

The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC
Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy,
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage,
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council



DW23/445

Tony Chappel
Chief Executive Officer
Environment Protection Authority
EPA Head Office, Locked Bag 5022
PARRMATT A NSW 2124

Dear Mr Chappel

After consulting with you on a proposed direction to the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to be made under section 13(1) of the *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991* (POEA Act) and being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest to do so, I now direct the EPA under s13 of the POEA Act to consider making necessary improvements to protection measures, including through potential amendments of Coastal Integrated Forestry Operation Approval Protocols, to ensure that koala hubs (critical multi-generational resident koalas populations and their habitats) within the proposed Great Koala National Park assessment area are protected, consistent with the government's election commitment.

These improvements must recognise that since the Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approval and associated Protocols were made in November 2018, koalas in NSW were up-listed from vulnerable to endangered under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW) and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). Timber harvesting resulting in habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation is listed in those determinations as a threat to the species. In addition, over 40 per cent of koala habitat in NSW was impacted by the 2019/20 fires. In some parts of the proposed Great Koala National Park assessment area, these impacts were severe.

To the extent that any part of this direction is not of a general nature, I note that I have consulted with you on behalf of the EPA and that you have agreed to the terms of this direction.

The EPA must ensure this direction is complied with and publish this direction on its website as soon as practicable.

Yours sincerely


Penny Sharpe MLC

Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy,
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage

11/1/23