



## Locally Important Koala Trees in Port Stephens

Koalas are very selective about the trees they browse for food, and tree species used by koalas in one area may not be the same tree species used by koalas in other areas. For this reason, only species that are locally native to the Port Stephens LGA are included in this list of locally important koala trees.

Koalas often rest in the same trees they use for food, but not always, and even if a tree is not used for food, it may be used by koalas for shelter – to stay cool and protected from weather conditions or predators. Almost all gum trees locally native to Port Stephens are used by koalas for either food or shelter and therefore mature trees (both gum trees and other local native trees) should be retained wherever possible. When planting additional trees, select a range of koala food trees from the Plant Community Types (PCTs) identified for your location, with a preference for the koala food trees identified as ‘Local Favourites’ when relevant.

For more information about what koalas need to survive and thrive, please see: NSW Department of Planning and Environment 2022, Koala habitat restoration guidelines.<sup>1</sup>

Koala Food Trees	
<p><b>Local Favourites<sup>2</sup></b>            Parramatta Red Gum, <i>Eucalyptus parramattensis</i> subsp. <i>decadens</i><sup>3</sup>            Swamp Mahogany, <i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>            Forest Red Gum, <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>            Broad-leaved Paperbark, <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i></p>	
Other Local Native Koala Food Trees	
<p><b>Mostly Smooth-barked</b>            Spotted Gum, <i>Corymbia maculata</i> (syn. <i>Eucalyptus</i>)            Small-fruited Grey Gum, <i>Eucalyptus propinqua</i>            Grey Gum, <i>Eucalyptus punctata</i>            Narrow-leaved Scribbly Gum, <i>Eucalyptus racemosa</i> (syn. <i>E. signata</i>)</p> <p><b>Less common in Port Stephens</b>            Cabbage Gum, <i>Eucalyptus amplifolia</i> subsp. <i>amplifolia</i></p>	<p><b>Half to Wholly Rough-barked</b>            White Mahogany, <i>Eucalyptus acmenoides</i>            Bangalay / Southern Mahogany, <i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i>            Thick-leaved White Mahogany, <i>Eucalyptus carnea</i>            Narrow-leaved Ironbark, <i>Eucalyptus crebra</i>            Thin-leaved Stringybark, <i>Eucalyptus eugenioides</i>            Red Ironbark, <i>Eucalyptus fibrosa</i>            White Stringybark, <i>Eucalyptus globoidea</i>            Tallowwood, <i>Eucalyptus microcorys</i>            Grey Ironbark, <i>Eucalyptus paniculata</i>            Sydney Peppermint, <i>Eucalyptus piperita</i>            Large-fruited Red Mahogany, <i>Eucalyptus scias</i> subsp. <i>scias</i>            Broad-leaved White Mahogany, <i>Eucalyptus umbra</i></p> <p><b>Less common in Port Stephens</b>            Grey Box, <i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i></p>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/programs-legislation-and-framework/nsw-koala-strategy/local-government-resources-for-koala-conservation/north-coast-koala-management-area>;  
 Please also see: Beale, P., Marsh, K.J., Youngentob, K.N., 2022, Revegetating Koala Habitat, report prepared for the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Canberra, October, CC BY 4.0.  
<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/revegetating-koala-habitat.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> ‘Local favourite’ food trees are based on local koala carer observations in Port Stephens

<sup>3</sup> Vulnerable, NSW and Aust.

## Koala Shelter Trees

(used for protection from temperature or weather when resting or dispersing)

### Gum trees

#### Mostly Smooth-barked

Smooth-barked Apple, *Angophora costata*  
Large-fruited Grey Gum, *Eucalyptus canaliculata*  
Broad-leaved Scribbly Gum, *Eucalyptus haemastoma*

#### Less common in Port Stephens

River Red Gum, *Eucalyptus calmaldulensis*<sup>4</sup>  
Mountain Blue Gum, *Eucalyptus deanei*  
Slaty Red Gum, *Eucalyptus glaucina*<sup>5</sup>

#### Half to Wholly Rough-barked

Rough-barked Apple, *Angophora floribunda*  
Red Bloodwood, *Corymbia gummifera*  
Blue-leaved Stringybark, *Eucalyptus agglomerata*  
Brown Stringybark, *Eucalyptus capitellata*  
Woollybutt, *Eucalyptus longifolia*<sup>6</sup>  
Blackbutt, *Eucalyptus pilularis*  
Red Mahogany, *Eucalyptus resinifera*<sup>7</sup>  
Grey Ironbark, *Eucalyptus siderophloia*

#### Less common in Port Stephens

Narrow-leaved Apple, *Angophora bakeri*  
Beyer's Ironbark, *Eucalyptus beyeriana*  
Camfield's Stringybark, *Eucalyptus camfieldii*<sup>8</sup>  
Flooded Gum, *Eucalyptus grandis*<sup>9</sup>  
Sydney Blue Gum, *Eucalyptus saligna*  
Mugga Ironbark, *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*  
Narrow-leaved Stringybark, *Eucalyptus sparsifolia*

### Other Local Native Trees commonly used by koalas for shelter

#### Allocasuarina and Casuarina

Black She-oak, *Allocasuarina littoralis*  
Forest Oak, *Allocasuarina torulosa*  
Swamp Oak, *Casuarina glauca*

#### Paperbark and Tea-tree

Prickly-leaved Paperbark, *Melaleuca nodosa*  
Prickly-leaved Tea-tree, *Melaleuca styphelioides*

#### Banksia and Turpentine

Old-man Banksia, *Banksia serrata*  
Turpentine, *Syncarpia glomulifera*

Note: There are garden plantings of *Eucalyptus scoparia*, Wallangara White Gum / Willow Gum, and *Eucalyptus nicholii*, Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint, in the Port Stephens LGA. While these tree species are not locally native to Port Stephens, they are used by koalas and it would be important to retain mature trees where they occur.

<sup>4</sup> The population of River Red Gum in the Hunter is unique in NSW being the only one to occur in a coastal catchment and is of conservation significance. <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=10968>

<sup>5</sup> Vulnerable, NSW and Aust.

<sup>6</sup> Mainly inland areas in Port Stephens

<sup>7</sup> Two subspecies in Port Stephens: subsp. *resinifera* (the more common) and subsp. *hemilampra*

<sup>8</sup> Vulnerable, NSW and Aust.

<sup>9</sup> There are sporadic occurrences of this tree species in the Port Stephens LGA and a significant planting at Bobs Farm