



## Koala inquiry 'too little too late'

LOCAL NEWS 6 JAN 11 @ 10:06AM BY SHANNON SAGAIDAK

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ABOUT TIME: Helen Darbellay says the koala inquiry should have been done years ago.

A Senate inquiry into the status of the nation's koala population could be too little too late, says a local wildlife advocate.

Australian Greens leader Bob Brown has won a lengthy battle to secure a six-month inquiry which begins early this year, but the Ipswich Koala Protection Society says an examination of the rapidly declining koala population should have been conducted years ago.

A report due in June will outline threats to the koala's survival including urban sprawl, disease and poor conservation management.

The society's secretary, Helen Darbellay, said her group had sent many letters over the years requesting action from successive federal governments.

``You get sick of writing to these people who keep putting it off and passing it on to someone else to start," Ms Darbellay said.

She said the society, which could pick up about 150 sick or injured Ipswich koalas a year, hoped the government would involve their group and others in the inquiry.

``It might be OK to say nationally that koala numbers are OK or that each state has plenty, but in southeast Queensland they are dying out so fast," she said.

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