

Sir,

Thank you for opposing the Nationals plan to allow farmers greater opportunity to clear land with little oversight from local government bodies.

I live in Port Macquarie where the exploitation of the koala is rampant statues of koalas on every street corner, constant reference to our iconic koala' in all tourist promotional literature, a substantial subsidy given to The Koala Hospital, etc etc. It is relentless.

And yet, as one drives around the town's outskirts, one can see development after development for new housing where the land has been totally cleared of any vegetation whatsoever.

Sovereign Hills, alone, provides for the building of some 350 homes and the land has been bulldozed of all vegetation that was previously koala habitat.

What are the koalas supposed to do? Their only option is to die out, which they are doing in ever greater numbers.

Meanwhile, our State government has decided it is going to raise the height of the Warragamba Dam, claiming that to do so will reduce the risk of flooding in the Sydney basin.

It has been pointed out that much of the flooding has little to do with the Warragamba Dam, much of the flooding is caused by rivers flowing into the basin below the dam such as the Colo River.

The state government has stated that development WILL be permitted on the Sydney flood plain, but that safeguards in the planning will allow residents to "safely leave their homes" in the event of flooding. Have we all gone mad?

|I believe there is a wonderful alternative ..... do not raise the dam wall, release much more water before major rain events ( of which we have plenty of warning ). After the rain, use the desalination plant while the dam is re-filling.

Use the money saved to establish a Sydney Basin National Park on the existing flood plain ....

no development permitted and, perhaps, home to thousands of koalas who otherwise will soon be extinct.

Thank you for your work