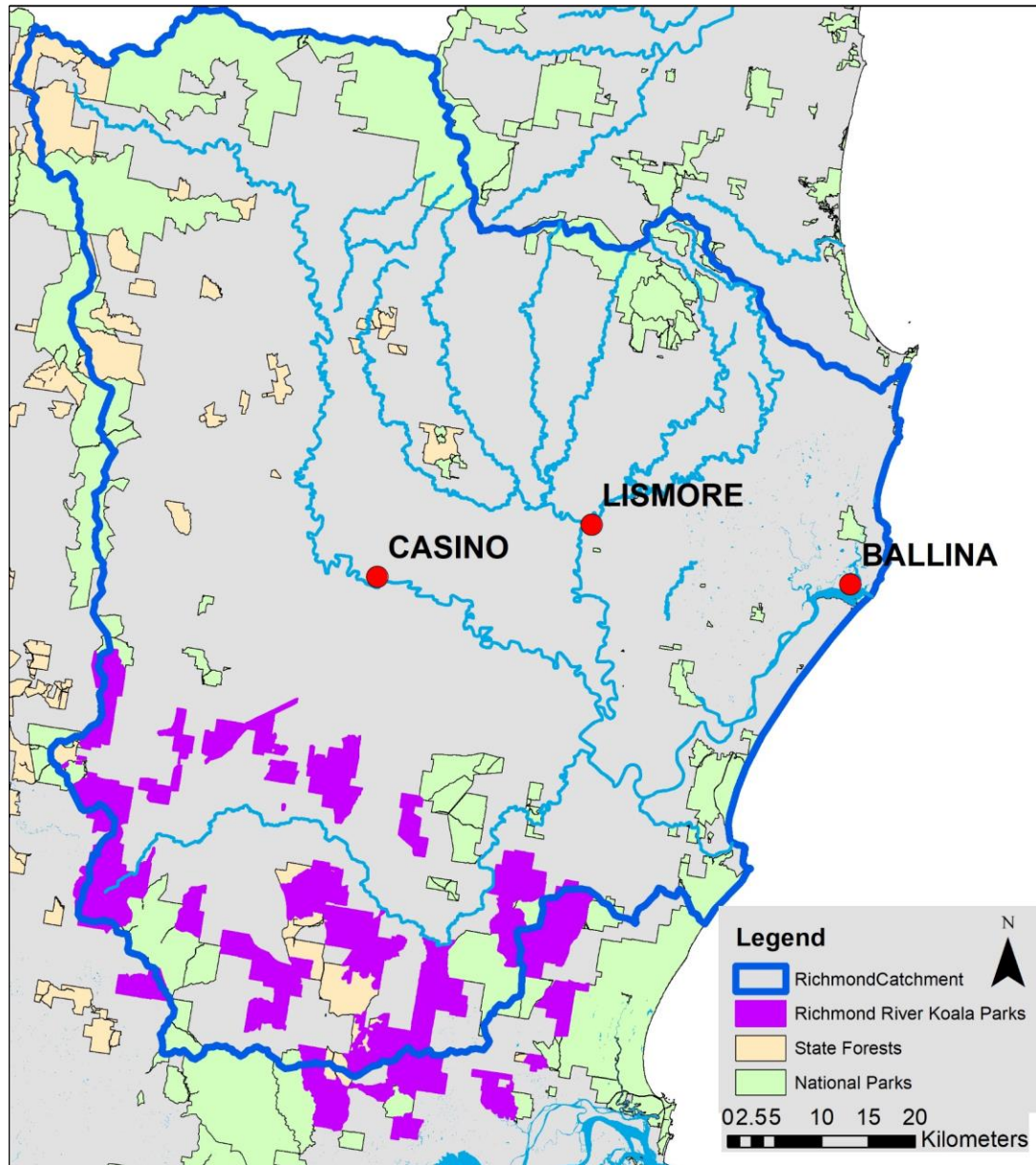


Richmond River Koala Parks

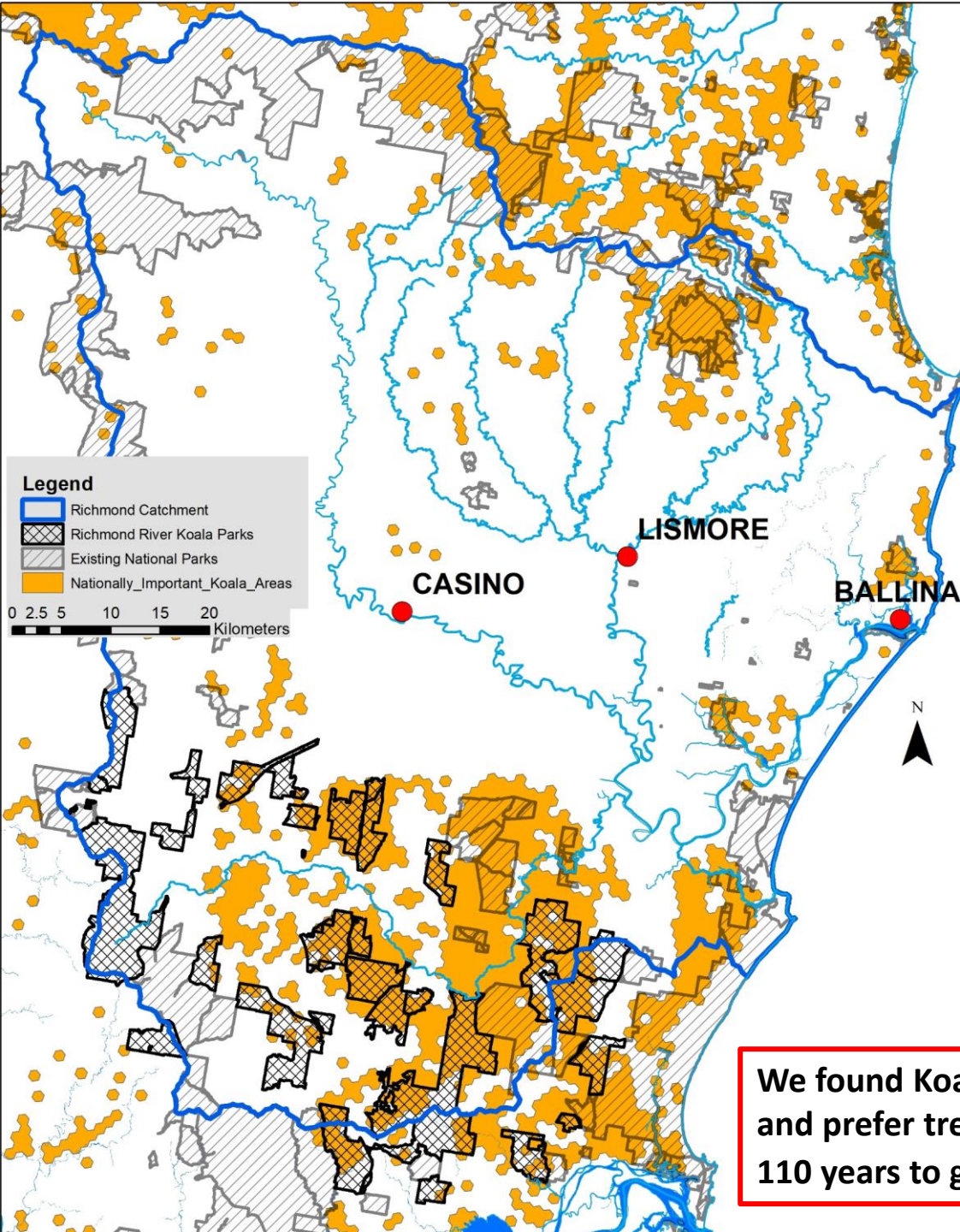


Richmond River
Catchment

Help us protect 56,200 ha of State Forests in the southern Richmond River valley, and on the Richmond Range to:

- Protect the largest area of nationally important Koala habitat in the Richmond
- Protect a biodiversity hotspot, including habitats of 130 other threatened species
- Protect and restore hollow-bearing trees for dens and nests, and mature nectar feed trees
- Create a regionally important wildlife corridor from the coast to the mountains
- Create an adequate reserve system
- Help restore the health of the Richmond River by increasing dry season flows and reducing storm runoff
- Allow forests to regain the 28 million tonnes of carbon dioxide released from past logging, and increase their resilience to global heating

We urgently need to convince the government to stop cutting down Koala feed trees to give them a chance to recover from the 2019/20 bushfires



NATIONALLY IMPORTANT KOALA AREAS

The Commonwealth has mapped Nationally Important Koala Areas (NIKA) that are *large, connected areas of high-quality and relatively intact koala habitat*”, priority areas “*important for long-term koala persistence*”.

Half the RRKPs have been identified as Nationally Important Koala Areas (orange), and Koalas are more widespread.

