

**Submission
No 40**

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

Name: Mr Philip Edmonds

Date Received: 23 February 2021

The Committee Secretary and Felicity

I am a member of NSW Farmers.

I support the NSW Farmers comments of in their submission, the key points of which are detailed below.

My company has for fifty years bred cattle at East Gresford NSW.

The proposed amendments to the SEPP are necessary to remove an onerous burden on the agricultural industry on the affected areas.

Key points:

1. Planning instruments like the Koala SEPP are designed for urban and peri urban areas, and do not take into account how agricultural land and agi-business is conducted
2. Private landholders manage the majority of the landscape of NSW, and in doing so protect koalas and other vulnerable species from fire and pests. The SEPP will stop the ability of land owners to manage their land and put koalas in a more vulnerable position
3. The SEPP can turn off the land management code, causing significant interruption to farming businesses and preventing activities such as thinning that protect koalas. No assessment has been done to understand the extent of this damage to agriculture.
4. The SEPP relies on the theoretical location of tree species to define habitat of koalas, and in doing so can quarantine land from agriculture for no reason when koalas are not there, but may have been 18 years ago. It is untenable to bring in a regulation of land without knowing which land it will effect, and to what extent.
5. The governments' reforms to the LLS Act and with the Biodiversity Conservation Act in 2016, provide both incentive to protect koalas, and protection through strong laws
6. Decoupling the Koala SEPP from the LLS act retains these strong measures to foster koala survival and regulate their management without harming productivity
7. Good environmental outcomes rely on participation by land owners not prohibition by Government.
8. To assist koala populations, the knowledge and experience of rural land owners should used and complimented by incentive and education, not by locking up productive land.