

Save our Species submission Sean Burke. 02.03.2017

My submission to this proposal:

*"Whilst the objectives of the amendments to the NSW PAS by the SOSIKP proposal are laudable, the elephant in the room is being ignored. Habitat loss due to industrial logging of our native forests here in south-east NSW is the greatest threat to the species as it not only destroys their homes but also restricts their range due to loss of corridors and the increased intensity of wildfires that will wipe out a whole colony.*

*I do support the efforts of the proposed changes to impact positively on our koala populations on private land but feel that there are a couple of changes that would help.*

*Firstly, the introduction of low intensity Aboriginal cultural burning for hazard reduction, promotion of biodiversity and reduced wildfire intensity should be specifically included in the amendments. It has been shown that such burns are much more conducive to encouraging koala numbers, feed trees and all threatened species survival than the current regime of prescribed burns.*

*Secondly, it is my opinion that the new PAS should amend the final statement in the 2014 PAS from "Investigations into the cultural significance of koalas to Indigenous Australians will be encouraged" to "will be undertaken". There is much to learn from our First Nation people and the significance of the koala is a great opportunity to seek out this knowledge.*

*I also believe that there should be provision in the new PAS to include funding for Aboriginal people to form teams for habitat restoration, research, enforcement of regulations etc."*

**Seán Burke**

Hon. Secretary

South East Region Conservation Alliance

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