

Zoo site homes spark fears for wild koalas



AT RISK: Zookeeper Kim Revely is worried a proposed housing estate will hurt the local koala population surrounding Alma Park. Picture: Sarah Marshall

Cayla Dengate Bay Regional Council is under pressure to reject a development that would turn vital koala habitat into a bustling suburb.

The native moves to Logan Dakabin's Alma Park Zoo would be replaced by 151 houses in the next 12 months, when the zoo, past 12 months, this year, add 1000 housing in the wild koala habitat in the wild koala Head of the Mountain National Park.

Head of the Mountain National Park, the zoo's population of koalas and other sheltering bush in the area, she said. "This is the last remaining stronghold for native animals."

Only a few koalas are in captivity in the area, she said. "This is the last remaining stronghold for native animals."

A 2001 Department of Environment and Heritage report described the area as a "high quality koala habitat" and a "key area for koala conservation".

Deborah Tohart, a koala conservation officer at the Australian Koala Foundation, said the area was "one of the best koala habitats in Australia".

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Regional Councilor John Greer (Division 4) said the development was "a disaster for koalas".

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DAKABIN 170-540 koalas, 1000 residential lots, approved in the area.

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Kim Revely, the zoo's head of conservation, said the development would "destroy the koala habitat".

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Call to end 'gay panic'

A CATHOLIC priest called on the State Government to abolish the "homosexual panic" defence in murder cases.

In Queensland, the defence allowed a person charged with a violent crime to claim they were provoked by a homosexual person.

Keeping the faith

QUEENSLAND schools remain the most dedicated to their chaplains, after 95 per cent chose to keep the position following a change to the National School Chaplaincy program.

Only 4 per cent - or 27 schools out of 763 - opted to change to a student welfare worker and appointed to have their funding maintained under the new National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program.

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