

**Submission
No 21**

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

Name: Ms Rosalyn Armstrong

Date Received: 12 July 2019

I have lived in or had a residential association with Port Stephens since 1979. My children now 42 and 37 went to school here and together we would go Koala spotting across the Tomaree and Tilligerry Peninsulas. Now they bring their children, my grandchildren, to do the same and we often lament the decline in sightings. Now rather than see koalas in many different neighbourhood spots like Dutchies and Bagnalls beaches we have to go to specialised places like Mambo Wanda Wetlands and even then our sightings are irregular.

I believe that this decline in the Koala population is largely due to destruction of habitat thru ,in some cases, uncontrolled development and certainly from extension of residential suburbs on the peninsulas. To a more limited extent this decline has occurred thru road carnage. To combat this decline I urge the state government to generally apply stricter development rules in know habitat and areas and close environmentally sensitive roads such as Foreshore Drive Salamander Bay. I would also urge greater support for preservation projects such as Koala Sanctuaries and health centres.