



Australians for Animals

PROTECT • NURTURE • RESTORE

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JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER

WILD LIFE MATTERS

Massive protests have taken place all over the world after the murder by US police of an American black man, George Floyd. Racism sucks.

So does speciesism. The inability to grant rights to non-humans. Animals who share the same emotions as humans, who feel pain, loss, embrace their family bonds, wanting nothing more than food, shelter and the right to life.

Animals have no justice. No one is marching for their rights.

Here in Australia, our precious wildlife needs protest marches in every city and town.

Wild Life Matters needs to be the catch cry of all Australians.

Without a healthy environment which depends on vibrant ecosystems kept functioning by wildlife, humanity will suffer terribly.

WE'RE IN THE SIXTH EXTINCTION

Globally, we are facing the Sixth Extinction. Australians for Animals Inc. counts two of the world's most internationally acclaimed scientists as friends and mentors.

Here are some of the statements from the paper.

"All the indications are that we are facing the most serious environmental threat to the survival of humanity because it's irreversible. Thousands of populations of critically endangered animal species have already been lost. Around 94% of 77 mammal and bird species were lost in the last century. More than 237,000 populations of those species have vanished since 1990

The ongoing wipe out is a direct result of regional biodiversity collapses, the loss of ecosystems on which survival depends. This catastrophic rate of extinction is a direct result of humanity, now numbering 7.7 billion with numbers rapidly growing. Pushing the earth way beyond its carrying capacity."

These deeply respected scientists say that there is extreme urgency in taking massive global actions to save humanity's life support systems. Last year the UN reported that a quarter of all species face extinction. Once gone, they are lost forever.

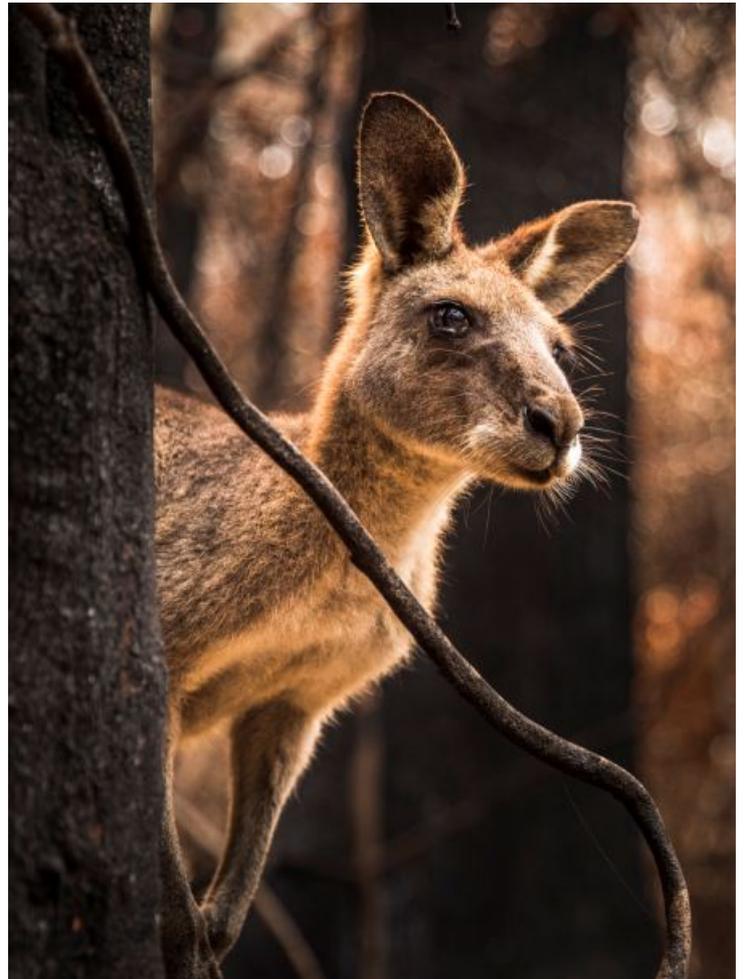
As the paper says, humanity needs the life support of a relatively stable climate, fresh water, pest and disease vector control, pollination for crops, bees, forests.

