

Submission
No 118

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 30 July 2019

Partially
Confidential

To Whom It May Concern

I and my family have been residents of St Helens Park for 27 years. In that time two generations of my family have attended the local school which has been frequently visited by members of the local koala colony which is an absolute delight for the children a memory they will treasure forever. This however is in danger of never happening for children in the future. These koalas are the last remaining disease free koalas in NSW and are vital to the survival of the species. That alone, should be enough to halt development of Mt Gilead. Some places are just too important to build on and this property is one of those. Apart from the plight of these koalas is the historical significance with Mt Gilead as the first agricultural property in the greater Macarthur area and there are still some old buildings that are part of our early settlement. There are sites and trees on Mt Gilead that are sacred to the local indigenous people including birthing trees and the site where ancestors of Dharawal people gathered before fleeing to Broughton Pass where they were massacred. These sites should never be built on.

And then there is infrastructure or the lack of it. We don't have the room in local schools nor the hospital even though it is being extended as I write this it will need another extension before this one is even finished. Also roads are grossly inadequate now and this fact alone will have a huge impact on the koalas as there are enough deaths of native wildlife on Appin Rd now.

Please reconsider the destruction of Mt Gilead. Once it's gone it's lost forever.

Regards