

**Submission
No 77**

INQUIRY INTO KOALA POPULATIONS AND HABITAT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Saving Sydneys Trees

Date Received: 30 July 2019



Saving Sydneys Trees

Parliamentary Inquiry into the Koalas of NSW-

Saving Sydneys Trees is a community supported Association, (with a data base of over 12 Thousand and an active Face book participation of over 8 and a half thousand) who are concerned at the depletion of our Urban Canopy Public Protections and Assets.

We have presented at the Parliamentary Inquiry into Accountability of the CBD and South East Light Rail where we explained the systematic deficit of this canopy in the Processes of Development. Where are the real COSTS to the public purse, linked to the Health and well-being expenses currently missing in our processes? We explained the Offset deficiencies in that like for like and actual canopy is NOT returned and the gap in growth to productive status is not accounted for, yet has long lasting negative impacts on the generations both current and to come.

So, we find this to be the case in the clearing of our old growth forests and habitat trees. This directly impacts in a negative way on our Koala and other linked species, as well as the surrounding population of the Greater Sydney Area, at a time when the Premier herself is calling for Greening as the recognised answer. One really has to ask: WHY this of all areas was so inappropriately chosen?

Our national Koala icon and treasure, is responsible for over \$3.2 BILLION and 30,000 jobs and must be viewed as an economic benefit. The ability to provide a healthy population is ESSENTIAL. We feel the NSW government needs to look at the areas being rezoned in a

HOLISTIC scoping process rather than the particular priorities of the individual "Process Person" who may or may not have an appreciation of this ASSET. We would therefore recommend a more comprehensive approach as mandatory in the process of Zoning and a return to the objectives stated (but in need of enhancement given critical current Climate Impacts).

We point out that the National Forest Policy, of which the Urban Forest is a CRITICAL element, if not of paramount importance and the crossing over of one to the other has well defined guidelines that involve this thorough appreciation and understanding. This understanding seems to be not applied here.

The objectives of this Policy, signed by ALL States and Territories (1992/1995) are both binding and clear in this.

We would ask that rather than rezone areas such as Mt Gilead as residential, leading to well documented and we are sure explained implications on the immune systems of this particularly special and fragile species, that a reserve be established and the area be extended as a Protected Area with a fully Ranger and Botanical Study and Tourist Explanation facility be created.

We look forward to your findings and directions to Preserve and Protect.

Most Sincerely

For Saving Sydneys Trees