



**IN HOSPITAL:** Vet Amber Gillett with the burnt koala rescued from North Stradbroke Island.

## **DERM slated after burn-off hurts koala**

**ANGRY** North Stradbroke Island residents are demanding to know how a koala was critically injured during a planned burn-off.

Australia Zoo was called in to rescue an eight-year-old koala after she was found with second-degree burns yesterday, three weeks after the Environment Department did a 45ha fuel reduction burn on the island.

Locals have blasted the Department of Environment and Resource Management for endangering the

vulnerable species.

Environment Minister Vicky Darling denied the incident contravened the State Government's Koala Plan but has asked why the animal wasn't removed.

Despite initial fears the koala, named Rian, would not survive, last night she was in a stable condition at Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital on the Sunshine Coast.

Vet Dr Amber Gillett said Rian's injuries would be "incredibly painful" and she would take months to recover.

**Kristin Shorten**