

**Submission
No 65**

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

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Date Received: 27 July 2019

- 1) Self interest. I am a potential tourist to Australia. The symbols of Australia in the US are the koala and the kangaroo. Why would I want to visit a country where I can't see that country's signature species? (like visiting Yellowstone with no bison)
- 2) Ecology. Australia's entire ecosystem developed with koalas as an integral part. I have no idea what the unintended consequences of koala extirpation will be, but if I were a betting person, I wouldn't want to risk it.
- 3) Planet. We are in the midst of what some scientists are calling a mass extinction event. The same scientists say human survival is bolstered by biologic diversity. Take away -- don't purposely extirpate species. We are losing enough through climate change and ignorance.
- 4) Please don't kill off your signature species for someone's short term profits.