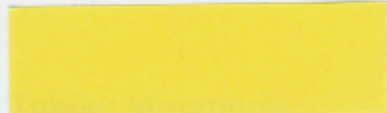




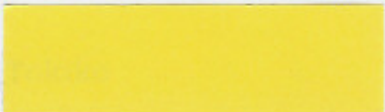
Australian Government



Tourism Australia



IEC Oceania Pty Ltd  
PO BOX 20  
COOGEE NSW 2034

Dear 

*Message from Tim Fischer, Chairman of Tourism Australia:*

Our natural heritage is vital in terms of both flora and fauna and I fully recognise this as Chairman of Tourism Australia living in the Riverina on the left bank of the Murray River, not far from a number of koala habitats.

I have good news to relay that a recent annual koala count at Narrandera in the Riverina has confirmed a thriving population of forty-eight koalas and these are easily visible just five kilometres from the Narrandera post office and railway station, and ten kilometres from Narrandera airport.

Australia works hard to ensure the sustainability and diversity of the various types of koalas and kangaroos across the continent and often this involves tremendous local community effort. I urge tourists from far and wide as they move through the great Australian hinterlands to help protect our flora and fauna but equally to enjoy the many vistas which feature same.

Congratulations to all involved with the programme in Port Stephens, particularly with regard to the far sighted koala tree plantings which have occurred.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Fischer  
Chairman, Tourism Australia

12 May 2005