



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

COMMITTEE CALLS URGENT HEARING IN RESPONSE TO BUSHFIRE IMPACT ON NSW KOALAS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4 December 2019

On Monday 9 December 2019, Portfolio Committee 7 will hold its fourth hearing for the inquiry into koala populations and habitat in New South Wales.

The Chair of the committee, Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC said: "The committee is holding an urgent hearing in response to the current bushfire emergency to discuss the extent of damage to the koala population. The committee will hear from relevant experts including the Clinical Director of Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, as well as Indigenous fire practitioners. Key government agencies such as the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service will also be in attendance."

The Chair continued: "With summer still to come, the committee is concerned about the effect the ongoing bushfires will have on already-fragile koala populations. The outpouring of support for organisations such as the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital during the bushfires suggests that many people throughout NSW and Australia share these sentiments. The committee hopes that expert evidence received during the hearing will provide useful guidance on how best to rehabilitate and protect the koalas of NSW, to ensure the survival of this iconic species."

The inquiry is looking into the status of koala populations and their habitat and focusing on the impacts and effectiveness of existing policies relating to land management reform, forestry and the environment.

The hearing will commence at 9.00 am in the Macquarie Room at NSW Parliament and is open to the public. Proceedings will be webcast live on the Parliament's [website](#).

For further information on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, and submissions received, please visit the committee's [website](#).

-ENDS-

For further information, please contact the office of Committee Chair, Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC, on (02) 9230 3771 or 0487 247 960.