

From: [Heather Ranclaud](#)
To: [Portfolio Committee 7](#)
Subject: RE: Koala populations and habitat in New South Wales - Post-hearing responses - 13 December 2019
Date: Sunday, 12 January 2020 8:19:01 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hello,

Adding to my comments about concerns about the failure of SEPP 44:

A major issue is that Sepp 44 only applies to local government impact assessment for development consent, it should apply much more widely where ever clearing could impact on Koala habitat on private agricultural land. It also seems farmer self-assessment for clearing has no protection for Koalas unless the area to be cleared is covered by a Koala plan of management. It would seem that a “no go” outcome is never really an option as offsetting has made even the most damaging development impacts permissible. The loss of known habitat occupied by a threatened species (koala) can be compensated by regeneration or enhancement of habitat hoping to become occupied by threatened species sometime in the future. Such inadequate guidelines for species protection can be seriously abused by some consultants, and those reviewing impact assessment reports don’t have the understanding to be aware of how ineffective it will be.

Conservation of habitat is essential for species survival.

Offsetting is not the answer.

Offsetting fails to properly value the habitat where threatened species are known to occur... that has to change to become a red light no go zone for significant impacts. Creating and enhancing habitat for threatened species can work but often takes a very long time to become effective, such a long time fails to consider that by then the habitat may be seriously modified by climate change to the point of no longer being suitable.

Very few impact assessments are done seriously and even fewer have offsets that actually work and provide the essential habitat for Koalas.

In light of recent bushfires across NSW it seems more relevant now than ever, that Koala habitat must be conserved to ensure the survival of this iconic Australian species.

Yours sincerely,

Heather Ranclaud