

5 February 2011

Attn: Senate Committee online Submissions

Re Status of the Koala

I wish to make comment for the koalas of Australia and the koalas of south-east Queensland:

The koalas of Australia and in particular the South-east Queensland Bio Region are under extreme pressure because

Huge losses and ongoing fragmentation of existing koala habitat food trees is awful.

Koalas are suffering extensively across this region due to outdated road infrastructure practices where solid-smooth faced cement barriers are used in koala habitat areas which prevent koalas from climb away to safety, residential building codes which in some cases are over 30 years old as there are no sunset clauses and dogs and feral animals.

The EPB Act is too regimented and sets unattainable goals for koalas right across the koala habitat in Australia which extends thousands of miles up and down the country. It is wrong and amateurish to have only one status available for koalas right across the huge expanse of Australia where koalas exist be it urban or regional.

Legislation to protect both koalas and their habitat has been purposefully corrupted, bogged down and water-down at the Federal, State and Local levels of government and is now worthless and riddled with loopholes.

The ongoing failure of all levels of government – Federal, State and Local – to make any headway in efforts to value and save koalas is shameful and beyond comprehension. All three levels of government in Australia are headed down the same path as is current in the United States – too much rhetoric and not enough on ground action.

It is an ongoing failure of the Federal, State and Local governments because they do not value the natural environment only the built environment.

I witness first-hand the suffering our koalas continue to go through because no one in our government has the guts to protect them and their habitat trees. It is obscene. Money certainly continues to have the final say in any decision regarding koalas.