Ku-ring-gai Council Submission

Explanation of Intended Effect: State Environmental Planning Policy No 44 – Koala Habitat Protection
Department of Planning and Environment
December 2016

In general, Ku-ring-gai Council support:
- the effort to improve the protection for Koala habitat
- Alignment of the SEPP with the current planning system
- Additional support for councils to prepare comprehensive plans of management
- The development of guidelines to set out the requirements for preparing comprehensive plans of management; and direct the consistent assessment of development applications.
- The expansion of the Koala Tree species list to align with those species identified in the recovery plan
- Expanded definition of Koala habitat to include areas where koalas are present, regardless of the tree species

Council would appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on any amendments to the guidelines for surveying Koalas, development assessment and plans of management. It is unclear at this stage how Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area will be impacted by the changes and council would welcome any further opportunity to comment on details of the SEPP as they become available.

Concerns/suggestion
Council appreciate the guidelines will reflect contemporary koala management practices such as requiring consideration of habitat fragmentation. However, would like to stress the importance of impacts to, protection and restoration of, movement as well as the provision of climate refugia. Council request strong governance around these issues is incorporated into the guidelines.

For any further enquiry relating to this issue please contact Jacob Sife, 9424 0819 or jsife@kmc.nsw.gov.au

Regards,
Jacob Sife
Natural Areas Officer
Ku-ring-gai Council