

Submission  
No 205

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

## Submission to the NSW Inquiry into Koala Populations and Habitat

To whom it may concern

Please do not just count my submission as one of many reproductions of some other persons or parties - I find this practice by the department highly misleading discouraging ,dis empowering and disingenuous. I genuinely feel that this works only towards corrupting report conclusions and it too needs cease.

I note that other contributors to parliamentary enquiries with alternate views are granted an independent voice (even when citing or agreeing with the findings of other contributors ). Yet report authors seem granted some poetic licence to assess contributors at times as being merely some echo of another .This practice distorts true input.

Therefore while I may wish to support the hard work and research of other groups I stress I wish to place my submission as a independent one and into tallied in figures compiled in this NSW Inquiry into Koala Populations and Habitats accordingly . Thanks.

Having established that , I firstly must say I am absolutely flawed at the gross incompetence and negligence afforded to this most precious and iconic species to date .

I strongly feel that the body responsible for this species have failed abysmally to ensure that the afforded proper legal protection under the fauna protection act is enforced. If this is due to resources being stretched then these must be increased . We need to see action and actual protection given in a very real sense.

To conveniently & continually accept consultants reports & advice that there is ;no significant impact' to this species , is gross ignorance at best deliberate fraud & negligence at worse . Koala species in NSW current plight now should speak for itself -but it obviously can;t & even when others try some afford the role to protect, either feel it is career suicide to act or are so stretched they install complex systems & ultimately refuse to listen.

I fore mostly must reaffirm that for you to ignore advice by those with the most honest of intentions ie to convey the realistic plight of populations of NSW koalas and to offer strategies well researched as a solution to the current crisis. Whom genuinely are motivated by wanting to cease the destructive dangerous practices used to date to simply ensure we have inter-generational security for this species .Would be so counterproductive if not irrational.

Surely members of this committee realise that risk of extinction of Koalas in NSW is an absolute reality . We must act urgently and with due diligence or will be known as another committee that has failed ,if we cant save iconic koalas populations what hope do we have . I still have hope we are genuinely here to not simply oversee the signing of the death certificate for this most majestic & much loved species through out our world.

So I totally support the cessation of practices currently causing dwindling populations, koala deaths, and local extinctions. Habitat protection is critical . The creation of a Koala National Park and system offered by National Parks Association as reserves presented is essential for Koalas populations survival in north east NSW

Last summers weather extremes were brutal - I personally spent it in reality in non air conditioned country & witnessed first hand some of the most unusual & cruel impacts fauna is

experiencing particularly our furred marsupials . I urge you to ask fellow parliamentarians to ever try to just breathe for 10 minutes in these outdoor conditions next summer without conditioned air ! Try finding water without mud drenching your fur and competing with other animals many hostile.

Weather extremes make western areas less hospitable to say the very least .  
So yes I agree & support these following points & more

Protect 'koala hubs' (areas identified by the Office of Environment and Heritage as particularly important for koalas) immediately on all land tenures.

Identify and protect koala climate refuges as a matter of urgency.

You must seriously investigate & end current unsustainable industrialised logging on public land that destroys quality of habitat for koalas and ensure Private Native Forestry is genuinely low-impact and selective. Including the after burn practices used in some instances .

Protect known koala habitat from land clearing by identifying it as Category 2-sensitive land or Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value

Please urgently require our local governments to complete the mapping of koala habitat for holistic protection. Local knowledge matters & sightings alive & dead matter if we are to gain true indications of the species plight.

SEPP 44 (koala habitat protection) must genuinely be strengthened to ensure koala habitat is not destroyed by continued urban development and particularly the additional stress it places on Koalas by domestic species encroachment .

Create an improved educational component for increasing public awareness re importance of the Koala sightings, and scratches sounds & scat signs to look for . Simple procedures & what factors & features to observe etc must be made more known & this should be easily accessible processes for input by MOPs , this is vital information & education.

Importantly and urgently please create a new national park in south-west Sydney to ensure the rapid development occurring ,does not cost us our beloved koalas.

'Our land abounds in natures gifts of beauty rich and rare '

If we can implement these steps koalas stand a good chance of surviving in NSW. If we continue with business as usual, koalas will continue to die and to slide rapidly towards extinction. Please make your role in this process a genuine one . Make this on your watch a time for tangible action to secure the future of koalas, by taking decisive action to protect & preserve essential habitat both land & water .

I enclose a photograph to simply remind others of such a beautiful creature & because sometimes I think their is a disconnect by those making decisions. Please I implore Parliament to do what is right while we can -make a positive difference in the best direction for our koala population .

Kind regards