

We wish to support the Mudgee Environment Group in their quest to recognise as a stronghold, a healthy population of Koalas in core Koala habitat. Where there is good Koala habitat there are trees that support many birds, without which they are also placed at risk.

The State Environment Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) must include protection of all land use zones including mining. Biodiversity offsets cannot be used as an option that would allow approval to remove core Koala habitat as it will do nothing to solve Koala decline in NSW. There are populations of Koalas in the Orange Bathurst Ophir area which are naturally of concern to our group as they may not be well enough known to be included in the Strategy.