



DRAFT SUBMISSION

The NSW Koala Strategy

24 April 2024



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Introduction

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the delivery of the NSW Koala Strategy¹. To obtain input from councils, LGNSW hosted a feedback forum which was attended by local government employees from across the state. Those views have been incorporated into this submission and we are also aware of councils making their own submissions. Our recommendations are directed towards the NSW Government.

LGNSW's advocacy work is guided by annual conference resolutions debated and agreed by councillors. The conference resolutions relevant to this submission are listed in Annex A. Our resolutions support urgent action to protect koala habitat and address threats identified in the NSW Koala population and habitat report² (*Annex A, res 1*).

Please note this is a draft submission until it is reviewed and endorsed by LGNSW's Board, and any amendments will be forwarded in due course.

The current NSW Koala Strategy

The NSW Koala Strategy 2021-2026 committed to double the number of koalas in NSW by 2050. It sets out actions under four pillars: koala habitat conservation, supporting local communities to conserve koalas, improving the safety and health of koalas, and building our knowledge of koalas. Since the introduction of the strategy, the status of koalas in NSW and Australia were upgraded to endangered at both state and national levels. In response, the NSW Government has made a number of commitments, including to establish a Great Koala National Park (GKNP) on the mid-north coast.

However, efforts to protect koalas are being undermined by a lack of data, unreliable mapping, habitat loss and fragmentation due to extensive clearing, as well as increasing pressure from climate change, disease and dogs. Current government legislation is hindering progress, in particular the State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 (BC SEPP) (addressed in the *Prioritising koala populations* section), as well as the *Local Land Services Act 2013* (LLS Act) and the *Rural Boundary Clearing Code 2021* (RBC code) under the *Rural Fire Services Act 1997* (addressed in the *Pillar 1: Koala habitat conservation* section).

Target to double koala numbers by 2050

LGNSW welcomes the ambition behind the goal to double the number of koalas in NSW by 2050. However, there is currently not a reliable estimate of the existing koala population size across the state which needs to be addressed as a first priority (see section titled *Pillar 4: Building our knowledge of koalas*).

We also recommend introducing a research-backed 2030 target, to increase accountability

¹ NSW Department of Planning and Environment (2022) [NSW Koala Strategy](#), NSW Government

² Legislative Council, Portfolio Committee No. 7 (2020) ['Inquiry into koala populations and habitat in New South Wales'](#), NSW Parliament

and bring the strategy in line with Australia's international biodiversity commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework³. It may be more reliable for the headline 2030 target to focus on habitat protection rather than the koala population size.

These goals must also be supported by significantly more ambitious conservation targets to improve the habitat and safety of all koalas. The current 2026 conservation targets listed on page 4 of the NSW Koala Strategy are grouped under the four pillars. Each of the targets should be expanded to cover all koala populations across NSW, rather than in a limited selection of areas, such as is the case for funding knowledge gaps (see the section titled *Prioritising koala populations*).

Under the Strategy's *Koala habitat conservation* pillar, the target to protect 22,000ha of koala habitat should be significantly more ambitious and it should be amended to say: 'protected *in perpetuity*'. Additional targets should also be included under this pillar to protect all koala hubs, safe movement corridors and climate refuge areas, to establish the full GKNP, to end the unlawful and unallocated clearing of native vegetation, and to end the logging of native forests. There should also be additional specific habitat restoration targets, including to identify and restore land that increases habitat connectivity, safe movement corridors and climate refuge areas.

Under the second pillar to improve the safety and health of koalas, an additional target should be added that all new roads and road upgrades through koala habitat areas be funded to ensure adequate wildlife protection measures, including fencing and wildlife bridges.

Gaps in the strategy

The strategy fails to address the key issues of habitat loss and fragmentation that is resulting from native forest logging, inadequate legal protections under NSW legislation for clearing for hazard reduction, agriculture and development, and a lack of compliance. See the *Pillar 1: Koala habitat conservation* section for more information.

Recommendations

Targets

- Conduct surveys and mapping to form a reliable estimate of current koala numbers in NSW.
- Introduce a 2030 target for increasing koala populations and/or habitat.
- Increase the ambition of all conservation targets in the existing NSW Strategy, including on habitat restoration and protection, health and safety, regional partnerships and data.
- Add additional targets on:
 - protecting all existing koala hubs, safe movement corridors and climate refuge areas
 - establishing the full Great Koala National Park
 - ending unlawful and unallocated clearing of native vegetation, and logging of native forestry
 - prioritising land for restoration that improves habitat connectivity
 - adequate wildlife protection measures for new and upgraded roads.

