

Submission
No 174

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

State forests known to be strong hold koala populations should be gazetted to the national parks estate, such as Chichester forest adjacent to Barrington national park.

Biodiversity offsets should only be a last resort for developments causing impacts to known and important koala habitat. Offsets should not include a trade off of destroying one koala habitat while protecting another. This is contrary to the 'maintain or improve' principle, as it is a reduction in overall habitat. Offsets should only be accepted by securing and regenerating additional habitat.

It should also be noted that koalas can inhabit relatively thin canopy habitat, and that they are particularly abundant and reliant on remnant urban patches of vegetation. These patches and important trees should be protected, with an opportunity to utilise these areas also as important green and recreational spaces for communities.