



**Australian
Koala
Foundation**

ACN 010 922 102

MEDIA RELEASE

30% of all Australia's remaining koalas lost in just 3 years – New population figures show a 3-year decline as high as 41% in NSW/ACT & 37% in QLD

20 September 2021

The Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) has today release alarming figures showing our nation's most loved creature is in rapid decline. Since 2018, there has been an estimated 30% decline in Koalas across Australia, with populations estimated to be between 32,065 - 57,920 down from 45,745 - 82,170 in 2018.

AKF has invested millions of dollars and 30 years of research into the creation of the Koala Habitat Atlas, and periodically they revise the Koala population. The AKF is the first organisation to estimate Koala numbers in each of the 128 federal electorates that have, or did have, Koalas since white settlement.

The numbers released show a disturbing trend:

- A 30% decline in total Koala population since 2018. NSW is worst with a 41% decline
- The Koala is now extinct in 47 electorates and only one electorate, Mayo, has more than 5000 Koalas.
- Every region across Australia saw a decline in population – there were no upward trends.
- Some regions have remaining populations estimated to be as small as just 5-10 Koalas.

Chair of the Australian Koala Foundation, Deborah Tabart OAM, said she is hoping Minister Ley will take notice of these numbers and get on with her job of protecting the Koalas habitat.

"Each and every federal politician in these electorates should now be on notice to protect not only the [koalas in their electorate](#) but the habitat that remains. The good news is that in many cases there is good habitat left. Now is the time to get into action and get them full again. That is what Koala recovery looks like," Deborah said.

"The terrible bushfires of 2019-20 of course contributed to this outcome, however, they are certainly not the only reason we are seeing Koala populations on the decline. We have witnessed a drastic decrease in inland populations because of drought, heat waves, and lack of water for Koalas to drink. I have seen some landscapes that look like the moon – with dead and dying trees everywhere."

Australian Koala Foundation

GPO Box 2659
Brisbane QLD 4001

Ph: 61-7-3229 7233
Email: akf@savethekoala.com
www.savethekoala.com



**Australian
Koala
Foundation**

ACN 010 922 102

“Land clearing is lethal to Koala populations. Over the past few years, we have seen huge land clearance particularly across NSW and South East Queensland, for farming, housing development and mining. We know that offsets don’t work and we also know that displaced koalas die. Urgent action to stop land clearing in prime Koala habitat is required if we are to save our beloved national animal from peril. We need a Koala Protection Act now which can and will do exactly that; why won’t our political leaders just sign that into being?”

To view the full figures, including the percentage of remaining Koala habitat across Australia, [click here.](#)

To view Act or Axe – Koala numbers by electorate, [click here.](#)

To find out more about the Australian Koala Foundation and Save the Koala Month (September) visit savethekoala.com

End/

Contact Information:

Deborah Tabart OAM

Phone: +617 3229 7233

akf@savethekoala.com

Australian Koala Foundation

GPO Box 2659
Brisbane QLD 4001

Ph: 61-7-3229 7233
Email: akf@savethekoala.com
www.savethekoala.com