



# Australians for Animals

PROTECT • NURTURE • RESTORE

Reg. Charity No. CFN12644

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## KOALA CRISES DEAF GOVERNMENTS DEAF POLITICAL PARTIES

*Think about this scenario. A Koala with a joey on her back, desperate to find shelter as their trees coming crashing down, bulldozed by the Roads & Maritime Services.*

Their future? Starvation, stress, dehydration, injuries, disease, death. Because there's no access to their corridors and their home range.

The Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) have refused to construct overpasses and underpasses in spite of their original documents stating that these structures would be built.

Now the RMS will only build exclusion fences along Appin Road. Fences which trap koalas in the event of bushfires, hinder the koalas' breeding, ensure that dispersal of joeys will be extremely limited as their habitat continues to shrink. The fences at Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade resulted in koalas being trapped in a major bushfire that burned more than 350 h.a. A lack of connectivity structures (26

required under the conditions of approval) were not built ensuring koalas suffered starvation, noise, vibration, massive clouds of dust making the leaves on feed trees inedible.

It's heartbreaking to realise these koalas are almost certainly the largest remaining healthy expanding population in the state. Now just 'things' in the way of housing an extra one million people in the Greater Macarthur area.

The NSW government is a disgrace. New rules in the Parliament ensure that the voting public can only access their member of parliament. If that member happens to be a minister, his/her website will only allow voters in the electorate to make contact. Members can only ask questions relevant to their own



Photo: Pat Durman

electorates.

Ministers no longer respond questions from the public via emails or letters other than sending out a form response which is full of misinformation and false claims.

The Prime Minister talks about the 'quiet Australian' but he appears to have no understanding that the 'quiet Australian' is boiling mad over the ongoing loss of koalas, gliders, kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, and an astonishing number of bird species.

## SOUTHWEST SYDNEY STRATEGY WORKSHOP

*AFA's coordinator carved out a weekend recently to organise a strategy meeting with community organisations from Campbelltown, Wollondilly, Picton and Wedderburn – all areas which will be forever changed by the Greater Macarthur project.*

As always, AFA is confronted with a desperate community who have fought tirelessly without any substantial help. The major conservation groups paying little more than lip service to the plight of koalas ignoring the urgent need for experienced campaigners to help grass roots groups.

In essence, the government has conspired along with local

Councils to keep the proposed massive developments strictly local issues. Campbelltown Council has been allowed to give approvals to projects which should have been advertised in mainstream media and online at Council's website.

The koalas in southwest Sydney are a state issue. Their future survival is a major concern for the



Down to 27% - Photo: Pat Durman

entire state and all conservation organisations who have the fate of koala as their priority campaign. Instead virtually all the protest has been kept to the local level. A disaster.



**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



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

# NSW UPPER HOUSE KOALA INQUIRY

*Many people in NSW breathed a sigh of relief when NSW Greens Cate Faehrmann announced a koala inquiry earlier this year. Most of us assumed that there would be a real effort to ensure that the best scientific, legal and community information would be addressed.*

Australians for Animals Inc with its long history of involvement with koalas contacted Faehrmann's office and offered unstinting help as the charity has over 30 years experience in koala conservation.

It's worth reviewing the charity history. AFA was the first Australian conservation organisation to succeed in listing an Australian species (the koala) under the provisions of the United States Endangered Species Act as Threatened.

At the time, listing under the ESA was the most powerful step in protecting any species globally. The effort took three years of tireless research with a small team of scientists, lawyers and researchers. AFA's submission covered NSW, Queensland, Victoria, and South Australia.

The criteria for listing under the ESA requires only the completion of one of five terms of reference. AFA's submission fulfilled all five. The submission is still the most comprehensive history of koala conservation available today.

Our Co-ordinator was Secretary of the Sun Herald Koala Fund for a number of years. A task that took her all over NSW to areas where the koala was at risk, writing

weekly columns on the threats and lack of action by government.

Since that time, AFA has set up Koala Crisis on Facebook (with over 2 million hits), published a booklet on "How to Save Koalas" which gives precise details of action that can be taken locally in NSW and Queensland; has undertaken countless attempts to mount legal challenges with the Environmental Defenders Office; given a significant number of public lectures and has worked endlessly with some of Australia's best scientists with expertise on koalas, coastal forest ecosystems.

As well, AFA has worked with communities in NSW and Queensland providing financial help, advice, strategy and support in major campaigns. AFA has been engaged in major campaigns in NSW, particularly the Ballina Pacific Highway Upgrade. Virtually every weekend for months we videoed the ongoing massive damage, as well as spending hours and hours with EDO lawyers trying to stop the holocaust.

AFA has lobbied state and federal politicians, met with the Queensland Premier, Greens leader Richard di Natale, Labor Party Shadow Environment



Photo: Pat Durman

Minister Tony Burke.

The charity has undertaken countless Freedom of Information requests to establish the real truth behind government lies about koala protection, we have exposed much of this gross misinformation.

We've raised funds for a full page advertisement in the NSW Premier's electorate which was supported by 60 organisations.

We arranged for the advertisement to be sent to every single NSW politician.

AFA has written policy, endless submissions, appeared before the Federal Senate Committee on Faunal Extinction.

So naturally, with the depth of the charity's experience, AFA expected to be a witness at the NSW Upper House Inquiry.



**PLEASE**  
**HELP**  
**SAVE**  
**THE**  
**KOALAS**

**SUPPORT AFA BY BUYING**



# KOALA INQUIRY - A FARCE

*The first hearing was set in Sydney. Major conservation organisations with questionable focus on the koala were invited along with WIRES who refuse to provide any data on the number of koalas brought into care with their shelters.*

Almost every major group invited to appear had refused to sign on to the full page advertisement to the NSW Premier calling for the southwest Sydney koala population to be saved.

