

Submission
No 256

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 2 August 2019

Partially
Confidential

Dear committee,

Koalas in New South Wales along with the Queensland koalas have good genetic diversity. However koalas in New South Wales and Queensland are declining drastically due to loss of habitat, development in koala habitat (e.g. Queensland has allowed schools to be built in koalas territory in Redlands), climate change and chlamydia.

If we are really serious about preserving our koala populations in the wild, then there should be no exceptions about allowing development in areas where we have colonies of koalas. The northern beaches of Sydney used to have extensive koala colonies at Oxford Falls, the Academy of Sport and Avalon. All of these colonies are now gone due to bushfires in the 1930s, cars, dogs and development. Not even individual koalas can be found in the Northern Beaches. It is highly likely that unless there is a major change in the law and government policy that allows development and roads in koala colonies, that in the future we will only be able to see koalas in a zoo. They will be functionally extinct in the wild.

It is time the government took notice of scientists who are expert about koalas. Their advice should take precedence over all others including the LEC.

Thank you for allowing me to comment