

15 January 2011-03-06

The Hon Tony Burke MP
Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
Tony.Burke.MP@aph.gov.au
02 6277 7640
PO Box 6022, House of Representatives,
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Burke,

We all have a duty of care when we are granted the privilege of life on this earth. As Australians, we have an extra duty of care, because we are blessed with so much natural beauty that is unique. As Minister for the Environment, it goes without saying that you have yet more duty.

You now have a wonderful chance to help preserve one of our most precious gifts of all, the koala. Not only do we owe the koala itself the chance of survival, we also owe it to all Australians dependent on tourism to make a living. Our unique wildlife, headlined by the koala and the kangaroo, draw more tourists than any other facet of Australia. The Caribbean and the Mediterranean and the Pacific and many other places are renowned for their beaches. No one else has koalas in the wild.

There are many scientific arguments over how much trouble the koala is in. However, I don't think there is any doubt at all that koala numbers are dwindling. The sooner we act, the better chance the koala will have of survival. The first step is in your hands now. You can help start actions that will help the koala to survive.

Therefore, I request that you list the koala as a vulnerable species.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours, Daniel Katz 16 Edna Drive Tathra, NSW 2550 02-6494-5887