



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

HEARING WITH FORESTRY CORPORATION OF NSW FOR INQUIRY INTO KOALA POPULATIONS AND HABITAT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

21 February 2020

On Wednesday 26 February, an Upper House Committee will hold a further hearing for the inquiry into koala populations and habitat in New South Wales, in the Macquarie Room at NSW Parliament.

The Chair of the committee, Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC said: 'The committee has decided to hold a hearing with representatives of the Forestry Corporation of NSW. Many concerned local community and environmental organisations from the NSW Mid-North Coast expressed concerns about Forestry Corporation's plan to commence salvage logging in areas of State forest recently affected by bushfires. The committee is extremely concerned that surviving koala populations in that region could be placed under even greater stress should these logging plans go ahead'.

The Chair continued: 'The fires in these State forests have burned or dried out most of the leaves the koalas feed on, placing surviving koalas in a precarious position as they struggle to obtain enough food and moisture from these leaves. Having heard that over 10,000 koalas may have died in the recent summer bushfires and drought, the committee is keen to hear from the Forestry Corporation on their plans regarding future logging activities in these areas'.

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 Wednesday 26 February in the Macquarie 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](#).

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