

Have your say **Christine Adams-Hosking, Brookfield**

FOR the past three years I have been researching koalas.

Recently I had the opportunity to present my findings on how koalas will be affected by climate change at the Senate Inquiry into the Status, Health and Sustainability of Australia's Koala Population, and the outlook is grim.

The CSIRO climate change predictions indicate that the extreme climate events of recent years, such as heatwaves and prolonged droughts, will occur more frequently.

Think back to just before the

2009 Victorian bushfires. Surprised residents were circulating photos of koalas displaying strange behaviour, such as trying to climb into swimming pools and lying at the bottom of trees no longer able to climb. These koalas were dying from drought and several consecutive days that exceeded 40C.

I have mapped the current climate envelope of koalas.

My research predicts that as climate change progresses, we will see this envelope move.

It will become too hot and, at times, dry for them to continue

living where they are and koalas will disappear from many of their current habitats in the west.

By 2050, due to climate change, koalas and many of their essential food trees will move towards the east coast and, in particular, into the development capital of Australia, southeast Queensland.

Here we have continuous land-clearing for our expanding population and slightly further west, a new threat to koala habitat from a seemingly endless number of mining leases.

It will become too hot and, at times, dry for koalas to continue living where they are

This leaves the koala caught in the middle of our rapid consumption of land.

The Senate committee appeared to be sobered and surprised by the gravity of the information they were given by me and my fellow researchers, from the Koala Research Network.

I hope this information will help to convince Canberra that it is time that the koala is given a federal listing. Such a listing needs to trigger better protection for this Australian icon that is in very grave danger.