

Submission  
No 109

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

Thank you for taking the time to read this submission for the Inquiry into Koala Populations and Habitats NSW. I have made a list of dot points regarding the economic worth of koalas and the importance of conserving the bio diverse ecosystems that encompass koala habitat. This is followed by some steps that I feel are necessary to protect these habitats.

\* Please realise that koala conservation is good for the economy!! Koalas bring in an estimated 3.2 billion dollars directly er year to Australia and support around 30,000 jobs

\*In addition, the tourism industry brings in around 51 billion dollars yearly - and the ecotourism sector within this is growing rapidly. Most of the 7.9 million international travelers that come to Australia each year want to see a koala while they are here!!!

\*The koala tourism potential is enormous, especially in areas where there is a need for economic growth. Koala eco-tours to see a koala in the wild for example

\* Koala habitats are often hugely biodiverse and conserving these areas will also conserve many other native species. These are important biodiverse areas that we are still learning about and some of the flora and fungi in native bushlands have the potential to provide medicinal value that we are only just beginning to research. For these reasons conserving these areas serves more than the purpose of protecting koala.

Actions:

\*Effective immediately any remaining koala habitat or potential koala habitat MUST be kept.

\*In and just outside Sydney - the Colo, the Hawkesbury and the Maroota State Forest and the Broadwater are areas of koala habitat that must be urgently conserved. No clearing of bush land or further housing or road developments should be allowed to proceed in this area - see the state government M9 plans.

\* 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. Many NGOs within Australia are aware of where koalas are and working with them would be very effective.

\*We must strengthen SEPP 44 (koala habitat protection) to ensure koala habitat is no longer being destroyed by urban development.

\*Stop ALL clearing of bush land and koala habitat immediately - and develop housing projects ONLY on land already disturbed and cleared

\*We must work to 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.

\* We must work to create a new national park in south-west Sydney to ensure rapid development does not come at the cost of koalas.