INQUIRY INTO KOALA POPULATIONS AND HABITAT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

I bought my farm (in a known koala hotspot area) sixteen years ago & within a few days was able to observe koalas on the property- about fifteen sightings in the first year.

Further, when travelling at night from my daughter's home back to the farm (32 km) I would come across koalas on the road especially in the Hillville area.

Over the intervening years the number of sightings has dropped significantly to the point where two years ago I did not observe any koalas, either on the farm or on the road.

Last year (2018) I saw four but that could be due to the local koala hospital having released six on my farm as it is a very acceptable environment for such activity.

As someone who has lived for many years in a country bereft of native wild life (UK) I wish to stress the importance of wildlife for the wellbeing of the nation apart from all the other benefits. I strongly support the plan to create a koala sanctuary which should extend from Sydney to the NSW/Queensland border & west to beyond Gunnedah, where there is a thriving, but rare, cluster of koalas

Destroying wildlife habitat is yesterday's game & should be stopped. Please take the moral high ground for our children's sake

Thank you