

# Koala Annual Report - May 2015

## Myall Koala & Environment Group

There have been four koala deaths this year. Three were by vehicles on Kingfisher Avenue, between the Singing Bridge and Ibis Avenue. There have been other deaths on the same stretch in previous years. With a small population of about 20 koalas in Hawks Nest we can't lose anymore. A recent traffic speed study by Great Lakes Council found that the speed limit of 50 KPH on the bridge was being exceeded by 95% of drivers. The average speed of vehicles was 64.8 KPH. Night-time and early mornings are the worst times.

It is common for koalas to cross the road near the bridge, so it is hoped traffic will slow down. Suggestions have been proposed to reduce the incidence of koala kills. These include:

1. Road signs at both ends of bridge that would light up for vehicles exceeding the speed limit.
2. Traffic calming devices along the roadway similar to those on the Tea Gardens waterfront.
3. Roundabouts at the base of the bridge and the intersection of Ibis Avenue and Kingfisher Avenue to slow traffic entering the danger zone.
4. Narrowing the roadway and reducing the speed limit to 40KPH. The bicycle track would be widened as proposed by the Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens Progress Association.
5. Painting the roadway green and painting a large koala image on the road to highlight the area as a koala zone.

### Koala Sightings

Sightings for the past 12 months have been down to 161 from last year's 209.

- Tea Gardens – 1 (No change)
- Swan Bay – 8 (down from 24)
- North of Kingfisher – 24 (No change)
- Central Hawks Nest – 66 (down from 89)
- "Magic Square" – 51 (No change)
- Winda Woppa – 7 (down from 14)
- Out of town – 4 (No change)

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- **Myall Koala and Environment Group Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens**
- **Hotline for Koala sightings 02 4997 0878**
- **Facebook.com/myall.koalas**

