

Media Release 17th July 2012

## **KOALAS TAKE MESSAGE TO IDEMITSU IN BRISBANE, TOKYO: DON'T DESTROY OUR HOMES FOR OPEN-CUT COAL**

Three Koalas have this morning entered the office of mining company Idemitsu in Brisbane to protest against their plans to destroy Koala habitat with an open-cut coal mine near Boggabri, in north-west NSW. One Koala has locked-on to the front door of the office.

At the same time Japanese environment group Kiko Network has visited the offices of Idemitsu in Tokyo and hand delivered a [letter](#), translated into Japanese, asking the President of parent company Idemitsu Kosan to withdraw from the proposed Boggabri mine expansion.

A [map](#) attached to the letter shows areas where Koalas have been sighted or recorded within the footprint of the proposed mine expansion into Leard State Forest.

The [letter](#) was written by the Northern Inland Council for the Environment and the spokesperson for the group has travelled to Brisbane today to speak up for Koalas threatened by Idemitsu and their plans to expand the Boggabri open-cut.

"These Koalas are here today to send a very strong and simple message to Idemitsu - don't destroy our homes with an open-cut coal mine" said Carmel Flint, spokesperson for the Northern Inland Council for the Environment.

"The Koala is an iconic species in both Australia and Japan and Japanese tourists flock to Australia to see Koalas in the wild - yet here we have a Japanese company that is planning to clearfell Koala habitat in order to dig an open-cut coal pit.

"We're asking Idemitsu to consider the best interests of the citizens of both countries, and the future survival of the iconic Koala, and to withdraw their plans for open-cut coal expansion at the Boggabri Coal Mine.

"The Koala has recently been listed as nationally vulnerable under Australian environment laws and we believe this should be sufficient to trigger a change of plans for the company" she said.

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