

**Submission  
No 204**

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

**Name:** Ms Petra O'Neill

**Date Received:** 1 August 2019

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Dear Committee,

Please accept this letter as my submission to the Inquiry into koala populations and habitat in New South Wales. I consent to the committee making this submission and my name public.

I work as a tour guide based in Sydney. I take busloads of mainly American cruise ship passengers to the Blue Mountains for a day of sightseeing. What they want to see most during their time in Australia is a Koala. We stop at Featherdale Wildlife Park, and here they have their portrait taken with a Koala. Then they go back to the ship. This may be all they get to see of a Koala. But number one, this is what brought them to Australia. So by 2050 Koala populations will be close to extinction and we will have lost our most precious commodity for bringing tourists here. Think about it please. Once they have gone, they have gone.

Yours Sincerely,

Petra O'Neill