
Global warming a koala killer

CARBON and koalas are on a collision course.

A scientist says koalas are vulnerable to climate change, with a hotter and drier climate likely to restrict their habitat to urbanised areas of eastern and southern Australia where they are run over by cars and killed by dogs.

Christine Adams-Hosking, of the University of Queensland, yesterday said the species was at risk from warming.

Dr Adams-Hosking said as well as dog attacks and vehicle collisions, habitat loss also was a concern.

“The conservation of adequate habitat that provides refuge areas for koalas under climate change is essential to the survival of Australia’s most recognised icon.”



THREAT: Climate change will cut koala habitats.

With dry inland habitats likely to become climatically unsuitable, it would increase the need to protect and restore coastal habitats, which are under threat from urbanisation.

At a Senate inquiry in Brisbane on Tuesday, Redland City Mayor Melva Hobson called for immediate federal government action to save the species.