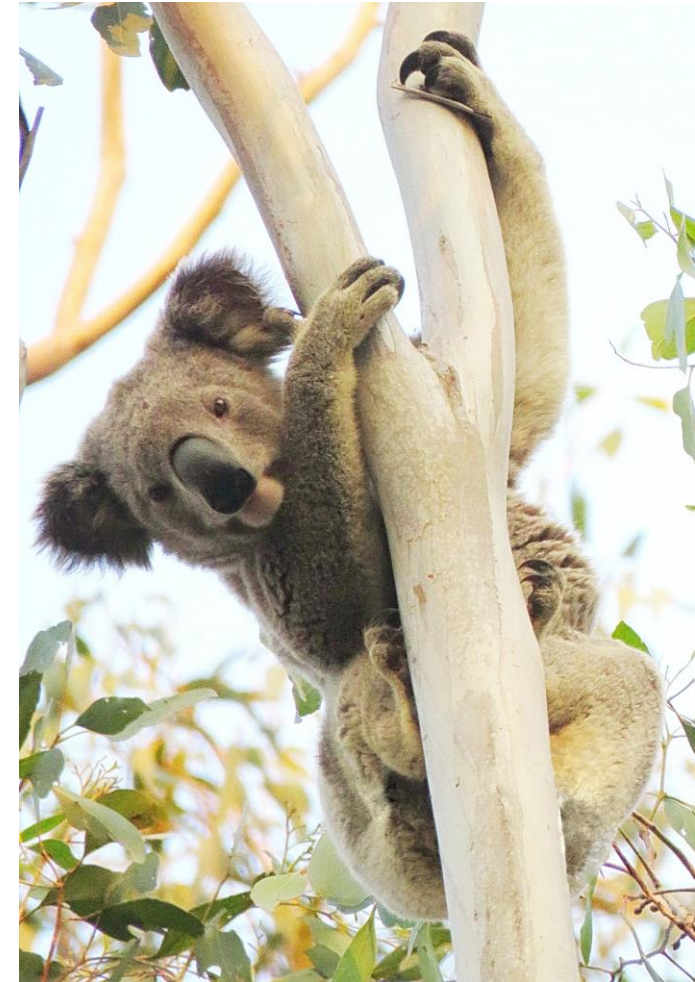
The Richmond Koalas are genetically distinct from those in the Great Koala NP - a different population.

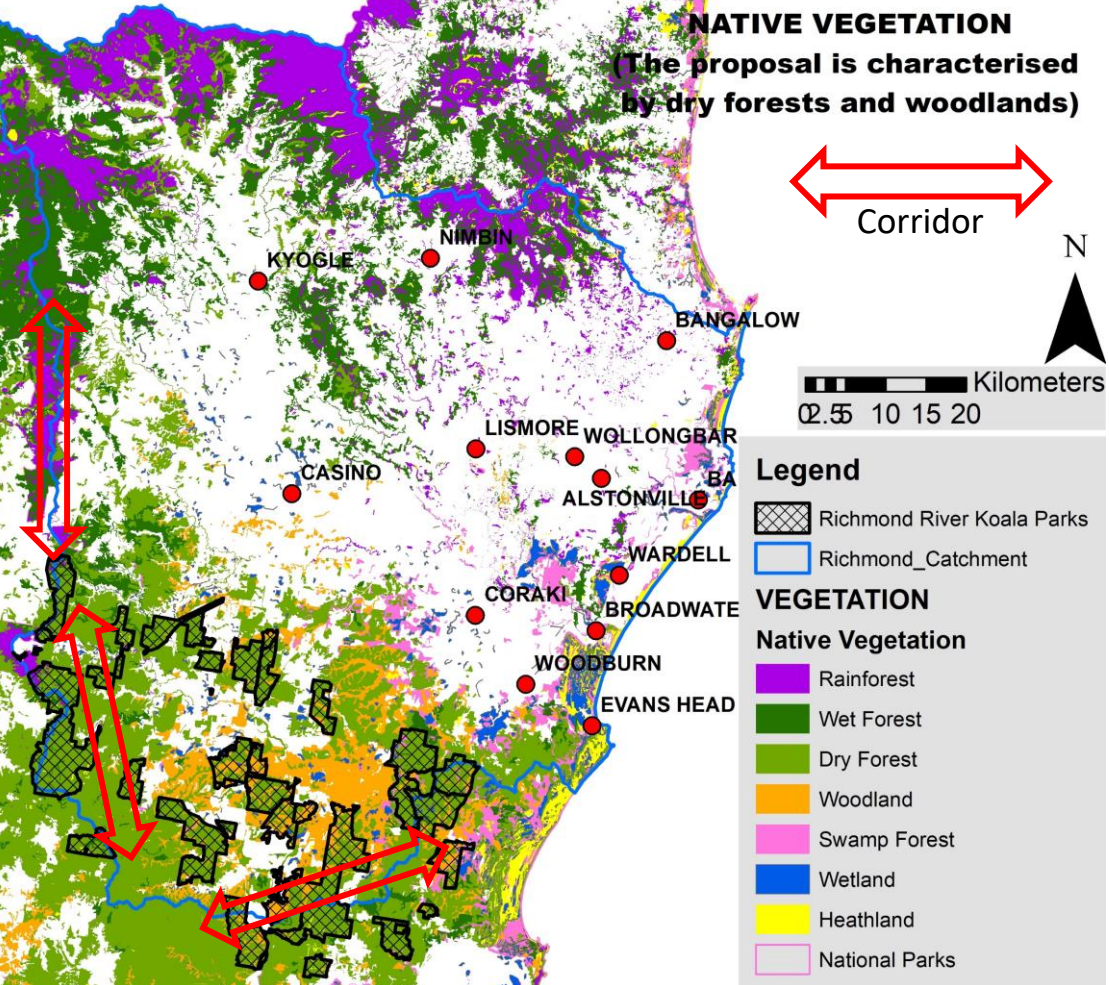
We first identified an exceptional density of koalas here in 2012, and have been trying ever since to get successive governments to protect them:

