



**Respondent No:** 569

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- Q1. **First name** [REDACTED]
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- Q5. **Email** [REDACTED]
- Q6. **Postcode** [REDACTED]
- Q7. **Country** Australia
- Q8. **Stakeholder type** Other
- Q9. **Stakeholder type - Other**  
Koala rescue group
- Q10. **Stakeholder type - Staff**  
not answered
- Q11. **Organisation name** Friends of the Koala Inc
- Q12. **What is your preferred method of contact?** Email
- Q13. **Would you like to receive further information and updates on IFOA and forestry matters?** Yes
- Q14. **Can the EPA make your submission public?** Yes
- Q15. **Have you previously engaged with the EPA on forestry issues?** No
- Q16. **What parts of the draft Coastal IFOA are most important to you? Why?**  
See my submission.
- Q17. **What parts of the draft Coastal IFOA do you think have a positive outcome on the management of environmental values or the production of sustainable timber? Why?**  
I don't believe there are any except for retaining an unsustainable industry.

**Q18. What parts of the draft Coastal IFOA do you think have a negative outcome on the management of environmental values or the production of sustainable timber? Why?**

See my submission.

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**Q19. What are your views on the effectiveness of the combination of permanent environmental protections at the regional, landscape and operational scales (multi-scale protection)?**

There should be effective multi-scale permanent environmental protections. Once the environment has been compromised it can't be restored.

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**Q20. In your opinion, would the draft Coastal IFOA be effective in managing environmental values and a sustainable timber industry? Why?**

No. Please see my submission.

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**Q21. General comments**

I believe the draft Coastal IFOA if implemented will see the loss of more koalas and other wildlife. See my attached submission.

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**Q22. Attach your supporting documents (Document 1)**

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

**Q23. Attach your supporting documents (Document 2)**

not answered

**Q24. Attach your supporting documents (Document 3)**

not answered



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13 July 2018

NSW Environment Protection Agency  
Level 14, 59-61 Goulburn Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

I write on behalf of Friends of the Koala Inc., an entirely voluntary organisation widely acknowledged as the lead koala conservation group in the Northern Rivers of NSW. Our mission, which we have been pursuing since 1986, is conserving koalas in recognition of the contribution the species makes to Australia's biodiversity. Our core business encompasses habitat protection and regeneration; licensed koala rescue, rehabilitation and release; community education; advocacy; and research assistance. We maintain a regional Koala Care and Education Centre in East Lismore.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the new IFOA. Whilst I acknowledge that the current IFOA has flaws and should be reviewed, unfortunately the new IFOA has a number of flaws which make it even worse than the current one. From my perspective, ecologically sustainable forest management (ESFM) is incompatible with the proposal to permit what is arguably clear felling of 140,000 hectares of coastal forests between Grafton and Taree. Remapping and rezoning old-growth for logging, reducing headwater stream buffers to 5 metres, permitting the logging of giant trees which are invaluable to koalas and other wildlife, and virtually doubling the intensity of logging in the 'selective harvesting zone' are further examples of the erosion of ESFM. In our opinion, if this draft IFOA is legislated, the Government will have destroyed the social license of the logging industry.

Focusing on koalas, which is our charter, we know that koalas in our Region, which covers the Ballina, Byron Bay, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed local government areas, are on the verge of the tipping point which leads inevitably into extinction. We're aware that the Australian Senate is so concerned about the widespread declines in wildlife that it has called for an inquiry into our threatened species crisis. We generally rescue about 300 koalas a year, but last year it was 429. However only 15% of those rescued survive to be released to the wild. Whilst disease is the major cause of those deaths, we know that habitat loss is a core driver of the koala's march to extinction.

The logging industry has recognised that sawlog resources have reduced throughout coastal NSW. The number of jobs and mills has collapsed and logging now accounts for about 0.03% of primary industries employment. This will get worse as climate change and forest dieback make future timber resources increasingly uncertain. The new IFOA will increase the impact of logging on threatened species, and exacerbate key threatening processes such as the loss of hollow-bearing trees and bell-miner associated dieback. The intensive harvesting zone will destroy almost half of the mapped high-quality koala habitat in state forests.

Polling in the electorates of Ballina and Lismore show that 90% of people agree that the best use of forests is to protect the wildlife that the tourism industry depends on, protect the water supplies that our communities rely on and store the carbon that is driving climate breakdown. Yet the new IFOA directly ignores the opinions of the residents of this area and prioritises meeting unrealistic wood supplies for a few short years. Destroying what is left of the ecological values of state forests and logging protected areas to meet wood supply is not the action of a responsible Government. The Government should conduct a review of the logging industry considering climate change, conservation, socio-economic issues and support for the logging industry. This is the least the community should be able to expect. Please abandon the IFOA, and instead use the end of the Regional Forest Agreements to transition out of native forest logging on public land and implement positive alternatives. As a great grandmother I want my great grandchildren to be able to enjoy our forests and see koalas in the wild. Please don't compromise the environment we hand over to future generations.

Yours sincerely,