



Australians for Animals

PROTECT • NURTURE • RESTORE

Reg. Charity No. CFN12644

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WE'RE AT THE KOALA CROSSROADS

Unless the destruction of koala habitat is prevented by legislation, we're going to lose this precious iconic creature in NSW and Queensland. The plight of Victorian and South Australian koalas is not as serious but there's major problems with these populations as well.

Many of you will have read predictions that koalas will be extinct by 2050 unless drastic action is taken. AFA deplores this prediction, the charity has contacted conservation organisations and politicians who support this preposterous claim begging them to stop making this irresponsible statement. Making claims that the koala will go in 2050 allows today's political parties to put the issue in the "too hard basket" as its not going to happen in their term of office.

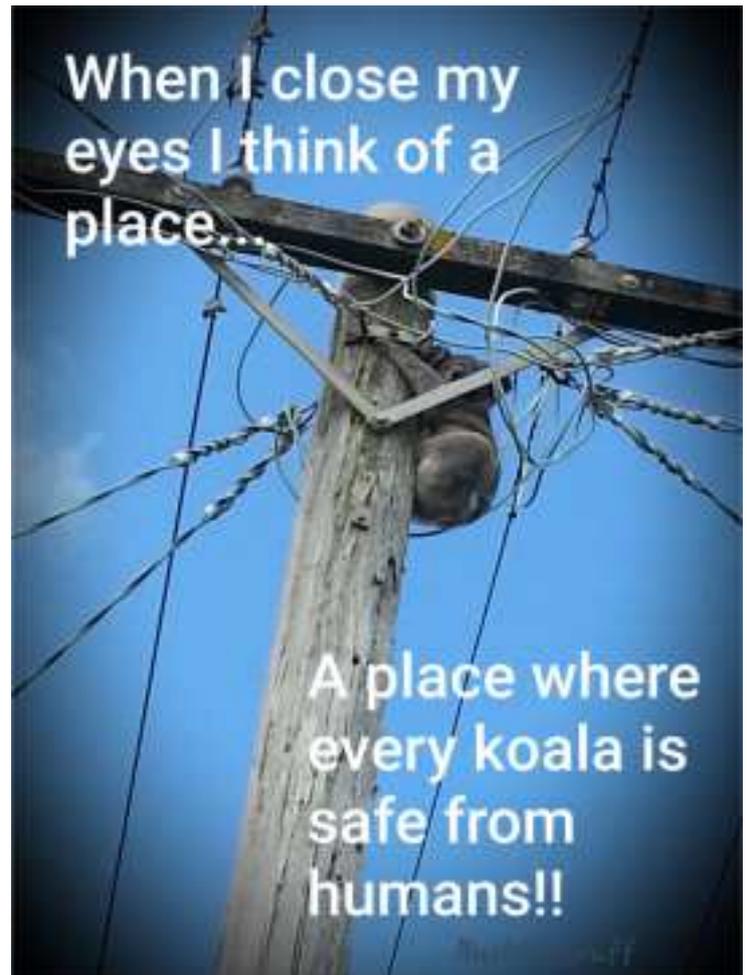
An amazingly irresponsible statement by those who should know better. Anyone with basic scientific understanding knows these kinds of predictions are neither scientific nor useful. Koalas are dying every day, their habitat is destroyed every day. The species is at a tipping point, action has to be taken NOW.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the world's most reputable global authority on wildlife has designated the koala as one of the world's ten most vulnerable species to climate change.

Why ? Because koalas are entirely dependent on eucalypt leaves (and a few other species) for their moisture and nutrient needs. But our native forests are riddled with disease, the NSW government is getting ready to log old growth forests, remaining koala forests, riparian zones, removing high koala use areas leaving the animals with no options.

Yet the state and federal governments continue to recklessly ignore climate change impacts in spite of the most severe drought which shows no sign of ending. In fact, meteorologists are predicting it can continue its devastation for many months to come.

