
NKMP Methodologies



Detection dogs

NATIONAL KOALA MONITORING PROGRAM

The National Koala Monitoring Program (NKMP) aims to fill knowledge gaps for future Koala recovery and management efforts. CSIRO is leading the co-design of the four-year program and facilitating the roll out of NKMP with the broader Australian community. The key objectives of this monitoring program are:

- Inclusive – to enable all members of the Australian community to contribute to this national koala monitoring effort.
- Long-term – to build individual and collaborative capacity to collect robust data that can be used for evidence-based decision-making.
- Integrative - to build best-practice methods and data management systems to integrate available and new data to provide local and national insights into koala population status and trends.

The NKMP uses a wide range of approaches to monitoring koalas. This enables us to use a wealth of existing knowledge and suit our data collection methods to the specific needs of each site.

Keen to learn more? Visit [National Koala Monitoring Program](#). Any questions or keen to find out how you can share your koala observations or data? Contact us at KoalaMonitoring@csiro.au

DETECTION DOGS

Detection dogs can be trained to locate **koala scat** and can **assist in koala surveys** as dogs move faster and are more accurate than humans. The use of detection dogs is best suited to larger sites with complex leaf litter and low-density populations. Dogs need to be well trained, housed and fed. Also note permits are needed for dogs to be allowed in protected areas and consent is required before dogs are allowed on private land. The use of detection dogs is not suitable in areas with feral predator baiting.

USEFUL LINKS

[Detection Dogs for Conservation](#)

[Science for Wildlife](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The NKMP acknowledges the 120+ workshop participants who reviewed a range of koala survey and approaches as part of the 2023 National Koala Conference.