

From:
To: [Committee, Environment \(REPS\)](#)
Subject: Submission from Koala Action Inc.
Date: Saturday, 9 May 2015 11:04:39 AM

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

As President/Secretary of Koala Action Inc. (KAI) a volunteer not for profit incorporated association whose main objective is to ensure the survival of koalas in South East Queensland members have requested that I email you in regards to taking away tax deductions on donations. Please find attached information about our group and the work we have undertaken to date for your approval and to establish our authenticity. KAI has 80 fully paid members all committed to do as much as they can by way of fund raising to meet our objectives which are:-

To help koalas by urging local, state and federal governments as well as businesses to retain native bushland habitat, rehabilitate degraded bushland to increase its carrying capacity and replant koala food trees and other natives in parks, reserves and open spaces; KAI provides free koala education and awareness presentations to community groups, schools and private enterprise; KAI members are also involved in the rescue and care of sick, injured and orphaned koalas and actively facilitate the creation of koala food tree plantations; KAI also provides support to those raising koala orphans from their homes.

In addition, KAI applies for grants and funding at a local, state and federal government level to enable our members to rehabilitate degraded bush land habitat and replant koala food trees and other natives wherever possible. Naturally competition for these limited funds is high and we don't always get the grants that we apply for. To supplement those efforts we fund raise by collecting and recycling aluminium cans, running raffles, undertaking sausage sizzles and attending festivals/environments where goods hand made by our members can be sold. Membership fees and donations provided at koala education and awareness presentations are also used to meet our objectives.

We are in the processes of applying for DGR status in the hope that larger donations can be garnered from the general public who only appear willing to donate larger sums of \$1,000 or more if we have tax deductibility status. We need more funds to undertake bigger projects. Without additional funds our efforts are band aid measures only rather than making a significant impact on reducing the perils facing koalas. We need to have this tax deductibility of donations option made available to volunteer community groups such as ourselves. Members have absolutely no objection to the government ensuring that this process is open, transparent and accountable. The only political agenda we have is saving koalas and our commitment of time, energy and resources is free however we rely on the generosity of others to make a difference and your government's help in this would be much appreciated. Please don't penalise legitimate groups such ours in this manner.

With thanks Vanda (aka Wanda) Grabowski
President/Secretary
Koala Action Inc.

KOALA ACTION INC.

ABN: 92 282 853 793

<http://koalactioninc.org>



Koala Action Inc. (KAI) is a volunteer not for profit group made up of individuals concerned about the long-term survival of the koala population in South East Queensland. Its objectives are to help koalas by urging local, state and federal governments as well as businesses to retain native bushland habitat, rehabilitate degraded bushland to increase its carrying capacity and replant koala food trees and other natives in parks, reserves and open spaces.

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KAI was involved in the establishment of Queensland Koala Crusaders Inc. (QKC) a like minded volunteer not for profit group based on the Sunshine Coast and the Moreton Bay Eco Alliance (MBEA) that is focusing on habitat loss and fragmentation in the Moreton Bay region.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Work began on growing a koala food tree plantation at Madeline Drive Park, Morayfield in September 2013 with a \$12,700 grant obtained from the State Government's Koala Rescue and Rehabilitation Fund. Part of the funding was used to rip/aerate the compacted soil before mulch was delivered and spread over the marked out beds. The grant also funded a watering regime and the purchase of tools for carers to use when cutting the leaf. KAI paid for the koala food trees, members undertook the planting and committed to undertaking 2 years of maintenance on the site to ensure optimal growth.

In January 2012 KAI was nominated for and won the Moreton Bay Regional Council's Australia Day Award for Environmental Achievement for the work they have done and are doing to ensure a sustainable future for koalas in this region.

Moreton Bay Regional Council formerly known as the Pine Rivers Shire Council Community Assistance Scheme Grants provided \$5,000 which paid for the purchase, delivery and spreading of mulch, auguring holes and watering koala food trees and other native plants at the locations detailed below:-

2011/2012	Williams Road, Burpengary.
2010/2011	Young's Crossing Road Reserve-Stage 2, Joyner;
2008/2009	Young's Crossing Road Reserve-Stage 1, Joyner;
2007/2008	Corner Baker Street and Francis Road, Lawnton;
2007/2008	Corner Bunya Crossing Road and Drapers Road, Eaton's Hill;
2006/2007	Ebert Park and Lockyer Drive, Bray Park;
2006/2007	Stanley Street, Strathpine;
2005/2006	Bult Drive Parkland off Leitchs Road, Brendale;
2005/2006	Francis Road and Todds Road Koala Reserve, Lawnton.

In 2009 KAI received \$11,048 from the Australian Federal Government's Caring for Country Community Coast care Grant to rehabilitate native vegetation abutting the North Pine River that incorporates endangered remnant bush land at Mungarra Reserve, Petrie. With the help of the Moreton Bay Regional Council KAPR has enhanced and extended the existing wildlife corridor by planting additional koala food trees and other natives for the residential koala population as well as other native wildlife.

In May 2009 KAI utilised its own funds to extend the wildlife corridor at Ebert Park along Lockyer Drive as far as Dean Street, Bray Park by planting additional koala food trees and other natives.

In December 2006 the Australian Federal Government's Envirofund Grant provided \$12,480 to remove exotic weed trees species at the Les Hughes Sporting Complex, Bray Park. KAI members planted koala food trees and other natives in mulched beds that will in time provide food and shelter opportunities to the existing residential koala population as well as other native wildlife.

KAI members commit to voluntarily undertaking 2 years of maintenance activities at each site replanted to ensure that koala food trees and other natives achieve optimal growth. Since its incorporation KAPR has provided numerous koala education and awareness presentations to schools and community groups. KAI has also provided information to the general public and attended local, state as well as federal government meetings on a range of koala related matters.