

# NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee

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Ms Carmel Northwood  
President Port Stephens Koalas  
PO Box 60  
ANNA BAY NSW 2316

Dear Ms Northwood,

As you are aware, the Committee made a preliminary determination to support a proposal to list a population of the Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus* in the Port Stephens area (north of the Hunter River, east of the Pacific Highway and south of Nelson Bay/Karuah River) as an endangered population under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act). The Committee found that the population is facing a very high risk of extinction in NSW in the near future as determined in accordance with listing criteria of the *Threatened Species Conservation Regulation 2010*.

On 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 the TSC Act was repealed and replaced by the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act). Under the BC Act a population of a species that is listed as threatened under the Act cannot be listed as an endangered population.

The Koala is listed as a vulnerable species under the BC Act and the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Consequently, the Committee has made a Final Determination to REJECT a proposal to list the Koala population in the Port Stephens area (north of the Hunter River, east of the Pacific Highway and south of Nelson Bay/Karuah River) as an endangered population as it is ineligible to be listed under the Act.

The rejection of this population should not be interpreted in a way to suggest that the population has no conservation value. As a population of an already threatened species it is important to the survival and potential future recovery of this threatened species.

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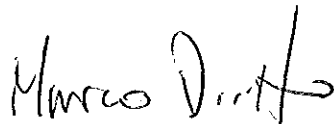
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The preliminary determination relating to this Koala population in the Port Stephens area included important information on the risk of extinction and the threats that adversely affect the population. This information has been retained in the final determination to assist the Office of Environment and Heritage in identifying and prioritising its conservation actions. It will also provide a basis for comparison in future re-assessments of this species.

The Committee appreciates the efforts of the very active members of the Port Stephens Koalas group who are working to assist in the conservation of the Koala in the Port Stephens area. As the species is listed as a vulnerable species both in NSW and nationally, the Committee hopes that current projects aimed at conserving and recovering the species will continue and not be affected by the eligibility criteria of the BC Act with regard to populations of threatened species.

Thank you for your nomination and submission to the Committee. A copy of the Determination is attached.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Marco Duretto  
Chairperson  
NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee

1/12/17