**Koalas Could Disappear from Australian State by 2050**

**预计2050年考拉将从澳大利亚消失**

Australian animals called koalas could disappear from New South Wales state by 2050, unless the state government immediately acts to protect them. That is the finding of a year-long state parliament investigation of the marsupials.

如果州政府不立即采取措施保护考拉，那么这一澳大利亚独有的动物或将于2050年从其栖息地新南威尔士州消失。此结果为州议会对有袋类动物长达一年的调查得出的结论。

Marsupials are mammals with an unusual system of reproduction. Most, including koalas, are born when they are just embryos. The little koala then takes shelter for months in a pouch on its mother’s body. Newborns, called joeys, stay in the safe, warm place for months, while they continue to develop.

有袋类动物是一种有特殊生殖系统的哺乳动物。包括考拉在内的大多数有袋类动物出生时只是个胚胎。之后小考拉会在妈妈身体上的孕育袋里生活好几个月。刚出生的考拉被称为幼兽，会在母考拉安全、温暖的孕育袋里待上几个月并继续生长发育。

Koalas are among Australia’s most beloved animals.

考拉是澳大利亚最受欢迎的动物之一。

Lawmakers in the New South Wales’ upper house of Parliament released the report on Tuesday. It said land clearing for agriculture, urban development, mining and forestry are threatening the koalas’ survival. Such operations destroy koala habitat. Koalas live in eucalyptus forests. The trees provide shelter and food for the koalas. They eat eucalyptus leaves.

周二新南威尔士州议会上院议员公布了这份报告。报告说，为农业、城市发展、采矿和林业而进行的土地开荒正在威胁考拉的生存。此类行为破坏了考拉的栖息地。考拉生活在桉树林中，以桉树叶为食，这些树能为考拉提供庇护所和食物。

But, the state’s most recent fire season, aided by severely dry weather, was unusually long and proved disastrous for koalas. The investigation found that about 25 percent of koala habitat across the state was destroyed. The report also said that, in some parts of New South Wales, or NSW for short, fires destroyed as much as 81 percent of the habitat.

然而由于天气非常干旱导致该州新一季的火灾季节异常漫长，这对考拉来说是场灾难。调查发现，全州约25%的考拉栖息地被摧毁。报告中还指出，在新南威尔士州(简称NSW)的一些地区，大火摧毁了多达81%的考拉栖息地。

“The evidence could not be more stark,” the report reads, adding “The only way our children’s grandchildren will see a koala in the wild in NSW will be if the government acts” on the report’s suggested measures.

报告写道：“证据再明显不过了，”并补充道，“只有政府按照报告给出的建议措施去采取行动，我们的子孙后代才能在新南威尔士州看到野生考拉”。

The parliamentary committee heading the investigation includes lawmakers from several political parties. The report advises that the government take 42 actions to deal with the problem.

领导调查的议会委员会包含了来自几个政党的议员。报告建议政府采取42项措施来解决这一问题。

One calls for immediately counting koalas in New South Wales. Another advises that the government place the protection of the animals above urban development. And it calls for more money to support efforts to save the environment.

其中一项措施呼吁政府立即清点新南威尔士的考拉数量。另一项措施建议政府把保护动物放在城市发展之上，并要求拨出更多资金来支持环境保护的措施。

Stuart Blanch is an expert on land clearing and restoration at the Australian office of the WWF, or World Wide Fund for Nature. He called on the government to do as the report advises and to strengthen protections for areas where the animals live.

斯图尔特·布兰奇是世界自然基金会(WWF)澳大利亚办事处的土地开荒和恢复专家。他呼吁政府按照报告的建议行事，并加强对这些动物生活区域的保护。

“WWF calls on the NSW Premier to rewrite weak land clearing laws to protect the koala habitat,” Blanch said in a statement. He also said that the government should provide increased economic support to farmers who actively protect eucalyptus trees and stop wood industry operations in koala habitats.

布兰奇在一份声明中说：“世界自然基金会呼吁新南威尔士州州长改写薄弱的土地清理法，以保护考拉的栖息地。”他还表示，政府应该为积极保护桉树的农民提供更多的经济支持并停止在考拉栖息地经营木材工业。

The Premier of New South Wales is Gladys Berejiklian. A spokesperson for her administration said the government would comment on the report after a period of consideration. The official added that New South Wales had already provided more than $30 million to protect koalas.

格拉迪斯·贝雷吉克利安是当前的新南威尔士州州长。她的一位政府发言人称，政府将在经过一段时间的审议后对这份报告发表评论。这位官员还补充道，新南威尔士州已经为保护考拉提供了3000多万美元资金。

I’m Caty Weaver.

凯蒂·韦弗报道。

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