

1995—No. 5

**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY No. 44—
KOALA HABITAT PROTECTION**

NEW SOUTH WALES



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HIS Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, and in pursuance of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, has been pleased to make the State Environmental Planning Policy set forth hereunder in accordance with the recommendation made by the Minister for Planning.

ROBERT WEBSTER MLC
Minister for Planning.

Sydney, 4 January 1995.

PART 1—PRELIMINARY

Citation

1. This Policy may be cited as State Environmental Planning Policy No. 44—Koala Habitat Protection.

Commencement

2. This Policy commences on 13 February 1995.

Aims, objectives etc.

3. This Policy aims to encourage the proper conservation and management of areas of natural vegetation that provide habitat for koalas to ensure a permanent free-living population over their present range and reverse the current trend of koala population decline:

- (a) by requiring the preparation of plans of management before development consent can be granted in relation to areas of core koala habitat; and

- (b) by encouraging the identification of areas of core koala habitat; and
- (c) by encouraging the inclusion of areas of core koala habitat in environment protection zones.

Definitions

4. In this Policy:

“core koala habitat” means an area of land with a resident population of koalas, evidenced by attributes such as breeding females (that is, females with young) and recent sightings of and historical records of a population;

“guidelines” means the guidelines, as in force from time to time, made for the purposes of this Policy by the Director;

“potential koala habitat” means areas of native vegetation where the trees of the types listed in Schedule 2 constitute at least 15% of the total number of trees in the upper or lower strata of the tree component.

Land to which this Policy applies

5. (1) This Policy applies to each local government area listed in Schedule 1.

(2) However, it does not apply to land dedicated or reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 or to land dedicated under the Forestry Act 1916 as a State forest or flora reserve.

PART 3—DEVELOPMENT CONTROL OF KOALA HABITATS

Land to which this Part applies

6. This Part applies to land:

- (a) that is land to which this Policy applies; and
- (b) that is land in relation to which a development application has been made; and
- (c) that:
 - (i) has an area of more than 1 hectare; or
 - (ii) has, together with any adjoining land in the same ownership, an area of more than 1 hectare,whether or not the development application applies to the whole, or only part, of the land.

Step 1—Is the land potential koala habitat?

7. (1) Before a council may grant consent to an application for consent to carry out development on land to which this Part applies, it must satisfy itself whether or not the land is a potential koala habitat.

(2) A council may satisfy itself as to whether or not land is a potential koala habitat only on information obtained by it, or by the applicant, from a person who is qualified and experienced in tree identification.

(3) If the council is satisfied:

- (a) that the land is not a potential koala habitat, it is not prevented, because of this Policy, from granting consent to the development application; or
- (b) that the land is a potential koala habitat, it must comply with clause 8.

Step 2—Is the land core koala habitat?

8. (1) Before a council may grant consent to an application for consent to carry out development on land to which this Part applies that it is satisfied is a potential koala habitat, it must satisfy itself whether or not the land is a core koala habitat.

(2) A council may satisfy itself as to whether or not land is a core koala habitat only on information obtained by it, or by the applicant, from a person with appropriate qualifications and experience in biological science and fauna survey and management.

(3) If the council is satisfied:

- (a) that the land is not a core koala habitat, it is not prevented, because of this Policy, from granting consent to the development application; or
- (b) that the land is a core koala habitat, it must comply with clause 9.

Step 3—Can development consent be granted in relation to core koala habitat?

9. (1) Before a council may grant consent to a development application for consent to carry out development on land to which this Part applies that it is satisfied is a core koala habitat, there must be a plan of management prepared in accordance with Part 3 that applies to the land.

(2) The council's determination of the development application must not be inconsistent with the plan of management.

Guidelines—matters for consideration

10. Without limiting clause 17, a council must take the guidelines into consideration in determining an application for consent to carry out development on land to which this Part applies.

PART 3—PLANS OF MANAGEMENT

Preparation of plan of management

11. (1) A plan of management may be prepared for:

- (a) the whole of a local government area listed in Schedule 1; or
- (b) a part of such a local government area (including an area of land that is the subject of a development application).

(2) Anyone (including a council) may prepare a plan of management.

(3) A plan of management is to be prepared in accordance with the guidelines.

Consultation with Director-General of National Parks and Wildlife

12. A person who prepares a plan of management for the whole of a local government area listed in Schedule 1 must consult the Director-General of National Parks and Wildlife.

Approval of plan of management

13. (1) A plan of management prepared by the council has no effect unless it is approved by the Director.

(2) A plan of management prepared by a person other than the council has no effect unless it is approved by the council and by the Director.

