

# Port koalas still waiting for protection decision

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The Hunter Koala Preservation Society says the Federal Environment Minister should list the koala as a threatened species nationally, not state by state.

Tony Burke has postponed making a decision on the issue until April and has also indicated he could make a ruling that would treat the status of koala populations differently in each State.

Society President, Sue Swain says she is concerned the decision has been delayed purely for political reasons, with the Queensland state election to be held in March.

Ms Swain says with the Port Stephens koala population on the brink of being wiped out due to habitat loss, a decision needs to be made as soon as possible.

"I'm pretty sure he'll have to list the Queensland ones because they are disappearing, they're just about gone," she said.

"Ours are disappearing at a rate that if he doesn't make a decision about them now, if he waits a couple of years it will be too late.

"The advice he is getting in the documents is to list the koala nationally, not just Queensland, not just New South Wales, but nationally."

She says the listing would mean all development in Port Stephens would have to meet certain criteria regarding the local koala population.

"Every development would have to do an environmental impact statement involving koalas, whether they live there, whether their habitat is on the land that is to be developed and then the land can only be developed according to the environmental agency.

"They would be taken into consideration, currently they're not, it doesn't matter if it's prime koala habitat, if the council is going to make money out of it, they will sub divide it."

**Tags:** [endangered-and-protected-species](#), [environmental-management](#), [anna-bay-2316](#), [hawks-nest-2324](#)

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Port Stephens koala rescue volunteers call for koalas to be listed nationally as a threatened species.

[Map: Anna Bay](#)

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