

**Submission  
No 40**

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

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Land clearing and logging have been out of control since 2016 when the NSW Government repealed the Native Vegetation Act and replaced it with the Biodiversity Conservation Act.

This act of environmental vandalism removed many forestry logging restrictions and habitat protections that were in place to reduce the harm caused to koalas in agricultural and forestry activities. We saw an escalation in the destruction of koala habitat, with a tripling of land clearing for agriculture.

Koalas are already listed as vulnerable in NSW because of significant population decline over the preceding decades and the Nature Conservation Council has identified that with the current rate of logging and habitat loss, koalas will be extinct in NSW within 30 years.

An inquiry should be established into the current status of koala populations, their habitat and the impacts and effectiveness of existing policies relating to land management reform, forestry and the environment.