The conclusion says it all. *"The extinction crisis, like to toxification and climate crises to which it is tied, poses an existential threat to civilization. It is, therefore, a scientific and moral imperative for scientists to take whatever actions they can to stop extinction.."*

"The conservation of endangered species should be elevated to a national and global emergency for governments and institutions, equal to climate disruption."

"There is time, but the window of opportunity is almost closed. We must save what we can or lose the opportunity to do so forever."

AFA believes it is the moral responsibility of every thinking, aware person to do whatever he/she can. We all have a sacred obligation to future generations of human and non-human life.



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NSW GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO LOG IN UNBURNED FORESTS WHICH ARE PRIMARY KOALA HABITATS

More than 5 million hectares of the state was torched. NSW was the worst hit state. Scientists estimate more than 1 billion animals died in the holocaust which impacted NSW, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia.

Federal Minister for the Environment, Sussan Ley claimed in January that over 8,000 koalas had died in the fires. No further information has been provided by the Berejiklian government on the total number of koalas lost. Given that the 8,000 mortality was in January and the fires continued for weeks burning more and more habitat, the ongoing survival of koalas in NSW was clearly a critically urgent priority.

But no. Instead, the Berejiklian government approved the continuation of logging in unburned forests which are the remaining primary koala habitats. In spite of massive protests, the logging continues unabated.

The latest effort to wipe out remaining koalas is the plan to burn forest biomass for "renewable energy".

The NSW government intends to produce 1 million tonnes per annum (140 truckloads a day) of wood pellets from north-east NSW's forests to burn for electricity, either in Australia or overseas. To facilitate this they have increased logging intensity, introduced clearfelling, reduced stream buffers, allowed logging of old growth, and reduced protections for

threatened species.

The time frame for submissions has closed. AFA has read a number of excellent submissions, but we know what the outcome will be. Exactly the same fate as the Federal and NSW governments' rejection of hundreds and hundreds of scientific submissions objecting to a 20 year approval for Regional Forest Agreements. Into the garbage bin.

The NSW voting public has a government that refuses to listen to the community. Gladys Berejiklian is acting like Trump. She's a dictator with no interest or concern for the environment or wildlife.

As for our stressed wildlife struggling to survive in burned out ecosystems, less than quarter of the funds allocated by the Berejiklian government to support wildlife carers has been spent on the intended target according to the Sydney Morning Herald.

The government has spent only \$220,000 of the \$1 million earmarked for carers. \$438,000 has been spent creating new positions within the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to oversee wildlife carers.



NAMBUCCA FOREST - CRITICAL HABITAT FOR SO MANY BUSHFIRE SURVIVORS

It's now being logged. Despite massive protests and the identification of major Aboriginal sacred sites. Nambucca is one of the few state forests which didn't burn, making it essential refuge for forest fauna that survived and were threatened even before the fires.

Nambucca forest is home to old growth forest, many species of Owls, koalas, gliders and critical plant communities.

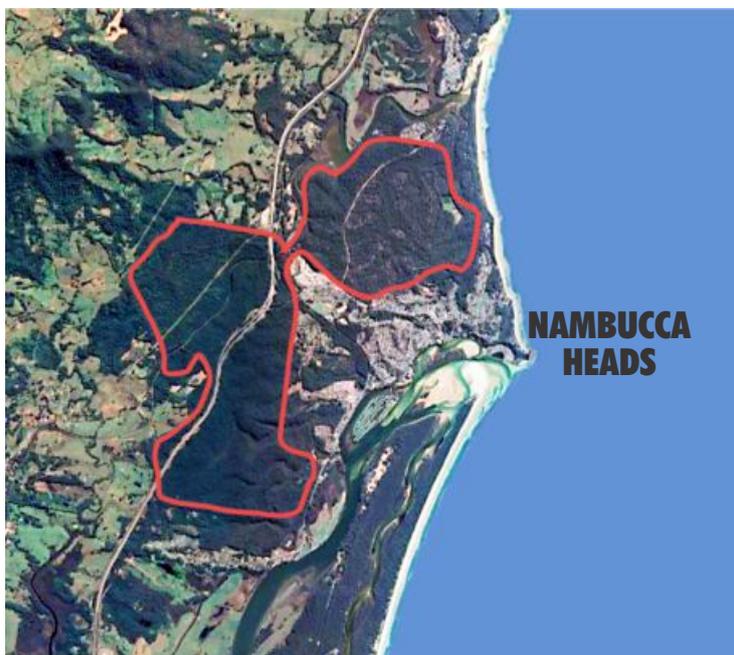
No surprise that the forest is in National Party Melinda Pavey's electorate. This dreadful Minister is one of the most passionate anti environmental members of the Berejiklian government. Her record stinks. As Minister for Roads & Maritime Services she was responsible for the Ballina Pacific

Highway koala wipe-out.