You won't be reading what's happening to wildlife during this dreadful drought in the media but the death toll of kangaroos, emus and so many other species with no access to food, water and shelter is shocking. Thousands of wildlife are dying, yet there's no relief plan much less any recognition of their desperate needs.



AFA – MEETING WITH QUEENSLAND PREMIER ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK

Thanks to the considerable help given by former Minister for the Environment, Graham Richardson, a meeting was arranged by him with AFA's Co-ordinator and the Premier.

Sue made sure that one of Australia's best koala experts, Professor Frank Carrick was also included in the meeting.

We had three major requests to make to the Premier. An emergency koala summit, a koala hotline which was manned

24 hours a day so that departmental people could take immediate action to protect habitat being destroyed (so much is done illegally) and an urgent and immediate investigation into the Coomera disaster.

The massive translocation program of 180-260 koalas (we will never know the true number) from Coomera development sites has been a disastrous failure. Every captured koala was removed to facilitate development. The information we have finally received under Queensland's Right to Information Act is so shocking in terms of its revelations about the translocated koalas that we're not including in this newsletter.

AFA will be making a formal complaint to the Crime &

Continued...



AFA – MEETING WITH QUEENSLAND PREMIER ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK

Corruption Commission in Queensland and we're investigating whether the Gold Coast City Council can be taken to court for what amounts to the deliberate slaughter of an irreplaceable important koala population.

Suffice to say that the Queensland government and the Gold Coast City Council facilitated by the Federal government have ensured the wipe out of one of the last remaining core koala populations in south east Queensland. A slaughter that must be investigated and those who allowed this to happen,

brought to justice.

AFA brought to the meeting with the Premier a big handful of photos of habitat destruction, koalas struggling to find shelter up telegraph poles, sitting on railway tracks, hanging onto fences. Shocking evidence of a mindless lack of enforcement of legislation, monitoring, compassion and action by authorities.

We were well received by the Premier who indicated her love of koalas and concern.

She took on board our issues and promised to have further meetings and to make a decision

on an emergency summit as soon as possible.



TRANSLOCATION EFFORTS BY NSW AND QUEENSLAND

In August, the Queensland Department of Environment & Science held a workshop on translocation – by invitation only.

Fortunately, we had several people there who were able to report on the discussions.

One major issue which our friends raised was the ongoing refusal of the Department to provide a shred of information on what happened to the 180-260 koalas translocated from Coomera.

Without any data on mortality, survival, reproduction etc. any suggestion that translocation should be adopted as policy by Queensland government

would be nonsense. The Coomera translocation was the biggest effort in that state and every single critical piece of data has been kept secret by the Department.

Finally, one of the bureaucrats admitted that all the information was being with-held because... wait for it... the person who was employed by the Gold Coast Council to carry out the



**PLEASE
HELP SAVE THE
KOALAS**

translocations was doing a Ph.d and had requested that all data be with-held.

This is beyond belief. A government department deliberately withholding critical information to protect this guy's Ph.d ??? A thesis which can take years to complete.

Yet meantime, we know officially from Queensland Hansard in Parliament that more than 42% of the translocated koalas have died.

We know now that this figure is a joke, and does not reflect the true mortality.

When we have finalised our complaint to the CCC, we will let everyone know the full extent of the scandal.

But until that time, we have to continue to gather all the evidence so that an irrefutable case can be built and justice can prevail.

A PLEA FOR LIFE ON EARTH

Today, the US CNN television ran a headline from World Wildlife Fund global organisation which is extremely sobering.

60% of the world's wildlife has gone extinct in the last 40 years. And.. We are the last generation that can save nature.

Dear friends who have tirelessly supported AFA over 30 years, God bless you all because each and every one of you have done your best to protect our precious wildlife kin.

