

**Submission
No 282**

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

Name: DJ Stief
Date Received: 2 August 2019

Dear Committee,

Please accept this letter as my submission to the Inquiry into koala populations and habitat in New South Wales. I consent to the committee making this submission and my name public. As a resident of the Macarthur Region, it is with great sorrow that I have witnessed the development of this area at the expense of the koalas.

Mt. Gilead, a beautiful estate that is within a known koala range is earmarked for development. Prior to that the Planning Panel of the Campbelltown City Council has decided to remove the trees and dewater the dams, which will result in all native animals being forced to move to other areas. I believe this is an unnecessary cruel action.

Macarthur's koalas are disease free, but the stress of this land clearing will likely result in chlamydia infecting the colony. As a parallel shingles are triggered in humans the same way chlamydia is triggered in koalas.

Tree clearing will exacerbate the extreme heat for everyone in the area. Trees are the natural vanguard against the extremes we are experiencing each summer.

In the event of bushfires Koalas will be trapped behind RMS's and Lendlease's exclusion fences and cut off from reaching prime koala habitat, ensuring the population will inevitably be lost. This 'localized Koala extinction plan',

The prolonged drought is impacting heavily on all of NSW and despite the belief that koalas do not drink, they do. The lack of rainfall is forcing the koalas to adapting their behaviour to seek out water. Fragmentation of their ranges, which can be up to 100kms will impact heavily on their survival.

Politicians need to realise that the rampant development is at the cost of the of our fauna.

Does your generation of leaders want to be responsible for the extinction of Sydney's koalas?

Yours Sincerely,

DJ Stief