



The international organisation dedicated  
to saving the Koala and its habitat

The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

20 May 2016

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) I write to you to request support for a Koala Protection Act. I am enclosing a Draft of that document for your perusal. It is the first time it has been made public, and it will be posted on the AKF website on 13 June 2016. I am happy to hear your thoughts on the document.

I also enclose a Statutory Declaration that you may care to sign prior to the election so that our members across Australia and worldwide can know that you seek to support the Koala via this legislation.

It has been many years in the making with legal teams from both the United States and Australia, working for the Koala to ensure that Koala Habitat is protected. It is based on the USA's Bald Eagle Act that brought the Bald Eagle back from the brink of extinction.

Australia's national icon, the Koala, needs the same strength of purpose.

It is not our intention to offend by requesting that you sign a Statutory Declaration, but rather a determination borne of frustration over the AKF's 30-year experience.

Since 1988, when I was appointed as CEO, I have had conversations and correspondence with the following Environment Ministers at the Federal level:

- Graham Richardson (Labor)
- Ros Kelly (Labor)
- John Faulkner (Labor)
- Robert Hill (Liberal)
- David Kemp (Liberal)

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Australian Koala Foundation ACN 010 922 102 ABN 90 010 922 102 GPO Box 2659, Brisbane QLD 4001 Ph: 61-7-3229 7233 Fax: 61-7-3221 0337 Email: akf@savethekoala.com	Friends of the AKF C/-The Nolan Group/ Lehr Group Inc. 112 East 17th Street Suite #1W New York, NY 10003 USA Ph: 1-212-967 8200 Fax: 1-212-967 7292	Friends of the AKF C/-ATC International 1807 14th Street, NW, Level 2 Washington DC 20009 USA Ph: 1-202-299 1151 Fax: 1-202-299 1153	Australian Koala Foundation Post Office Remittance Number: Koala Kikin 00100-8-762653 At all Post Offices across Japan



- Ian Campbell (Liberal)
- Malcolm Turnbull (Liberal)
- Peter Garrett (Labor)
- Tony Burke (Labor)
- Mark Butler (Labor)
- Greg Hunt (Liberal)

And of course at State level, I have corresponded with the following Premiers:

- Queensland: Mike Ahern (Nationals - Premier 1 December 1987 to 24 September 1989); Russell Cooper (Nationals); Wayne Goss (Labor); Rob Borbidge (Nationals); Peter Beattie (Labor) and his Deputy Premier Terry Mackenroth; Anna Bligh (Labor); Campbell Newman (liberal) and his Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney; Annastacia Palaszczuk (Labor)
- New South Wales: Barrie Unsworth (Labor - Premier until 25 March 1988); Nick Greiner (Liberal); John Fahey (Liberal); Bob Carr (Labor); Morris Iemma (Labor); Nathan Rees (Labor); Kristina Keneally (Labor); Barry O'Farrell (Liberal); Mike Baird (Liberal)
- Victoria: John Cain Jr (Labor); Joan Kirner (Labor); Jeff Kennett (Liberal); Steve Bracks (Labor); John Brumby (Labor); Ted Baillieu (Liberal); Denis Napthine (Liberal); Daniel Andrews (Labor)

I have long forgotten the number of Environment Ministers in each of these States and the Mayors of the 320 Councils in Koala Habitat that I have corresponded with.

All of them have a case to answer regarding the destruction of Koala habitat on the eastern seaboard. With the next Parliament I am going to seek a Senate Inquiry to investigate the role of each and every one of them (Ministers and Mayors), with particular reference to their relationship with development and other industries that have wantonly killed Koalas.

The AKF endured a Senate Inquiry that did, luckily, list the Koala in Queensland, New South Wales and Canberra. However, I am pretty sure that Minister Burke did so in May 2012 because he was confident Labor was going to lose the next election; not because of a genuine desire to protect the species. I may be corrected on that matter.

And of course Victoria, with what we regard as a sleight of hand, missed out on that Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act listing, probably as a result of lobbying by the logging industry in that State.



Then there was the watering down of the EPBC Act, which can only be described as criminal.

I imagine if you stood in my shoes, you too might tire of all levels of government promising much, but delivering little.

A celebrity, named Matilda, will be in Canberra on June 14 and will hold a press conference. She could pick up your Statutory Declarations in front of the press. It would be a great show of unity from you and the other major-party leaders to join her there and show your support for the Koala.

This morning, I signed off on the Koala Protection Act. The legal team said that it will be politically unfavourable – that says to me it will work to save Koalas and their habitats.

I can assure you that the AKF will not negotiate one point on this Koala Protection Act. We believe the plight of the Koala is dire, and the Senate Inquiry proved that the EPBC Act is too weak to stop the declines. Strong action is needed to ensure the survival of the Koala for future generations.

We seek your support to draft the Koala Protection Act into a Bill after July 2 and before the end of 2016.

Regards,

Deborah Tabart OAM  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Koala Foundation