



Australian
Koala
Foundation

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Federal Action Urgent for Catastrophic Koala Declines

The Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) is calling on Environment Minister Peter Garrett to list Southeast Queensland's Koala Coast koala population as Critically Endangered immediately in light of new information released by the Queensland Government this week detailing catastrophic population declines in the region.

CEO Deborah Tabart OAM has been calling for the release of the vital Queensland Government document which details a 64% decline in the region.

"Mr Garrett has the power to give these koalas federal protection in a matter of days and with the Threatened Species Scientific Committee meeting tomorrow, the time to act is now," Ms Tabart said.

"This Government data proves the Koala Coast koala population will reach an unviable level by next year and Queensland Environment Minister Kate Jones does nothing except say they will write another plan at the end of 2009. I've heard it all before."

The failure of Queensland Government legislation to protect koalas has led to the death of over 25 000 koalas in Southeast Queensland over the last decade.

"The Koala Coast population is one of the species' last strongholds so this is a matter of urgent national attention – if Mr Garrett waits for the standard process to take its course, these koalas will already have gone to extinction," Ms Tabart said.

The Federal Government's Threatened Species Scientific Committee meets in Canberra tomorrow (3rd June). Also on the agenda is the national koala population's status as a Threatened Species.

To find out ways to help the Australian Koala Foundation save our koalas, visit the website at www.savethekoala.com.

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