



Friends of the Koalas submission to Statewide Assessment of Public Land

Patricia Hunt to: veac@delwp.vic.gov.au

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Friends of the Koalas Inc.
PO Box 231
Cowes 3922

7 November 2016

Victorian Environmental Assessment Council
PO Box 500
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002

Dear Sir / Madam,

Statewide Assessment of Public Land

At a Friends of the Koalas committee meeting on 25 October 2016 it was resolved to make a submission to the above. This is that submission.

Mention of koalas in Discussion Paper and Draft Proposals Paper

Friends of the Koalas Inc. notes that the only mention of koalas is made in the Statewide Assessment of Public Land Discussion Paper. Koalas are mentioned thus, 'Preservation of koalas', on page 50 of the Discussion Paper in a category 'Reservation purposes for nature conservation reserves', without any indication of a measure of the amount of land in Victoria set aside for the preservation of koalas.

Strzelecki Ranges Bioregion

In regard to the mention of the Hancock plantations on page 25 of the Discussion Paper, Friends of the Koalas attended a Senate Inquiry on the Status of the Koala a few years ago and was made aware of the adverse effects on koalas of plantation harvesting.

The Strzelecki koala is of vital importance to the future of the species, because it is the only population in Victoria still in its endemic habitat, and therefore has great genetic worth. One of the main threats to its survival is the loss of habitat, so protected public land in the Strzelecki Ranges Bioregion must be preserved, enhanced and expanded.

Table 5.3 on page 63 of the Discussion Paper clearly shows how small the protected area of public land in this Bioregion is, and confirms the lack of protected habitat for species such as the koala.

This is confirmed in the comments on the Strzelecki Ranges on page 65, where the VEAC Investigation of 2011 is referred to.

In that Investigation it was recommended that further assessment was needed to improve protected area representation.

Draft Recommendations

Friends of the Koalas has read the Draft Recommendations and can only hope that if implemented they lead to better protection of habitat than currently exists.

Hopefully R13 will lead to effective rehabilitation of previously harvested areas.

R14 has merit.

Friends of the Koalas Inc. believes that better management of public land in Victoria is crucial for the very survival of koalas and other wildlife, and hopes that this Assessment can achieve this.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Hunt
(President, Friends of the Koalas Inc.)

Sent from my iPad