



PRIME MINISTER  
CANBERRA

**MESSAGE: TREE PLANTING TO SAVE THE KOALA**

I am pleased to recognise the work of Japanese tourists in seeking to regenerate koala habitat through the tree planting initiative led by IEC Oceania and the Port Stephens Visitors Centre.

The koala is one of Australia's most iconic and unique native species and its preservation is important for protecting Australia's natural heritage and biodiversity. Port Stephens is a well-known and significant koala habitat and it is reassuring to see efforts being made to ensure that it continues to provide a home for this important Australian animal.

It is also encouraging to see the involvement of eco-tourism groups in nature conservation activities. Australia's natural beauty makes it an ideal destination, and by enjoying this beauty in a responsible and sustainable manner, eco-tourists are ensuring that it will be available for generations to come.

This is a worthwhile project and I commend it to Japanese visitors looking to both appreciate and preserve Australia's unique fauna.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Howard'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

(John Howard)