

Tweed koala colonies shrinking

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The Tweed coast's koala population is at high risk of extinction because existing numbers are not sustainable.

The Tweed Shire Council is seeking a higher classification for the marsupials.

The council's bio-diversity officer, doctor Mark Kingston, says the NSW Scientific Committee will be asked to list Tweed koala colonies as 'endangered', which is a classification above 'vulnerable'.

Dr Kingston says that would ensure greater protection and also attract better funding to regenerate known habitat areas.

"It also focuses attention for developers... to have a little bit more consideration of those particular koalas as opposed to the koalas more generally," he said.

"The situation is pretty dire and without some very concerted efforts they will probably be extinct within the next 10 to 20 years.

"So we think we've got probably around the 150 to 140 animals and that number of animals is not sustainable on it's own... since they're fragmented and they're separated from each other."

Topics: [endangered-and-protected-species](#), [tweed-heads-2485](#), [lismore-2480](#)



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