It's heartbreaking to sit in this office witnessing the mindless criminal destruction of our natural heritage. Our rivers are sick, our native forests are in many places diseased, the governments are attempting to undertake massive logging of old growth forests, the immigration rate is unsustainable and our democracy is failing.

It's also inspiring to know that there are some bloody wonderful Australians out there who are fighting tooth and nail to protect koalas in their areas.

We must keep fighting for the sake of future generations of human and non-human life. Next week our Coordinator is meeting with Richard di Natale, the

leader of the Australian Greens in Melbourne. The Greens have failed to make the environment their primary policy and Australia's unique wildlife is paying the price for this unforgivable omission. Sue will be doing her best to persuade the Greens leader of the ramifications of failure to make the survival of koalas, our wildlife and environment their primary focus and policy. Without a healthy environment, none of us have a future.

Please continue to donate funds to AFA, the charity is on the front line. We're fighting and campaigning at the highest levels of government and with the NSW elections looming in March, we'll be doing massive campaigning to ensure the end of the Berejiklian government. Surely the most corrupt, anti environmental government in NSW's history.

Don't let nature down. We must win and we can if enough of us walk our talk. And if you can't do the walking, please help fund our campaigns!

For the Animals and the Earth.



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

The only way we've been able to uncover the Coomera scandal in Queensland is through the Right to Information legislation.

To give you an idea of how bad this state has become, most of our requests which cost \$49.50 per request were submitted mid July.

Come early November, the battle to obtain the information requested continues. Every four weeks the government comes back requesting extensions of time. The way the legislation is written, if you don't agree to an extension then the request is cancelled.

Some freedom of information! It's much the same in NSW, an

endless wait, many delays and every effort made to ensure government information which should be on the public record is protected and made unavailable.

Then there's the cost of documents. These requests are absolutely critical to finding out what's happened to the Coomera koala population in particular.

Why? This is the latest policy of extermination of koalas by both state governments.



**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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www.givenow.com.au/koalacrisis

AFA'S STALL AT THE SAN FRANCISCO EXPO

Thanks to some wonderful friends in San Francisco, AFA was able to set up a stall at this major international expo where many stall holders were conservation organisations from all over the world.

Americans and many international conservation groups were really shocked by the plight of the koala. People continually expressed their amazement as most believed that Australia had a "wonderful wildlife record". Nothing could be more far from the truth!

But the sad reality we found at the Expo is that almost every country is experiencing the same scenario. Corrupt governments, no enforcement of laws to protect wildlife, massive loss of habitat to development and species barely surviving.

AFA had to spend some of our precious funds stocking the stall

and we didn't sell very much along with most other conservation stalls. It was very disappointing but we do have some wonderful posters, koala key rings and tote bags to sell if any of you are interested.

Key rings are \$5.00. Tote bags \$5.00 and beautiful koala posters \$5.00, all including postage. Pictures of the goodies are below. If Australia Post wasn't so expensive, these items would be cheaper. AFA is not seeking to make a profit, we would just like to sell them at cost and use the funds for the campaign.



SUPPORT AFA BY BUYING KOALA MERCHANDISE



**A3 POSTERS, KOALA KEYRING
KOALA TOTE BAG:
\$5.00
INCLUDING POSTAGE**

TO GET YOURS GO TO:

www.givenow.com.au/koalacrisis

donate your total and check "Leave a message..." with the items you'd like us to send.

AFA IS A VERY LOUD VOICE FOR KOALAS

Our Koala Crisis Facebook page is now the most powerful voice for koalas in the country with almost 2 million hits in the last couple of months.

We have undertaken countless field trips, submitted a pile of Freedom of Information requests, engaged lawyers, scientists, contacted the media, politicians, written endless submissions.

We need funds for a legal challenge, this is the only way we're going to stop the destruction and keep koalas surviving into the future.

Please help. Koalas deserve all our efforts. We really are at the cross roads of survival.

*For the Animals,
Sue Arnold & Friends*



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