- Doing surveys
- Lobbying
- Writing reports
- Making submissions
- Protesting
- Taking them to court
- Pleading with ministers

They continue to log Koalas’ homes.

We found Koalas here depend on certain tree species and prefer trees over 30 cm diameter, that take 90 to 110 years to grow. They are not quickly replaced.





It is a biodiversity hotspot

The area encompasses:

- habitat for 132 threatened species (4 Critically Endangered, 39 Endangered, 89 Vulnerable, and an Endangered Population)
- the largest area of intact wetlands, woodlands and forests remaining on the extensively cleared Richmond floodplain, mostly Endangered Ecological Communities
- a high diversity of plants and animals including many reaching or approaching their northern or southern distributional limits
- a significant woodland outlier
- tree-hollows essential as dens and nests for a multitude of species
- a suite of plants endemic to the Clarence-Moreton Basin or with disjunct populations in the Sydney basin
- critical winter nectar for migratory and nomadic species
- a refuge for species declining elsewhere

It includes part of a regionally significant corridor along the Richmond Range, from Bungawalbin National Park on the coast, to the Border Ranges National Park.



Black-striped Wallaby



Squirrel Glider



Regent Honeyeater



Hoary Wattled Bat



Grey headed
Flying-fox



Rufous Bettong



Barking Owl



Yellow-bellied Glider



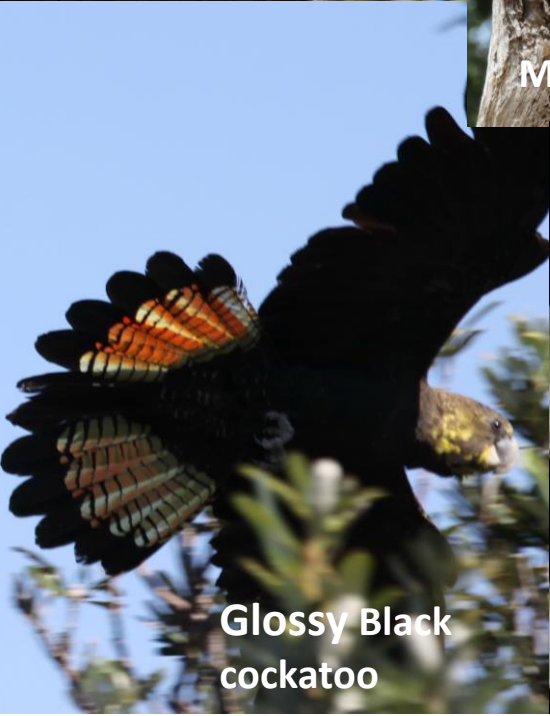
Stephens' Banded Snake



Masked Owl



Spotted-tailed Quoll



Glossy Black
cockatoo



Greater Glider



Powerful Owl



Little Lorikeet



Brush-tailed Phascogale

Many species depend upon hollows in old trees for dens or nests.

22 hollow-dependent species in this area are threatened with extinction.

Hollows begin to develop in trees when they are over 120 years old.

