

Inquiry into the Status, health and sustainability of Australia's koala population

27 December 2010

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

Ian Harling is pleased to provide these comments to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts for consideration.

Introduction

I live in an area that has had known koala habitat including on my own 10 acre property and the wildlife corridor that runs through it. There have been no recent sightings of Koalas in the past 2 years. At the same time neighbours have cleared a large number of trees on their properties. Despite contacting a number of government departments voicing my concerns, including the local council, councilors, EPA, Dept of mines nobody seemed interested or to care. A national law on indiscriminate tree clearing must be immediately introduced and action taken against perpetrators.

The Koala population is dwindling and we must act now! The purpose of this submission is to provide further information, evidence and observations in relation to the following terms of reference :

- _ Knowledge of koala habitat;
- _ Threats to koala habitat such as logging, land clearing, poor management, attacks from feral and domestic animals, disease and roads, and urban development;
- _ Appropriate future regulation for the protection of koala habitat;
- _ Interaction of state and federal laws and regulations; and
- _ Any other related matters.

Evidence and Observations

Koalas are at risk because of tree clearing, habitat destruction, disease, and governments who do nothing to protect them.

Issues which have contributed to this risk include over development, population growth, and environmental vandalism from people who don't care.

Evidence or Observations that I have to support this position includes. Koala habitat being destroyed through greedy developers., with government support . Take a look out of the window and tell me where this is NOT happening. It isn't rocket science! I see it happening on neighbouring properties and now I see no Koalas.

Recommendation for Consideration by the Committee

The government obsession for population growth must end.

The destruction of the environment and wild life habitat must end.

Indiscriminate tree clearing must end and perpetrators prosecuted

We must seriously and immediately cap population growth. We can not continue destroying the very thing that people love about this country in pursuit of alleged economic growth and prosperity. Koalas and other wildlife are being pushed to the brink of extinction as we continue to demolish their homes and food source.

The land and the environment must be protected now. Australia has an appalling record of animal extinction.

Now is the time to do something positive about it. We must change our attitudes and must change our policies and protect our environment and wild life. It is in this committee's hands to recommend proper protection of the koala with the basic policies I have listed above.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this submission to you for consideration by the Committee. We would be pleased to discuss these matters with the Committee further.