

NEWS

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A koala rescuer has called for a Draft Koala Management Plan to be released. **FULL STORY BELOW**

14



WILDLIFE CORRIDOR: Moreton Bay Koala Rescue's Anika Lehmann wants to know when the Draft Koala Management Plan for the Moreton Bay Rail Link will be made public.

Koala group calls for rail link plan release

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KOALA advocate Anika Lehmann believes hundreds of native animals are under threat during construction of the Moreton Bay Rail Link.

"Unless something is done urgently, we estimate we will be scraping 30-50 dead koalas off Anzac Ave," Mrs Lehmann said.

A member and former president of Moreton Bay Koala Rescue, Mrs Lehmann is calling for the release of the Draft Koala Management Plan.

She said the plan was held by the Environment Department and Moreton Bay Regional Council, but had not been made available to koala groups.

An MBRL spokesman was unable to say when the Draft Koala Management Plan would be made public.

"It is not just koalas, there are possums, grey kangaroos, wallabies, water dragons," Mrs Lehmann said.

"This area (of Petrie to Kippa-Ring) has been left alone for 35 years and has become a forest refuge for wildlife."

She said re-planting of habitat was critical, but she was not confident in the face of broken promises.

"MBRL promised to start offset last year, which was five years too late anyway. What's the point of destroying mature trees and replanting saplings?" Mrs Lehmann said.

She said management plans must have wildlife corridors as a priority.

Mrs Lehmann is calling for an independent umpire to oversee wildlife management during construction of the rail link.