

**INQUIRY INTO KOALA POPULATIONS AND HABITAT IN
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 8 July 2019

Partially
Confidential

I strongly object to the Georges River Parkway going ahead. I find it incredible that our government would even consider a proposal which would decimate the Campbelltown koala population, which stretches down from Campbelltown through Appin west to the botanic gardens, east to the Heathcote National Park and up to Liverpool. The Clive McAlpines Report highlights this population as being the last Chlamydia free and expanding population left in New South Wales (also now generally accepted in mainland Australia). His report indicates that the Campbelltown koala population, its habitat and wildlife corridor must be protected.

Other environmental consultants, Crowther M, Close R, Phillips S, have confirmed that the wildlife corridor between the Georges and Nepean Rivers must be retained at Mount Gilead. Schulz M has proved that paddock trees should be protected and are used even in the hottest and driest conditions by koalas. The bushland in the military reserve is not koala habitat. So therefore any proposal which may be made by those favouring the Georges River Parkway that the koalas could move into the military reserve is unsustainable and unrealistic.

The Campbelltown koala population can continue to survive and expand and remain Chlamydia free only if any development of this area, particularly roads, is prohibited. To ensure that this happens a National Park needs to be created in the existing Georges River Open Space. It would be wonderful if your committee would make that recommendation to our government.

Other recommendations could be made to protect the whole population between Liverpool and Wilton. Overhead or underground crossings need to be in place at the Hume Highway, at least one at Mount Gilead and another further south; fencing to encourage koalas to cross under Deadmans Bridge on Heathcote Road: the small existing bridges across the Princes Highway need to be made animal friendly.