

**Submission
No 314**

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

Name: Cita Murphy

Date Received: 25 July 2019

Save our Koalas !

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

In Thirlmere a report went to Wollondilly Council that a Koala was on the road in Thirlmere. When the Council Officer attended . The Koala was in a dazed state. The Council Officer looked around and opposite was land that had been bulldozed. No trees, no shelter, no food, no home. Yesterday I went to a Panel Meeting at Campbelltown Council, there a developer who is wanting to remove multiple dams. The water source for Koalas and other wildlife in the Gilead area. This same developer has plans for 15,000 dwellings. All in Koala habitat which has been re-zoned . Also at the same meeting 13 or 14 Australian Native Trees are proposed to be removed in prime / protected Koala habitat at Wedderburn so a mobile phone tower can be put on the land.

We desperately need a Koala National Park along the Georges River, it's tributaries covering areas such as, Minto Heights, Wedderburn, Appin , Wilton. We need Overhead Wildlife Bridges on Appin and Picton Roads. In May , the CWA of NSW at their Annual Conference made a Policy to request the NSW Government erect a Wildlife Overpass on the Appin Road to protect the Koala population which is being regularly hit, injured or killed on Appin Road. It is very rare for the CWA to have a policy about one area . Across the Wollondilly, Macarthur, Georges River Region, Wingecarribee, Locals are desperately trying to save our Koala Population but we need the NSW Government to work with the Community. This year on ABC TV it was stated that by 2050, Koalas will be extinct in NSW. We can't allow this to happen. Koalas our most unique and most popular marsupial bringing in over 500 million in Tourist dollars . Federal Government figures believe this will increase to over \$750 million,

The NSW Parliament faces a choice: continue with business as usual and oversee the rapid decline and possible extinction of one of our iconic Australian mammals, or make urgent changes to protect vital habitat and restore our native forests. I urge you to work together to save koalas for future generations.