

Survey Name:	Priorities Action Statement amendments
Submitted On:	2/03/2017 1:29:11 PM
Q 1: Title:	
	Ms
Q 2: Surname:	
	Ward
Q 3: Given name:	
	Vivien
Please add your comments here:	
	<p>Dear sir / Madam</p> <p>I have never seen a koala in the wild, and I don't really need to if it would cause any interference to them. However I do need to know that they are there with as much protection as is possible. Too often we hear about koalas in terms of the huge difficulties facing their very existence. I hope that your proposals mean that the protection of koalas and their habitat will be given the highest priority when it comes to road-widening, coal mine expansion, housing developments, and all the other physical developments that have had such devastating impacts. After all, the term 'icon' suggests nothing less.</p> <p>I was pleased to read that your plans look to retaining, developing and establishing habitat and corridors, even artificial water sources particularly in high fire-risk areas. I have heard that there is on-going and possibly hopeful research into chlamydia in koalas. I also like that you recognise the huge value of work done by wildlife carers for animals that need that help, and are looking to support those carers.</p> <p>I hope that the 'Saving Our Species' project does not mean that other species will be 'allowed' to suffer from recent changes to Legislation regarding Land Clearing, Biodiversity, Protected Species. I hope that the proposed improvements for koalas are within the whole biodiversity of their natural world.</p> <p>For example, I was also pleased to hear that there has been some success with placing 'medication' at the entrance to wombat holes to treat mange. Many of our native animals and birds and plants are facing great problems. Clearly flying foxes are in trouble. Not all 'protected species' seem to have the protections that you would assume.</p> <p>I would hope that there is on-going publicity for your wonderful proposals for koalas. Chanel 9's news on Saturday 25th February Chanel 9 showed the work being done with koalas in the Southern Highlands and ended with the statement that the aim is not only for the koalas to survive but to thrive in their environment. Even for those of us who live nowhere near koalas there must be a widespread concern for the hope that the future will be very much better for them.</p> <p>I was also interested to see that 'Landline' on 26th February showed conservation work where the Nature Conservation Trust is working with property owners to establish permanently protected areas on privately owned land. This one, about Woomargama Station, also featured a Bioblitz day allowing members of the community to be a part of seeing the success of their project.</p> <p>I am not in favour at all of the proposed 'hotel' at Taronga Zoo, where koalas will obviously feature largely for the benefit of the tourists. All that land and money and effort should only be for the direct benefit of animals. The height of proposed buildings for maximised views is not a part of animal well-being.</p> <p>In contrast to this plan for the Zoo your current proposals to save the koala in its natural environment 'forever' into the future is at the least very hopeful. Good luck.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Vivien Ward.</p>