



Australian  
Koala  
Foundation

A.C.N. 010 922 102

media release

26 September 2008

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## DREAMWORLD'S KOALA JOEYS OPEN THEIR EYES TO A BIGGER PROBLEM

Six of Dreamworld's cutest koala joeys today opened their eyes to a bigger problem when they left mum's pouch and united to support *Save the Koala Day* activities.

The Australian Koala Foundation kick started *Save the Koala Day* at Dreamworld today with the debut of the furry youngsters before unveiling an aerial map of Queensland that highlights a devastating drop in the koala population.

CEO of the Australian Koala Foundation Deborah Tabart OAM shared the spotlight with the joeys.

"These koalas are a symbol of hope and while they are thriving in sanctuaries like Dreamworld, their numbers in the wild are plummeting at an alarming rate. *Save the Koala Day* is about telling the world that we have to do something and do it fast," Ms Tabart said.

Ms Tabart added that more than \$8 million has been poured into researching and documenting the issues surrounding koala conservation, with habitat mapping showing there are just 100,000 koalas left in the wild.

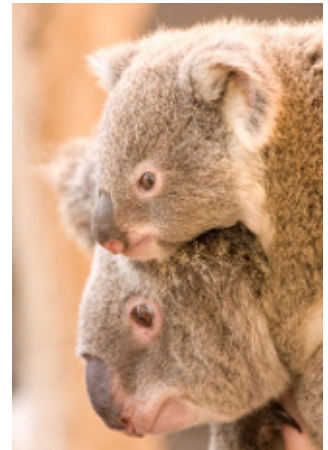
"The Federal Government is pushing to protect national icons under its *Care for Country* campaign, and there is no animal more iconic than the koala. Sadly, the two year deliberation period to assess the koala's listing as a threatened species is simply too long," Ms Tabart said.

The koala shares its habitat with more than 1000 threatened species and she believes they could be afforded protection if the koala was listed as a threatened species.

"Given that recovery plans for each species cost around \$1 million each, saving the koala now will have enormous benefits for other species down the track."

September is Save the Koala Month and AKF are raising funds and awareness for the plight of the koala by selling koala tattoos. To find out ways to help save our koalas, visit [www.savethekoala.com](http://www.savethekoala.com).

Dreamworld is proud to be a gold sponsor of the Australian Koala Foundation, and has the second largest population of captive koalas in the world. In conjunction with the University of Queensland, Dreamworld's koala husbandry and breeding is maintained at the highest standard ensuring captive genetic diversity.



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