

**Submission
No 65**

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

Organisation: OST Farming
Date Received: 26 February 2021

Afternoon,

I would like to make a submission in order to support NSW Farmers proposal of amendments to the Koala SEPP. Our family that farm in Northern New South Wales believe very strongly that there needs to be a balance in conserving not only Koala habitats, but agriculture and thus our livelihood.

We believe the original Koala SEPP was designed for urban and peri urban areas, and do not take into account how agricultural land and agi-business is conducted.

Landholders, like ourselves, manage our landscape which actually protects 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.

We feel there will be devastating consequences for our families business if the SEPP can turn off the land management code. This will cause significant interruption to farming by preventing activities such as thinning that actually protect koalas. No assessment has been done to understand the extent of this damage to agriculture.

The SEPP does not consider farming practices, economic impacts and peoples livelihoods. This is evident by its extreme/over the top approach to relying 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 indefensible to bring in a regulation of land without knowing which land it will effect, and to what extent.

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. By decoupling the Koala SEPP from the LLS act retains these strong measures to foster koala survival and regulate their management without harming productivity.

Farmers should not be seen as environmentalist vandals, but to instead use our experience and knowledge for good balanced environmental outcomes. Work with us, not against us.



ABN: 172 736 384 11