

Submission  
No 237

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

**Name:** Mrs Sue Nile  
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On behalf and for my family, my children and their children, we would like to object to approval of developments through significant koala corridors. For example, the Mt Gilead (Figtree Hill) development adjacent to the suburb of Rosemeadow, Campbelltown, NSW will stop the connectivity for the koalas through the development site situated between Noorumba Reserve and Beulah bush. The connectivity is required for the continued existence of a disease free colony. The importance of the disease free colony that uses the corridor between Smith's Creek through and beyond Wilton cannot be understated. Cutting wildlife corridors and destroying koala habitat will cause the South West Sydney koala population to become stressed which will lead to them into contracting Chlamydia and kidney disease. (Dr. Edward Narayan) Koalas need thoroughfares just like we do- with overpass and/or underpasses they also need corridors and they are not in any plans from developers.

Every tree and dam is to be bulldozed at Mt Gilead. How will the South Western koala colony traverse their current range? The answer is that will no longer be able to; they will be trapped behind Leadlease and the RMS's exclusion fencing, without an escape route from fires and without the ability to roam in prime koala habitat. When koalas are stressed they become sick with diseases like Chlamydia, currently this particular colony is the last disease free colony. Why are we allowing developers to erode habitat and increase the risk of the survival of our most vulnerable national icon.

New eucalypt plantings whilst welcome will not be of any use to the koalas for another decade, meaning that old growth forests need to be preserved.

We want to see koalas and their habitat preserved. We call on the government to purchase Mt Gilead and properties like it to give all koalas a chance at long term survival and to give the disease free South Western Sydney koala population and chance to stay that way.