

Submission  
No 86

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I live in Sydney and I am saddened by the rapid decline in koala populations as reported in several articles in newspapers and also on the evening news reports. Given my growing interest in the health of our koala populations, I thank you for the opportunity to give a submission. The koala is much loved not only in Australia but all over the world. Whenever I ask tourists why they've made the long journey to visit Australia, the majority say it is to see a koala. There is no doubt that the koala is a national icon bringing in billions in tourism dollars. Given its massive appeal, it is shocking to learn that in NSW the koala is in crisis, as numbers have declined by 26% in the last 20 years.

To stop the decline in koala populations, the NSW Parliament must work together to save the species. They need to ease pressure on koala habitat by ending land clearing in koala habitat and corridors. Secondly, mandate that koala habitat and corridors are exempt from mining, agribusiness and development. Thirdly, it is shocking to learn that koala habitat in Gilead has been re-zoned by Campbelltown Council for development. There needs to be an inquiry into this re-zoning. Lastly, Parliament needs to reexamine the MacArthur Masterplan 2040 which will push local koala populations to extinction by isolating them with tree removal and fencing. I urge the Parliament to create a Great Koala National Park in north-east NSW and create a new National Park in South West Sydney to save the koala from rapid development.. These parks would be a meaningful way to save the species in NSW.