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**The recommendations outlined in the Chief Scientist report do not extend far enough to truly save the koalas in New South Wales. The recommendations fail to address lawful protection for koalas, their habitat and corridors. Failure to implement lawful protection will inevitably lead to the loss of koalas in New South Wales.**

**Koalas almost became extinct during the era of the fur trade and have never recovered because of lack of planning and development by government and private land holders. They are on the brink of extinction in New South Wales and possibly Australia if all governments do not take action post haste. It is time for restoration and regeneration before it is impossible to redeem.**

- 1. 'All of Government cooperation' is vital for success on the understanding that koalas, their habitat and corridors protected and prioritised above urban development and regional land clearing for posterity. It must be lawful protection to be effective. No new roads should be constructed through koala habit as was the tragic case with the upgrade of the Pacific Highway near Ballina.**
- 2. Crown land must not be sold unless it is independently assessed by flora and fauna experts that the land is not koala habitat, feeding area or corridor.**
- 3. State Government agencies to interact regularly with volunteer groups who are at the grass roots level of saving koalas to best direct funds where effective. Government must listen to the community where koalas are under threat from planning and development. Gather all relevant information from these groups to help establish a complete mapping picture. Much of this information is already available from these groups and the Australian Koala Foundation. Government should not waste time and resources in areas where this information is already available. Discussion with other State Governments to have common strategies would be beneficial.**
- 4. Research funding to develop a vaccine for the chlamydia virus that is impacting the health and future breeding of koala colonies is crucial.**

- 5. Restoration of creek lines that provide shelter in times of severe heat near koala habitat.**
- 6. Prosecution and severe penalties imposed on irresponsible dog owners who fail to control their dogs that kill koalas.**
- 7. A concerted program to eradicate wild dogs and other feral animals which would also benefit farmers and graziers.**
- 8. Establish a State Government secured Koala Land Trust for public and corporate donations to purchase suitable land to expand koala habitat, feeding areas and corridors. Interested private land holders allowed to donate land to the Koala Land Trust.**
- 9. An education program introduced into all New South Wales schools as part of the curriculum to educate future generations to understand and protect our environment and wildlife with koalas as the focal point. Reinforce that littering impacts the environment and wildlife. An annual 'Save N.S.W. Koala Day' with the first year holding a school competition to name a mascot koala representing 'Save N.S.W. Koalas Day'. A celebrity ambassador could be very beneficial to promote this day. This day would present an opportunity to promote the Koala Land Trust with donations from \$1 and government matching every dollar raised in addition.**
- 10. Maremma sheepdogs to protect koalas in highly vulnerable areas. They may be particularly effective where koalas are more isolated.**
- 11. A state wide public awareness advertising campaign to bring attention to the dire situation of New South Wales koalas and the urgency for action. Promote support to save N.S.W. koalas focusing on the importance of saving their habitat and corridors as a whole of state community approach.**
- 12. Prosecution and severe penalties imposed on any individual or organisation for land clearing of koala habitat, feeding areas and corridors should be enforced. Any organisation that disregards the protection of koalas should also be subject to the same penalties.**

**13. Where road signs are displayed to warn motorists in koala areas along with reduced speed limits some type of flashing lights may assist motorists.**

**If the New South Wales Government is genuine and committed to saving koalas in N.S.W. the 'Save N.S.W. Koala Strategy' needs to be formulated in the shortest possible time. If there is delay in implementing the strategy means the loss of even more habitat and koalas.**

**I remain optimistic that the government action will be taken soon to save our wonderful, iconic koalas.**