



Australian
Koala
Foundation

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Queensland Government Withholds Documents That Could Save the Koala

The Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) has called on Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett to insist that the Queensland Government releases a crucial internal document which could help to protect the Southeast Queensland Koala Coast koala population.

The document written by a Queensland Government scientist proves koala numbers have plummeted over the last two years.

CEO of the AKF Deborah Tabart OAM says the information contained in the document would add scientific weight to the AKF's nomination of these koalas as Endangered under Federal Government legislation.

"Premier Bligh and Minister McNamara have sat on this document for two months, it's almost criminal.

"The joke is, they are saying they can't provide the document because of being in 'caretaker mode' but this data has been available since December last year. Minister Garrett has the power to ask for it right now if he wants to," Ms Tabart said.

"AKF is tired of playing State Government politics so we're calling on Minister Garrett to insist the new Queensland Minister - whoever it may be - makes the document public first thing Monday morning," Ms Tabart said.

25 000 dead koalas have been found in Southeast Queensland alone in the last decade, leaving the current population at around 3000 – 4000 koalas.

"As Minister Garrett knows, the bureaucrats in Canberra are forcing AKF to compose a word perfect nomination. How can we when the Queensland Government refuses to make necessary documents public? We are tired of doing their work for them – there are 25 000 dead bodies, what more do they need?"

The Koala Coast includes Southeast Queensland's Brisbane, Logan and Redland City Shires.

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

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