

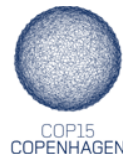


Australian
Koala
Foundation

A.C.N. 010 922 102

media release

Friday December 18, 2009 LIVE from



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Koala's advice to Prime Minister Rudd live from Copenhagen

As Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd seeks to negotiate a global agreement between developed and developing nations to tackle climate change, the Australian Koala Foundation wants to remind him to take care of his own backyard before telling other nations how to manage theirs.

According to Australian Koala Foundation CEO Deborah Tabart OAM, the first world are hypocrites telling the third world how to manage their forests when they misuse their own.

"What we've got to remember is Australia is part of the first world and no matter what our Prime Minister Rudd says or President Obama, the koala trees that I love so much will not be protected by the current proposals," Ms Tabart said.

"Mr Rudd, you have to show the Third World that you are genuinely committed by protecting your own forests first."

"Mr Rudd has been quoted as saying a key benchmark for success will be reaching an agreement between rich and poor countries here in Copenhagen. (The Australian, Wednesday December 16).

"Well in my view I don't know how this can be achieved when countries like Australia and the United States refuse to honour and protect their existing forests and habitats like the koalas.

"Again, Mr Rudd could show leadership by listing the koala as a vulnerable species under the EPBC Act which would lead to the protection of the 41 million hectares of koala habitat along the east coast of Australia.

"This would make an unbelievably huge contribution towards reducing Australia's carbon emissions and protecting our nation for generations to come."

For more information, please visit www.savethekoala.com.

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Please go to <http://www.savethekoala.com/deborahatabartsdesk.html> to watch Deborah Tabart's video message to Prime Minister Rudd

MEDIA NOTE: QUALITY BROADCAST QUALITY B-ROLL AVAILABLE

- The AKF has quality broadcast footage available from Copenhagen. Please go to www.climatetalks.tv and click on "Carbon and koalas collide at COP15" to download quotes from Deborah Tabart calling for Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to protect Australia's forests (time code: 3:36-4:42)
- **Interview opportunities: AKF CEO Deborah Tabart OAM**
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