



Australian Koala Foundation

The international organisation dedicated to saving the koala and its habitat.

22 July 2010

The Hon Julia Gillard
Member for Lalor
PO Locked Bag 14
Werribee VIC 3030

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) and in readiness for a federal election, I am writing to remind you of the constituents in your Electorate that need your help.

According to our scientific research, your Electorate has 2% of its original koala habitat remaining. We also estimate that there are between 50 and 100 koalas. Our figures are derived from our extensive research across the whole east coast of Australia.

Irrespective of numbers, it is the AKF's view that the koala should be listed as Vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). The koala is already listed as Vulnerable in South East Queensland and the whole of New South Wales. The Victorian Government continues to take the view that koalas are "pests" because of long standing problems with koalas on isolates, where koalas should not be in the first place. It is our considered opinion that Victorian koalas are also in trouble on the mainland in their original range. Remember, koalas were almost shot to extinction in Victoria in the early 1900s and that is why they were put on islands in the first place.

We have enclosed our brochure 'Carbon and Koalas Collide' which you may find interesting. This was prepared for our attendance in Copenhagen for the Climate Talks. You will see we take the view that every koala tree in Australia is important, not only for koalas, but for the carbon it has stored. The simple rule of thumb is: one tree the size of a telegraph pole has one tonne of carbon stored and would need 2000 saplings to replace it. This is a sobering statistic and shows why we should be protecting trees at all costs, not only because they are the source and protection of our biodiversity.

We have prepared 5 questions.

1. Are you prepared to support the listing of the koala as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act? Minister Garrett is currently reviewing the koala's status and it is on record that a decision will be made by 30th September 2010.
2. Would you support koala friendly housing estates, road building and forestry management in your Electorate?
3. Will you act to save the remaining native vegetation in your Electorate?

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AUSTRALIA - HEAD OFFICE

Australian Koala Foundation
ACN 010 922 102 ABN 90 010 922 102
GPO Box 2659 Brisbane Qld 4001
Ph: 61-7-3229 7233
Fax: 61-7-3221 0337
Email: akf@savethekoala.com

USA REGISTERED OFFICE

Friends of the AKF
C/- The Nolan/Lehr Group Inc.
214 West 29th Street, Suite 1002
New York, NY, 10001
Ph: 1-212-967 8200
Fax: 1-212-967 7292

USA CORRESPONDANCE TO

Friends of the AKF
C/- ATC International
8660 Cherry Lane, Suite 8-10
Laurel, Maryland, 20707
Ph: 1-240-456 60101
Fax: 1-240-456 0086

JAPAN DONATION TO

Australian Koala Foundation
Post Office Remittance Number:
Koala Kikin 00100-8-762653
At all Post Offices in Japan

4. Do you support the Shires in your Electorate protecting koala habitat through management plans and protection policies?
5. Do you value the significance of the koala as a native icon?

These are simple questions, and if you care about biodiversity in your Electorate they should be easy to answer.

We do hope you take the protection of the koala seriously and irrespective of the election outcome make a commitment to protect the small Australian that lives as your neighbour. They cannot vote to protect themselves. We shall give you a 'Koala Thumbs Up' for each question you answer correctly. It will allow your human constituents to understand where you 'sit' on the protection of the environment.

You may answer the above questions via our online form at:
www.savethekoala.com/actoraxe/candidatereply.html or if you prefer, mail your response to our postal address: GPO Box 2659, Brisbane, Qld 4001.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Tabart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deborah Tabart OAM
Chief Executive Officer