

# SHOW YOU CARE ABOUT OUR WILDLIFE

We all know that our native animals are suffering. Every year we have more animals, like the koala, on the brink of extinction. We need to save them before it is too late!

The main cause of this is the clearing of forest and agricultural areas for beef farming. Deforestation has a terrible impact on climate change too.

Woolies has broken its promise not to source beef from deforested areas.

We need put pressure on Woolies and on farmers to tell them this is not on.

What you can do:

- Tell your friends and family
- Don't buy beef from Woolies, buy from local butchers
- Support groups like ACF (Australian Conservation Foundation) - sign petitions
- Write a message on Woolies' Facebook page
- Speak to the manager of Woolies' local stores
- Send letters to our state and federal ministers that protecting our wildlife is important and urgent! (addresses on the back)

Let's make sure our children and grandchildren can enjoy our native wildlife.

LET'S ACT NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!!



Mount Alexander Knitting Nannas  
find us on our website:  
[mountalexanderknittingnannas.org](http://mountalexanderknittingnannas.org)  
or Facebook - Mount Alexander Knitting Nannas  
or email us: [kmy.gwsc@gmail.com](mailto:kmy.gwsc@gmail.com)  
We meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month  
7-8.30pm at Castlemaine Community House  
Join us! Support us!



# Did you know????

- Forests and agricultural land is important in many ways. These places provide habitat for wildlife and plants, some of which are endangered in other parts of the country. As well, these forests are "carbon sinks" which means they absorb greenhouse gases and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This is critical in addressing the climate crisis. (Bob Brown Foundation). When trees are bulldozed or logged, this absorption stops and most of the carbon is released into the atmosphere.
- Since colonisation, we have lost more than one hundred known species. This is a serious problem for maintaining the biodiversity of life on earth as well as dealing with climate change. (Bob Brown Foundation)
- Australia bears the shame of being ranked first in the world in the rate of mammal extinctions and we are the only developed nation classified as a global deforestation hotspot. (World Wildlife Fund).
- Deforestation due to beef farming is the number 1 driver of habitat destruction in Australia, causing more harm than the effects of housing construction and infrastructure or mining (ACF).
- Over 7.7 million hectares of forest and bushland was destroyed by land clearing between 2000 and 2017. That's an area the size of Ireland. (ABC News)
- In Queensland alone, the beef industry has destroyed 1.4 million hectares of forests and bushland in five years. About 70% of the land clearing and deforestation taking place in Queensland is to create pastures to graze livestock—in particular, cattle raised for beef. (Wilderness.org.au).
- Koalas were listed as endangered in parts of Australia in 2022. In just five years (2015-2020), 724,070ha of "likely or known" koala habitat was affected by clearing activity linked to grazing cattle for beef in Queensland alone. (Wilderness.org.au)
- Every hour in Australia, bulldozers destroy the equivalent of 28 Opera Houses of threatened species habitat (including precious koala habitat). Almost 26,000 hectares of threatened species destruction was approved in 2024, a huge rise from 2023. 3,000 hectares of koala habitat is to be razed. (Wilderness.org.au)
- Clearing forests adds to the intensity and frequency of bushfires. In Victoria, research shows that decades of clear-fell logging is causing forests to burn more frequently and severely. (Wilderness.org.au).
- NSW and QLD is where most of the beef is produced. It is often the case that two bulldozers go across the land with a huge chain between them, clearing everything in sight
- Woolies had taken deforested beef off the menu one year ago but now it has lowered its place on the ranking of risks to sustainability (ACF).
- Meanwhile, just a few days ago, Coles decided to do the right thing and they have made a commitment to not use beef from deforested areas. Good on you, Coles! This shows it can be done.
- These supermarket chains make so much money. They can afford to make this commitment, to make sure their meat comes from a sustainable source. In the 2023 financial year, Woolworths reported a net profit of \$1.6 billion, reflecting a 4.6% increase compared to the previous year. (Woolworths Group)

It's easy to feel a sense of despair from all of this. The solution: do something about it! Write to your politicians, join an environmental group, sign a petition, tell your friends!!!!!!

Addresses of local MPs: Lisa Chesters PO Box 338,  
Vic 3552

[lisa.chestersmp@aph.gov.au](mailto:lisa.chestersmp@aph.gov.au)

Maree Edwards PO Box 1238, Kangaroo Flat, Vic 3555  
[maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au)