



Saving Koalas Could be as Easy as Checking off a List

In a visit to Australia, Franz Ferdinand went on hunting trip shooting 300 head of native animals including several koalas.

This was of course the Archduke, not the band; the trip took place in the early 1890s.

Shooting a koala now sparks wide-spread outrage and calls for justice in the form of harsh penalties, as seen recently in the case of joey Frodo and her mother.

The Australian Koala Foundation says these days the koala has a less overt killer, habitat destruction.

Since the Archduke's trip the koala has been declared a 'protected species' but according to the AKF's submission to the *Senate Inquiry into the Status, health and sustainability of Australia's koala population* their habitat has never been protected, particularly on private land.

A key recommendation in the AKF's submission is the instigation of an immediate moratorium on koala trees in each state included in a list of over 50 species provided in the submission.

"The AKF's slogan is simple No Tree, No Me; we have made it even simpler for the Government to protect these trees by providing the Senate Inquiry with a list of over 50 tree species", said Ms Deborah Tabart OAM CEO of the AKF.

The Australian Koala Foundation has made several recommendations to the Senate committee in relation to koala habitat protection, development and urbanization.

Another recommendation that if not acted on could be a major hurdle for the tree moratorium is simply recognizing that the underlying threat to koalas is habitat loss.

"If we can't even acknowledge the cause of the problem then the plight of the koala is in almost a literal sense wailing at the wall – the developers' wall", said Ms Tabart.

The AKF's submission is no. 25 and can be found at <http://bit.ly/gQtIZZ> or http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/ec_ctte/koalas/submissions.htm

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