³ The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2022) '[Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity framework](#)', UN Environment Program

Prioritising koala populations

The strategy identifies 50 koala populations based on Areas of Regional Koala Significance, where they are deemed able to be successful in the long term. These are divided into 19 populations for immediate investment and 31 populations to fill key knowledge gaps. LGNSW welcomes that koala strongholds, which are used to further prioritise populations, includes land that may become climate refuge areas in the future.

However, while some prioritisation is needed, there should be funding available to increase understanding of all koala populations. Many councils outside of 'knowledge gap' areas cited concerns around the lack of understanding of their local koala populations but are unable to get funding to carry out vegetation mapping at a fine scale. For example, a council is not able to obtain funding to map koalas in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage area, despite research conducted by Science for Wildlife identifying that it contains the most genetically diverse koalas in the country⁴. This region was previously not thought to support large koala numbers, demonstrating the importance of researching all populations.

Recommendation

- Provide funding to increase understanding of all koala populations, including those outside of 'knowledge gap' areas.

The importance of Aboriginal ecological knowledge

Many Aboriginal communities hold a deep spiritual and cultural connection to koalas and their habitats. It is vital that Aboriginal communities are involved in conservation decisions which affect their wellbeing, culture and livelihoods, and they hold valuable ecological knowledge which should be promoted and leveraged.

LGNSW welcomes the introduction of the statewide Koala Aboriginal Advisory panel which informs on-ground koala conservation actions and the development of the updated Koala Strategy. LGNSW also welcomes the partnerships developed with four Aboriginal communities and encourages additional partnerships to be developed with other communities across the state. These groups should continue to be consulted on how the NSW Government can best empower and support Aboriginal communities to protect and regenerate koala habitats.

Regional partnerships offer valuable collaboration opportunities between Aboriginal communities and different levels of government and should be expanded throughout the state, as recommended in the *Regional partnership model* section.

⁴ Science for Wildlife (2023) [A decade of koala research yields surprising results](#), Science for Wildlife website, accessed 22 April 2024.

Aboriginal communities should be empowered and resourced to carry out low-intensity cultural burns in koala habitat areas to reduce the risk of bushfires. The barriers to cultural burning in the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) should be reviewed to ensure this is possible.

Recommendations

- Develop additional partnerships with other Aboriginal communities across NSW.
- Consult Aboriginal communities on how they can be best empowered to protect and regenerate koala habitat.
- Resource cultural burning in koala habitat areas and review the barriers to cultural burning within the Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Addressing the impacts of climate change

Koalas are highly vulnerable to climate change due to the increased prevalence of extreme heat, longer drought periods and severe bushfires. They are affected by higher baseline temperatures over time, including from declining moisture levels in leaves and changing vegetation types. Coastal populations are also vulnerable to rising sea levels as habitat and feed trees will be lost or degraded due to saltwater inundation. More research is needed to understand the long-term implications of climate change on koala populations' viability, such as the impacts of rising sea levels and heat stress.

Hollow-bearing trees must be given increased protections, recognising they provide critical shelter during fires. Improving habitat connectivity and access to climate refugia is key to enable koalas to relocate during natural disasters. For example, surveys carried out by councils have shown that koalas move to riparian areas during hotter and drier periods. This will be increasingly important as the climate continues to change, and koalas may permanently locate to riparian areas or land at higher altitude. The definition of habitat assumes it to be a species' current range and must be expanded to include future habitat in the context of higher temperatures and sea level.

The NSW Government should develop a state-wide koala adaptation plan which uses climate-scenario modelling and maps wildlife corridors, climate refugia and potential future habitat. This includes identifying new parcels of land which, through targeted regeneration and protection, could increase connectivity, expand habitat range and provide new translocation opportunities. The plan should set out how the entire current and future range will be protected through mechanisms such as private land conservation agreements, the creation of Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Values, additions to the national park estate and rezoning.

The plan should be developed in partnership with councils, Aboriginal communities, NGOs and research organisations, many of whom hold knowledge and data on existing populations. The data must be fed through to state mapping, including the Biodiversity Values map, and should apply to all existing Koala Plans of Management (KPoMs).

