1. A survey conducted in late 2008 by the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) of the koala population in the Koala Coast has revealed a 51% overall decline in the Koala Coast koala population since the last DERM koala survey in 2005-2006.
2. In contrast with the 2005-2006 survey results, koalas in bushland have fared worst with the populations declining 59% compared with a 30% reduction in urban areas. This confirms a dynamic process operating between the urban and bushland koala populations, demonstrating that the effects of urbanisation are impacting on the whole koala population.
3. The habitat mapping in SEQ has been completed. This map is intentionally blind to both current and intended future land use as recommended by the taskforce. The map is non-regulatory. Three categories of habitat have been identified:
* bushland (irrespective of whether inside or outside of the urban footprint);
* areas physically suitable for rehabilitation (irrespective of whether available for rehabilitation); and
* other areas of value to koalas.
1. Habitat has been further stratified by quality in those parts of SEQ experiencing significant urban development. This will assist in tailoring acquisition, rehabilitation, regulatory and educational strategies to where the benefits will be highest.
2. Cabinet noted the 2008 Koala Coast Survey Report.
3. *Attachments*
* [2008 Koala Coast Koala Population survey report](Attachments/2008%20Koala%20Coast%20koala%20survey%20report.docx)
* [SEQ Koala habitat assessment map](Attachments/SEQ%20koala%20habitat%20map.pdf)