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Please Quote File No:  
**S9100-001**

Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Environment & Heritage  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

**Re: Inquiry into public good conservation – impact of environmental measures imposed on landholders**

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I write on behalf of the Draft Port Stephens Council Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (CKPoM) Consultative Committee in response to the request for submissions by the Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage in relation to the above matter.

The Draft Port Stephens Council CKPoM Consultative Committee commenced deliberations in January 2000, and was formed to review the actions contained in the Draft Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (CKPoM) prepared for the Port Stephens Local Government Area. This Plan of Management includes a number of conservation initiatives.

Measures to protect koala habitat contained in the Draft CKPoM included rezoning, incentives and education mechanisms. The revised Draft CKPoM encourages the investigation and application of Voluntary, Incentives based and other related conservation measures to encourage private landowners to protect, manage and restore Koala habitat on their land.

These are listed and briefly summarised in the Attached document. The Committee is continuing to discuss specific issues associated with the zoning of public land and the process necessary to consider applications for new developments and changes to zoning.

In its consideration of these conservation issues to date, the Draft CKPoM Consultative Committee has established and resolved that the most effective way to conserve habitat is through the application of Voluntary, Incentives based and other related conservation measures. Intrinsic to this is the undertaking of effective consultation with the community to enact effective partnerships for the achievement of conservation objectives. Ongoing financial assistance is also important to facilitate the implementation of these Voluntary, Incentives based and other related conservation measures.

The provision of funding to Local Government Authorities to facilitate an ongoing education program highlighting the benefits of Voluntary, Incentives based and other related conservation measures, and to provide the necessary resources to implement such measures, is encouraged by the committee. This would add considerably to the uptake of such measures by private landowners.

Yours sincerely,

**W.E.J. Paradise PhD**  
**Independent Chair**  
**Draft Port Stephens CKPoM Consultative Committee**