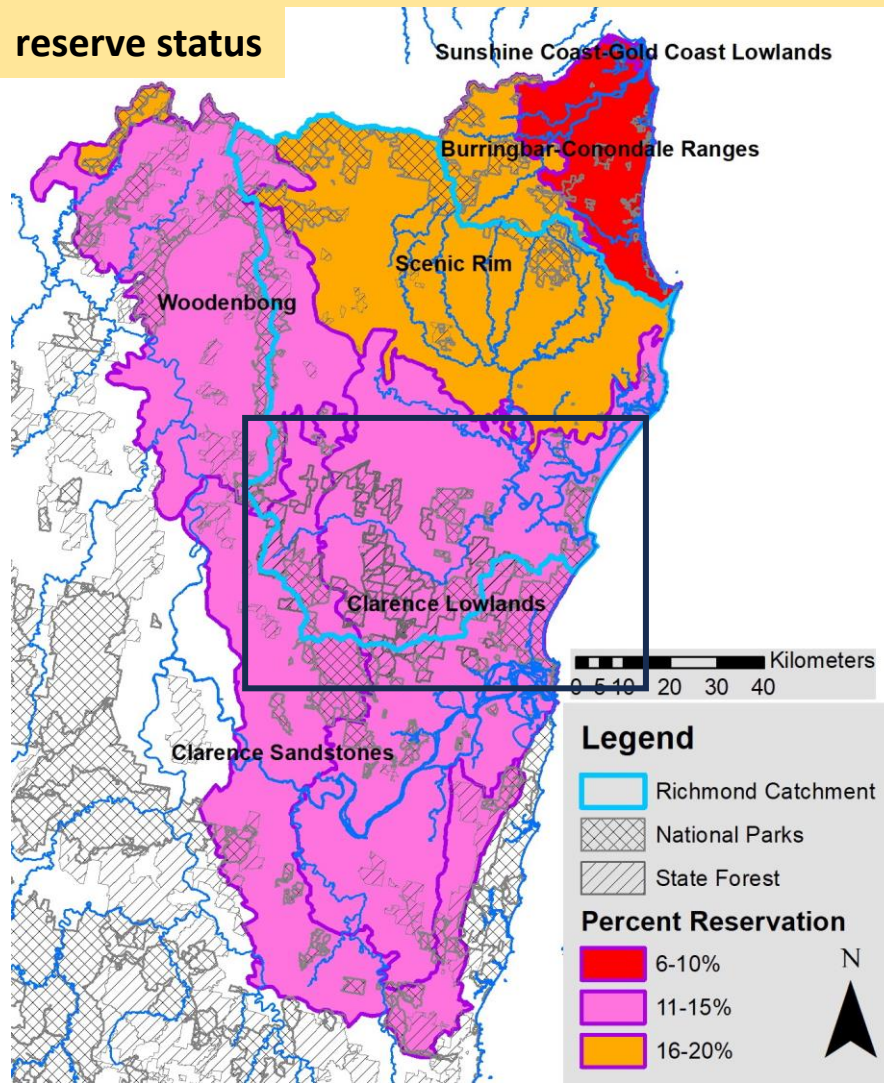
The big hollows needed by larger animals, such as owls, gliders and cockatoos, do not form until the trees are over 220 years old.

Hollow-bearing trees have been severely depleted by logging and fires.

We urgently need to protect remaining large trees to allow them to grow into the hollow-bearing trees of the future, to replace the few that are left before they die from logging, fire or old age.

NSW has committed to the international goal of protecting 30% of the earth by 2030
“especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services”
 RRKPs are part of the NSW section of the South East Queensland Bioregion, one of Australia’s most biodiverse. Less than 15% of this bioregion is in reserves – if all State Forests in this bioregion are protected it would only reach 26%.

