

Submission  
No 44

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 21 July 2019

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Partially  
Confidential

Dear Committee,

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 Land clearing and logging have been out of control since 2016 when the NSW Government repealed the Native Vegetation Act and replaced it with the Biodiversity Conservation Act.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

The current rate of logging must be stopped. Logging restrictions and habitat protections must be reinstated. The future of our iconic koalas must be made the priority over logging, development and profit. Once koalas are extinct they are gone forever. I want koalas not only to survive but to thrive for future generations to enjoy.