

Submission  
No 258

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

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Amend the Biodiversity Conservation Act to reintroduce classification of local koala populations at risk of extinction as 'Endangered Local Koala Populations' with provisions that trigger the establishment of Local Recovery Plans specific designed to eliminate the threats to koalas unique to the circumstances of each local situation. Funding to be provided by state and federal governments to implement Local Recovery Plan actions.

Abolish biodiversity offsetting that allows koala habitat to be cleared

Abolish the clearing of Core and Primary koala habitat and Endangered Ecological Communities.

Introduce sunset clauses for the approval of development applications containing core koala habitat such that the approvals lapse if not commenced within specific period of time.

Amend Local Environmental Plans so that the allowable land use criterion in E2 and E3 Zoning does not allow road works within these zones unless the works are specifically for the purpose of protecting / improve the natural assets within these Zones.

Replace all grass slashing within Outer Bushfire Asset Zones adjacent to urban development bordering Primary Koala Habitat, with native fire resistant ground cover plantings to reduce stress to koalas which has now been found to lead to the onset of disease.

Step up research and development and provide funding for measures that reduce stress to koalas. Friends of the Koala Lismore statistics reveal that the stress related disease Chlamydia has become the biggest killer of koalas in my region. Provide more funding into combating koala death from disease by increasing funding to existing wildlife hospitals and establish of more wildlife hospitals and release area infrastructure .

Provide an enormous increase in funding to wildlife rescue and carer community organisations.

Refer to the research article titled 'Time-delayed influence of urban landscape change on the susceptibility of koalas to chlamydiosis' by Clive McAlpine et al:

Refer to research titled 'Physiological stress levels in wild koala sub-populations facing anthropogenic induced environmental trauma and disease' by Dr Edward Narayan at the Western Sydney University, supported through a grant from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW),.

Strengthen planning policies and laws to make effective actions are mandatory rather than actions only required to be considered by government bodies.

Strengthen the definition of what is considered to direct and indirect impact on threatened species.

Amend laws such that the precautionary principle is given more strength to reject potential inappropriate development and land clearing practices.

Create the Great Koala National Park and implement other NPA reserve proposals presented to the Committee to protect koalas in north-east NSW—a region that will become more and more important as weather extremes make western areas less hospitable.

Protect 'koala hubs' (areas identified by the Office of Environment and Heritage as particularly important for koalas) immediately on all land tenures.

Identify and protect koala climate refugia as a matter of urgency.

End industrialised logging on public land that destroys habitat quality for koalas and ensure Private Native Forestry is genuinely low-impact and selective.

Protect known koala habitat from land clearing by identifying it as Category 2-sensitive land or Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value, and urgently require local governments to complete the mapping of koala habitat for holistic protection.

Strengthen SEPP 44 (koala habitat protection) to ensure koala habitat is not destroyed by urban development and;

Create a new national park in south-west Sydney to ensure rapid development does not come at the cost of koalas.