

## Grim future takes shine off rescues

<http://quest.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

*North-West News 10 Jun 2015*

“WE know we are just delaying the inevitable.”

These are not the words expected from Gary Bain, who has devoted 25 years to rescuing, rushing to medical aid, rehabilitating and then releasing back into the wild thousands of northern Brisbane’s koalas.

Each successful release is bittersweet.

“Oh yeah yeah, it is,” he said. “We know now what the future holds for them.

“Even though what we have done, it is just delaying the inevitable.

“Once they are released back into the wild, they are right back there among the dangers – traffic in residential areas, dogs, sparse habitats that make them spend a lot more time on the ground.

“Koalas can live 12-15 years ... but a recently study found a lot of them are not living for five.”

Mr Bain said the government had to decide.

“Because even though the work groups like us are doing day in and day out ... it’s just a delaying tactic. “

“The government has to put stuff in legislation and Acts, and make it a lot harder for their habitat to be lost.”

That must be a heavy burden to carry.

“Yeah,” he said.

“We have seen some atrocious things- cruelty by people, malicious acts, what dogs do to koalas... It’s something people don’t realize.”