

**Submission  
No 133**

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

**Name:** Mr Roger Barlow

**Date Received:** 29 July 2019

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Dear Committee,

Please accept this letter as my submission to the inquiry into koala populations and habitat in New South Wales.

Being iconic, large and visible Koalas are essentially a 'canary in the mineshaft' indicator of what is a much greater problem for Australian wildlife and flora generally: habitat destruction on a massive scale arising from unsympathetic development to fulfil the needs of an expanding human population in what is an incredibly fragile environment.

To demonstrate the rate at which degradation is happening I provide a simple local example. When we arrived in Bonny Hills in 2007, annual surveys showed a small koala population with frequent sightings by local residents. Now, only 12 years later, there is thought to be only one koala left with very few sightings being reported.

In parallel with this there has been clear felling in both large scale and infill developments in and around the village.

The committee must prioritise solutions that prevent ongoing habitat destruction and remediate where possible destruction that has already occurred to high value habitat where koalas existed, as well as corridor connections between such habitats.

The NSW Parliament can oversee the rapid decline and possible extinction of one (in fact many) of our iconic Australian mammals, or alternatively show leadership and make urgent changes to protect vital habitat and restore our native forests.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment and urge you to work together to save koalas for our grandchildren and beyond.

I consent to the committee making this submission and my name public.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Barlow