Around 80% (or 73,825ha) of the total likely or known koala habitat cleared in Queensland in 2018-19 was linked to beef production.

Data used

- Australia - Species of National Environmental Significance Database (Public Grids) - 2022 © Commonwealth of Australia (Department of the Environment and Energy).
- Queensland Valuation System (QVAS) (via Pricerfinder) acquired 15/10/2018.
- Queensland cadastral data weekly - whole of State (14/10/2018) © State of Queensland.
- Statewide landcover and trees study (SLATS) 2018 to 2019 Queensland (30/12/2021) © State of Queensland.

Methods

All data and methods are the same as those described in *Drivers of Deforestation and Land Clearing in Queensland*,¹ except:

- For those methods related specifically to koala habitat data; and
- That the more recent 2018-19 SLATS data was used to analyse clearing.

“Likely or known koala habitat” is sourced from *Australia - Species of National Environmental Significance Database (Public Grids) - August 2022* © Commonwealth of Australia (Department of the

¹ The Wilderness Society (2019) *Drivers of deforestation and land clearing in Queensland*. Available at https://www.wilderness.org.au/images/resources/The_Drivers_of_Deforestation_Land-clearing_Old_Report.pdf



Environment and Energy), using polygons for *Phascolarctos cinereus* where “Species or species habitat likely to occur”.

Lots <30ha and lots with no land use data are excluded from this analysis due to data acquisition constraints. These lots contribute to 5.3% of the total clearing in likely koala habitat in Queensland (approximately 5,890 ha).

The areas calculated for the “Partial clearing major” polygons in the SLATS descriptors were modified to reflect the average amount of clearing that may have occurred (75%). See Table 4 page 17 “Statewide Landcover and Trees Study Methodology Overview v1.0”.

The areas calculated for the “Partial clearing minor” polygons in the SLATS descriptor were modified to reflect the average amount of clearing that may have occurred (25%). See Table 4 page 17 “Statewide Landcover and Trees Study Methodology Overview v1.0”.

Areas are approximate only due to modification of partial polygon areas.

Native and plantation forestry were excluded from this analysis.

This analysis differs from that conducted for 2013-2018 due to the treatment of partial clearing descriptors in the SLATS Methodology v1.0 for 2018-2019.