



Minister for the Environment and Tourism  
Minister for Science and Innovation

Our reference: CTS 23541/24

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000  
GPO Box 2454 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3719 7300  
Email [environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

23 JAN 2025

Dr Coral Rowston  
Director  
Environmental Advocacy in Central Queensland Inc  
[EnvA.CQ@outlook.com](mailto:EnvA.CQ@outlook.com)

Dear Dr Rowston

Thank you for your email and letter of 19 November 2024 regarding the protection of Queensland's koala habitat from new coal mines and expansions.

The Queensland Government maintains a strong commitment to halt the decline of koala populations, including a commitment to work towards a new South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy to succeed the current Strategy. As the *South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2020-2025* enters its final year, the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (the department) is commencing a review of the effectiveness of current Strategy actions. The review will include proposing options for new and improved koala conservation initiatives as well as targeted consultation with community, conservation and industry stakeholders.

The Queensland Government also recognises that there will be a continuing role for coal as the economy decarbonises. For example, metallurgical coal will continue to be important in steel manufacturing which will be required to support renewable energy including wind turbines, solar panels and batteries.

Every proposed project is assessed on a case-by-case basis and undergoes a rigorous environmental assessment to ensure the project meets legislative standards as part of the environmental process. The department, as the environmental regulator, sets approval conditions which include environmental offsets and avoidance, minimisation and mitigation of impacts on environmental matters of a State level, including some koala habitat. The Queensland Government will continue to strike a balance between providing the resources and transitional energy projects required for our decarbonised future, while ensuring the protection of our iconic koalas.

I also acknowledge your meeting request to further discuss your recommendations with respect to preservation of koala habitat and encourage you to raise these at a future Minister's Environmental Roundtable meeting.

Yours sincerely

**Andrew Powell MP**  
**Minister for the Environment and Tourism**  
**Minister for Science and Innovation**

cc Dave Copeman, Director, Queensland Conservation Council  
Christine Carlisle, President, Environment Council of Central Queensland  
Imogen Lindenberg, Climate Campaigner, Mackay Conservation Group  
Sophie George, Coordinator, Capricorn Conservation Council