

# KOALAS VS. GARS

## Kenmore Bypass could wipe out endangered species population

By RESHNI RATNAM

KENMORE'S koala population may be destroyed if the Kenmore Bypass is built.

A study undertaken by wildlife expert Ric Natrass has found land earmarked for felling to provide a high-speed, high-volume road would interfere with the koala habitat.

"For the western suburb koalas to survive in Brisbane, the present level of undisturbed habitat will need to be maintained," Mr Natrass said.

"Should the proposed Kenmore Bypass be constructed, it would not take long for all traces of koalas to disappear forever, especially from Kenmore to Moggill."

Despite repeated calls, the State Government was unable to comment on the matter before deadline.

The 3.3km bypass proposal would link Moggill

Rd with the Western Freeway and has sharply divided the westside community.

Many residents of Kenmore are strongly opposed, fearing the road and the required resumptions would destroy the area, while people regularly travelling through the area are demanding a solution to their traffic woes.

The study conducted over three days in late September, concentrated on the proposed road corridor from Moggill/Bellbowrie to its connection with the Centenary Highway at Kenmore and recorded evidence of koalas such as recent tree scratching and droppings.

The report listed 44 trees, mostly grey gums, in which koalas had made home. The trees were in Atkinson and Kingfisher parks, and at Kersley, Kangaroo Gully, and Grandview roads, Plumera Close, and Lois St.

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### STUDY FINDINGS

For the western suburb koalas to survive in Brisbane, the present level of undisturbed habitat will need to be maintained.

RIC NATRASS, WILDLIFE EXPERT



- There are wild, free-ranging koalas still living in the western suburbs.
- Koalas in Kenmore have maintained an apparently viable population despite the present level of urbanisation.
- Koala-proof fences will not prevent local extinction.
- Major road infrastructure can be a serious threat to koala survival.

Should the Kenmore Bypass go ahead?  
Email letters@westsidenews.com.au

