

**MEDIA RELEASE 25 May 2010**

**Subject: Time Garrett backed call for koala listing upgrade to 'vulnerable'**

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**Time Garrett backed call for koala listing upgrade to 'vulnerable'**

Greens NSW senate candidate Lee Rhiannon has backed the call of the Australian Koala Foundation for Environment Minister Peter Garrett to upgrade the listing of koalas to 'vulnerable'.

"The Greens are working with communities across NSW committed to safeguarding koala habitat. Their experiences highlight the need for greater protection of this unique Australian animal," Ms Rhiannon said.

"Minister Garrett's announcement that he is considering listing the koala as 'conservation dependant' will not provide the protection needed to safeguard koala populations currently under threat from logging, land clearing and urban development.

"I urge the Minister to work with the Australian Koala Foundation as this group has established the need for the koala to be listed as 'vulnerable' under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

"Communities in the southeast, Port Stephens and the Gunnedah region who are working hard to protect koala habitat have informed me of their work.

"Listing koalas as 'vulnerable' would greatly assist their volunteer efforts.

"I am aware of other groups and individuals in northeast NSW and other areas that restore injured koalas to good health and campaign to protect their habitat.

"Minister Garrett can quickly help these volunteer efforts by changing the listing," Ms Rhiannon said.

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