

**Submission
No 38**

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

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It is a disgrace that Australia and NSW is a world leader in species extinction and that one of our most iconic animals, the koala, is similarly staring down the barrel of its own demise thanks to the mindless and unchecked habitat destruction from land clearing.

It beggars belief that in this day and age land clearing has not been halted outright and a reversal strongly encouraged through legislated financial inducements tax breaks and/or government grants.

We face ever more severe droughts. This is climate change in action.

Things have to change.

Trees and established vegetation retain water in the landscape and encourage rainfall. These amazing natural wonders provide habitat for koalas and other beautiful and unique animals including us humans.

Farming and industry practices imported from England need to be reviewed. Peter Andrews who is recognised for his Natural Sequence Farming methodologies has demonstrated in projects such as the Mulloon Farm how water can be brought back into the landscape using sustainable long-term thinking practices.

First nations peoples of Australia know this land and how to survive with it rather than in opposition. They were farmers when they were invaded but this fact was omitted from much history. Some early English explorers reported difficulty crossing certain areas due to dense growth of crops similar to grain. These crops were not farmed industrially as we do now in this country, but working with the landscape and trees providing wind break and retaining soil erosion.

I am glad that NSW is finally looking into how we can work to save the koala, but it's much greater than just that species. Restoring Nature and biodiversity will save us all. We would all do well to recognise that.