

**Submission
No 198**

INQUIRY INTO KOALA POPULATIONS AND HABITAT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Potoroo Palace, Native Animal Sanctuary

Date Received: 27 July 2019

Dear Committee,

This is my submission to the Inquiry into Koala Populations and Habitats. It is urgent that we stop the drastic reduction in koala numbers in NSW which is happening. Koalas used to be very numerous in the Bega Valley, but the last one that I saw in the wild was in 1982 before clearfelling by Forestry became as widespread as it is now.

We may see the extinction of koalas in NSW if immediate action is not taken. We know why this is happening and we know the solutions.

We must first of all protect their habitat.

We can take these steps now:

Declare the Great Koala National Park and other reserves.

Protect areas identified as particularly important for koalas on all land tenures.

Identify and protect koala climate refuges now.

Stop industrial logging on public land and make sure that Private Native Forestry does NO harm to koala habitat.

Protect koala habitat on private and public land from clearing by identifying it as Category 2-sensitive land or Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value and require local governments to map koala habitat for protection.

Strengthen SEPP 44 to prevent koala habitat from being destroyed by urban development.

Create a new national park in south west Sydney to make sure that fast development does not harm koalas.

Please take the strongest action NOW to protect koala habitat while there is still the possibility of koalas continuing to survive in NSW.

Kindly,

Alexandra Seddon

Founder

Potoroo Palace

Native Animal Education Sanctuary