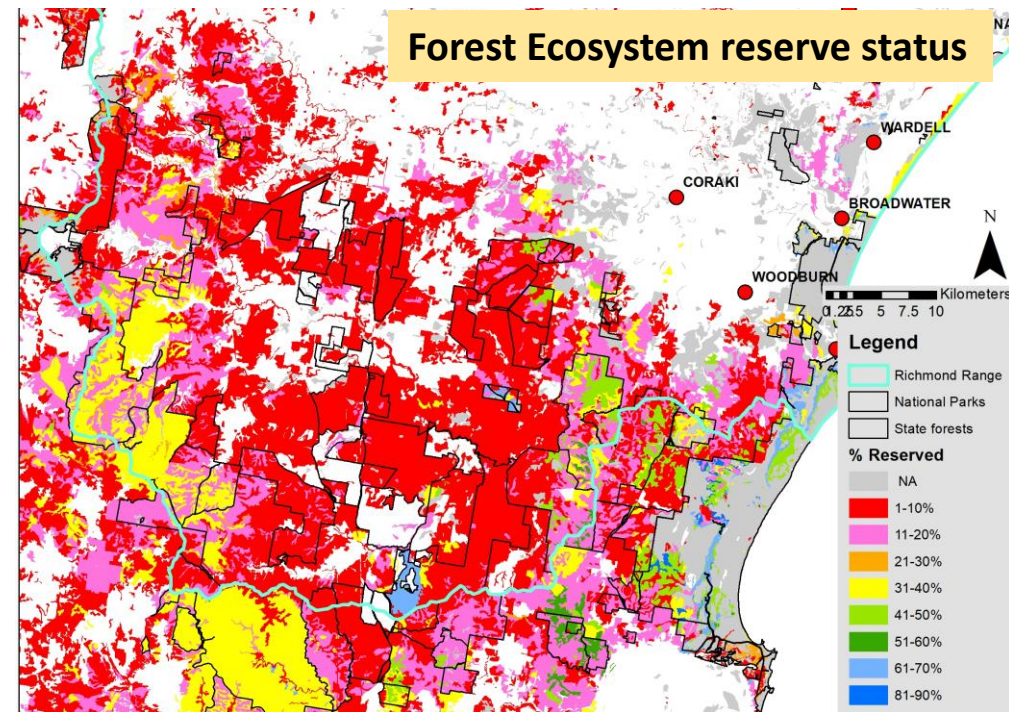
South East Queensland IBRA bioregion, NSW Section reserve status



**These forests
are grossly
under
reserved**

***We have been waiting
28 years for the
Governments to
honour their 1997
promise to protect 15%***

***What hope is there for
their promise to
protect 30% by 2030?***



Waiting 28 years for the promised Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative Reserve System

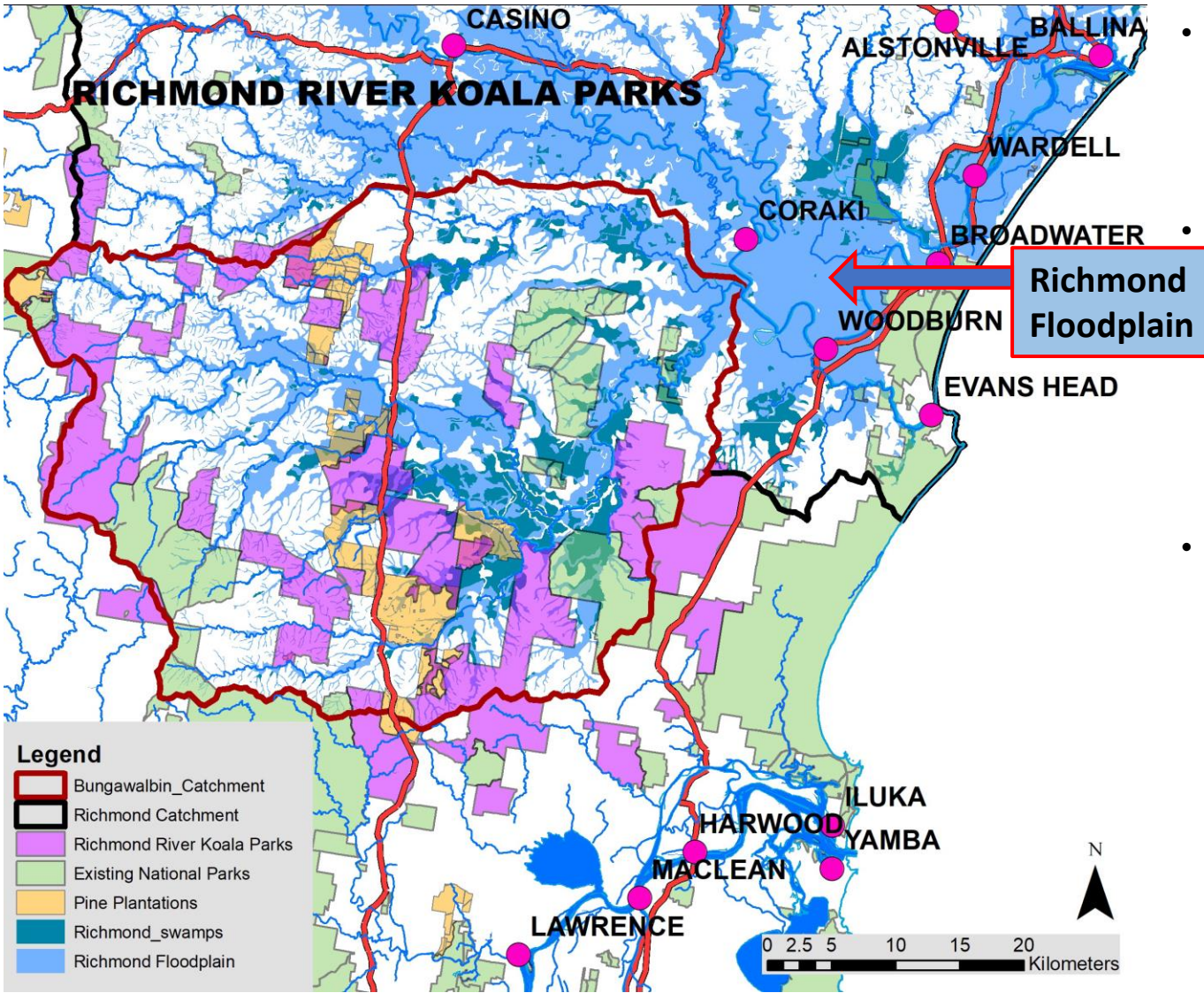
In 1997 the state and Commonwealth Governments adopted minimum targets for a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) national reserve system for forests, including:

