

Mr. James & Mrs. Maureen Barrow

07 February, 2011

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Dear Sir:

We wish to make the following observations in regards to the **inquiry into the status, health and sustainability of Australia's koala.**

I migrated to Australia in February 1987 with my Australian wife and was awed by the beauty and wildlife of this wonderful country. I can't call myself a true local, but my wife can as here connections to this land go back to 1864. Being an outsider I was somewhat amazed that more is not done on a local and state basis for real long term planning to protect the koala and its environment and in fact, some actions seem to contribute to the serious problems the koala faces today. Examples are:

On 1 October, 2007 the Queensland Government commenced a study on the Southern Freight Rail Corridor (SFRC) which is a dedicated freight line that bypasses Ipswich. This piece of infrastructure passed through a **Koala Conservation Area** at Peak Crossing. The local community as well as ourselves objected to this and stated the same in submissions to the government on the study. This resulted in the government taking the Conservation Area out of the regional plan. It seems if it poses a problem, do away with it. Later the Queensland government contracted GHD to do koala mapping of the area. It was noted that the mapping was very deficient and omitted vegetation in the Scenic Rim Regional Council in the very area that the SFRC traversed and passed through the Koala Conservation Area

While doing our research to enable us to make a reasonable submission on the study we uncovered concept plans by a large developer showing the rail alignment passing through his property twelve months before the preferred route was announced. Later the government changed the alignment and moved it north. We found another concept plan on the developer's property with the rail removed six months before the government made the announcement. Possibly good luck on the developers part or one has to ask the question if information is being leaked to key sources.

Other issues that we believe will seriously affect the status of the koala in our area:

1. **Wyaralong Dam** Currently in final stages of construction. Prematurely filled due to floods and one only knows how many koala's lost or stranded in tops of flooded trees.
2. **Ebenezer Industrial Precinct** Studies underway.
3. **Bromelton Industrial SDA** Approved.
4. **Ripley Valley Super City** Announced this past year by Queensland Government..
5. **Flagstone Super City** Announced this past year by Queensland Government.
6. **Yarrabilba Super City** Announced this past year by Queensland Government.
7. **Majority of Scenic Rim Regional Council** Under various mining leases.

All of these are just minutes drive from this area and Wyaralong, Bromelton and Ripley Valley are actually connected via vegetation . The loss of this habitat and division by the SFRC will be devastating to the survival of the koala and without federal intervention will happen. This is happening only in a portion of one council and from what I read in the papers and on the internet is happening Queensland and Australia wide.

We don't believe the Local or Queensland Government can be trusted to do what is best for the koala due to their close relationship and dependence on developers.

We would like to see the federal government take control of the kola and it's environment with long term planning for protection of the species and every tree protected that the kola relies on. This is the only chance the kola has for survival.

We have supporting documents to backup observation made in this submission and would gladly provide if you require them. Thank you for viewing our submission and we trust you have the fortitude and desire to protect this most important icon of Australia.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. James Barrow & Mrs. Maureen Barrow