



PCU069717

Wedderburn
NSW 2560

28th February 2017

NSW Koala Strategy and Draft SEPP44

A twofold programme should be put in place (a) for areas where it is known healthy Koalas are living no matter how small the population is, and (b) in areas where Koalas have been isolated by development.

- (a) Protect existing woodland and enhance wildlife corridors leading to any other bushland or Koala population.
- (b) Enhance and or replant local woodland, and create new wildlife corridors so the animals can expand their territory.

Wildlife corridors should not be planned around development, but rather placed so that animals who are using them at present can continue to do so without first trying to find a new track or way between housing developments.

Where trees have been destroyed new plantings of Koala feeding and resting trees should be planted, taking into consideration which species of tree will survive the effects of climate change. This may be a combination of existing local species and trees that will survive the extremes of a changing weather pattern.

Local Koala watch groups working to plant trees monitor and educate the public need to be created working with local councils or State Government. Residents who join a group would need education themselves and of course be under the guidance of a leader such as the Landcare organisation is at present.

At least five year check, monitor and health of the population should be in place by NPWS consultants

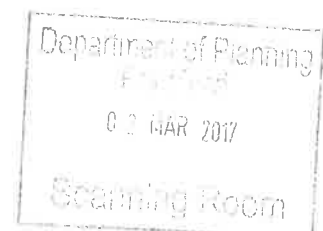
SEPP44 should apply across NSW and not have individual council Plan of Managements as these can take years to produce and then lean towards ease of development for builders and staff, rather than the actual well being of Koalas.

I am very pleased to see that the number of tree species has been increased to 65 this has been long overdue.

Campbelltown Koala Population

Shooting for their skin was one of the main setbacks for the NSW Koala population, and in fact a past resident of Wedderburn made his living in this way along with the growing of vegetables and the breeding of dogs, but of course today it is loss of habitat due to subdivision for houses that is the main problem.

Since Koalas were re discovered in Wedderburn by David Homer in 1986 there has never been a case of Chlamydia found in the Campbelltown Koala Population, although they do carry the



Chlamydia gene. This is mainly because their habitat has not been destroyed, but State Government has marked Campbelltown as a high development zone and they are now under tremendous threat.

The only exception was when two animals were relocated to the Southern Highlands, when one disappeared assumed taken by a predator, and one had to be euthanized as it contracted Chlamydia after being down there for a short while.

The Campbelltown population is still healthy and obviously trying to expand into other areas which of course are required to stop overcrowding of population and hopefully spread healthy animals into the Nepean and Sydney drinking water catchments.

Campbelltown Koalas have been found along the Heathcote Road and north and south of where they were originally tagged.

Fatalities along the Appin Road prove that at present these animals are moving between the Georges and Nepean River Catchments, but subdivision along the Appin Road will undoubtedly curtail if not stop the free movement of animals.

At present there are two proposed developments at Kellerman Drive and Mount Gilead which are a serious threat to the wildlife corridor, and in the latter Reports supplied by the developer suggested that animals who want to move between Noorumba Reserve and Humewood could cross the Appin Road from one and then re cross the road to the other property. In my opinion a ridiculous statement, especially as the road is to be widened at this point.

The wildlife corridor is blocked to the south by South 32 Emplacement Area which is approximately 4Km by 1Km along the Bulli/Appin Road, animals trying to reach the southern drinking water catchments have to either move into the Dharawal National Park and then cross the Bulli/Appin Road, or move along the Georges River near Kings Falls Bridge. The other alternative is the Appin Road corridor which is under threat from the Greater Macarthur Priority Growth Area Plan.

As you are aware tree planting is taking place on the Emplacement Area and I am sure that one day native animals will be able to move through the Area.

Professor Robert Close has tracked female with young Koalas on the site at Kellerman Drive and yet the SEPP 44 Report undertaken by the developer states that there are no Koalas living on site and Koala scats found were probably just left by a Koala moving through the property.

My main concern is that Koalas living within the Campbelltown Population is being downgraded and ignored by State Government as the Greater Macarthur Priority Growth Area Plan has development proposed on both sides of the Appin/Campbelltown Road and Campbelltown Council are so concerned that their planning role will be taken from them by State Government they appear to be rubber stamping all development applications.

Although many species including Platypus, Gang Gang, Yellow Tail, Glossy Black Cockatoos and what appear to be mange free Wombats (further studies required) are not part of this study, but are living within the Campbelltown Council Area it does hopefully show that bushland and wildlife corridors within Campbelltown are well worth preserving. (See photographs attached)

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The only sure way of protecting the Campbelltown Koala Population is to turn the Georges River Corridor into a National Park, buy back land sold by Landcom to the Mir Group at Kellerman Drive and ensure that wildlife corridors between the Georges and Nepean Rivers are protected.

New routes need to be put in place for the High Speed Train as the present Plan runs along the Georges River on Holsworthy Military Reserve Land the track would stop the movement of Koalas between the Georges River and the Military Reserve. (Federal Government)

The Georges River Parkway should be eliminated as we understand State Government has now discounted this proposal in favour of bringing vehicles into the district via the Hume Highway. The Parkway proposal would cut the Georges River Corridor in half along the river and more than likely devastate the Koala population.

Road fatalities are a continuing problem and WIRES has reported that at least 6 Koalas have been killed on Campbelltown roads in the two months leading up to Christmas, signs are not enough to eliminate these deaths safe road crossings and slower speed limits should be put in place.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on the NSW Koala Strategy

Yours faithfully

Patricia Durman

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THIS IS CAMPBELLTOWN