

**Submission
No 319**

INQUIRY INTO KOALA POPULATIONS AND HABITAT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Supporters of Proforma No 1 - 436 people

Date Received: 18 September 2019

**Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment
Legislative Council, Parliament of New South Wales
- Inquiry into koala populations and habitat in New South Wales**

Supporters of proforma submission (#01) – 436 people

Dear Director,

Our koala populations are disappearing. I ask the committee to recommend swift action to stop the destruction of koala habitat and prioritise the recovery of koala populations in NSW.

Important koala habitat in NSW has been cleared by approximately 70-90% since colonisation. At last estimate, only 15-28,000 koalas remain in NSW.

NSW must take urgent action to save our iconic koala.

I ask that the inquiry report recommend:

- Stronger state laws to prevent koala habitat destruction through land clearing;
- An end to native forest logging on public land;
- The expansion of protected areas;
- Increased funding to the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust and Saving Our Species Program for the restoration of koala habitat on private land;
- Upgrading the status of koalas from vulnerable to endangered under the Biodiversity Conservation Act; and
- Prioritising critical habitat for koalas to be declared Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value.

Without taking immediate action, koalas in NSW could be extinct within decades.

The destruction of their habitat must end.