

Dear Minister Upton and Office of Environment and Heritage,

I am calling on you to ensure koalas are protected into the future, so that Australia'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, **ESPECIALLY** ensuring urban development does not wipe out koala habitat and reversing the recent changes to our land-clearing protections which are a knee jerk reaction to appease the Nationals.

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. This is a disgraceful outcome. At a time of record prices for farming output why should farmer's greed for ever more income doom koalas and other native wildlife due to ever more clearing of trees? Especially considering that these trees have stood for years before the farmers started to work their land.

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

Sincerely,

Brendan Crotty Lorne, NSW 