

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
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Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

I believe the protection afforded koalas and koala habitat is inadequate, at least in the Coffs Harbour LGA. I believe that primary koala habitat is not being protected as it should be, on both small scale and larger scale land use activities.

For example look at the recent upgrade of the Pacific Highway being constructed between Sapphire and Woolgoolga – much land has been cleared here to create ultimately another major threat to koala population on the north coast.

The pacific highway upgrade south that was completed in the last few years resulted in the deaths of at least a dozen koalas during the construction process itself, when traffic was slowed for construction works – check the RTA records for verification of exact numbers!

As this type of land use activity is unlikely to halt but expand in future, this threat alone is going to result in many more deaths AND loss of habitat – therefore it is vital that local government be given greater power and responsibility along with state government (ie DECCW) to take action to prevent further threats via private developments.

Please enact legislation that provides REAL PROTECTION for this iconic creature – allow government departments to protect koalas and ensure they do this to the full extent allowed. I want my kids to be able to see koalas in the wild – not a token breeding population in captivity which I fear is where they are headed.

Yours sincerely,

gabrielle ryan