

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-Date 20/01/16

ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY – The Hon. Mark Pearson, MLC

NSW ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY MP MARK PEARSON CALLS PREMIER MIKE BAIRD & MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES NIALL BLAIR TO ACT FOR ANIMALS STILL SUFFERING AT KOALA PARK SANCTUARY SYDNEY

The Hon Mark Pearson MLC, is calling on NSW Premier Mike Baird and Primary Industries Minister Niall Blair to support an online petition with over 25,000 signatures which requests the NSW government to cancel the license of Koala Park Sanctuary and rehome the still suffering animals to rescue sanctuaries. The petition was started by a NSW activist and will be sent to the Minister with a supporting letter from Mr Pearson.

The so called sanctuary again came under scrutiny in August 2015 after a history of neglect since 2010¹. In November 2015, Koala Park Sanctuary Sydney located in Pennant Hills entered a plea of guilty to three charges of failing to provide veterinary treatment to five koalas in its care. The charges were laid by the RSPCA and related to the failure to investigate emaciated body condition and eye complaints, and the failure to provide treatment for dehydration and chlamydia infections².

Mark Pearson - *"I asked the Minister back in November Question Time given the proven breaches of the standards, why has the departmental secretary not exercised his authority under section 30 (1) (a) of the Exhibited Animals Protection Act to cancel the park's licence? The Department has discretionary powers that should be enacted to protect these animals from further suffering and neglect. The park has history, a history the Department of Primary Industries is fully aware of yet the park is still open, the animals still suffering and the owners still profiting."*



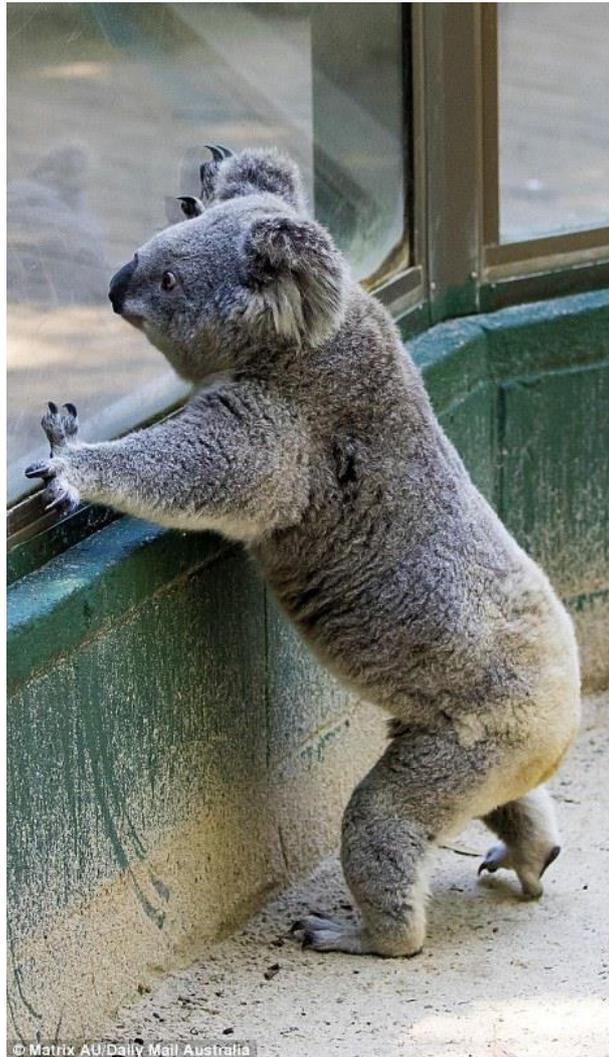
¹ <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/the-hills/koala-park-faces-court-from-rspca-over-animal-neglect/news-story/9358a8585f4b569da26a3d37e51a82ff>

² <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3310208/Koala-Park-Sanctuary-four-koalas-two-dingoes-one-wombat-cage-budgerigars.html>

MEDIA RELEASE

The public are not prepared to sit back and await the outcome of February's court hearing, they want the Minister and Department to act immediately in the best interests of the animals still residing at Koala Park Sanctuary.

The success and widespread reach of this petition is evidence that people both nationally and globally are appalled at the situation. This to me represents people's general sentiment towards animal neglect. It also has the potential to negatively impact upon tourists, many of whom now associate Sydney with native animal abuse and neglect.



END