



The Koala Commandments

- 1.** Commit to immediately ceasing all native forest logging.
- 2.** Immediate moratorium on Blue Gum plantation harvesting operations until animal cruelty issues and alternative habitat issues are resolved, and government funding for koala conservation is allocated..
- 3.** Commit funding for regular scientific koala population assessments statewide, every 5 years.
- 4.** Fund a comprehensive support package for koala carers and rescuers.
- 5.** 5. Climate change is one of the biggest threats to koalas. Take urgent, measurable action to mitigate climate change, starting immediately with no new oil or gas for Victoria.
- 6.** 6. Include protection of koala habitat in state planning laws, legislate for connectivity of remnant habitat, review the impact of bushfire legislation and overlays to wildlife, and review land clearing laws.
- 7.** 7. Require councils to prepare comprehensive Koala Plans of Management before approval of any rezoning or development in known or potential koala habitat, ensuring appropriate mapping, consultation and protection.
- 8.** 8. Though promised in August 2022, the Dan Andrews government has failed to deliver a Koala Management Strategy. The last Koala Management Strategy was written in 2004 and had not been updated since then. We insist that this document is released before the end of 2022. Commit to updating the Koala Management Strategy every 5 years.
- 9.** 9. Allocate government funding to investigate koala road death hotspots, and build fencing and wildlife crossings at those locations.
- 10.** 10. Increase funding for koala tree planting in Victoria, especially along waterways and to connect remnant patches of koala habitat.

Position statement:

Victorian Koalas have been killed by the thousands in bushfires, are being killed and injured in plantations and by government-owned forestry operations, are killed on the roads, and by heatwaves, droughts and floods fuelled by climate change. Koala care & rehabilitation is underfunded, and often lacks specialised veterinary support. Koala habitat is not protected and can be cleared, and koala habitat planting and connectivity planning is ad hoc. Yet the state still has no Koala Management Strategy, koala population research is scant and outdated, but the Victorian government still claims that koalas are 'thriving'. As a result, the leaders of Koala conservation in Victoria have united to demand the Dan Andrews Labor government acts to save our precious koalas before it's too late.

Signed by:



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