

Dear Minister Upton and Office of Environment and Heritage,

As a volunteer koala ambulance driver, I know what the destruction of habitat can cause. The car strikes, the dog attacks, the stress causing serious illness all because of residential and infrastructure development. A lot of this development is decided from input from scientists who really do not know koalas needs on a day to day basis. We do not plan ahead, please stop it and start seriously creating natural environments for these creatures to live in before it is too late. We've taken too much for too long and it is time to give back.

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

Sincerely,

Donna Katsoolis 