



Wildlife friendly fencing

Brisbane City Council provides recommendations for fauna friendly fences which allow wildlife to move safely over, under, around or through the fences so animals can travel between habitat areas without barriers.

Gapped fence

A gapped fence will allow animals such as koalas, macropods, gliders, possums, small ground dwelling mammals and reptiles to climb over, move under, or in between this fence, depending on the design.

A gapped fence includes strand fencing, box wire fencing, chain wire fencing, powder coated fencing, gapped timber paling fencing, cascading fences/walls and vegetated walls.

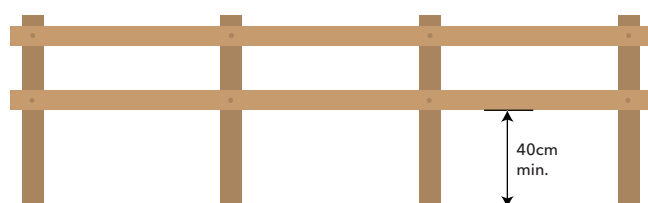
Allowing wildlife to travel over a gapped fence

Increase planting of native trees and shrubs along either side of a fence to provide wildlife refuge and vegetation connectivity over the fence, fostering fauna movement.

Allowing wildlife to travel under a gapped fence

For panel fences, powder-coated fences and strand fences the gap between ground and first rail/bottom of fence:

- is a minimum 30-50 cm for most species
- is a minimum of 40 cm for koalas
- is a minimum of 50 cm (w) x 50 cm (h) for macropods.



For chain wire fence, the gap at ground level and start of the chain wire fence:

- is a minimum 30 cm-50 cm for most species
- is a minimum of 40 cm for koalas
- is a minimum of 50 cm (w) x 50 cm (h) for macropods.

Search Council's website for details of Standard Design Drawing (BSD-7010) for fauna friendly chain wire fence.

For vegetated walls or hedges, keep a clear base with a height of 50 cm.

For macropods, vegetation shouldn't be higher than 1.2 m or wider than 50 cm in depth.



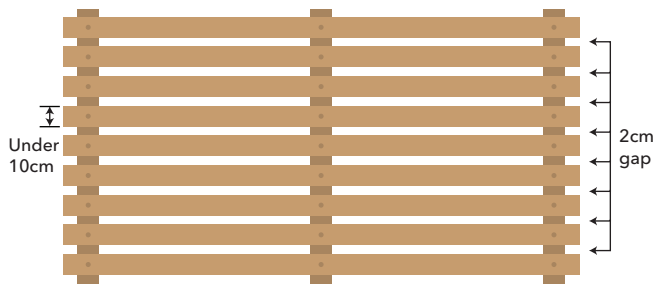
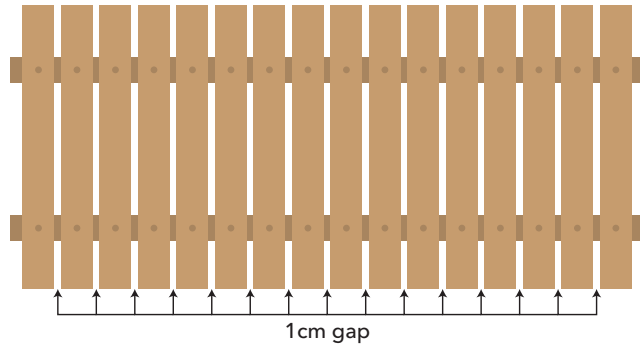
Width of vegetation 50cm max.



Panel fencing

Vertical panels should use rails or slats with spaces of 1 cm.

Horizontal panels are less than 10 cm wide to allow koalas to climb over. Gaps between horizontal rails/slats should be 2 cm.



Solid wall/fencing

Solid walls/fencing include concrete walls, Colourbond, brick, retaining walls and gap-free paling fences. These fence types are generally inaccessible to native wildlife; however, you can add features such as plants and ladders to help animal movement for koalas, gliders, possums, and other climbing species including reptiles, small mammals and amphibians.

