



**Australian
Koala
Foundation**

ACN 010 922 102

MEDIA RELEASE

10 Year Anniversary of Annihilation: Government's Koala Recovery Plan officially pends for a decade - the exact time period it took for Koalas to go from 'vulnerable' to 'endangered'

15 March 2022

As the curtain begins to close on this Government, the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) is calling on Environment Minister Sussan Ley to make the delivery of the Koala Recovery Plan her final act as Minister.

The plan has been promised since 2012, with a three year deadline set for its completion. AKF Chair Deborah Tabart OAM, says the delay of this plan has literally been the death of our Koalas.

"In 2012 two important things happened – the Koala was declared as 'vulnerable' and the Government committed to writing a Koala Recovery Plan within three years. Ten years on, we still have no plan and our Koalas have gone from 'vulnerable' to 'endangered'," Tabart said.

"For over 30 years I have witnessed relentless inaction from Government after Government, that has quite literally been the death of our Koalas. As we continue to wait for the Koala Recovery Plan, we edge closer towards our next status change – from 'endangered' to 'functionally extinct', which is what I think is happening right now in some populations."

With the Federal Budget and Election fast approaching, AKF is calling on Minister Ley to make the Koala Recovery Plan public, which she says is written. This is the only way that the Australian public can make an informed decision as to whether this current Government will look after Koalas, as well as give the Opposition an opportunity to respond with their position.

"For far too long, we've seen bulldozers continue to blaze because our political leaders refuse to upset industry and jeopardise their donations. If the Koala Recovery Plan is not released well ahead of the Federal Election, Minister Ley is inviting yet another Government to join the cycle of inaction. The Australian public and the communities dedicated to saving the Koala are fed up with seeing their hard work and contributions languish."

Minister Ley has a track record of delaying the release of any findings that reflect poorly on herself. She sat on Professor Graeme Samuel's review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity (EPBC) Act for months, only to ignore all of its recommendations. Samuel's Review called for urgent changes to Australia's environmental laws, stating they are flawed, outdated and risk the extinction of threatened plants, animals and ecosystems.

AKF is calling for the urgent adoption of a Koala Protection Act. Australia's laws do nothing to protect Koala habitat. Cash splashes and band-aid solutions will not save the Koala, strong legislative action is needed to stop the bulldozers. The message is simple – 'no tree, no me'.

To find out more about AKF's plans to save the Koala, visit [savethekoala.com](https://www.savethekoala.com)

**To see if your electorate's minister supports the Koala Protection Act, visit 'Act or Axe':
<https://www.savethekoala.com/our-work/act-or-axe/>**

Australian Koala Foundation

GPO Box 2659
Brisbane QLD 4001

Ph: 61-7-3229 7233
Email: akf@savethekoala.com
www.savethekoala.com