AFA is working with our colleagues, the Indigenous Justice Network (IJN) in their incredible efforts to stop the logging. Right now semi trailer loads of logs are leaving the forest.

Destroying forests is the action of a corrupt, criminal government..

STOP PRESS. Logging has been stopped. AFA has been working with IJN on a legal challenge and it looks like IJN has had success !!



WHERE HAVE ALL THE MILLIONS AND MILLIONS DONATED TO KOALAS & WILDLIFE GONE?

There's not been one shred of accountability or any auditing of the millions of dollars given not only by Australians, but from people, corporations and organisations all over the world.

WIRES, a NSW wildlife organisation has received over \$60 million. AFA has been told that the amount is now over \$100 million. There's no auditing on the WIRES website.

What is on the site gives major cause for concern. Under "Emergency Relief", the site states that Applications to the Wildlife Relief Fund are now closed. That since January, WIRES has distributed \$2million in grants nationally to over 190 licenced wildlife groups and individual carers.

AFA is unable to understand why emergency relief would be now closed. The millions of dollars donated specified no end time, no cut off date for help. \$2 million is just a drop in the ocean. AFA has spoken regularly to carers who are desperately short of feed, medicine, fences, enclosures.. One of the most critical needs is for mobile wildlife hospitals.

By far the most urgent need is to buy up habitat. Koalas and other forest dependent wildlife have no place to go. The remaining unburned forests

are being logged - the legislation is so corrupt that any legal action is almost impossible.

WIRES priorities? These are the priorities.

"Response and Rescue, Rehabilitation, Relief, Recovery and Risk-Reduction. Longer term projects will address the changed landscape and loss of habitat, support research on the rehabilitation and protection of vulnerable and threatened species, and the potential to establish a national network to improve the outcomes for wildlife."

Seriously? The "changed landscape" and "loss of habitat" completely ignores the crises facing koalas. In suggesting these weasel word goals are "long term projects" completely ignores an absolutely critical crisis.

WIRES has no words directed at the government(s). A HUGE amount of money which would allow for habitat acquisition, mobile field hospitals, proper enclosures, revegetation programs, and A MASSIVE CAMPAIGN TO STOP LOGGING IN THE



REMAINING FORESTS is not on their agenda.

Stopping logging is absolutely critical if any forest wildlife is to survive.

There's no lists of which wildlife organisations and carers received grants nor any information on how much each grant was worth or what it

was for. Money was distributed to various states with no auditing or information.

Given the generosity of so many, the most important response is to account for the dollars given. That way, donors know they've made a difference.

MEANTIME IN OTHER STATES

Brumbies are to be shot in NSW and Victoria. AFA believes there are other solutions besides helicopter shooting wild horses – horses that are descendants of Walers in so many areas.

Having witnessed first hand the shooting of animals from helicopters, AFA says the practice is nothing short of murder.

Wombats have mange in epidemic proportions. Scratching themselves to death. So few options available to carers. AFA believes that the bushfires, agricultural practices and loss of habitat may have created massive distress causing the mange. The charity has no expertise with wombats but we do know that all remaining wildlife are under stress.

Victoria is getting ready to start the duck murder season. Once again, diminishing populations of ducks are to be shot for sport.

The kangaroo industry continues to slaughter with no attempt by any government to stop the quotas until at least the animals have had time to recover from drought and bushfires.

Queensland is a basket case. Massive

urbanisation and infrastructure projects are wiping out remaining habitat. The "new" Koala Strategy as predicted by AFA is a waste of paper.

It has not delivered any security of habitat or guarantees of survival.

Federally? There's a review of the Environmental Protection & Biodiversity Act which is required every 10 years. Submissions have closed.

