



Australian  
Koala  
Foundation

A.C.N. 010 922 102

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\*\*\* MEDIA ALERT \*\*\*

### **Koala Woman Prepared to Appear Before Inquiry *in Camera***

Deborah Tabart OAM, CEO of the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF), has released her opening statement to *Senate Inquiry into the status, health and sustainability of the koala* due to start hearing evidence in Brisbane on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

The statement highlights three major points as well as acknowledging communities around Australia who have worked "tirelessly" to return koalas to the bush while, Ms Tabart believes, "all tiers of government have abrogated their responsibility".

In the statement Ms Tabart calls for AKF koala population figures to be used as the accepted koala numbers "until proven otherwise".

She also calls for the protection of 50 tree species.

"Very simply, if koala trees were not destroyed, they would not suffer starvation, they would not be ripped apart by dogs, nor killed by motor vehicles and the disease rates would be less.

"Protection of the 50 tree species in our submission is imperative if the koala is to survive and thrive" says Tabart.

Ms Tabart also says in the statement that the koala does not need more research at this time to protect it.

"The koala does not, in these difficult times need more research which sometimes seeks to delay and confuse, but needs legislative protection at the Federal level; research and other actions can then follow" says Tabart.

The statement concludes with Ms Tabart saying she is prepared to appear again even in camera.

"I am delighted to hear there will be another hearing later this month and if necessary the AKF will be prepared to appear again, even *in camera* because the forces that seek to stop protection of the koala are harsh and persistent" says Ms Tabart.

You can read the full statement here <https://www.savethekoala.com/senatemedial.html>

- ENDS -

#### **SENATE INQUIRY HEARING**

**WHEN:** Tuesday, 3 May

**TIME:** 9:30am-4:50pm (Deborah will be giving evidence at 11.05am)

**WHERE:** Speaker's Hall, Queensland Parliament, Brisbane

#### **Interview opportunities:**

- **Deborah Tabart OAM, CEO Australian Koala Foundation, will be available for interviews ph 0407 750 668**

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