

Progress puts koalas at risk

EXTINCT: BRENDALE, WARNER DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES SOUND THE DEATH KNEEL FOR AUSSIE ICON AND STRATHPINE MAY BE NEXT

JAMIE-LEIGH CARTER
carterj@abcnews24hd.com.au

THE last koalas may have been bulldozed out of Brendale and Warner.

Koala Action Pine Rivers secretary Wanda Grabowski labelled koalas "extinct" in those suburbs after land was levelled at the intersection of Kremzow and Old North roads.

Ms Grabowski said development for manufacturing,

industry and residential sites had wiped out the koala population. "Strathpine will be next," she warned.

Ms Grabowski said the Moreton Bay region was in a "dire way", with the koala population falling 47 per cent from 2004 to 2008. A survey revealed 4600 koalas in 2004.

"Taking into account the decline, about 2400 koalas would be left in the region, but it could be less," she said. "They are hanging on

by their little claws, on the brink of extinction."

She claims at least 20 of the 30 koalas that lived at a site on Leitchs Rd were killed when that land was cleared.

"The amount of trees in Warner is insufficient to sustain a koala population. If there are one or two still there, they have nowhere to go and would need to cross Samsonvale Rd, Old North Rd and residential houses with dogs.

"From Old North Rd down to Gympie Rd, there is very limited koala habitat."

Pine Rivers Koala Care president Gary Bain said the site at Kremzow Rd was a well-known koala habitat. Clearing would put more than 30 koalas in danger.

"A study last year checked 37 koalas at Brendale," he said. "Any koalas that were living here now have to find a new home and that means increased risk of cars, dogs

and disease from stress." Cashmere resident Michael Adams said he was shocked by the loss of habitat. "As council elections draw nearer I would like the community to assess what these people are, or are not, doing for us and our environment," he said.

What environmental promises do you expect?

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FEARS: Jo and Gary Bain.