

**Submission
No 302**

INQUIRY INTO KOALA POPULATIONS AND HABITAT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: The Coastwatchers Association Inc.

Date Received: 2 August 2019



Coastwatchers

Eurobodalla's voice for nature

Submission to Koala Inquiry

2 August 2019

The Coastwatchers' Association Incorporated supports the Koala Inquiry with the following points.

- Coastwatchers conducted an intensive research program between 2011 & 2013 on koala history, koala presence & koala habitat potential within the Eurobodalla LGA.
- The three resulting publications on the Coastwatchers website remain relevant to this latest enquiry, namely the [comprehensive Pilot Study](#), [the Bendethera intensive study](#) and the [Eurobodalla Koala Recovery Strategy](#).
- The research suggested that although a once healthy low density koala population within the Eurobodalla has now disappeared, viable remnant habitat patches & connectivity survive along with a temperate climate, offering the opportunity for the Eurobodalla to become a NSW koala safety valve if the correct management strategies and an imaginative policy framework are adopted.

Coastwatchers offers the expertise of Keith Joliffe for further information.

Also in addition to Point 1b1) of the inquiry as follows:

1. *That Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment inquire into and report on actions, policies and funding by government to ensure healthy, sustainable koala populations and habitat in New South Wales, and in particular:*
 - (a) *the status of koala populations and koala habitat in New South Wales, including trends, key threats, resource availability, adequacy of protections and areas for further research*
 - (b) *the impacts on koalas and koala habitat from:*
 - (i) *the Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals and Regional Forest Agreements*

Any remaining koalas in NSW will be directly affected by the new IFOA that halves stream buffers as follows:

- Fourth order creek buffer halved from 10m to 5m either side
- Third order creek buffer halved from 20m either side to 10m
- Second order creek buffer halved from 30 m to 15 m either side
- First order creek (river or estuary) buffer 50m to 25m either side

The trees that were previously protected in the buffer zone next to creeks will now be harvested in half of the buffer zone now open to logging. Trees next to creeks and rivers are much bigger due to the water flow. Cutting these big old trees will significantly reduce habitat for tree reliant species such as the koala as well as all hollow reliant marsupials and birds ie cockatoos that nest in big old trees with hollows.

Yours sincerely

The Secretary

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