



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**SYDNEY HEARING FOR INQUIRY INTO KOALA**  
**POPULATIONS AND HABITAT IN**  
**NEW SOUTH WALES**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**17 February 2020**

On Tuesday 18 February, an Upper House Committee will hold a further hearing for the inquiry into koala populations and habitat in New South Wales, in the Jubilee Room at NSW Parliament.

The Chair of the committee, Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC said: 'The committee has recently returned from the NSW Mid-North Coast where many witnesses spoke of the devastating loss of koalas and their habitat in the recent fires and the ongoing threats to remaining koala habitat in the area such as logging and development.'

'This hearing will hear from witnesses about the impacts of the recent fires on koala populations in NSW including from wildlife carer James Fitzgerald from Two Thumbs Sanctuary who lost his home and a large population of koalas on his wildlife property near Cooma in the recent fires. Other witnesses include Dr Kellie Leigh of Science for Wildlife who has been tracking koala populations in the Blue Mountains many in areas which have been recently burnt, the Australian Workers Union and Biodiversity Conservation Trust.'

The inquiry is looking into the current 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 on Tuesday 18 February in the Jubilee Room 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.*