










# Koala survival kit

Help protect wildlife in the heat

Here are some simple ideas for how to help our native wildlife get through the hot summer period:

-  **Water sources:** In hot weather, wildlife having access to clean and fresh water is essential to prevent heat stress and dehydration. This can include setting up shallow bowls or dishes of water in shaded areas or installing birdbaths, ponds, or small water features.
-  **Shade and shelter:** Creating shaded areas and providing natural or artificial shelters can help protect wildlife from direct sunlight and excessive heat. This can be achieved by planting trees, shrubs, or providing artificial structures like nesting boxes or small animal houses.
-  **Pools:** If you have a swimming pool or any other potential drowning hazard on your property, please consider placing/securing a rope, wooden pole, barriers or floating devices in/across your pool to prevent wildlife from getting trapped or drowning.
-  **Keep dogs and cats indoors or secured in fenced areas:** Particularly, during dusk to dawn – not only will this help keep your pets safe and cool, it will allow our native wildlife better access to your backyard for food, water and shelter.
-  **Fire safety:** During periods of high heat, the risk of wildfires increases. Taking steps to reduce fire hazards, such as clearing dry vegetation and maintaining firebreaks, can protect wildlife habitats from destructive fires.
-  **Education and awareness:** Educate yourself and others about the needs and behaviors of local wildlife in hot weather. Understand the signs of heat stress or dehydration in different species and take appropriate action if necessary.
-  **Monitor and report:** Observe and monitor wildlife in your area, noting any unusual behavior or signs of distress. Report any significant findings to local wildlife authorities or organisations to ensure timely intervention if required.
-  **Wildlife rescue contacts:** Keep a list of local wildlife rescue organisations or hotlines handy. Save the following 24 hour rescue numbers in case you come across injured or distressed wildlife so you can contact them for assistance and guidance:
  - Port Stephens Koala Hospital – 1800 775 625 (1800 PS KOALAS)
  - Wildlife In Need of Care (WINC) – 1300 946 295
-  **Remember:** The specific needs of wildlife may vary depending on the region and the species. Consulting with local wildlife experts or conservation organisations can provide valuable insights and guidance tailored to the animal.