



Dead koalas delivered to Queensland Parliament House

By Darren Cartwright | *September 25, 2009*

CONSERVATIONISTS have delivered five dead koalas to Queensland's Parliament House, saying the marsupials are on the brink of extinction in urban Australia.

A hearse delivered five coffins each bearing a dead koala, with protesters placing the open caskets on the footpath outside Parliament in Brisbane.

The dead marsupials were collected by Vanda Grabowski in the Moreton Bay region of southern Queensland. She said the frozen bodies were brought to Brisbane to emphasise the plight of the koalas in southeast Queensland and in other parts of Australia.

"I have a permit through Queensland Park and Wildlife Service (QPWS) who threatened me with arrest should I do this (display them in public)," Ms Grabowski told AAP.

"These are koalas that have have been hit by cars, starved, diseased or attacked by dogs.

"I keep them in my freezer when I pick them up because by law we have to hand them over (to QPWS) and if they're handed over they are hidden from view."

Rally spokeswoman Carolyn Beaton said there had been 25,000 recorded koala deaths in southeast Queensland - the fastest growing region in Australia - over the past decade.

Ms Beaton said rapid development in other parts of the country, particularly along the east coast, was also threatening koala habitat.

"This rally will show our politicians and indeed the world that Australia does care about its wildlife and we, as Australians, will not stand by and let the rest of our koalas be wiped out," she said.

Meanwhile, the Queensland Government announced it would protect 5.6 hectares of state-owned koala habitat at Alexandra Hills.

State Climate Change Minister Kate Jones said the land, located on Windemere Road and of high commercial value, would be handed over to Redland City Council.

The Government is currently drafting a state planning policy aimed at protecting koalas to halt their declining numbers and recently completed a koala mapping project.

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