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The primary threat to koala populations across NSW is the continued loss and degradation of their habitat. While the provision of \$10 million for land acquisition is welcomed, the proposed Koala Recovery Strategy must address this continuing threat of habitat loss/degradation. I believe it is unlikely, based on my +20 years experience working with landholders in the area, voluntary protection of koala habitat for stewardship payments will be taken up by many in north western NSW, where the continued push for land clearing remains unabated. Additionally, the government's proposed changes to threatened species and native vegetation legislation will facilitate on-going clearing of koala habitat and potentially ensure there will be no increase in the extent of native vegetation on fertile soils (primary koala habitat) into the future, further exacerbating the continued decline in the remaining koala populations. I would also suggest regarding the identification of areas of important Koala habitat west of the GDR that a review of the following documents occur: Northern Tablelands Koala Recovery Strategy 2015-2025 - Northern Tablelands Local Land Service Report and Paull DC & Hughes (2016) Proposal for a Western Woodlands Koala Park: Identification of Critical Conservation Lands. Report prepared for the Western Woodlands Alliance.

Your name / name of organisation:

Wendy Hawes / The Envirofactor Pty Ltd

Postcode

2360

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