



### Adjournment Speech by

**GLEN ELMES**

*Member for Noosa*

*Shadow Minister for Climate Change & Sustainability*

**Hansard – Thursday 8 October, 2009**

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### Save Our Koalas Rally

**Mr ELMES (Noosa--LNP) (10.03 pm):** On Friday, 25 September I was privileged to speak at the Save Our Koalas rally. Hundreds of concerned Queenslanders joined together in Brisbane to protest the destruction of koalas and their habitat.

Surprisingly, there was not a single Labor member of parliament in sight at the rally. This is the second time in as many sitting weeks that I have wondered at what has become of the party that promotes itself as champions of civil liberties and the environment.

I would like to quote a few lines taken from a speech given at the rally by a 13-year-old young lady by the name of Clare Oldfield. I hope that the Premier and her minister read Clare's speech in full and understand what a very special young lady has to say about koalas.

*I table the document. Tabled paper: Document titled 'Speech, by Clare--Aged 13--I Want Koalas in my Future!'.*

Clare's speech is as follows-- *Hi, My name is Clare and I want Koalas in my future. My mum is fighting to save Koalas. She does this because everyone around the world loves the Koala. She does this because lots of people visit our country to see the Koala. She does this because the Koala is important to Australia and to our economy.* Clare's speech ends by saying-- *I'm very proud of my mum and I deserve Koalas in my future! Thank you.*

Not only did Labor members not appear at the rally, but the invitation which extended to Premier Anna Bligh to be presented with this document was rejected. These heartfelt sentiments expressed by a 13-year-old Queenslanders were the words that a concerned Premier could have heard for herself.

There was one little peep from the Labor government. Purely by coincidence, of course, an announcement was made on the day of the rally advising that 5.6 hectares of state owned land at Windemere Road, Alexandra Hills, would be set aside as koala habitat. The fact that this land--situated on a busy road and not part of an identified koala corridor--is, I am told, also an area where dog owners regularly allow their animals to run without a leash shows just how callous this offer is. It is particularly so when, only a few months ago, six hectares of prime koala habitat was cleared to make way for the Thornlands State School.

The koala and other fauna and flora that also depend on the same habitat to thrive and survive do not have time for more Labor stunts. The whole species is running out of time in South-East Queensland because of a government that would prefer to see housing estates built by their developer mates.

The government should stop the spin and acknowledge the work that the Australian Koala Foundation's Deborah Tabart and her friends and supporters have done. They have done all the work. They have done the mapping. They know what is needed to ensure the survival of koalas. This government itself says that koalas will cease to exist on the Koala Coast by 2010. That gives the government just three months to act.

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