The adaptation plan should also set out how the NSW Government will mitigate, prepare for and respond to natural disasters. This should include supporting Aboriginal communities to carry out cultural burning and increasing investment in rapid response teams. Koala habitat should be identified on broader bushfire risk plans and protected as priority assets. There should also be increased investment in new technologies to detect koalas during bushfires and monitor the impact of fires on koala populations over time.

Recommendations

- Fund research on the long-term implications of climate change of koala populations viability, including the impact of rising sea levels on coastal populations.
- Increase protections for hollow-bearing trees which provide critical protection during fires.
- Expand the definition of habitat to include future habitat in the context of higher temperatures and sea levels.
- Develop a state-wide koala adaptation plan using climate-scenario modelling which:
 - maps wildlife corridors, climate refugia and potential future habitat
 - identifies land for regeneration and protection to increase connectivity, expand habitat range and provide new translocation opportunities
 - sets out how current and future koala habitats range will be protected
 - is developed in partnership with local councils, Aboriginal communities, NGOs and research organisations
 - sets out preparations and responses to natural disasters including increasing investment in rapid response teams and protecting koala habitat as priority assets during bushfires
 - should inform updates to state-wide mapping, including the Biodiversity Values map.

Pillar 1: Koala habitat conservation

Protecting existing habitat

The NSW Government's conservation priority should be urgently increasing protections of existing koala habitat which is the most effective, timely and value-for-money way to support koala habitat. Significant swathes of habitat are being lost and fragmented due to native forest logging, unlawful clearing and clearing under legislation which lacks stringent biodiversity protections, namely the LLS Act and the RBC code.

The NSW Government should step up efforts to purchase land with koala habitat to add to the national parks estate with the aim to acquire all land identified as core koala habitat. There should be an immediate moratorium on all logging within the GKNP area and within all known koala hubs across NSW. The logging of native forests is destroying habitats, which is exacerbated by incorrect koala mapping, and the new *Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice* under the LLS Act do not provide sufficient protections. LGNSW advocates that the NSW Government should end the logging of native forests as soon as possible, in line with other states in Australia (*see Annex A, res 2*).

While the sector transitions away from native logging, the NSW Government should consider a logging cap for each region and it is critical that councils retain their authority to require development consent for private native forestry (PNF) (*see Annex A, res 3*).

Urgent action must also be taken to strengthen the biodiversity protections for allowable activities under the LLS Act and bushfire hazard reduction under the RBC code, which are significantly less robust than the BC Act. Landholders do not require an ecological survey prior to clearing and are able to clear land with no or minimal approvals. The loophole must also be closed whereby landholders can 'game' the system by clearing under the LLS Act or RBC code prior to submitting a development application to reduce their offset liability under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS) scheme.

Furthermore, there is currently no clear mechanism for when a protected species gets declared on land that has already been rezoned. This can be an issue for 'zombie developments' where approvals were granted years or even decades ago. If koalas are identified, the habitat and feed trees should receive automatic protections from clearing. In that case, the NSW Government should provide funding to support the reassessment process and the protection of the koalas.

Councils are also regularly faced with cases of illegal clearing and tougher monitoring and compliance is needed from the NSW Government to deter such actions. It is difficult to successfully prosecute for native vegetation removal as it is challenging to collect the evidence required. The cost of investigating and carrying out the prosecution can be prohibitive to councils who in many cases cannot afford to take issues to the Land and Environment Court. The NSW Government should fund an increased number of compliance officers to ensure complaints are investigated promptly.

The BC SEPP issue (covered under *Pillar 2: Supporting local communities to conserve koalas*) and the lack of reliable mapping (covered under *Pillar 4: Building our knowledge of koalas*) are also hindering the protection of koala habitat and must be addressed urgently.

Habitat restoration

Restoration must be used strategically to increase habitat range and landscape connectivity. As discussed in the *Addressing the impacts of climate change* section, it should be used to improve access to climate refugia and create potential new habitat that will be suitable in the context of a changing climate, such as land at higher altitude or riparian areas.

However, habitat restoration is expensive and associated with a longer biodiversity time lag than protecting existing land. It should therefore be limited as much as possible to proactively expanding habitat areas, rather than as a means of justifying offsetting. Offsetting for koala habitat should only ever be used for essential development as a genuine last resort and should be carried out within the same local area.

