



**Australians
for Animals**

PROTECT • NURTURE • RESTORE

Reg. Charity No. CFN12644

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FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER



AFA SEEKS HELP IN THE UNITED STATES, CANADA AND NEW ZEALAND

The survival of Koalas in NSW and Queensland is now on the line. Their future can only be described as catastrophic as both States and Federal governments refuse to address the crises, allowing habitat to be cleared on a daily basis.

In spite of hundreds of emails of protest going to Premiers Gladys Berejiklian and Anastasia Palaszczuk, the Federal Minister for the Environment, Opposition Shadow Minister for the Environment, Greens Leader and Greens in NSW, nothing happens. A wall of silence surrounds these dreadful governments and political parties as they turn their collective backs on this awful, heartbreaking tragedy.

As one person wrote on our Koala Crisis page, "if the governments can do this to a harmless animal that sits in trees and eats leaves, what hope has any of our endangered and unique species have?" We are witnessing a war against Mother Earth, and the battlegrounds are vast, littered with millions of corpses of innocent creatures driven out of their habitats to make way for developments.

The Federal government has introduced a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) known as CAM on the listing of wildlife species. Without getting too complicated, this MOU effectively wipes out the listing of threatened and endangered species protected under state law, only allowing one national listing for any species.

The impact of this latest weapon of destruction is the recent refusal of the NSW Scientific Committee to list the Port Stephens rapidly disappearing



Koala population as endangered on the grounds of the Federal government's MOU. AFA is waiting for advice from the Environmental Defenders Office as to whether a legal challenge can be mounted.

Together with the MOU, a Species Expert Assessment Panel has been set up by the Feds. This is the body which will now decide if a species can be listed. There's no time frames, no NGO representation, no legal challenges, no public interest. Some conservation groups are predicting that it will now take

up to 10 years to secure a listing for an endangered species – which will probably be extinct by that time.

Our Co ordinator worked tirelessly with the Australian's Environment Editor to secure a major article in the paper which appeared over the Xmas/New Year holiday. The response from governments was total silence.

Clearly, international help is needed. So with AFA's rapidly diminishing funds, our Co ordinator flew to the US to seek assistance. As AFA succeeded in listing the koala under the US

Endangered Species Act in 2000, there was a possibility that some legal action might be available. It was also important to talk to the major public interest law firms to see if they could suggest options that might force the Australian government into action.

As you can all imagine, environmental issues are pretty bad in the US under the Trump administration but as our Co ordinator has a very long history working with major conservation groups and public interest law firms, she was well received.

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We're happy to say that the World Conservation Network agreed to help AFA.

This is a major international organisation with strong links to

another Commonwealth country. A Green MP is the Minister for the Environment. Let's hope she's more helpful than the Australian Greens Leader who has completely ignored the koala wipe out and also refuses to respond to protests and correspondence.



AFA IS RUNNING OUT OF FUNDS!

The charity has been in operation for 30 years, thanks to the support of so many dedicated people who have made this organisation a powerful voice for animals

AFA has led international, national and state efforts to protect Koalas almost since our inception. We have a massive history of achievements over the years, and our relationships with top lawyers, expert scientists, here and overseas is an extraordinary blessing. So many of these wonderful experts have given their time without cost because they know AFA is a hard working, genuine, achieving grass roots group with the expertise to run major international campaigns.

We can't continue without a major input of funds. That's the reality. It is now up to you, the wonderful people who have supported AFA for so many years to dig deeply and ensure the

charity survive or.. . The loss of AFA at this time when we are losing so much of our precious wildlife, when AFA has such a vast treasure trove of expertise so badly needed politically and legally would be a major tragedy. Our Facebook Koala Crisis page has attracted thousands and thousands of hits but zero funds.

AFA has scrimped and saved, we have cut back on everything possible so the charity can keep operating but the writing is on the wall. Please keep AFA alive, the plight of our unique wildlife is heartbreaking and we can't allow this country to become a concrete urbanised desert.

**For the Animals,
Sue Arnold & Friends**



PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

You can donate to Australians for Animals through GiveNow's secure online server or please send your donations to:

**AUSTRALIANS FOR ANIMALS
PO BOX 414
BRUNSWICK HEADS 2483**

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