



The international organisation dedicated to  
saving the koala and its habitat.

The Hon. Mr Tony Abbott  
PO Box 450  
Manly NSW

Dear Mr Abbott,

On behalf of the Australian Koala Foundation, I am writing to you to seek your support for a Koala Protection Act.

It has been written in conjunction with Australian and overseas lawyers. It is based on the Bald Eagle Act, which sought and achieved the protection of the American icon.

It will not be an impediment to industry, particularly if members decide to do the right thing and produce excellent environmental assessments. Indeed it could be a 'one-stop shop' as our current leaders like to say.

Currently there are 128 federal electorates in the former range of the Koala. You are one of them, and if you have a look on our website ([savethekoala.com/our-work/act-or-axe](http://savethekoala.com/our-work/act-or-axe)) you can see how many Koalas we think there are in your electorate, and better still how much habitat remains. We consider those Koalas as part of your constituency.

You may be in an electorate whose Koala population is extinct or soon to be extinct. Our Governments over 200 years have never been kind to the Koala.

For a Koala Protection Act to pass in the House of Representatives we need 76 federal members to give it support and before you reply with your standard party line, I want you to read the huge body of work produced by members of my team that shows that existing legislation cannot work.

If you can prove to me that anything does work, I am happy to hear from you and of course would change our position.

Have you actually considered what would happen to the Australian economy if the Koala were to disappear from the landscape? It brings more than \$3b to our shores each year.

Even with Minister Hunt recently announcing that he intends to write a recovery plan for the Koala – I have no faith.

Legislation that is meant to protect Koalas is continually watered down until it doesn't work, and we expect the same with the new recovery plan. The current system is failing, and the States are incapable of protecting Koalas. Senate Reports have attested to that fact.

I can attest to that fact too because I have been dealing with them for 27 years. Even without the financial aspect, can you imagine Australia with no Koalas?

## No Tree No Me

### Australia

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### Japan - Donations

Australian Koala Foundation  
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Koala Kikin 00100-8-762653  
At all Post Offices across Japan



And if you can delude yourself and think OK, we have them in zoos, remember - the last Tasmanian Tiger, Ben, died on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1936 in the Hobart Zoo. The Australian Government protected Ben 3 months before he was the last of his species. The same thing could happen to the Koala.

Imagine how much Tasmania could benefit if his species still did exist? Not to mention the joy instead of sorrow that those of us who care, feel as we watch our environment trashed each day.

*I absolutely dare you to read the attached documents – they will distress you particularly the Koala cut in half from logging. Can you imagine what that animal felt as it was cut by the merchandiser?*

So, if you have read them, will you support our proposed Koala Protection Act?

If you say Yes, it will be noted on Act or Axe and of course we are prepared to brief you on the contents.

A reply by September 1 would be appreciated. It is the beginning of Save the Koala Month and our worldwide supporters want to know who is on the Koala's side.

Yours sincerely,

Deborah Tabart OAM  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Koala Foundation