



# Australians for Animals

PROTECT • NURTURE • RESTORE

Reg. Charity No. CFN12644

PO Box 414, Brunswick Heads 2483 Australia Tel: 61 2 6680 3674 Fax: 61 2 6680 3612 Email: [info@australiansforanimals.org.au](mailto:info@australiansforanimals.org.au)



# DRAMATIC RISE IN KOALA CHLAMYDIA INFECTIONS

*The picture below is a blind Koala. Like so many other Koalas, chlamydia is taking a terrible toll on these beautiful creatures. Chlamydia is an awful infectious bacterial disease, causing unbearable pain and suffering.*

Koalas can suffer from blindness, infertility and an infection known as "dirty bottom". Most koalas with dirty bottom which inflames the urinary tract and is incredibly painful, die. Males, females and even pouch young can catch chlamydia from nursing on watery faeces in their mother's pouch. At the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital, veterinarians know first hand about the suffering.

Koalas cry. No, tears don't roll down their faces, but they cry in pain. The first thing vets do at Currumbin is give pain relief before anything else.

Treatment costs around \$7,000 per koala, and most are hospitalised for up to two months if they survive.

Koalas can be re-infected with chlamydia and experts working on the disease say up to 80 per cent of the remaining koala population in Australia could be diseased. It's a massive problem in Southern Queensland and Northern NSW. Most koalas in Victoria and South Australia have depressed immune systems.

And the cause of this horrible infection? Chlamydia has been present in koala populations for a long, long while but never in these epidemic numbers. Habitat loss and the stress which results from being homeless, with no access to food or shelter, leaving Koalas vulnerable to dog attacks, vehicle strikes starvation and dehydration, are all implicated in the rapidly declining health of remaining koalas.

Ten years ago, Currumbin hospital was dealing with 28 koalas



*Blind Koala image provided by Currumbin Wildlife Hospital*

annually. Last year, the hospital admitted 461 Koalas, 3/4 with chlamydia. A recent study from 2009-2014, demonstrated that 10,139 koalas were admitted to the four wildlife hospitals in southeast Queensland.

This is the reality of the shocking neglect and failed policies of the Queensland, NSW and Federal governments. Currently, we have no idea what the koala population is in Victoria and the numbers from South Australia give more cause for concern.



**PLEASE  
HELP SAVE THE  
KOALAS**

[www.givenow.com.au/koalacrisis](http://www.givenow.com.au/koalacrisis)

# A NATIONAL SCANDAL

**The Commonwealth Games will soon start at the Gold Coast, using a Koala ( Borobi) as the symbol for Australia. It's enough to make the average person want to throw up.**

AFA asked Queensland Greens Senator (and Environmental spokesperson) Andrew Bartlett to ask the Minister for Tourism & Trade Steven Ciobo (whose electorate is slap bang in the middle of southeast Queensland) the following question on notice in the Federal Parliament. These questions are a result of reading the pamphlets which accompany the Borobi products.

**1.** Can the Minister provide an explanation as to why the Borobi koala mascot collectables for sale to commemorate the Commonwealth Games are made in China?

**2.** Can the Minister provide details of what percentage of funding from sales will *"help towards educating the community on habitat conservation and protection right across the Australian koala corridors"*. As the Minister's electorate is in south east Queensland where an 80% decline of koalas has been documented and habitat destruction continues, will the

Minister be allocating funds to his electorate in order to protect koala habitat?

**3.** Will the Minister now seek to allocate funds for tree planting in his electorate?

**4.** Can the Minister advise which "Australia koala corridors " will be "planted with tens of thousands of eucalypt gum trees for Borobi and his koala friends to eat"?

Unfortunately, Senator Bartlett didn't ask the questions – nor did he ask any of the list of other questions which AFA provided. So AFA will now go directly to the Tourism Minister with these questions.

This is the same Minister who spent \$34 million of taxpayers' funds on TV ads directed at the US tourism market featuring some of our best-known movie stars (Chris Hemsworth, Margot Robbie) draped with koalas and kangaroos, encouraging American tourists to come to Australia to see our wildlife.

It really is a national scandal of epic proportions that at a time



*Koala Joey image provided by Moggill Wildlife Hospital*

when the Koala population has no protection of habitat, the laws which have provided slim legal protection via court challenges have been repealed or so weakened as to be completely ineffective, when the Koalas are sick, suffering and dying of disease, that these governments continue to push propaganda and downright lies.

AFA will be meeting with the NSW ALP Shadow Minister for the Environment in Sydney in April, the charity believes that its vitally important to lobby the Labor Party on environmental issues and in particular the koala as there's every likelihood they will be the next Federal and NSW government.

But the actions of the Labor government in Queensland in terms of koalas and wildlife

don't give much cause for optimism. Although a draft bill is before the Queensland Parliament to limit land clearing, its weak and full of holes.

AFA is working tirelessly with the Environmental Defenders Office and more recently with the Barristers Animal Welfare Panel as we continue to seek a precedential lawsuit which will force the governments to protect habitat from forestry, development, highway upgrades, urbanisation, mining and destruction.

In late March, as a result of AFA's protests, submissions and legal letters from the EDO, compliance officers from the Federal and NSW government flew to Ballina to meet with our Co-ordinator to do a site inspection of the appalling destruction at the Ballina Highway Upgrade. Stand by for some action!

AFA has gathered a massive amount of research, evidence and we have the support of some of Australia's best expert scientists.

Please support our work as AFA is right on the front line and we're working very hard to save the koala.

**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**

<https://www.givenow.com.au/koalacrisis>



[www.facebook.com/koalacrisis](http://www.facebook.com/koalacrisis)



[www.twitter.com/koalacrisis](http://www.twitter.com/koalacrisis)