
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 9 July 2012 3:56 PM
To: EHPP Landscapes & Ecosystems Section Mailbox
Subject: Review of the Native Vegetation Regulation: PNF and Koala Habitat

Below are submissions regarding the above discussion paper.

1. The most important issue is that PNF officers in OEH are still issuing PNF licences that cover core koala habitat and relying on self regulation to ensure logging is excluded from core koala habitat. Also OEH PNF officers currently do not interpret the PNF code as stated in the discussion paper 'Forest operations are not permitted within any area identified as core koala habitat the meaning of State Environmental Planning Policy 44 – Koala Habitat Protection ' rather informing the industry that logging operations can continue in core koala habitat areas *providing* there are no instantaneous records of koala in the tree they are cutting down. Both of these issues are allowing vast tracks of core koala habitat to be logged while OEH turn a blind eye. This departmental issue needs to be dealt with as a matter of urgency in concert to any PNF code amendments.
2. Any changes to the current provisions should not rely on the logging industry or PNF officers to undertake field verification.
3. Spot Assessment Technique (attached) should be the only methodology allowed to ground truth core koala habitat and should be done by a qualified ecologist.
4. PNF must reference the provisions under the EPBC Act and exclude PNF operations in areas of significant populations, and the corridors that connect these areas.

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