

**Submission  
No 291**

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

**Name:** Mr Nick Wilson

**Date Received:** 1 August 2019

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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.

I worked for about 2 years on a koala rehabilitation project in northern NSW, mostly in tree planting and forest regeneration.

I saw how perilous the situation can be for koalas that have to disperse if there is no habitat. Also there were places when just individual males were present and breeding females absent, meaning the population is much more at risk, even if there are koala sightings on occasion. Also, managing for a specialist like koalas dependent on trees means habitat for many other species, stable vegetation and carbon storage in trees as well.

The government's land clearing legislation and amnesty on prosecution for breaches prior to the new weakened legislation is seriously problematic for a specialist species prone to stress and vulnerable in the open to dogs and cars.

I support the NCC's recommendations, including the Great Koala National Park, immediate protection for prime habitat at all scales, not proceeding with possible plans to de-list old growth forest, protect koala populations in the Sydney basin, no burning of forests for power (completely unnecessary given the falling cost of solar and wind and ending woodchipping in the south.

Yours Sincerely,

Nick Wilson