

SOUTHWEST SYDNEY

# KOALA

POPULATION FACING EXTINCTION



*Dear Premier,*

***The level of public concern over the plight of the koala population in southwest Sydney must be acknowledged by you, as Premier, and acted upon by your government.***

This healthy expanding population of approximately 500-1000 koalas is one of the largest, most critically important regional colonies remaining in NSW. Yet the government has completely failed to ensure their protection and protection of their habitat.

The NSW Koala Strategy lists habitat protection as the primary recommendation to ensure the continued existence of koalas in this state. Around 70,000 houses are planned in an area which is prime koala habitat, ensuring the population will inevitably be lost.

Road construction works planned by Roads & Maritime Services and Lendlease completely fail to protect koalas and other wildlife.

***Koalas and wildlife will be trapped behind exclusion fences with no ability to escape from bushfires or other catastrophes whilst their behavioural needs are ignored.***

Unless underpasses and overpasses are sited in known areas where animals move, they are useless. Any connectivity must be put in place before any road works are commenced. Corridors planned by the developer are completely inadequate.

Without adequate corridors, connectivity and recognition of the importance of retaining habitat, koalas are doomed to vehicle strike, dog attacks, and disease caused by stress and an inability to disperse.

It is now breeding season and a time when koalas should not be subjected to stress which causes disease and death.

***Independent koala scientific experts must evaluate the conservation, corridors and connectivity plans for the, Mt Gilead, Appin, Wilton and Greater Macarthur Growth Plan. Primary habitat cannot be replaced by biobanking and offsets.***

The koalas are facing politically driven extinction as a result of the failure to implement the recommendations of the Koala Strategy and to address the urgent need to protect habitat for all remaining NSW koalas.

***The public is deeply concerned by the ongoing loss of koalas and the complete failure of your government to understand that the economy and our future relies on healthy ecosystems and biodiversity.***

Unless your government acts to protect habitat, there's little doubt history will demonstrate NSW koalas went extinct as a result of your policies.

*This open letter to the Premier of NSW was jointly funded by a coalition of concerned citizens and organisations. To those of you who have helped make this open letter possible, thank you so much for your caring, kindness and awareness.*

- Australians for Animals Inc.
- Green Triangle Koala Community
- International Koala Intervention
- Total Environment Centre
- Indigenous Justice Network
- Bundjalung Elders Council
- Adelaide Hills Koala Rescue
- Mount Gravatt East Townhouse Development Action Group
- Clarence Environment Centre
- Blue Mountains Conservation Society
- Bellingen Environment Centre
- Koala Rescue Queensland
- Queensland Koala Society
- The Koalition, Munich
- Lawyers for Companion Animals
- Magnetic Island Koala Hospital
- Lismore Environment Centre
- Put Your Hands Up for Animals Network
- Lawyers for Companion Animals
- Two Thumbs Wildlife Trust
- Mount Gravatt East Townhouse Development Action Group
- Possumwood Wildlife Recovery and Research Inc.
- NPA MacArthur Branch
- Caldera Environment Centre
- Sustainable Australia Party
- Georges River Koala Network
- Surfrider Foundation
- Sydney Wildlife
- Australian Forests & Climate Alliance
- Keep Sydney Beautiful
- NSW Animal Justice Party
- Vegan Australia
- Help Save Appin
- Animals Australia
- Save Mt Gilead
- SERCA
- Save Sydney's Trees
- George's River Environmental Alliance
- Wilton Action Group
- Rewilding Australia
- Better Planning Network
- Terania Rainforest Publishing
- Catholic Earth Care
- Norfolk Island Environment Centre
- World Society for Protection of Animals
- Hunter Environment Centre
- Animal Liberation NSW
- Kalang River Forest Alliance
- Northern Rivers Guardians Inc.
- Nimbin Environment Centre
- Blacktown & District Environment Group Inc.
- Bryon Environment Centre
- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- South East Forest Alliance
- Chip Busters



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