15% of the pre-1750 distribution of each forest ecosystem should be protected in the CAR reserve system

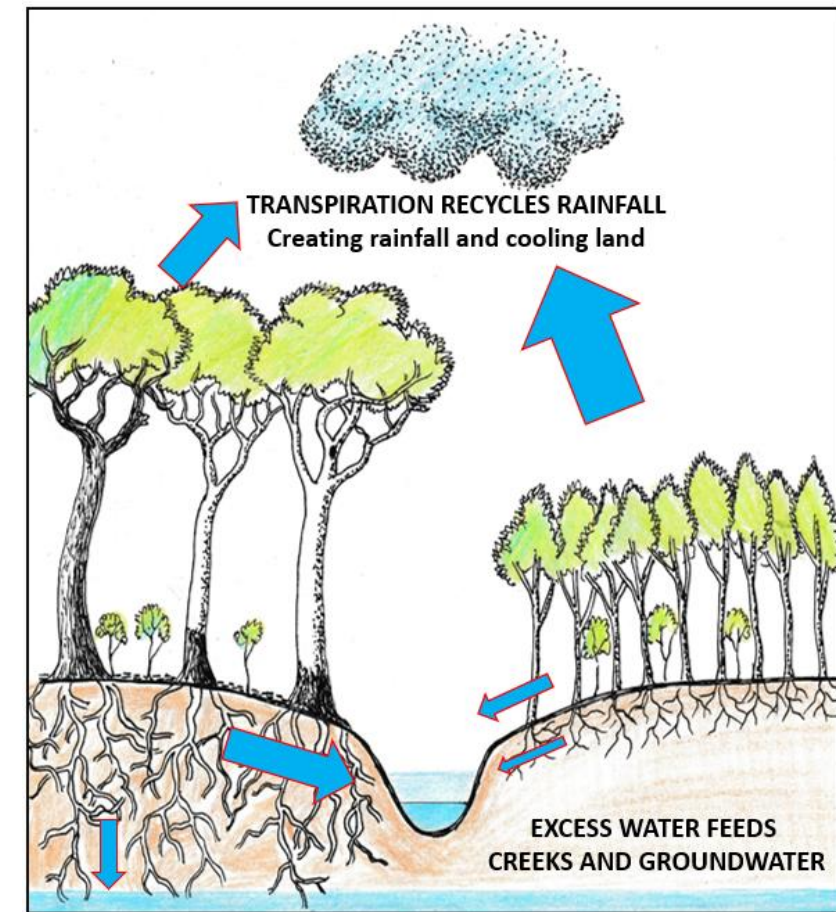
Due to industry pressure they did not establish a CAR reserve system. 28 years later, 62% of these State forests still have not met their CAR reserve targets, with most not even reaching 10% (red).

Restoring the health of the Richmond River

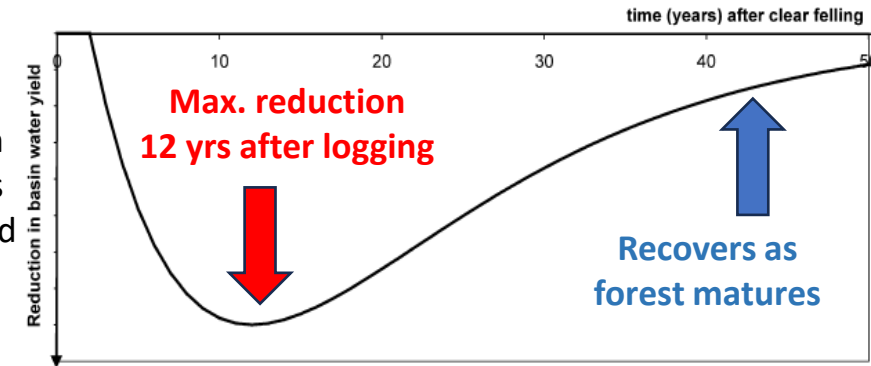
As the forests recover from past logging the maturing forests will moderate streamflows, increasing baseflows in dry periods, and reducing peak flows, erosion and flooding in rainfall events.



