

Sent via email

14 September 2024

Dear Premier Palaszczuk, Deputy Premier Miles and Minister Linard

Environmental Advocacy in Central Queensland is a relatively new grassroots community group which came together to be a voice for our environment, our local community and our wildlife. One of our campaigns is focussed on the impact of new and expanding coal mines on our remaining endangered koala populations.



We know that you care about our iconic koala, and hope that you can help in the rapid decline of koala populations in Central Queensland. As you will be aware, two of the identified major threats to koala populations are habitat clearing and climate change. In our region, many of the new coal mines result in further clearing of koala habitat and lead to increased greenhouse gas emissions and accelerated climate change. These coal mines are having a significant impact on koalas, which is why we have produced this [short video](#) which we encourage you to view.

The science is very clear - if we are to halt the further acceleration of climate change, we must not approve any new or expanded fossil fuel projects. The loss of further koala habitat for fossil fuel developments is contrary to your government's rhetoric about caring for our threatened species, transitioning to renewable energy, and ensuring that projects 'stack up' on environmental, economic and social grounds.

Other components of EnvA's '[koalas not coal](#)' campaign include:

- participation in the community advisory committee for the implementation of the National Recovery Plan for the Koala, and

- commissioning a research study to quantify the impacts that coal mines have had on koalas in the Bowen Basin (which we will be happy to share with you when finalised). This research is being undertaken by Central Queensland University.

We have released our '[koalas not coal](#)' video to our local community, and it is currently being shared widely across Queensland and Australia. When we receive the final scientific report about the impacts on koalas from coal mines, we plan to extend our campaign to the international audience.

We urge you to take real steps to reduce carbon emissions and protect our wildlife habitats and our special places. Please use your influence to ensure that no new coal mines are approved which will destroy threatened species habitats and/or lead to increased greenhouse gas emissions.

Kind regards,

Dr Coral Rowston



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I acknowledge and pay my respect to the Darumbul people upon whose land I live and work