



THE HON BEN MORTON MP
ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Reference: MC19-033919

Ms Deborah Tabart OAM
Chairman
Australian Koala Foundation
GPO Box 2659
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Ms Tabart

Thank you for your letter dated 18 April 2019 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, regarding the protection of Koalas. I have been asked to respond on the Prime Minister's behalf.

The Australian Government is committed to protecting and improving the conservation of our threatened species. The Koala is an iconic nationally listed threatened species. As a matter of national environmental significance, Koalas are protected by the Commonwealth from the impacts of development through the environment impact assessment provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

As the issue you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, I have referred your correspondence to her for consideration.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you. Thank you again for writing to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ben Morton', written over a horizontal line.

BEN MORTON

3 / 7 / 2019