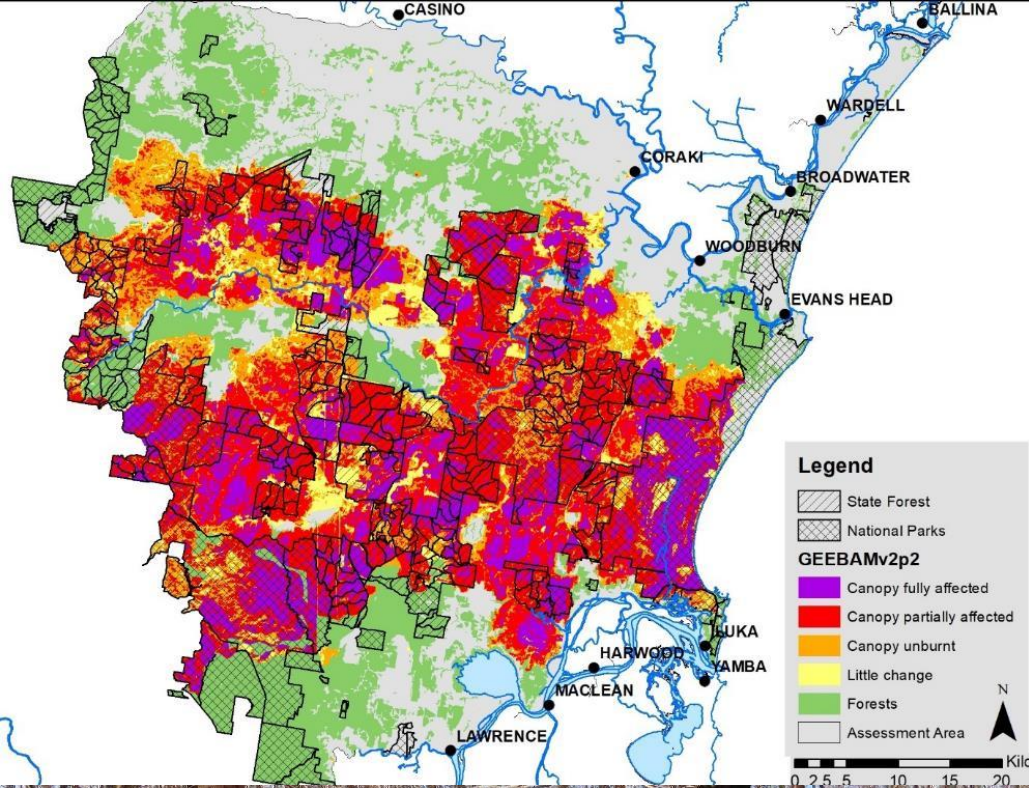
- Streamflow is the leftover rainfall that the forest doesn't use.
- Regrowth forests can use 2-3 times more water than old forests, thereby reducing water yields to streams.
- When logging stops, the forest will mature and use less water, increasing stream flows in dry times into the Richmond River.



LOGGING REDUCES STREAM FLOWS



Kuczera (1985) Curve, reduction and recovery of water yields following loss of overstorey.



These forests were badly burnt in the 2019/20 wildfires and many animals killed

- Across the RRP 86% burnt, 18% intensively
- Over 14% of larger trees were killed, including hollow-bearing trees
- This was followed by drought for two and a half months
- Most Koalas, and a host of other species, were killed in the intensively burnt forest, and many in the partially burnt forest
- Likely half the Koalas were killed
- Koalas are now slowly recovering, in low numbers, but again using most suitable habitat.

Now they are logging over 75% of the mature feed trees Koalas need to rebuild their population.

Logging is underway in Braemar SF where we identified the highest density of Koalas.

Carwong SF is listed for imminent logging, despite being identified as source Koala habitat by the EPA, with 80% of the forest utilized before the fires. Some survived and are recovering.

These are extinction operations.

Creating the RRP is essential to give these Koalas a future.



Save koalas' homes
North East Forest Alliance



Please help
save these
Koalas'
homes,
by
helping create
the Richmond
River Koala
Parks

www.richmondriverkoalaparks.com

