

ABP Koala Program

Key Points, February 2016

- ABP remain committed to our goal of zero harm to koalas.
- In 2013, ABP undertook a complete review of its policies in relation to koala management. After extensive trials, ABP shifted its focus to engaging independent koala spotters to locate koalas in plantations.
- Koala spotters have been deployed on all harvesting sites where koalas are likely to inhabit. Where appropriate, two spotters are deployed on site.
- The spotters work ahead of the harvesting machines to survey and locate koalas present in the planned harvest area. They are also responsible for monitoring koala welfare during harvest operations.
- When a koala is spotted, the tree is marked along with eight surrounding trees. The spotter communicates with the harvest operator to inform them of the koala's presence.
- ABP also engage a suitable and trained person to undertake post-harvest welfare checks on koalas.
- ABP has a dedicated Project Officer who is responsible for managing harvesting as it relates to koalas. The Project Officer is also responsible for training staff and contractors in ABP's Koala Plan, and communicating with a wide range of stakeholders including DELWP, wildlife carers, indigenous groups and contractors.
- ABP facilitates regular stakeholder meetings with a view to sharing information and seeking input into ways to improve our practices. ABP is very appreciative of the time and dedication our stakeholders have shown to improving outcomes for koalas in forest operations.
- ABP's policies and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are reviewed and amended as new information regarding koala behaviour becomes available