

Submission  
No 270

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

**Organisation:** NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee

**Date Received:** 26 July 2019

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# NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee

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Ms Cate Faehrmann  
Committee Chair  
NSW Legislative Council's Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment  
Koala populations and habitat in New South Wales

Dear Ms Faehrmann,

Thank you for the opportunity for the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee to make a submission to this inquiry into Koala populations and habitat in NSW.

The NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) evaluates the status of species, populations, ecological communities and key threatening processes that are nominated for listing on the Schedules of the Biodiversity Conservation (BC) Act 2016 using detailed scientific evidence. The committee does not address management issues that may arise from a listing. Consequently, we are only able to address 1(a) of the terms of reference of this inquiry into Koala populations and habitat.

Currently the Koala is listed as a Vulnerable species in NSW and nationally under both the BC Act and the Commonwealth EPBC Act 1999. There are also three Koala populations listed as Endangered under the BC Act and the Final Determinations for these population listings can be accessed at

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/nsw-threatened-species-scientific-committee/determinations/nsw-threatened-species-scientific-committee-final-determinations?search=Koala&tags=Mammal&tags=Population> .

As the Koala is listed nationally as a Vulnerable species, Koala populations are no longer eligible to be listed under the BC Act. This is a requirement of a Memorandum of Understanding between the NSW Government and the Commonwealth which prevents the listing of individual populations where the species itself is listed. The three currently listed Endangered Koala populations will be removed from the schedules of the BC Act.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information about the listing process of the NSW TSSC.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Anne Kerle  
Chair  
NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee