

**Submission Guide
NSW Koala Strategy Review**

Deadline: Friday 26 April 2024

Lodge at: koalasummit@environment.nsw.gov.au (include name, address, contact)

Address: NSW Koala Strategy Review
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Locked Bag 5022 Parramatta NSW 2124

Background: NSW Govt is reviewing the Koala Strategy, more information here:
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/programs-legislation-and-framework/nsw-koala-strategy/reviewing-the-nsw-koala-strategy>

The current focus of strategy is mainly on coastal populations. All Local Government areas have a requirement to develop a Koala Management Plan. Important Koala populations are reported in the Mudgee area and other inland areas of NSW. Many of these are under threat from mining projects and other large developments.

The NSW Koala Strategy recognises that habitat loss and climate change are key causes of Koala population decline. Koala is an umbrella species whose habitat supports many other native species. Protecting Koala habitat has multiple benefits.

Some key points to make in your submission, with personalised content:

1. Mudgee region has significant areas of core Koala habitat and a healthy population that must be recognised as a stronghold (include any local information you have) in the Strategy
2. Mudgee region Koala population must be included as a priority for filling knowledge gaps and delivering local actions
3. The State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) must include all land use zones
4. To achieve the goals of the Strategy all areas of core Koala habitat must be protected from development, including mining (example Bowden's Silver Mine at Lue)
5. Biodiversity offsets will not solve the problem of Koala decline in NSW and must not be an option that allows approval to remove core Koala habitat
6. Expansion of coal mining in Mudgee region will increase climate change impacts and must be rejected. The proposed Moolarben Coal Mine Open Cut 3 expansion will destroy habitat with recorded Koala breeding sites. This project is counter to NSW Koala Strategy goals. The remainder of Moolarben Valley should be added to Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve to increase Koala protection.