



Australians for Animals

PROTECT • NURTURE • RESTORE

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KOALAS - A NATIONAL/GLOBAL TRAGEDY UNFOLDING

Koalas are dying. Industrial logging, massive urbanisation in south west Sydney, and an extraordinary refusal by the federal and state governments to do anything other than pursuing policies of extinction are wiping out the species. A globally unique species.

Koalas are being killed by the volume of traffic on Appin Road in southwest Sydney. 36 koalas so far, with more dead and injured koalas every day. Struck by cars, trucks, buses, koalas are dreadfully injured, their suffering is unconscionable. Shelters are overloaded with sick, injured, starving koalas. There are no overpasses or underpasses. To cross their territory, koalas must face the traffic. A no win situation.

In NSW native forests, koalas face huge industrial machines which destroy habitat. It's the season for joeys right now, leaving koala mums with no shelter, no food, no place of protection.

AFA has been gathering photos and movies of the government

approved shocking slaughter of koalas Australia wide. They make for horrific viewing.

The brutality and cruelty can only be described as a crime beyond understanding.

A letter from an AFA supporter today summed up some of the horror.

"Did you see on Channel 7 news about 7 weeks ago an amateur's film from Kangaroo Island of the no-longer wanted huge blue gum forest, full of koalas. Nothing had been done to catch and move the koalas and you could see as the trees were cut down little koalas being flung from the tree tops to their death or impossible injuries."



I never heard any more about this, but feel horrified and sick at the people who approved this slaughter."

This is the reality for koalas in NSW, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia. Governments refuse to protect koalas. Doesn't matter

which major political party is in government. Both refuse to take any action to protect habitat and STOP THE CRUELTY.

Let's not forget that gliders, possums, birds, countless creatures are all condemned to death when habitat is bulldozed.

GREAT KOALA NATIONAL PARK IN GRAVE JEOPARDY

As a former Fairfax investigative journalist, not reporting the impacts of industrial logging in the state's native forests responsible for wiping out koalas, gliders, and growing numbers of forest fauna is beyond understanding.

The virtual abandonment of the Labor party's promised Great Koala National Park together with the massive urbanisation in southwest Sydney, eliminating the habitat of the state's only significant disease-free koala population, join forestry issues in the mainstream media censorship closet.

At a budget estimates hearing held on 29 August in the NSW Parliament, responses to questions focused on the Park, should have resulted in front page stories. Both Penny Sharpe, Environment Minister, and Atticus Fleming, Acting Coordinator General, Environment and Heritage Group, Department of Planning and Environment, confirmed the park was not a priority, the boundaries

were not established nor any harvest limits.

Attempting to get an answer to the essential question – *when will the park be designated* – Chair Sue Higginson, MLC asked the Minister:

Can I ask for an answer to the question—when? We have been told this year. There's just nothing for the community to understand when we will stop logging within the Great Koala National Park.

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: *It depends, in the end, about how big—we haven't decided how big the park will be, so I can't answer that question.*

Further evidence by Fleming made clear the lack of any government urgency or priority

in designating the Park.

ATTICUS FLEMING: *You are asking a question in relation to the Great Koala National Park. It's important to emphasise that a decision hasn't been made about the boundaries of that park, nor has a decision been made about what would happen to the relevant level of harvesting effort in that area.*

ATTICUS FLEMING: *The other point I'd add is for the Great Koala National Park, of those two options we talked about, the only one that will be relevant is the cessation of harvesting. Once the national park is declared, then there is no harvesting permitted. It's important to note there's no decision on the park.*

The decision on the park and the boundaries and what happens to the corresponding level of harvesting effort will take into account a range of factors. As the Minister indicated, there's quite



a detailed process taking into account - obviously ecological factors such as koalas but also socioeconomic factors, social factors and cultural factors.

Carbon is another one of the matters that will be taken into account. All of those things will be important in the final decision.

What these excerpts from the NSW Parliament budget estimates hearing mean is that the Park is not a priority for the Minns' NSW government and if it ever is declared, the ongoing industrial logging of critical habitat will result in a park that exists in name only.

WHY DONATIONS MATTER AT THIS TIME

Those of you who have supported Australians for Animals Inc over many, many years know that the charity doesn't appeal for funds unless there's a good reason.



Unlike many environmental organisations, our focus has always been only requesting dollars when needed.

It's vitally important that you understand the difficulties. To give some idea of the legal complexities involved in attempting to save the koala and stop the industrial logging of native forests, since 2020 AFA has engaged ten lawyers, including the EDO, Environmental Justice, Maurice Blackburn lawyers, three barristers and three special counsels. Governments of both major parties have tied up protection of forestry making

comprehensive legal challenges extremely difficult.

A number of lawsuits run by the North East Forest Alliance in the federal and state courts have been lost with judgements that have paved the way for the Forestry Corporation of NSW to operate without any checks and balances. Right now, AFA is assisting the Indigenous Justice Advocacy Network in a critical legal case, the outcome of yet another appalling judgement in the Land & Environment Court. The judgement will be questioned and potentially put aside if the hearing in the NSW

Appeals Court succeeds.

The good news is that we have a lot of legal expertise on our side all focused on the same end, stopping industrial logging of our native forests and protecting the struggling forest wildlife. AFA is also blessed by the support of some excellent globally respected scientists who are desperately concerned by the ongoing destruction. Ecosystems are being lost, climate change impacts are devastating. Yet nothing is done. The proposed federal upgrade of Australia's nature laws being tossed around in Canberra completely

fails to address the significant issue. Australia's catastrophic ongoing biodiversity loss.

AFA is led by a highly experienced investigative journalist. The charity's chairperson is former Senator Norm Sanders who made history in saving the Franklin Dam with Bob Brown and an incredible community of activists.

We are doing the job. But we need funds.

*For the Animals,
Sue Arnold & Friends.*



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SAVE
THE KOALAS**

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