

**Submission
No 191**

INQUIRY INTO KOALA POPULATIONS AND HABITAT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Australian Koala Foundation

Date Received: 6 August 2019



Australian Koala Foundation

The international organisation dedicated to saving the Koala and its habitat.

ACN 010 922 102

1 August 2019

Ms Cate Faehrmann, MLC (Committee Chair)
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Inquiry into koala populations and habitat in New South Wales

Dear Cate,

On behalf of the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF), we write to share our concern for the Koalas and their habitat in New South Wales. We do so after 32 years of research, mapping and science funded by this organisation with private donations; not government grants. As I have submitted so many documents over the years, I truly have little faith in the process, but we attach the following documents for your consideration:

1. Koala Habitat Atlas of New South Wales
2. Bob's Map – which articulates AKF numbers of Koalas in each State of Australia
3. AKF 2018 submission on the inadequacy of the EPBC Act to protect Koalas
4. AKF 2014 submission to the Senate Inquiry into Australia's Environment
5. AKF 2011 submission to the Senate Inquiry into the status, health and sustainability of Australia's koala

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Australian Koala Foundation ACN 010 922 102 ABN 90 010 922 102 GPO Box 2659, Brisbane QLD 4001 Ph: 61-7-3119 7233 Fax: 61-7-3221 0337 Email: akf@savethekoala.com	Friends of the AKF C/-The Nolan Group/ Lehr Group Inc. 112 East 17th Street Suite #1W New York, NY 10003 USA Ph: 1-212-967 8200 Fax: 1-212-967 7292	Friends of the AKF C/-ATC International 1807 14th Street, NW, Level 2 Washington DC 20009 USA Ph: 1-202-299 1151 Fax: 1-202-299 1153	Australian Koala Foundation Post Office Remittance Number: Koala Kikin 00100-8-762653 At all Post Offices across Japan

6. Senate Inquiry Report 2011
7. AKF 2019 Press Release

In all our submissions we, the AKF, have articulated that we do not believe that the New South Wales Government (or any State Government) is capable of protecting the species, and needs federal oversight which is why we want the Koala Protection Act.

This view was supported in the Senate Inquiry Report of 2011 which resulted in the Koala being listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act. Since that time (through manipulation of both political parties in Canberra) the EPBC Act has been watered down allowing loopholes to destroy Koala habitats. Memorandum of Understandings were also instigated which has allowed the States to return to normal business practice in the destruction of Koala habitat under their custodianship. I also understand now that there is going to be a re-definition of old-growth forests which is very worrying, unless of course there is genuine intention to protect those areas. Delays have also allowed the Federal Government to avoid their responsibility for a national Koala Recovery Plan which should have been finalised by 2014.

We also draw your attention to our press release where we state that we believe the Koala to be functionally extinct.

I would appreciate being invited to speak to the inquiry – I am confident I could give my thoughts after 32 years of complete inaction by our Governments at all levels to protect the Koala. It is my personal view that if we cannot protect Koala habitat, then every other species is completely at risk.

Yours faithfully,

Deborah Tabart OAM

Chairman

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