

Dear Minister Upton and Office of Environment and Heritage,

If our iconic, much-loved koalas are to survive, then their habitat must be saved from being destroyed by people such as former premier Baird, who, seemingly, saw any open green space as an opportunity for 'more development', which is, often, seen as code for more high-rise flats built on every piece of open space, as has happened in Ryde, where there is no longer sufficient open space even for a circus to visit.

Clearly, without natural habitat, the koala's long-term survival is at risk. The government must take strong action to save koala habitat, including ending native forest logging on public land, improving protection of koala habitat in private native forestry, ensuring urban development does not wipe out koala habitat and reversing the recent changes to our land-clearing protections.

Under the government's new land-clearing laws, WWF estimates we could see 2 million ha of koala habitat lost via the 'Equity Code'. The \$10 million earmarked to purchase koala habitat as part of your strategy will buy only 6,000ha of land on 2015 prices. Ten farmers applying the Equity Code could clear this in a single year.

Only meaningful action, by government, can save this much loved, iconic species.

Regards,

John Boyle 