

Presentation to Independent Planning Commission

12 March 2019

by Eva Robinson

Good morning, and thank you for taking the time to listen to concerns in the local community.

As you can no doubt guess by my accent I was not born here and when I was first asked what I mostly associated with Australia before coming here, I immediately thought of kangaroos and koalas of course.

However, after my arrival in Australia and in particular this wonderful area—this paradise—I was shocked to hear that the iconic koala was under real threat. As it is well documented, many koala colonies, our Tweed Coast koalas included, face enormous challenges due to farm land clearing, housing developments, road strikes, dog attacks and disease.

I therefore strongly support Team Koala's proposals for changes to the current Modification #4. They are all critically important, but in the interest of time I will just single out one of them that would have an immediate effect.

Fencing of the access roads without any underpasses for koalas and other wild life would be an absolute disaster from the word go. Underpasses are essential and have to be built before any construction and fencing work starts.

In general, if Team Koala's proposals are not satisfied, the remaining koalas in Kings Forest, already at barely sustainable levels, will be detrimentally separated from much of their food trees and other colonies.

Their future would indeed be bleak.

However, I want to end on a positive note.



I believe, this is an opportunity for LEDA, as the name suggests, to take a lead in the industry and to make a valuable contribution to the environment and koala management beyond merely ticking the boxes. It is also an opportunity to enhance their image by marketing these positive environmental aspects to prospective residents and the community at large.

A win-win situation, not only for koalas and residents alike, but also for the developer!

Thank you.

