

Jim Morrison

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3 March 2017

To the Koala strategy Submission Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on developing a strategy to ensure the future of NSW Koalas.

It is no surprise that koalas are in severe decline given the procrastination by both Labor and Coalition State and Federal governments over the past twenty years to seriously address this states crashing koala numbers.

To attempt to seriously address the plight of NSW Koalas on their trajectory towards rapid extinction in the wild will require the political will to stand up to those lobby groups who have stifled previous attempts at genuine koala protection and enhancement of populations. These groups include the development lobby, the timber industry ,those members of NSW Farmers and National party members who have lobbied to weaken the environmental protection provided by the Native Vegetation and Threatened Species Conservation Acts. Given the current State governments appalling environmental credentials I have little hope that any genuine , effective measures to properly protect koalas and their habitats across all tenures will ever be seriously implemented.

If the government is serious about genuine koala protection and recovery of populations (as i am sure is widely supported by the general community) properly defining, identifying and fully protecting core koala habitat is of primary importance.

There should be an immediate moratorium on any clearing or logging in core koala habitat. (This should be defined as any area with a breeding population of koalas). Detailed mapping should be undertaken to determine these core habitat areas where clearing should be prohibited and environmental restoration carried out where necessary

There should be no mechanisms (eg offsets or bio banking) to allow clearing of core koala habitat.

The upcoming review of the Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals and review of Private Native Forestry codes should include strict protection of core koala habitat and appropriate conservation management of intermediate habitat.

The government should fully support the Great Koala National Park proposal for NE NSW as well as well designed koala parks proposed by environment groups in the South and West of the state.

I fully support the very detailed submission provided by the North Coast Environment Council in relation to koala protection

Yours Sincerely, Jim Morrison