Their excuses could only be described as pathetic. One organisation insisting that underpasses and overpasses were not useful! An incredible statement.

WWF gave evidence at the hearing— the same organisation that continues to tell the public “koalas will be extinct by 2050” giving governments a free get out of jail card. Scientific and anecdotal evidence demonstrates wild koalas in NSW and Queensland will be lucky to survive a decade much less another 30 plus years.

AFA complained to Faehrmann's office about the failure to include the charity in the Sydney hearing. (In fact our Co ordinator was in Sydney that week).

In response, an email from Faehrmann's office in August confirmed that AFA would be invited to appear at the Ballina hearing on October 18th.

*“We definitely want you to appear as a witness for Australians for Animals Inc. In regards to your previous email, we felt your organisation would be better*



Victim of senseless slaughter

*placed at a regional hearing. The initial Sydney hearing was not intended to be the biggest or most important but a chance for some of the larger enviro orgs to lay the foundation for the committee so that later hearings can be more impactful. We foresee these regional hearings as being of greater significance than the hearing in Sydney.”*

However, as time wore on and the Ballina hearing got closer, there was no word from Faehrmann's office in spite of phone calls and emails.

Finally, the same day that AFA organised a deputation to meet with one of the NSW Minister for Environment's advisor over the southwest Sydney koala population, an email arrived from Faehrmann's office.

*“There are so many stakeholders on the north coast with koala expertise and we have been unable to accommodate all of the organisations wanting to attend the hearing. Unfortunately, we will not be able to have Australians for animals as a witness at the hearing.”*

In fact, there was once again only a select group of organisations invited to give evidence. The critical issues involved in the Ballina Pacific Highway Upgrade completely ignored or glossed over.

The incredible damage caused by the RMS was not raised. The breaches of consent conditions ignored. The entrapping of koalas behind exclusion fences and the resulting starvation and death toll ignored.

As with the Sydney inquiry, only two scientists gave evidence. One is invited to give evidence again at Campbelltown. Another organisation has three opportunities to give evidence at hearings. This must be the only Parliamentary inquiry where an organisation has three opportunities to give evidence, effectively ensuring that “THEY” are the chosen ones with the expertise.

Scientists who have so much to contribute to any koala inquiry have been ignored.

Legal issues which drive the destruction have been ignored. Complex stuff which has been the focus of AFA as the agreements between state and federal governments have been the death knell for koalas.

It is a shocking situation. Given the focus and submissions which have been submitted to the Federal Senate Inquiry into Faunal Extinction from some of Australia's best scientists and institutions, the NSW effort is a disgrace.

AFA emailed every member of the NSW committee. Only one member's staff responded.

Don't expect any outcome in June 2020 that will address the real issues which are driving the koala to extinction.

One of the most concerning aspects of the inquiry is the obvious lack of adequate briefing on the legal maze between state and federal governments with serious koala impacts.

Who pays in the end? The koalas.

## IG KOALA MERCHANDISE

A3 POSTERS, KOALA KEYRING KOALA TOTE BAG:

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

## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT WITH A FREE STICKER



[www.nationalkoalanetwork.org/order-free-stickers](http://www.nationalkoalanetwork.org/order-free-stickers)

# VICTORIA SHAMEFUL STATE

*AFA has had a Freedom of Information request into the Victoria Department of the Environment for over 9 months. We asked for a population estimate of the state's koalas since none is available.*

We asked for the mortality rate on plantations where koalas are living; for details of injuries.

AFA undertook this task as we've had shocking anecdotal evidence that living koalas have been thrown into the chippers and that many have been burned alive.

So far, we've received almost no information. A brief hand out indicated a very high level of mortality in one region where logging of forests and plantations is high.

But we're still waiting as the Victorian government continues to stall. It's incredible that we can't get ANY estimate of how many koalas are surviving in Victoria. All we do know is that the government has split up forests and plantations where koalas exist



into regions with regional offices who don't feed into any central data bank.

Then the government cites "privacy issues" or "commercial in confidence". So AFA presses on. We will get the information one way or another.

# IF YOU LIVE IN SYDNEY CLAIM THE DATE NOVEMBER 20th

*Our Coordinator has a wonderful working relationship with Professor Paul Ehrlich and his wife Anne who are based in San Francisco. Paul is one of the world's leading ecologists and he's spent a great deal of his life undertaking research in Australia.*

Paul will be visiting in November. Sue Arnold has organised with Profesor Richard Kingsford from the Centre for Ecosystem Science at University of NSW for Paul to give a lecture on November 20th at 6.30pm. Admission FREE.

The lecture is entitled: Mass Extinction and Collapse.

*"For decades, scientists have been warning us ab out damage to ecosystems and impending climate catastrophe, but those is power have failed to act. Have we finally reached the tipping point?"*



## SAVE THE KOALA CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

AFA has put together a booklet for communities fighting to save koala habitat which is free on line.



The booklet is full of useful information including rescue guidelines, hospital contacts, media and political guidelines. The booklet is free of charge.

**GET YOURS HERE:** <http://bit.ly/koalarescue>



### Paul R Ehrlich: Mass Extinction and Collapse

For decades, scientists have been warning us about damage to our ecosystems and impending climate catastrophe, but those in positions of power have failed to act. As extinctions accelerate and the devastating impact of human activity on the environment becomes clear, have we finally reached a tipping point?

UNSW Sydney  
Wed 20 Nov, 6.30pm, FREE  
[centreforideas.com](http://centreforideas.com)



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