(3) A plan of management takes effect on the day it is approved by the Director or on a later day specified in it for the purpose.

Amendment or repeal of plan of management

14. A plan of management may be amended or repealed by another plan of management prepared and approved in accordance with this Part.

PART 4—OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING MEASURES**Surveys, environmental protection zones and development control plans**

15. In order to give effect to the aims of this Policy, a council of a local government area listed in Schedule 1 should:

- (a) survey the land within its area so as to identify areas of potential koala habitat and core koala habitat; and
- (b) make or amend a local environmental plan:
 - (i) to include land identified as a core koala habitat within an environmental protection zone; or
 - (ii) to identify land that is a core koala habitat and apply special provisions to control the development of that land; and
- (c) give consideration to preparing an appropriate development control plan for land that is or adjoins a core koala habitat.

Preparation of local environmental studies

16. Without affecting the power of the Director to give a direction under section 74 (2) (b) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to a council, the Director will consider giving a direction that sections 57 and 61 of that Act are to apply to a draft local environmental plan (with the consequence that the council must prepare an environmental study of the land to which the draft local environmental plan applies) if, under the draft plan, it is proposed to zone (or rezone) land that is a potential koala habitat or a core koala habitat otherwise than as environment protection.

Guidelines—generally

17. (1) In exercising any function under this Policy, a council must take into consideration the guidelines that are relevant to the exercise of the function.

(2) Anyone may inspect the guidelines free of charge at any office of the Department of Planning during the hours when the office is open to the public.

SCHEDULE 1—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

(Cl. 5 (1), 11 (1), 12, 15)

Armidale	Liverpool
Ballina	Lockhart
Barraba	Macleay
Bathurst	Maitland
Bega Valley	Manilla
Bellingen	Merriwa
Berrigan	Moree Plains
Bingara	Mudgee
Blayney	Mulwaree
Blue Mountains	Murray
Bombala	Muswellbrook
Boorowa	Nambucca
Bourke	Narrabri
Brewarrina	Narrandera
Byron	Narromine
Cabonne	Newcastle
Central Darling	Nundle
Cessnock	Nymbioda
Coffs Harbour	Oberon
Coollah	Parkes
Cooma-Monaro	Parry
Coonabarabran	Pittwater
Coonamble	Port Stephens
Copmanhurst	Quirindi
Corowa	Richmond River
Crookwell	Rylstone
Dumaresq	Scone
Dungog	Severn
Eurobodalla	Shellharbour
Evans	Shoalhaven
Forbes	Singleton
Gilgandra	Snowy River
Gloucester	Tallaganda
Gosford	Tenterfield
Grafton	Tumbarumba
Great Lakes	Tumut
Greater Lithgow	Tweed
Greater Taree	Ulmarra
Gunnedah	Uralla
Gunning	Wagga Wagga
Guyra	Walcha
Hastings	Walgett
Hawkesbury	Warringham
Hornsby	Weddin
Hume	Windouran
Hunters Hill	Wingecarribee
Inverell	Wollondilly
Kempsey	Wollongong
Ku-ring-gai	Wyong
Kyogle	Yallaro
Lake Macquarie	Yarrowlunla
Leeton	Yass
Lismore	

SCHEDULE 2—FEED TREE SPECIES

(Cl. 4)

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
Eucalyptus tereticornis	Forest red gum
Eucalyptus microcorys	Tallowwood
Eucalyptus punctata	Grey Gum
Eucalyptus viminalis	Ribbon or manna gum
Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River red gum
Eucalyptus haemastoma	Broad leaved scribbly gum
Eucalyptus signata	Scribbly gum
Eucalyptus albens	White box
Eucalyptus populnea	Bimble box or poplar box
Eucalyptus robusta	Swamp mahogany

NOTE**TABLE OF PROVISIONS****PART 1—PRELIMINARY**

1. Citation
2. Commencement
3. Aims, objectives etc.
4. Definitions
5. Land to which this Policy applies

PART 2—DEVELOPMENT CONTROL OF KOALA HABITATS

6. Land to which this Part applies
7. Step 1—Is the land potential koala habitat?
8. Step 2—Is the land core koala habitat?
9. Step 3—Can development consent be granted in relation to core koala habitat?
10. Guidelines—matters for consideration

PART 3—PLANS OF MANAGEMENT

11. Preparation of plan of management
12. Consultation with Director-General of National Parks and Wildlife
13. Approval of plan of management
14. Amendment or repeal of plan of management

PART 4—OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING MEASURES

15. Surveys, environmental protection zones and development control plans
16. Preparation of local environmental studies
17. Guidelines—generally

SCHEDULE 1—LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

SCHEDULE 2—FEED TREE SPECIES