

Submission
No 61

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 27 July 2019

Partially
Confidential

Create the Great Koala National Park and implement other NPA reserve proposals presented to the Committee to protect koalas in north-east NSW—a region that will become more and more important as weather extremes make western areas less hospitable.

Create a new national park in south-west Sydney to ensure rapid development does not come at the cost of koalas.

Protect ‘koala hubs’ (areas identified by the Office of Environment and Heritage as particularly important for koalas) immediately on all land tenures.

Identify and protect koala climate refugia as a matter of urgency.

End industrialised logging on public land that destroys habitat quality for koalas and ensure Private Native Forestry is genuinely low-impact and selective.

Protect known koala habitat from land clearing by identifying it as Category 2-sensitive land or Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value, and urgently require local governments to complete the mapping of koala habitat for holistic protection.

Strengthen SEPP 44 (koala habitat protection) to ensure koala habitat is not destroyed by urban development.

If we can take these steps, koalas stand a chance of persisting for the long term in NSW. If we don’t we’ll oversee koala deaths and dwindling populations.

This is a National Icon we are asking the Government to protect, land clearing for housing has to stop encroaching on the animal habitates.

Australia has enough desert landscape without creating more.