

## How does your record help us?

'The Gympie Region is vast in size and ecological surveys are few and far between. Our community is one of our greatest assets in helping us to better understand the habitats and movements of our local native wildlife'.

### 1. Wildnet - State mapping and associated legislation

Records get shared with the State wildlife database 'Wildnet' which forms the basis for a number of Qld State Government mapping datasets and associated legislation. One such dataset is the 'Essential Habitat' mapping.

*Essential habitat is vegetation in which a species that is Endangered or Vulnerable under the Nature Conservation Act (1992) has been known to occur. One of the purposes of the Vegetation Management Act 1999 is to regulate vegetation clearing in a way that prevents the loss of biodiversity.*

For more information, visit:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/species-information/wildnet>

### 2. Gympie Regional Council internal operations

Council maintains a wide range of infrastructure such as roads, bridges, parks and open space and is committed to ensuring environmental best practice is undertaken during works. Records submitted to Wildwatch will be used by the Environmental Planning team to ensure impacts to the environment is minimised wherever possible.

### 3. Koala Conservation Management Plan (KCMP)

Conservation planning for koalas and their habitat is important to ensure long-term conservation of koalas. The Koala Conservation Management Plan 2018 has been developed through extensive consultation with Local Natural Resource Management Groups. It includes both short and long-term goals aimed at reducing the wide range of threats facing koalas in the Gympie region.

Koala records will help to inform and guide the Koala Conservation Management Plan (KCMP) and a number of actions outlined within the Plan. Each record will better inform us of their movements, habitats, populations, and health.

For more information visit: <https://www.gympie.qld.gov.au/native-animals>

### 4. Native fauna movement and roads

Wildwatch also provides a platform for recording native fauna vehicle strikes. Many of our native animals are injured or killed on our roads within the Gympie Region. Each record will assist in providing important baseline data to identify priority hotspots, the type of fauna being hit and appropriate mitigation measures.

### 5. Education and awareness

Wildwatch and dashboards help to create an awareness about native wildlife and also encourage the community to be on the lookout for native wildlife.

If you come across a sick or injured native animal, please call a local wildlife rescue group such as 1300 ANIMAL or your local wildlife carer groups such as ANARRA (who have an amazing number of dedicated volunteers looking after our sick and injured wildlife). <http://www.anarra.org/>

### 6. Voluntary Conservation Programs such as 'Land for Wildlife'

The Land for Wildlife program was reinstated by Council in 2019. This program encourages private landholders to contribute towards creating a network of natural habitat that provide food, water, shelter and protection for all wildlife.

For more information please visit: <https://www.gympie.qld.gov.au/land-for-wildlife>

### 7. Obtaining National and State Government Funding

The more information we have about native wildlife habitats and movements, the better chance we may have in obtaining Federal and State Government grants for restoring and conserving habitat, controlling weeds, and improving connectivity.