



***** EMBARGO – 5PM MONDAY 29TH MARCH 2010 *****

SE QLD GROWTH SPELLS EXTINCTION FOR KOALAS

“Koalas will certainly NOT be on the Agenda for the upcoming Growth Summit on the 30th March because the Premier basically wants to ignore the problem”, claims Ms. Deborah Tabart OAM, CEO of the Australian Koala Foundation.

Ms Tabart feels that “The Premier, our Prime Minister and our Treasurer are all more interested in securing massive infrastructure, more people and more importantly developer donations to ensure their political survival and koalas just get in the way”.

“I sometimes wonder whether the Prime Minister – known for interfering in the Minister for Environment Protection Mr Peter Garrett’s Department - is telling him not to list the koala because it gets in the way of big dreams and a big Australia”, said Tabart.

“If you look at the new projected developments like Flagstone, Yarrabilba and Springfield, just to name a few, they are the love children of the development companies funding this talk fest”, Ms Tabart said

All of these regions have significant koala populations and the inadequate mapping has often just ignored the quality of the habitat. One developer has even bragged that they have no koalas “because the maps had been cleaned up to remove them”.

“There seems to be a relentless rush to increase Australia’s population to 35 million people by 2035. This concept seems to have come out of nowhere and it appears that our Prime Minister and our Federal Treasurer, both from Queensland, want all these new Australians to live here in South East Queensland.

“The Premier seems to have forgotten that even by her own admission the Koala Coast koala population is on its way to extinction and has been nominated as Critically Endangered under the Nature Conservation Act in Queensland and the koala is also under investigation by Minister Garrett for a listing as vulnerable under the EPBC Act.

- ENDS -

- **Interview opportunities: Deborah Tabart OAM, ph 0407 750 668**
- **Ms Tabart will also be available for interviews at the Koala Protest Rally outside the State Library at 11 a.m. on Tuesday 30th March.**

media release