



Office of the
Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

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28 NOV 2023

Dr Coral Rowston
Director
Environmental Advocacy in Central Queensland
EnvA.CQ@outlook.com

Dear Dr Rowston

Thank you for your email of 14 September 2023 regarding coal mining impacts on central Queensland's koala populations and Environmental Advocacy in Central Queensland's (EnvA-CQ) 'Koalas not Coal' campaign. The Honourable Leanne Linard MP, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs has asked me to respond on her behalf. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I acknowledge that groups such as EnvA-CQ play an important role in raising awareness and advocating for protection of national environment. The Queensland Government is committed to working closely with grassroot community-based organisations to support better outcomes for all Queenslanders and the State's unique natural values.

The Queensland Government is taking strong action to tackle climate change and has committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050, with an interim target to reduce emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030. As of 2021, nine years earlier than the interim target, Queensland has already reduced emissions by 29%. The Queensland Government is also prioritising the protection and conservation of the State's biodiversity values by addressing the decline in threatened species and by connecting people and nature. These actions are guided by key planning documents including the *Queensland Climate Action Plan 2020-2030*, *Conserving Nature – a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Queensland* and *Queensland's Threatened Species Program*. The Queensland Government's commitment to implementing the priority actions identified in these plans is reflected in new funding initiatives including \$25 million allocated to extend the Land Restoration Fund, \$35 million to the Natural Capital Fund and \$40 million to Saving Queensland's Threatened Species which included \$24.6 million to support koala conservation programs.

The Queensland Government has also committed to joint delivery with the Australian Government of the *National Recovery Plan for the Koala* (the Recovery Plan) through both its support for the delivery of koala conservation initiatives aligned with the Recovery Plan and by having representatives on both the national koala recovery team board and the strategy and coordination group. These groups will support the coordinated delivery of the actions in the Recovery Plan and ensure conservation effort, policy settings, regulatory frameworks and investments maximise the benefits and help recover the koala. I am advised that the Department of Environment and Science (the department) has nominated representatives for the Central Queensland Koala Advisory Group which was established to plan and coordinate the implementation of projects funded under the Recovery Plan in Central Queensland.

If you require any further information or assistance in relation to this matter, please contact Geoff Lundie-Jenkins, Director - Southern Wildlife and Koala Operations, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships of the department by email at geoff.lundiejenkins@des.qld.gov.au or on 0411 719 068.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'SL' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Sonja Litz

Chief of Staff

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