

Dear Minister Upton and Office of Environment and Heritage,

I am calling on you to ensure koalas are protected into the future, so that the world's favourite animal is not lost from NSW. When we lived in NSW at Kotara South west of Newcastle we were sickened at the State Governments lack of interest in achieving protection for these native animals. Despite all our rallies, protests and petitions a highway was placed straight through the middle of a known koala habitat. Why? No sense in that move, and it appears nothing has changed.

Whether you care about them as a species or not, it makes no sense to wantonly destroy a tourism icon. Please take sensible action to protect koalas now.

The key to the survival of any species is protection of its habitat. I urge you to implement stronger measures 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.

I urge you to take meaningful action to save this beloved, iconic species.

Sincerely,

Carol Bailey 