



Australian
Koala
Foundation

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Three 'Debs' Unite Against Desperate Koala Declines

Three 'Debs' of the koala conservation world are coming together at Lone Pine Sanctuary today to press for urgent and cohesive State and Federal action to protect Southeast Queensland's Koala Coast koala population.



Despite concerted efforts on various fronts, CEO of the Australian Koala Foundation Deborah Tabart OAM, Redland City Councillor Debra Henry and President of the Koala Action Group Debbie Pointing have watched the koalas of Southeast Queensland disappear as a result of inaction by consecutive Governments.

"Twelve pieces of state legislation since 1995 haven't saved the koala – the decline curve just gets steeper and steeper," Ms Tabart said.

"By their own admission, the Queensland Government's reports say the Koala Coast koalas could face extinction as soon as next year. We all have to work together or we'll lose them forever," Ms Tabart said.

Councillor Henry, who is also the immediate past President of the Wildlife Preservation Society Bayside Branch, pointed to Redland City Council's request for the Koala Coast koala to be reclassified as critically endangered under the State Nature Conservation Act and the Federal Environmental Protection & Biodiversity Act.

"To date, efforts to protect koalas have been as fragmented as their habitat is now.

"This reclassification would mean another level of development assessment. And, with a consistent approach by all stakeholders, we have a chance to bring koalas back from the brink," Cr Henry said.

According to Ms Pointing of the Koala Action Group, it only takes two words – 'political will' – to save koalas.

"Our group fears that the pro-development agenda of this State Government will continue without regard for koalas and the natural environment. We need Government to take action and to play their part before the final curtain goes down on Koala Coast koalas," Ms Pointing said.

The 'Debs' have united to demonstrate to Federal Environment Minister Garrett and Queensland Premier Bligh that working together is necessary to protect our national icon and state emblem.

-ENDS-

- **Interview opportunities: Deborah Tabart OAM, ph 0407 750 668**

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