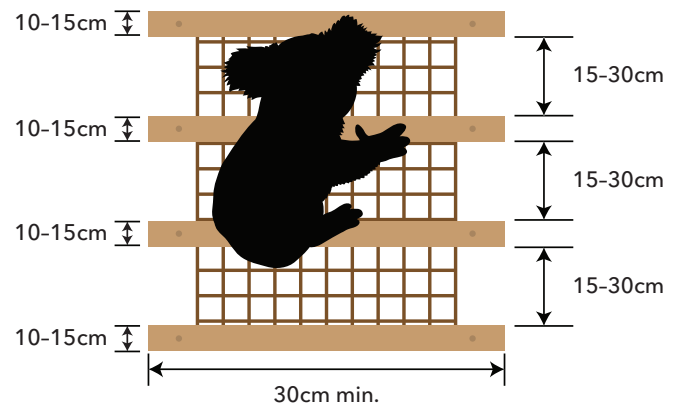
Some ideas to allow movement of animals over a solid wall/fence include:

- Increase planting of native trees and shrubs along either side of fence lines to provide refuge and vegetation connectivity over the fence.
- Establish climbing plants on walls/fences to provide movement opportunities for climbing wildlife.



Allowing koalas to travel over a solid fence or wall

- Install ladders with rungs made from timber or rope at least 30 cm in width and 15 cm in diameter to provide grip for koalas to climb over the fence. Rungs should be spaced horizontally with a minimum 15 cm and maximum 30 cm gap between each rung for ease of climbing.
- Install a climbable timber post or log which leans against the top of the fence at an angle. The post should be a minimum 125 millimetres in diameter.



If you are creating a koala post, ensure that the material is:

- Made of natural hardwood with knobs that are kept as raw as possible to increase grip for the koala.
- Not sanded or grinded to reduce slippage.
- Not made of treated pine.

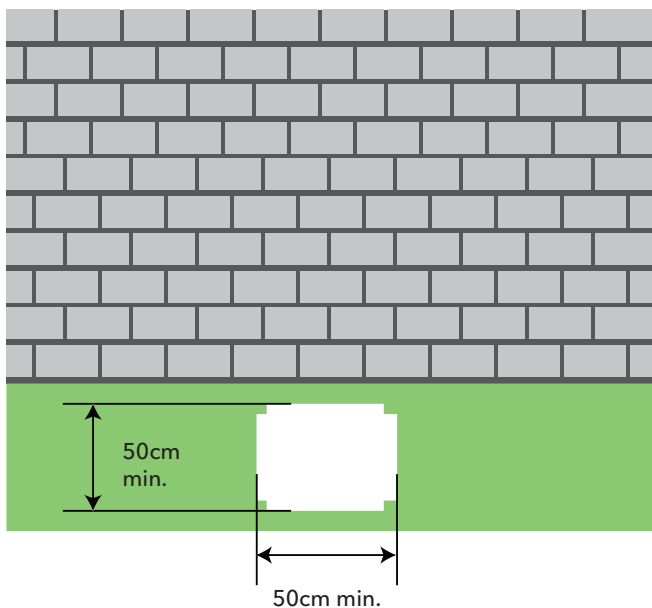
Allowing wildlife to travel under a solid fence/wall

Ensure the gap between the ground base of solid wall/fence is:

- Minimum 30-50 cm for most species
- Minimum of 40 cm (h) for koalas
- Minimum of 50 cm (w) x 50 cm (h) for macropods.

For existing fences, gaps at the bottom can be achieved through:

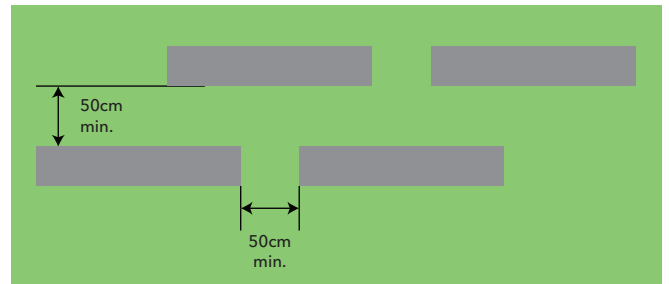
- Digging underneath the fence to a desired gap of 30-50 cm depending on the targeted species
- Installing a 50 cm (w) x 50 cm (h) pipe through a wall or underneath the wall.



Allowing wildlife to travel around a fence/wall

Overlapping fences/walls can be created by providing gaps (minimum 50 cm) at various intervals to allow fauna movement around these fences/walls. While this may not be suitable for properties with domestic pets, it can be built in conjunction with pet enclosures.

These examples show breaks in the walls to allow wildlife to move around solid walls and/or fences.



Note

Planting along fences is encouraged only when it is providing safe connectivity for native wildlife. Planting is discouraged if there is direct access to areas open to domestic pets or swimming pools.

More information

For more information regarding fauna fencing in Brisbane, refer to the following:

- Council's [wildlife movement solutions](#)
- [Atlas of Living Australia](#)
- [Queensland Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation](#)
- [Land for Wildlife](#)

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