Dear Sir/Madam,

Review of SEPP 44 – Koala Habitat Protection

We have reviewed the exhibited ‘Explanation of Intended Effect: State Environmental Planning Policy No 44 - Koala Habitat Protection’ dated November 2016 which outlines the proposed changes and have the following comments to make.

1. Potential Koala Habitat Mapping. The proposed additional tree species will require a comprehensive review of our existing ‘Potential Koala Habitat’ mapping. Being a Shire covering an area over 17,000 km² this will be an extensive and costly activity. Will councils be able to access funding for these updated studies.

2. Plan of Managements. The preparation of plan of managements is listed in the summary of the proposed amendments as a clause that has no or minor amendments. Currently the SEPP states that a Plan of Management should be done by Council for the whole shire. The exhibited explanation of intended effect document states “Where they are established, comprehensive koala plans of management will continue to inform decision-making. The preparation of individual plans of management will no longer be required.” Will Councils be directed to carryout whole of shire plans of management, if so will funding be available.

3. Planning Direction. Will the new planning direction apply to all Planning Proposals or only the comprehensive LEP reviews.

If you require further information please contact me via email or phone, as indicated above.

Yours sincerely

Lester Rodgers
GENERAL MANAGER