



Koala Woman calls for Minister Burke to take action

In a letter to Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke, Deborah Tabart OAM has called for Mr Burke to take urgent action on the recommendations of the Final Report from the Senate Inquiry into the status of Australia's koala population.

Ms Tabart, CEO of the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF), has welcomed the report saying that it is the first time the whole spectrum of stakeholders in the koala debate has received equal standing and recognition at that level.

"It lacks only one recommendation and that is to list the koala as vulnerable under the EPBC Act and, as always, we ask that you do this as a matter of urgency" wrote Tabart.

Ms Tabart also asked the Minister to act rapidly on Recommendation 6; '...that the Australian Government undertake habitat mapping across the koala's national range...', and Recommendation 7; '...that the habitat maps be used to identify and protect important habitat in known koala ranges'.

"This is not to say that other recommendations are also not equally important, [actioning Recommendations 6 and 7 is a] key step that would help to direct and implement logical and strategic koala conservation across its natural range.

"This is why the AKF has spent so much time and energy on this aspect of koala conservation. AKF regards mapping as the horse in front of the cart" said Tabart.

Ms Tabart said in the letter that she was writing in the spirit of koala conservation, suggesting the government use pre-existing AKF habitat maps as "powerful tools" to get on with the job quickly and economically and offered to work with the Australian Government to protect the koala's habitat.

"I offer to work in partnership with your Government to identify other priority areas as the start of a sustained and adequately resourced program of Koala habitat identification and mapping", said Tabart.

- ENDS -

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

Click [here](#) to read the full letter

Click [here](#) to read the Final Report from the Senate

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