

Dear Minister Upton and OEH I am appalled that we are even having this conversation. Without koalas, Australia might as well pack up its tourism shingle and put away the welcome mat.

There are a handful of mammals that are immediately identifiable with a location and that people will travel to see. A few are: koala, platypus, panda, penguin, polar bear.

Our iconic animals must be kept safe in the wild. When I lived on Sydney's northern beaches, we used to see them regularly in our trees. I imagine dogs and fences and cars have wiped most of them out.

Now living in Coffs Harbour, our 'rescue' teams are mostly called to collect bodies struck by cars.

Please ensure their habitat in well-being is protected.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment

Sincerely,

Mrs Pat McKelvey