

Ms Deborah Tabart OAM
Chairman
Australian Koala Foundation
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Dear Ms Tabart

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the views of the Liberal and Nationals Government on important issues you have raised. A response to your questions is attached.

This election will have real consequences for regional Australia and the nation's economy and our future.

Despite global headwinds, our economy is strong. This year, for the first time in more than a decade, the Government will deliver a Budget surplus.

We know the potential of regional Australia, our people and communities. That's why The Nationals fight for your fair share.

By working together, we're putting locals first to build a stronger regional Australia.

We are putting locals first to deliver:

- Relief for household pressures;
- Secure local jobs and better wages;
- Quality local healthcare and education choices;
- Local roads, transport & infrastructure that works;
- Safer regional communities;
- Protecting our local way of life for future generations.

We can do all of this because of a strong economy.

The alternative at this election is Mr Shorten. Labor's risky agenda includes \$387 billion of higher taxes – on retirees, housing, incomes, investments, family businesses and electricity.

Yours sincerely



Ben Hindmarsh
Campaign Director



LIBERAL AND NATIONALS GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO AUSTRALIAN KOALA FOUNDATION

Koalas are an iconic Australian species and their protection continues to be a priority for the Morrison Government.

A re-elected Liberal and Nationals Government will invest up to \$6 million from the Environment Restoration Fund to support the protection of koalas in South-East Queensland and Northern NSW. This includes funding for restoring koala habitat as well as investing in a network of koala and wildlife hospitals with Australia Zoo, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and the Queensland RSPCA.

Funding for this initiative comes on top of the estimated \$19 million we have provided since 2014 for around 120 projects that include outcomes for koalas.

The combined populations of the koala in Queensland, NSW and the ACT are currently protected under legislation through their listing as Vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). There is comprehensive advice in place to guide national conservation effort, and the Liberal Nationals are continuing to lead the development of a national recovery plan in collaboration with a range of states.

A re-elected Liberal and Nationals Government will continue working to ensure the protection and recovery of koalas.