

Submission
No 168

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 31 July 2019

Partially
Confidential

Koala Inquiry Submission

Dear Committee members,

Below is my submission to the Inquiry into the preservation of Koala habitat and populations in New South Wales. I consent to the committee making this submission and my name public.

There is no dispute that Koala populations are rapidly declining. Habitat loss and fragmentation have long been recognised as key threatening processes that are pushing not only the Koala, but many other species towards extinction. Current government policies do not address the issue of habitat loss and fragmentation.

Regardless of their political affiliations, committee members need to work together to develop a bipartisan consensus to address the causes of habitat loss.

I call on the committee to prioritise solutions to the following issues:

- Call for an immediate halt to the Government's proposal to open up thousands of hectares of old growth forests to logging on the NSW North Coast. Decades ago we campaigned long and hard for the preservation of these old growth forests. We are very angry that these forests are again under threat.
- Developing a plan to end the logging of native forests on public land and a transition plan for displaced forestry workers.
- Immediately and permanently protecting all 'koala hubs' from clearing for agriculture, logging or development.
- Investing in the future of koalas by expanding our National Parks network, including creating the Great Koala National Park on the NSW mid-north coast.
- Restoring funding to the NPWS to allow for the adequate management of the National Parks network.
- Ruling out the burning of native forests for electricity generation.
- Urgently protecting koala habitat in the Sydney Basin and the Hunter Region from urban and industrial development.
- An end to wood-chipping in southern NSW to allow the recovery of koala populations.

In the words of the NCC *"The NSW Parliament faces a choice: continue with business as usual and oversee the rapid decline and possible extinction of one of our iconic Australian mammals, or make urgent changes to protect vital habitat and restore our native forests"*.

I urge you to work together to save koalas for future generations.

Yours Sincerely,