

Submission
No 57

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I have only lived in Australia for 15 years and have been told fires are a necessary part of ecology. I understand this in cases of 'natural' causes i.e. lightening strikes but when I drive home from work, every day I see people flicking cigarette ash or butts from their car - often in extreme heat and as they are pass bushland. I never hear anything warning how dangerous this practice is - not to mention lighting fires on purpose. If there was a study on the damage and loss to the environment and wildlife by 'naturally' started fires (lightening) as opposed to fires intentionally started (i would include butt throwing in this) it would make for very interesting statistics.

Put these horrific facts (6% are natural fires according to study in 2017-
<https://aic.gov.au/publications/tandi/tandi350>) together with land clearing and Australia will become an inferno with many extinct species - and records are being set right now. Koalas are a rare and iconic species and we are looking at their extinction if fires and land clearing are not being taken much more seriously.