



Australian  
Koala  
Foundation

A.C.N. 010 922 102

23 November 2011

Page 1 of 1

### Koala Woman: Can you be cruel to be kind?

Deborah Tabart OAM, CEO of the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) will be her usual frank self when dealing with the issue of wild dogs at the upcoming Communities and Wildlife Management Conference.

Over the last few months, Deborah has taken great interest in the National Wild Dog Management Advisory Group and has been educated by National Wild Dog Facilitator, Greg Mifsud.

"I am starting to think that there has been a "sleeper" in the koala world. When the AKF was made aware of 1400 dogs trapped in an area near Charleville I started to think there may be more to the dramatic koala declines than just land clearing and drought

"We do not necessarily agree on everything, but Greg is very persuasive about the knock on effects for wildlife unless we tackle the wild dog problem", said Tabart.

"When you look at the koala statistics for SE Queensland, you can see that thousands of koalas have been killed, particularly in areas where the urban landscape encroaches upon koala habitat. It stands to reason that many of them have been victim to wild dog packs" said Ms Tabart.

The AKF is also aware of unconfirmed reports that some radio tracked animals may have been killed by wild dogs.

As CEO of the Australian Koala Foundation for nearly 25 years, Deborah is well placed to discuss the complexities of this issue.

On the one hand, there are people who cannot bear the thought of wild dogs being killed because it seems cruel and on the other, landholders who witness the vicious attacks on domestic and herd animals by packs of wild dogs are crying out in frustration.

"It is also important to recognise the difference between dingoes and wild dogs. I am more and more convinced that we have to understand the complexity of this before the problem will go away; therefore we want to highlight the need for further education of the community on both sides of the argument.

"We need to listen, understand and act accordingly in order to come up with a sensible approach to an issue of this nature", Ms Tabart said.

Deborah Tabart will speak on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2011 at the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Communities and Wildlife Management Conference being held in Bathurst, NSW.

**- ENDS -**

#### **Interview opportunities: Deborah Tabart OAM,**

- Deborah is **available for interview** by phoning **0407 750 668**
- Deborah will be in Bathurst from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November and will be speaking at the 2011 AMWS Conference at 10:15am Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November at the Citigate Hotel, Bathurst NSW

Further information on the conference:

<http://www.awms.org.au/pages/events.html>

Program: [http://www.onqconferences.com.au/resources/files/AWMS11/AWMS\\_Program11.pdf](http://www.onqconferences.com.au/resources/files/AWMS11/AWMS_Program11.pdf)

Public Relations, Ph: 07 3229 7233

Email: [akf@savethekoala.com](mailto:akf@savethekoala.com)

[www.savethekoala.com](http://www.savethekoala.com)

media release