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Greens detail proposed law to save koalas

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THE Australian Greens will introduce legislation to provide urgent protection for koalas.

The Koala Protection Bill, if approved by federal parliament, will make it unlawful to kill or harm a koala anywhere in Australia.

It will also be an offence to destroy or damage koala habitats.

"The purpose of the bill is to make sure koalas, as an iconic Australian species and of significant cultural heritage, have special protection," Greens senator Bob Brown said in Canberra today.

"The bill is in the spirit of the US law of 1940 which brought the American Bald Eagle back from the brink of extinction by protecting it from human predators."

Senator Brown says koalas are quickly approaching a crisis point and urgent action must be taken to protect them.

"There will need to be greater public and political effort in the years ahead if we are to stop this magnificent creature joining the other 18 Australian mammals gone to extinction since 1788," he said.

The bill will be introduced to the Senate in June.
