



Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**


**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 May 2018

## ADJOURNMENT

### Koala Protection

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (6.09 pm): Koalas are an iconic species of national and international importance. They hold a special place in our hearts, and it is heartbreaking to picture a world without them. Due to a variety of pressures, there is a very real threat to our koala populations. On Sunday, 6 May it was my pleasure to join with Pine Rivers Koala Care and so many locals at Old Petrie Town to celebrate Wild Koala Day. Sadly, despite years of dedicated policy and planning regulations, koala populations have been in steep decline.

Last sitting week in this place the Palaszczuk government put an end to broadscale land clearing. We also formed the Koala Expert Panel to advise on the most appropriate and realistic measures for long-term protection. The panel recommended an integrated set of recommendations addressing the decline of koalas in South-East Queensland from many pressures including urban development, car strike, dog attack and diseases. The report heralds a new direction for the conservation of koalas in Queensland, with all six of the recommendations being accepted by the Palaszczuk government. It is a comprehensive and innovative template to balance development and koala preservation—a complex and challenging task, particularly in urban landscapes like my community.

The Koala Advisory Council, comprising varied stakeholders, will coordinate the implementation of a new South-East Queensland koala conservation strategy. It is clear that koala conservation is not just the responsibility of the state and nor do we have all of the means to respond. That is why we will continue to work closely with stakeholders.

The importance of community support in this space cannot be understated. Our local Pine Rivers Koala Care provides an essential wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and relocation role and looks after local koala populations and habitat. I put on record my thanks to Pine Rivers Koala Care volunteers for their hard work and dedication to helping create a safe living environment for koalas in the Pine Rivers community. I encourage them to keep working to safeguard these iconic creatures, now and into the future. They can be assured that the Palaszczuk government will play its part.

We take the protection of our koala populations very seriously and are committed to maintaining viable and healthy koala populations in South-East Queensland and across the state. I want Queensland to be a place where we can show the next generation a wild koala in its native habitat, safe in open eucalypt forest. In time, I hope they are able to do the same with the generation after that. We in Labor will continue to work towards ensuring the most realistic and appropriate actions are in place to safeguard viable wild koala populations long term in Queensland.

Wild Koala Day was a great day for our community to increase awareness of the environment and the wildlife that depends upon it. On the day we planted over 200 trees. Fourteen community and environmental groups participated and presented. There were macropods, possums and koalas, which were fantastic for the crowd to explore and ask questions around. I thank the stallholders and the many businesses that worked in with Pine Rivers Koala Care.