

Dear Office of Environment and Heritage, Saving our remaining koala population is imperative to the health of our forests and the human population. Where koalas can survive so can the most sensitive and vulnerable of our native animals. Why does this matter? Healthy forests help humans stay healthy. Our mature native Eucalyptus trees are the biggest carbon storers in the world. After this horribly hot summer and all the extreme weather we've had, surely, at last, it's time to stop cutting down these magnificent trees. There has been false information spread that planting new trees will be more efficient for storing storage. However, that has been disproven. Young saplings do not absorb anywhere near the carbon of mature trees. Our native forests are necessary for water storage and clean air: basic necessities of life. Unfortunately, the logging of native forests for wood chips is still being allowed. Since 1998 the Forestry Act (69ZA) makes it illegal for the public to defend native forests in the courts by bringing illegal logging matters to court. Forestry Act of 1998 (69ZA) must be stricken from the books. Third party rights to expose illegal logging should be a fundamental citizen's right. These licence conditions were signed into law by Eddie Obeid and Ian McDonald. I would suggest that with those two ministers signing the law we would have a case to dismiss this act. However, the Forestry Act of 1998 guaranteed wood supply for 20 years. That time frame is now almost lapsed. The Forestry Act of 1998 should be made obsolete. Please, do not renew this unfair and contentious law. The wood chipping industry is highly subsidised by the taxpayers by millions of dollars each year. The NSW Auditor General has confirmed this in multiple reports. The money spent propping up this industry should be spent retraining people and investing in new forward looking industries. The koala has become a political issue. This is a shame because the need to save the koala should be plain and simple. Without a habitat that allows our native animals to survive, humans will ultimately pay the price.

**Your name / name of organisation:**

Lois Katz

**Postcode**

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