

**Submission
No 230**

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

Name: Mr Trevor Evans

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The Australian Ecosystems Foundation Inc. (AEFI) is a regional NSW based not-for-profit that works to protect threatened species and their habitats. AEFI supports the strengthening of state wide legislation that protects koala and koala habitats through:

1. Ensuring that development and agricultural land clearing does not further dissect or fragment known koala habitat through barriers such as roads and permanent development.
2. An increase in and the maintenance of funding for permanent koala care facilities in key locations throughout the state.
3. The allowance of wild sourced koalas, such as injured or rescues, to be held in captivity permanently (if not suitable for release) or for short periods to add to genetic stock prior to release.
4. The reintroduction of koalas into secure habitats outside their current distribution to increase species resilience to impacts, increase genetic diversity and secure the species in the wild.
5. The identification and establishment of new koala protection zones based upon current knowledge, research, expected climate change and other impacts.
6. A whole of community education and advertising campaign to further build koala's as a national icon on the Australian and international stage.
7. Remove the 'ignorance defence' under section 2.4 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.
8. Increase penalties and prosecutions with relation to offences that impact upon koalas or koala habitat.