

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
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The Inquiry into the status, health and sustainability of Australia's koala.

The purpose of my submission

- a. Threat to the koala habitat due to proposed open cut coal mining
- b. The listing of the koala under the EPBC Act

My name is Susan Lyle and I live on the Breeza Plain, within the Liverpool Plains in North West NSW, thirty kilometres south of Gunnedah.

My family owns a farming enterprise comprising three parcels of land within a radius of fifteen kilometres of each other. One parcel is red sloping country the other two, on the edge and on the flood plain. Koalas appear on each of our parcels of land and are very often within my garden. If I was to be asked to find a koala on any one day I would be able to do so. The entire area is a very significant koala colony, with Gunnedah taking the title of 'Koala Capital of the World'.

My overwhelming concern is that there has been a mining exploration license issued for open cut coal mining over much of this koala habitat. One only has to observe the destruction of land, trees, water etc. within a mining area to know that our koalas will be decimated. This mining license is primarily in isolation and to allow such a development is sheer lunacy, if we are to protect one of Australia's treasured icons.

The only way to protect the koala is to have it listed under the EPBC Act. There are many, many other resources that can be used for energy, but there is no replacement for the koala. Future generations have a right to love, admire and cherish this animal.

I am happy for this submission to be included for public viewing.

Susan Lyle

1.02.2011