
From: King, Catherine (MP) <Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 9 May 2019 5:10 PM
To: Australian Koala Foundation
Subject: RE: protecting Australia's environment

Dear Deborah

Thank you for your letter.

Labor is committed to protecting Australia's precious environment, including our native animals such as koalas.

That is why, if elected, a Shorten Labor Government will reform Australia's environment laws by passing a new Australian Environment Act and establishing a federal Environmental Protection Agency in our first term of government.

The current Environment Act is now 20 years old and has never been significantly reformed. Over this 20-year period, we have sadly seen an increasing number of our native species come under threat. It is time to bring our environment laws into the 21st Century.

Labor's new legal framework will compel the Australian Government to take a leadership role in actively protecting Australia's unique natural environment and wildlife.

To drive our national effort to save our iconic wildlife, a Shorten Labor Government will also establish a \$100 million Native Species Protection Fund. The Fund will seek to restore numbers of endangered plants and animals, working in partnership with states, territories, business and civil society to address pressing extinction and invasive species issues.

Labor is particularly concerned that broad-scale land clearing is posing a real threat to many of our native species, including koalas.

A Shorten Labor Government will introduce a trigger in national environmental law to protect Australia's remnant vegetation and put an end to broad-scale land clearing where states do not properly regulate it.

We will also work with stakeholders to increase Australia's vegetation cover, restore degraded landscapes and cultivate diverse habitats and corridors for native wildlife.

Labor has already announced that we will provide a koala crossing and \$50 million in safety upgrades for one of NSW's most notorious roads.

NSW has one of the only chlamydia-free koala populations in Australia and the colony has been thriving. Sadly, we are increasingly losing these koalas to road accidents, particularly during mating season.

Labor's funding will support important upgrades to Appin Road, including \$5 million for the establishment of a koala sky bridge, to ensure we protect this healthy koala colony as well as other native fauna in the area.

Labor is the party for the environment. I can assure you that we will always take the action needed protect our precious native species for the present and future generations.

Thank you again for getting in touch about this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine King.