

**Submission
No 6**

**INQUIRY INTO THE RSPCA RAID ON THE WATERWAYS
WILDLIFE PARK**

Name: Mr Xavier Martin

Date received: 14/06/2010

NSW PARLIAMENT, Legislative Council, GPSC5

RSPCA RAID ON WATERWAYS WILDLIFE PARK - COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

OBSERVED KOALA ACTIVITY –GUNNEDAH/MULLALEY AREA

- I am a farmer and have lived on farming and grazing lands 30km west of the Waterways Wildlife Park for 40 years.
- The koala population in this area has multiplied many times over in that period.
- They are generally healthy, mobile and obviously fertile.
- During November 2009 and January 2010 this area experienced heatwave conditions.
- In the first event commencing 16/11/2009 temperatures quickly skyrocketed to exceed 40C by day, rarely fell below 20C overnight and compounded the effect with 10-15% humidity and 20-30km/h winds and continued for 8 days [see attached data].
- The koala population just fell out of the trees night and day and were greatly stressed seeking shade and water, with much abnormal behaviour.
- The mortality rate was between 20-30% and all survivors observed were subsequently in very poor condition.
- The second event starting on the 9/1/2010 was characterised by slightly less extreme conditions, but lasted approximately twice as long until 28/1/2010 [attached data].
- Again the population were under severe stress and required assistance to shade and water. The mortality from this event was approximately 10-15%.

If the RSPCA are in any way serious in their commitment to the koala population and the prevention of cruelty they should demonstrate this by action in areas of REALLY stressed populations, not in a pre-meditated papparazi-style raid on a wildlife park that routinely provides care, shade and water.

Xavier Martin