



Speed trap for koalas

Kate Matthews | 18th February 2012

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A NEW threat has emerged to Iluka's koala population with Roads and Maritime Services confirming yesterday it will consider a request to review the speed limit on Iluka Road within the next two months, with a view to returning the limit to 100kmh from its present 80kmh.



ENDANGERED: Koalas could become a casualty of speeding motorists if the Iluka Rd speed limit is returned to 100kmh, according to the local residents' association president.

Kate Matthews

The request was made by State MP for Clarence Chris Gulaptis following a commitment made by his predecessor, Steve Candsell.

"When it happened (in 2005) it was a unilateral decision by the minister without any community consultation," Mr Gulaptis told The Daily Examiner late last year.

He said he supported the latest review into speed limits, as he believed the road was suitable for a 100kmh limit.

"We all share the road and we should be able to drive to the conditions," Mr Gulaptis said.

The Association of Iluka Residents (AIR) is critical of the decision to review the speed limit. AIR president Zachary Jane said she had voiced the concerns of the association to a number of state ministers, asking that considerations be given to the safety of all road users, as well as the threat to Iluka's dwindling koala population

"The cycle path alongside the road gets used a lot, by tourists and children and by joggers," said Ms Jane. "100kmh is too fast to be safe alongside cyclists and pedestrians."

The estimated time saved for each trip would be three minutes.

Coincidentally, this week the Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke was due to announce his decision on whether to add the koala to the list of nationally threatened species.

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