

Submission for Inquiry into the status, health and sustainability of Australia's koala population

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
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Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Senate Inquiry,

Current logging Practices by Forests NSW and DECCW Private Native Forestry Section should be immediately reviewed to investigate ongoing illegal logging of our public native forests and in the Private Native Forestry section by DECCW. It is reported through scientific audits that Core Koala Habitat, Old Growth and Rainforests and Endangered Ecological Communities are being illegally logged by Forests NSW and through PNF approvals by DECCW.

We call on our government to uphold the Endangered Species Protection Act 1992, Regional Forest Agreement, Vegetation Management Act 1999 and the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

I urge an independent review/survey of our natural assets. This review should be done by an independent group of scientists, botanists and zoologists. The survey should identify Core Koala Habitat, Endangered Ecological Communities, Old Growth and Rainforest. It should note these on detail mappings for use by DECCW and Forests NSW. Any logging or development should require adherence to this mapping and an on site survey by independent scientists, zoologists and botanists before approval is given.

DECCW has admitted to mapping and surveying problems. Forests NSW fails to identify Endangered Ecological Communities in their harvest planning. We need to properly resource these departments with scientists that can do the job properly. Scientists that are not associated with the timber industry and have credentials as zoologists and botanists.

Scientists sent out in the field to survey forests for logging or development should be able to identify areas that are Core Koala Habitat, Rainforest, Old Growth and Endangered Ecological Communities.

There should be a moratorium on logging until there is a review of current approvals and revoke any that are in Core Koala Habitat, Rainforests, Old Growth or Endangered Ecological Communities. The review of the current harvest plans by Forests NSW and PNF approvals by DECCW should be independently reviewed by scientists, zoologists and botanists.

If this is not done, core Koala habitat, Rainforests, Old Growth and Endangered Ecological Communities will continue to be illegally logged.