Working with landholders

Current take-up of private land conservation agreements is low due to a lack of awareness amongst landholders, insufficient financial incentives, and complex and onerous

processes. This is compounded by the fact that PNF companies actively approach landholders to persuade them to establish agreements.

The NSW Government should carry out customer journey mapping with landholders to identify barriers and improve processes. Landholders should be consulted on how to increase awareness of the options available, and creative ways should be considered, such as through case studies, videos and features on popular platforms such as Gardening Australia. More resourcing is needed for the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) to actively approach landholders on an ongoing basis and guide them through the registration process.

The requirements of establishing and managing conservation sites can be cost prohibitive and the financial incentive to use land for other means is greater. In urban areas, development is more economically attractive than conservation sites, while many potential locations in rural areas are lost to PNF. Funding for conservation agreements should be increased to compete with PNF, including accounting for required activities such as fencing and access tracks.

High quality vegetation is given less offset value than degraded land due to the lower levels of management required. However, it means there is a lack of incentives for landholders to conserve existing high-quality vegetation and habitats. The NSW Government should therefore consider providing more flexible arrangements and assistance and should consult private landholders on possible options.

In addition, the current BCT conventions relating to the size of stewardship sites means that it is challenging to obtain a conservation agreement for smaller parcels of land. This has been a barrier for both councils and private landholders in setting up stewardship sites as some councils only have land that is just under the threshold. The NSW Environment Protection Authority's website recognises that a koala's home range can vary from five to 50 hectares⁵. The minimum lot size for stewardship sites should therefore be reduced to five hectares, especially for parcels of land that are adjacent to existing protected areas.

⁵ NSW Environment Protection Authority (n.d.), [Modelling koala habitat](#), NSW EPA website, accessed 22 April 2024.

Recommendations

Protecting existing habitat

- Step up efforts to purchase land with koala habitat to add to the national parks estate and aim to acquire all land identified as core koala habitat.
- Introduce an immediate moratorium on all logging within the Great Koala National Park and within all known koala hubs across NSW.
- End the logging of all native forests as soon as possible, in line with other states in Australia.
- While the forestry sector is in transition, consider setting a logging cap for each region and ensure councils retain their role as a consent authority for private native forestry.
- Tighten regulations around allowable activities under the *Local Land Services Act* (LLS Act) and clearing for bushfire hazard reduction under the *Rural Boundary Clearing* (RBC) code.
- Close the loophole whereby landholders can clear land under the LLS Act or RBC code prior to a development application to reduce their offset liability under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme.
- Increase funding for monitoring and compliance of illegal clearing.
- Provide and fund automatic protections for koalas found on any land that has previously been rezoned and fund the biodiversity reassessment process.
- Fund an increased number of compliance officers to ensure complaints are investigated promptly.

Habitat restoration

- Target land for habitat restoration strategically to increase habitat range, landscape connectivity and access to climate refugia.
- Ensure offsetting for koala habitat is only permitted for essential development as a genuine last resort, and that it is carried out within the same local area.

Working with landholders

- Carry out customer journey mapping with landholders to identify barriers to establishing conservation agreements and improve the process.
- Consult landholders on how to increase awareness of the conservation options available and improve other incentives to protect high quality and degraded land.
- Provide additional resourcing for the Biodiversity Conservation Trust to actively approach landholders on an ongoing basis.
- Increase funding for conservation agreements to compete with Private Native Forestry.
- Consider providing more flexible arrangements to conserve high quality habitat.
- Reduce the minimum lot size to five hectares, especially for parcels of land that are adjacent to existing protected areas.

Pillar 2: Supporting local communities to conserve koalas

Regional partnership model

Councils participating in the regional partnership model fed back that the model is working effectively, and they have very positive relationships with their assigned regional koala

officers and regional partners. Other councils who do not have a partnership in their region questioned why their areas had been left out and expressed that they would find one highly valuable. The model should be expanded statewide to cover all koala habitat areas.

Resourcing constraints

Many councils already have a good understanding of the work that needs to be done within their region, whether that be filling key knowledge gaps, improving vehicle strike mitigation at certain hotspots, or protecting and restoring key parcels of land. However, many councils lack the funding and resourcing to undertake the work required. The NSW Government should capitalise on councils' knowledge and collaborate with them on all aspects of koala protection. Funding and support should also be expanded across the board, with a focus on long-term funding rather than shorter 1-2 year projects.

