



Australian  
Koala  
Foundation

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media release

### **AKF nominates SE Qld Population as Critically Endangered**

The Australian Koala Foundation has nominated the Southeast Queensland koala population as critically endangered under Federal legislation ahead of a meeting of Australia's top koala scientists in Canberra this Friday.

CEO of the Australian Koala Foundation Deborah Tabart OAM says the population, which is proven to be in steep decline as a result of habitat loss and rapid urbanisation, will reach an unviable threshold by 2010 if the Australian Government does not step in immediately.

"This is the most important thing Minister Garrett and his Department can do right now to show he is serious about saving the koala.

"The science shows that in the last decade, over 25 000 koalas have died in Southeast Queensland alone – there are less than 4000 left so these declines just cannot continue if we still want to see our beautiful icon here," Ms Tabart said.

Post mortems of around 700 koalas in Southeast Queensland found that most were 'wasted' when they died. The impact of climate change on the nutritional value of eucalyptus leaves has been proven to affect koalas.

"We have asked the Queensland Government repeatedly to list koalas and clearly they are not up to the task. Minister Garrett must step in.

"The Minister has written to the AKF saying that he needs robust and defensible science for listing and now we have given it to him. He cannot ignore this data and ironically the papers we have submitted are by the Queensland Government and the University of Queensland.

"It will be very difficult for Mr Garrett to ignore this nomination. The Government should be using this meeting with the cream of the crop of koala scientists to make real solutions for the future of the koala," Ms Tabart said.

Friday's meeting in Canberra brings koala experts from around Australia to gather ideas, identify priorities, estimate timeframes and discuss implementation for a new National Koala Conservation Strategy.

To find out ways to help the Australian Koala Foundation save our koalas, visit the website at [www.savethekoala.com](http://www.savethekoala.com).

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