

Dear Minister Upton and Office of Environment and Heritage,

Koalas are a signature species.

Early last century, my grandfather shot and killed up to 1000 for their fur.

Since the time when koalas were shot down for their pelts, destruction of habitat has killed many times more. For koalas and many other species of birds and mammals, it is a quiet but insidious death.

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,

Derek Robertson 