Senate select committee on Koalas

I am Wildlife photographer and documentary maker who lives in the Warwick area. Families of Koalas around Leslie Dam, especially in the areas bordering Saddledam road, extending east and south around Leslie dam and Rockland area I have also photographed them in the Leyburn State forest near Pratten. Dragon energy (will own 100%) wants to open cut coal mines this area. The tenement surrounds Warwick. Coal Tenements in fact surround all towns in S.E. Queensland, from West of Gundawindi, to the Gold (Coal) Coast up to Brisbane, including the entire food bowl of Gatton, Locyer valler and all of the darling downs.. This is also Koala habitat.

I have also visited and photographed Koalas in both the Acland area West of Oakey. Koalas thrive in the Acland area though there have been credible reports that families of Koalas have been wiped out crossing Jondaryan Muldu Road by New Hopes Coal Road trains. I have seen them in forested areas west of Jondaryan Muldu Road. There have been many sightings and photographs of Koalas Visiting the township of Acland. At Acland the coal is in 50 strata layers with soil between the coal layers. The explosive used is RDX based and turns coal and soil into aerosol dust which contaminates Lagoon creek and the surrounding farm soil. RDX is toxic to humans, plants, koalas, and Aquatic systems. Residents of Jondaryian routinely drink toxic residue from RDX, and coal dust from the New Hope mine, which ends up in their water tanks. This mine has NO air monitoring equipment or drinking water testing for children or residents at Jondaryian. The Air Monitoring equipment should be at least PM2.5 compliant, factory calibrated and tamper proof. Australia has third world air monitoring equipment standards of PM10 which demonstrates callous disregard for the health and safety of resident and tourists alike. This mine has a STATED problem with ARSENIC, which contaminates everything. DERM and EPA have NO interest in this, I am quoting one of the Acland Mines own documents.

Felton area Koalas range from Umbriam south south west to Felton Homestead where it intersects with Hodgson creek. This includes Ambre energy's Felton coal tenements for their Coal/petrol refinery. There is 250,000 tons of coal per hectare. There is 195 million tons of toxic coal ash (coal here is 40% ash) that is going to be dumped on this site to a debt of 300 feet. This tenement borders Hogson creek. The tailings will sit well below Hodgson creek. There are six flash flood zones on this tenement. To view “youtube search “Hayden road flash flood”, this flash flood which lasted from 2.30pm jan 10th to 10am january 11th runs into and behind Ambre Energys planned 30 meter levy. Old growth trees exist in this area are between 100-200 years and there are hundreds of them. I have found species in this area that have not been listed in any study done to date in this area.

I am very concerned the expansion of populations into Koala habitat and deforestation by both farming and mining, and the contamination of air, ground water, aquifers, soil, aquatic and wetland systems by coal mining and tailings dams also the use of hundreds of thousands of tons of explosives in mining all of which is highly toxic. Australia uses the American system of Voluntary reporting, and Voluntary compliance in reporting environmental contamination by many industries especially mining.

If you are worried about the tourism industry, the Koala is the most loved symbol of Australia yet most Australians have never seen one, and care nothing about them. Australia is despised throughout the world for its environmental record, which is on a par with the former Soviet Union. There are no substantiative testing of environmental contamination, and no enforcement or severe penalties. All EIS applications are done by the company's who plan to destroy wild life habitat, no mining application has been refused because of environmental damage.

Shoot a Koala you get 3 years jail, $200,000 fine and the police commissioner appears on TV.

Mining trucks run them over with impunity and immunity, frankly with our environmental record I am ashamed to be an Australian.