But what most organisations have ignored is that the Federal Minister for Environment changed the terms of reference. The Act requires the review to carry out two only provisions.

A. the operation of the Act, and

B. the extent to which the objects of the Act have been achieved.

Instead, the review is focused on blockages to economic growth. Ley and Morrison have gone out in mainstream media frequently saying

that they will scrap any "green tape" so developments can proceed unhindered by environmental regulations.

The evidence is on the EPBC Review website. "The review will be guided by the principles of:

A. making decisions simpler, including by reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens for Australians, businesses and governments

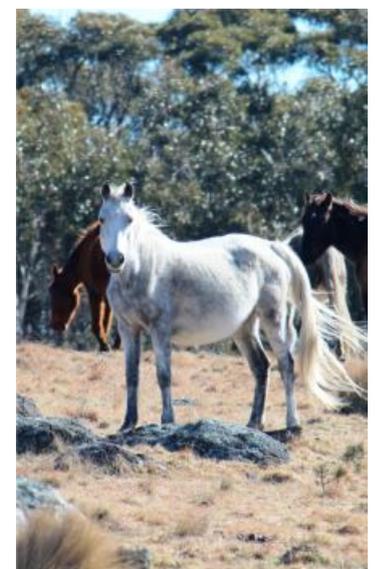
B. supporting partnerships to deliver for the environment, supporting investment and creating new jobs

C. improving transparency to ensure better use of information, accountability and trust in the system, and

D. streamlining and integrating planning to support ecologically sustainable development.

All the governments are dedicated to one mantra. Growth at any cost. The guiding principles have nothing to do with the protection of wildlife and the environment. But it seems few have taken on board the obvious conflict.

AFA has made a major submission. But like all submissions, we presume it will end up in another pile of paper as with most submissions to governments these days.



Yes, the pandemic has made a huge dint in Australia's economy and so many people have been impacted.

But if trashing the environment, our forests and wildlife is the only tool available to governments to repair the economy, another catastrophic disaster is around the corner.

Yet every political party of note ignores what's happening. So does mainstream media.

AFA'S FOCUS

Through our very popular Facebook page Koala Crisis, we're continuing to get news out to the public. News and information which is not being made available in mainstream media. We're providing emails and contact details of relevant politicians, not that there's any response but...

Our focus continues to be acquisition of habitat. We are still engaged in a very lengthy legal effort to save huge swathes of forests in northern NSW but there have been major delays in obtaining the relevant documents. And until we get these papers, the lawyers won't know if there's a legal challenge.

AFA continues to call lawyers, scientists and anyone likely to help

koalas and our wildlife.

We have a huge long list of celebs, sporting heroes, media, retired scientists, retired politicians we've asked to help.

Our co-ordinator is writing regular articles on koalas and wildlife Independent Australia, an ezine daily magazine which is extremely well read.



AND SOME GOOD NEWS

A stunning victory in Victorian courts by the Friends of the Leadbeater Possum. Thanks to the hard work by lawyers from Environmental Justice, (EJ) Victoria. The lawyers alleged logging in 41 areas of the critically endangered Leadbeater's Possum and the vulnerable Greater Glider contravened federal law. The judge ruled in favour of Environmental Justice!

This is only the second case ever brought in the 21-year history of Australia's national environment protection law that challenges the special exemption given to the logging industry from laws that protect threatened species, via Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs).

AFA is engaging with the EJ lawyers to see if there's similar action which can be run in NSW. Environmental Justice tried to organise a zoom conference recently but they have two more major cases happening and the conference – which will include a number of organisations – will

happen soon. AFA will be involved.

AFA continues to support the wildlife shelter we adopted. AFA has also taken on giving help to the Own & Pussy Cat Farm Animal Sanctuary (northern NSW) who care for abandoned and suffering farm animals.

AFA has also contacted the Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital – a brand new venture run by vets – who are building a mobile hospital capable of helping in any disaster. We will support this critical work.

AFA is reliant on your financial



support at this time. We know charities are going to be hard hit – except for the big ones who have had a fortune in donations given after the bushfires.

There's always been one truth in successful environmental campaigns.

Their grass roots efforts and without strong communities, dedicated individuals, and grass roots groups, the plight of our precious wildlife would be so much worse.

Please make Wild Life Matter!
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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