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## The AKF is 100% opposed to offsets

**Environmental offsets are allowing big industry to clear valuable, established Koala habitat and replace it with little more than the promise of trees to be planted elsewhere.**

Under current policies at all levels of Government, Koala habitat trees can be “offset” through another activity such as planting new trees to restore land elsewhere, but this concept has serious flaws.



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Koalas cannot be offset along with their habitat. Koalas have an area of trees they live in and their own territory or home range that they roam in.

Imagine if you come home tonight and your house has been destroyed. If you are lucky and you get translocated to another house miles away - and no one is already living there - you might be allowed to stay. If not, you are then told, well, we will build you a new one. But it will take ten years. Does anyone really take this seriously?

These promised newly planted offset trees could not provide suitable shelter or food for 10-20 years.

Offsetting also allows for the destruction of valuable land in exchange for provisions of poor land.

Nature Reserves are supposed to conserve 'examples of our natural landscapes and native plants and animals for future generations,' and provide 'the nation's natural safety net against our biggest environmental challenges'.

But the Federal Government is giving proponents the green light to bulldoze these Nature Reserves— for nothing more than a promise of new offset lands that have neither been identified nor secured.

Our Nation's environment is being constantly diminished - through urban development, road development, mining and forestry - and these offsets are supposed to replace that lost environmental capital. The effectiveness of those offsets remains extremely uncertain.

## “Offsets merely sanitise the destruction of Koala habitat.”

**Development proponents across the country are exaggerating the value of their offsets.**

Policing offset conditions to ensure full delivery appears to be non-existent.

These offsets may very well be nothing more than hot air. We may not be able to replace and recreate the habitats that we have lost.

Offsets merely sanitise the destruction of Koala Habitat. The Koala cannot afford to wait 20 or more years for offsets to bring back the trees, or the thousands of years required to restore the ecology of our forests.

### Koala Protection Act

The plight of the Koala is so serious, that offsets cannot be part of the solution.



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An offset site for a major infrastructure project. These trees, planted to offset habitat loss elsewhere, are on land already earmarked for a future arterial road. **As an offset, they are worthless.**