

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.

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 live in Port Stephens and have witnessed a massive drop in numbers since more development has happened over the last 6 years. We used to always have at least 4 at one time in the school next door...now we are lucky to have the one visit occasionally. I used to hear them all the time....now I don't.

I've seen it happen before in Sydney and all that are left are the koala signs.

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

Sincerely,

Emma Bowen 