



Australian
Koala
Foundation

A.C.N. 010 922 102

8 June 2011

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The Koala Calls on U.S. Friends

Deborah Tabart OAM, the Koala Woman, has touched down in the United States, seeking support to stop the freefall of Australia's wild koala population.

As she accepts the prestigious International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) EXCEL Award, recognizing her tireless efforts as the CEO of the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) in communicating the plight of the wild koala, she laments that Australia does not currently have the vision nor the political will to save the koala as the U.S. did the Bald Eagle.

The Australian Senate is currently conducting an Inquiry into the sustainability of the Australian koala population, the culmination of Tabart's 25 year journey and the catalyst in discovering who she wants to become.

Ms Tabart feels that the Australian Government is finally hearing the plight of the koala and is optimistic that the koala will be listed as 'Vulnerable' under federal Australian law as it was by the Clinton-Gore administration more than a decade ago.

"When I learnt that there was a Bald Eagle Act, I just knew there had to be a National Koala Act too," says Ms Tabart.

"The koala and the eagle have so much in common. They are both iconic images of what it means to be an Australian and an American. The difference is the Eagle is actually given the respect and protection it deserves."

"I see the U.S. Government and conservation groups as progressive and visionary in their approach to protecting species and I hope, following the Senate Inquiry, our leaders had the same political will and long term vision as you do."

Tabart wants her U.S. mentors to shape her so that she can map out the next 25 years of the AKF's future to create a launching block for those who follow after her and answer the call of the koala.

What Tabart has learnt about politics, communication and the environment must be passed on to ensure the AKF remains the strong, independent, international organization that is today.

"The U.S. provided us with a blueprint of what we need to do to save the Koala and we still managed to fall short. Now the koala needs your support more than ever at this momentous time in its history."

- ENDS -

Interview opportunities:

Contact Deborah Tabart OAM, CEO Australian Koala Foundation on

- her cell phone 1 (310) 383 3957
- or from 11 to 14 June you can leave a message for her at the Manchester Grand Hyatt on (619) 232 1234

Public Relations, Ph: +61 7 3229 7233

Email: connor@savethekoala.com

media release



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Further Information

Media Calls:

San Diego Media Call

WHEN: Monday 13th June

TIME: 10:30am

WHERE: Elizabeth Foyer on the Second Level of Manchester Grand Hyatt,
One Market Place San Diego, California

Deborah Tabart OAM, CEO Australian Koala Foundation, will be available for interviews, Deborah can be contacted on her cell phone 1 (310) 383 3957 or from 11 to 14 June at the Manchester Grand Hyatt on 619 232 1234

Related Media Releases:

[Koala Woman Coming to San Diego](#)

Media releases can be downloaded from savethekoala.com/media.html

High resolution images of koalas and Deborah Tabart OAM for print can be downloaded from www.savethekoala.com/pressimages.html

Links to Background Information:

[About Deborah Tabart](#) available at savethekoala.com/deborahartabart.html

[About the Australian Koala Foundation](#) available at savethekoala.com/akfprofile.html

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

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