

Submission
No 186

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I am disturbed to learn of the issues identified through the attached reports. If NSW is serious about reversing the current trajectory of both koalas and other native flora and fauna towards extinction, both political will and legislative reform will be required. The impact is already too serious to leave all planning laws to be shaped by the developer lobby. I can see NSW is committed to enabling urban sprawl. Evidence shows this drives land clearing, social dislocation, health and heat related impacts. NSW public should be given opportunity to understand that the trade off for not accepting greater density is destroying more and more native habitat and species like the Koala with it. If NSW wants to be a world class city, first step should be not destroying the animals and forests that make Australia unique. There is no point waiting until all the koalas trees are chopped down, they're hit on the roads, or die from stress of translocation and then deciding to invest in 'saving them'. Also please note that translocation kills koalas - See Coomera Case Study for evidence.

Governments job is to Protect what is left of existing native forests. This is easier, cheaper, effective and more valuable than sideshow distractions like '5 million trees' policy - which seem to buy cover - while developments like Mt Gilead in existing healthy koala habitat are approved.