

Dear Extinction Inquiry,

Firstly, please keep my submission confidential.

I became an Australian 3 years ago and am so proud to call this country home. Growing up overseas, even in a tiny rural town, everyone knew about Australia and its unique animals. Such incredible landscapes, ocean life and coral reefs, some of the most fascinating and amazing animals on earth. All the stories, information, and advertisements about Australia - all of them - included Aussie pride for this spectacular country.

Living here now, I know so many Aussies who, like me, love the incredible diversity of plant and animal species of this land. I'm horrified though that my government doesn't share that love and pride. Happy to flog them for international dollars, sure, but not loving and proud enough to actually protect them from extinction.

If you care about Australia's international reputation and (eventual) tourist dollars, think carefully about your choices in terms of protecting Australian eco systems and species. Australia has traded almost exclusively on its "g'day mate, come hug a koala and swim the reef!" image. You destroy the koalas, the reef, and the rest of our unique flora and fauna and you're left with Australia's horrific reputation for imprisoning refugees and fondling as much coal as the pollies can get their hands on. You need to factor this into your monetary calculations.

You might think that your choices are local and no biggie but you're wrong. You are making choices about our environmental heritage and that of our children, our tourism industries, and Australia's reputation on the global stage.

Once gone, gone forever.

Regards,  
Y Rodgers

