

Dear Minister Upton and Office of Environment and Heritage,

Australia is known worldwide for everything thing that bites, sucks, stings, eats you or wants too! All except for the Koala. Its WORLDWIDE attraction is the fact that it's placid and cuddly, and tourists travel the world to see them. Therefor it's a no brainer that this animal must take FIRST place on the "Do all we can to protect this animal" list.

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, so that my and your great grandchildren and generations beyond might see one in the wild.

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 Lyndel Francis 