

**Submission  
No 255**

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

**Name:** Ms Anne Higginson

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Dear Committee

I reside in an area where there are plummeting pockets of koala's whose habitat is being steadily removed by logging of state forests. I have written to government many times about the environmental and economic implications of continuing to log our public forests, so I won't repeat myself here. Clearly there is a huge problem as a result of ongoing logging and decline of habitat and species. It's not just environmentalists like myself that think logging is destroying forest homes for Koalas. A Threatened Species Expert Panel member summed up the recently approved new logging laws saying "I find it extremely frustrating to try and contribute to a solution when the underlying driver of the wood supply agreements fundamentally restricts any chance of a balanced approach and I can see the environment being the inevitable loser in the equation. This remake (of the rules) is an interventionist approach to remedy a situation that has evolved through poor and desperate practices adopted to meet an unsustainable wood supply agreement at significant expense to the environment and the people of NSW."

The intensive harvesting zones are being formally introduced to prop up an unsustainable wood supply arrangement at the expense of the environment.

and these proposed intensive harvesting practices are effectively clear felling diverse native forest to replace with even age native plantations in a deliberate manner.

Even in the best-case scenario it will take many decades or even centuries of recovery for any level of native forest ecological function to be restored after this intensity and scale of impact."

I draw your attention to this final line which is the basis of my submission. These new logging laws cannot but fail to kill koalas, destroy their homes and pave the way for extinction. The government needs to plan for the future. The future is NOW. I urge the creation of The Great Koala National Park.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Anne Higginson