

Submission
No 284

INQUIRY INTO KOALA POPULATIONS AND HABITAT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Margaret England

Date Received: 2 August 2019

Dear Committee,

I live in an area which only a few years ago abounded in koala populations. Like all my neighbours I have not seen a koala in the wild for many years now, and an enquiry as to their wellbeing is well overdue.

A comprehensive plan of management is not so hard to put in place, with koala food trees on properties of more than a couple of acres would be a good start. This should be compulsory as should identifying trees suitable for habitat and protecting them. Time is running out for these helpless creatures. We as their guardians should be ashamed.

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. Recently, the NSW Government recognised that Koala populations are in steep decline and developed a strategy to begin to address this. Unfortunately, the strategy and current government policy fails to address the number one threat to koala populations – habitat loss and fragmentation.

Koalas cannot be saved unless we ensure their remaining habitat is protected and restored, but right now the opposite is occurring. In NSW areas of core koala habitat called 'koala hubs' have been mapped by the Office of Environment and Heritage but are still being cleared for logging, agriculture and infrastructure and the pace of the destruction is increasing. We also have historically low levels of additions to our National Parks network under the current Liberal National government.

I therefore call on the committee to prioritise solut

Yours Sincerely,

Margaret England