All councils with koala populations should have a KPoM to support the protection of habitat and feed trees. However, many councils do not have a KPoM, or have one that is out of date, as a result of resourcing constraints, as well as barriers posed by the BC SEPP (see below for more detail on the SEPP issue). The NSW Government should provide funding support to all councils to develop and administer KPoMs.

Biodiversity and Conservation SEPP

The two koala habitat protection chapters in the BC SEPP for urban and rural areas are highly problematic for councils and must be addressed urgently. The two chapters contain different rules, feed tree lists and methodologies for the preparation of KPoMs depending on the land zone. This adds significant complexity to an already complicated legislative framework, especially for areas with land parcels across multiple zones. The rules are considered to be unworkable as councils would have to prepare two separate plans with different rule sets.

The current situation is leading to lower levels of protections for koalas as it is stopping councils from producing or updating their KPoMs. The rules do not permit councils to update any component, including the mapping, despite some councils holding more recent, accurate and detailed data. In addition, although Chapter 4 of the BC SEPP contains an expanded koala tree list, it currently only applies to a small fraction of the state.

The two chapters of the BC SEPP must be consolidated urgently to reduce complexity and allow councils to create one KPoM. The tree list under Chapter 4 should be used to cover all areas to ensure strong protections are in place across the state. Councils should also be allowed to update their KPoMs with any new data and mapping. This data should be fed into state-mapping to ensure planning decisions are informed by the most recent and best-quality information.

Councils highlighted the value of the Queensland Government's Koala-Sensitive Design Guideline⁶ for planning and development activities and would value a version endorsed by the NSW Government.

⁶ Department of Environment and Science (2022) *'Koala-Sensitive Design Guideline'*, Queensland Government

Recommendations

Regional partnerships model

- Expand the regional partnership model to cover all koala habitat areas in NSW.

Resourcing constraints

- Collaborate with councils on koala conservation and provide long term funding and resourcing.
- Provide funding support to all councils in order to develop and administer Koala Plans of Management.

Biodiversity and Conservation SEPP (BC SEPP)

- Consolidate the two chapters of the BC SEPP to reduce complexity and allow councils to create one Koala Plan of Management.
- Apply the tree list under chapter 4 of the BC SEPP to all areas across the state.
- Allow councils to update their Koala Plans of Management with any new data and mapping.
- Adopt Koala Sensitive Design Guidelines for NSW.

Pillar 3: Improving the safety and health of koalas

Vehicle strike

Vehicle strike poses a critical threat to koalas and must be urgently addressed. There are a significant number of roads through koala habitat areas which do not have any form of protections and many others where the protections and wildlife under/overpasses have not been adequately maintained. New roads continue to be built that fragment koala habitat, increase the risk of vehicle strike, contribute to higher koala stress levels and reduce the population viability.

Councils require long-term funding to conduct the substantial works required to reduce the impact of existing roads. For new subdivisions in habitat areas, some councils mandate fencing and underpasses in their planning approvals. However, to improve protections and reduce regional variations, the NSW Government should introduce standardised requirements and associated funding for all transport lines across the state. The regulations should cover under/over passes, signage, fencing, refuge trees, and the need for weed control adjacent to koala habitat. The same regulations should apply to transport upgrades, and it is imperative that these wildlife protection assets are maintained.

The NSW Government should also consider other strike mitigation measures such as lower speed limits and improved access to public transport. Increasing the take up of public transport would reduce the quantity of cars on the road and would be particularly beneficial in non-metro areas where there is currently limited or no public transport.

Other threats

Many of the threats impacting koalas are interlinked. Clearing for development and building roads is reducing their habitat and feed trees, increasing the risk of vehicle strike, and

making them more vulnerable to extreme weather events. These impacts are leading to higher koala stress levels which has a direct correlation with increased susceptibility to chlamydia. Each of these components must be addressed but it is critical that the underlying issue of habitat loss and fragmentation is immediately actioned, as is set out in the section titled *Pillar 1: Koala habitat conservation*.

The Koala Strategy includes an action to address attacks by domestic dogs by engaging with dog owners in key areas where attacks occur. However, councils need more enforceable powers to prohibit dogs (with the exception of assistance dogs) from koala protection areas. There is no mention in the strategy of wild dogs: the updated strategy should include the threat of wild dogs and actions to reduce their impact.

