

Submission
No 39

**INQUIRY INTO LOCAL LAND SERVICES AMENDMENT
(MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 2020**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 22 February 2021

Partially
Confidential

Dear Sir/Madam Member of Parliament.

I am sending this email as an official objection to the Koala Sepp currently on Parliament discussion.

I own a property at Bonville NSW. It is in the Coffs Harbour City Council are. My Family has owned this property for 56 years when my father purchased the land and moved from Sydney NSW to farm. The Farm originally was a dairy and mixed cropping. Then for medical reasons moved into Beef and horse with mixed cropping. Portions of the property have been sold over the years as a matter of necessity, but a large section was left to grow timber due to the steepness of the land and in those days the inadequate machinery to operate on this terrain as 4wd tractors were not readily available when my father decided to take this option. I am the son of the original purchaser and still reside on the property and have 42 hectares in my name.

My farm has beef cattle and 5 hectares leased for blueberry growing with approximately 20 hectares of timber.

My property adjoins Bindarri National Park as well as Forestry NSW. Where the timber ends in my property to where the Forestry NSW starts, cannot be seen from the ground or air its just an unfenced line through the forest.

When the original koala Sepp was put into plan no Council Employee or Employee of any government body came out to inspect my property or to check for Koala activity. Not one person entered my property to ascertain if Koala were more proliferate on my property compared to the National park or the Forestry NSW maintained land. The plan was made simply by an aerial photo of timbered land and it then being zoned as Koala habitat. The maps that were put on display for public viewing showed no Forestry NSW or National Park land. This gave the impression to all who inspected the maps that the E zones or Koala habitat areas were absolutely essential whilst it was not an accurate mapping of the forested areas or areas of timber already accessible for Koala.

I have one gully on my property that is 90% Camphor Laurel infested, a Tree that is classed as a toxic weed and should be eradicated. This gully is nominated on the maps as a significant Koala area. I spoke with a Coffs Harbour council employee about this area and she stated " We are aware mistakes in mapping were made" but no further action was ever made to remove this area off my farm.

The areas the Council mapped as E zones on my property were portions that are farm manageable and could be used to graze cattle or cropping. The areas that are steep gradient and would never be cleared have been left out of the E zones . Why is this, because that land falls under a different category and cannot be cleared as it is too steep. Why cannot this land be classed as E zones or Koala protected and the other areas removed from E Zones. I am sure Koala do not avoid these trees because of the gradient of the land.

The area of timbered land on my property is approximately 40% of the total land area. Whilst I am 100% in favour of protecting our wildlife and particularly Koala, I also rely on an income from my property.

With the proposed Sepp in place I virtually cannot do anything with the land. I am being punished for being a landowner by not being able to make an income off the land either by

farming or selective logging, yet I still have to pay ever increasing rates for Councils and Government to say they are protecting Koala habitat.

I wish to point out that my objection relates to rural land and not residential land.

Koala Sepp on rural land should be immediately compensated by rate reduction to zero (0) or by land being purchased for the current market value. With proper incentives that allow farmers to do selective logging to harvest say 10% of the timber in every period of 10years. I have never met a farmer or timber logger that has any wish to harm a koala or other wildlife whilst performing logging operations. It has been proven that Koala favour regrowth compared to old trees. This method allows farmers with timber to make a contribution to their income plus providing some fire trails and new regrowth for our native animals. A significant benefit to both.

I am willing to discuss any of the points discussed in this email with any member of Parliament or with my local member.

Forwarded with concern for our farmers and our wildlife.