Recommendations

Vehicle strike

- Provide long-term funding to councils to carry out the substantial works required to reduce vehicle strike along existing roads.
- Fund koala protections for all new roads and upgrades to existing roads in koala habitat areas.
- Ensure wildlife protection fencing and safe movement assets are adequately maintained.
- Consider other strike mitigation measures such as lower speed limits and increased public transport.

Other threats

- Urgently address the underlying issue of habitat loss and fragmentation which causes koala stress and vulnerability to chlamydia.
- Give councils more enforceable powers to prohibit dogs (with the exception of assistance dogs) from koala protection areas.
- Include the threat of wild dogs and actions to reduce their impact in the updated strategy.

Pillar 4: Building our knowledge of koalas

Data and mapping

It is critical to gain a reliable estimate and mapping of current population sizes and distributions. State vegetation mapping must be updated as a matter of urgency to ensure koala habitat and feed trees are protected during planning processes. As a first step, councils' existing surveys and data from environmental organisations should be used e.g., the Australian Koala Foundation's Koala Habitat Atlas. The NSW Government should also collaborate with councils, Aboriginal communities and environmental organisations to carry out new detailed mapping across the state, including outside of official 'knowledge gap' areas. New technologies should be used such as drones and song meter arrays to support traditional koala surveys.

Monitoring

There is a need for increased monitoring and evaluation of the density and health of koala populations over time. There should be a user-friendly tool that is accessible to all councils

to input data and monitor changes. Data should also be collected and inputted on specific threats, such as rising sea levels, heat stress, transport infrastructure and wild dogs, to monitor the long-term implications on population viability.

Furthermore, there should be ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the controls to protect koalas under the NSW environmental legislation, namely the BC Act, the LLS Act and the RBC code. This data should be fed into policy decisions around strengthening protections of koalas and their habitats.

Recommendations

Data and mapping

- Update state mapping with existing survey data held by councils and environmental organisations.
- Collaborate with councils, Aboriginal communities and environmental organisations to carry out detailed new mapping across NSW.

Monitoring

- Create a user-friendly monitoring tool that is accessible to all councils to input koala data.
- Collect data on specific threats such as rising sea levels, heat stress, transport infrastructure and wild dogs, to monitor the long-term implications on koala populations viability.
- Carry out ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the controls to protect koalas under the NSW environmental legislation and use it to inform policy decisions to strengthen biodiversity protections.

Conclusion

While LGNSW welcomes the NSW Government's commitments and action to protect koalas, significantly greater ambition and funding is urgently needed to reverse the decline of koalas and meet the 2050 target.

The NSW Government's first priority should be increasing protections for existing koala habitat, including through producing reliable state-wide mapping. The extensive clearing under legislation that lacks stringent biodiversity protections must be urgently addressed and the logging of native forests must end. Loopholes within the BOS must be closed, and compliance activities must be strengthened to prevent unlawful clearing.

The NSW Government must also step up the restoration of koala habitat to improve landscape connectivity and ensure koalas can move during extreme weather events and permanently relocate as the climate changes. Additional funding for research and evaluation is needed to fill knowledge gaps across the state and improve understanding of how each of the threats that koalas face affects the long-term viability of their local populations. Councils and Aboriginal groups hold a wealth of knowledge regarding koalas and should be consulted on each workstream.

For further information, please contact [Carys Parkinson](#), Senior Policy Officer Environment.

Annex A: Relevant LGNSW Annual Conference Resolutions

1. **Koala conservation** (Bellingen Shire Council, 2020 Annual Conference – R125/2022) That Local Government NSW supports the findings and recommendations of the NSW Koala population and habitat in NSW report and urges urgent action by the NSW Government particularly given finding 2 which indicates that given the scale of loss to koala populations across NSW as a result of the 2019-20 bushfires and without urgent government intervention to protect habitat and address all other threats, the koala will become extinct in NSW before 2050.
2. **Logging in NSW native forests** (Shoalhaven City Council, 2022 Annual Conference – R100/2022) That Local Government NSW advocates for the ending of logging in NSW Native Forests.
3. **Private Native Forestry** (Tweed Shire Council, 2022 Annual Conference – Category 2 motion X57/2022) That Local Government NSW advocates to the State Government to ensure that councils retain a role as consent authority in relation to forestry, including private native forestry.⁷

⁷ This motion was not considered at a Conference as it was assessed as consistent with existing LGNSW positions. It can be found in LGNSW's [2022 Annual Conference Business Paper](#).