

**Vanda (aka Wanda) Grabowski**

replied by email to **Stephen O'Donoghue**

Tue Feb 28 2017

Confidentiality Requested: no

Submitted by a Planner: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

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Content:

KOALA ACTION INC.

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TO: THE NEW SOUTH WALES PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT  
DEPARTMENT

I have been asked by the members of Koala Action Inc. (KAI) which is a volunteer not for profit incorporated association made up of individuals concerned about the long-term survival of the koala population all over its natural range with a specific focus in South East Queensland to provide a submission objecting to the industrialisation of the Pilliga region.

Our focus is on retaining the existing environment in order to provide a future for all native wildlife utilising that site but in particular for those species considered "vulnerable to threatened" on a local, state and federal level. The koala is now considered in serious decline in Queensland, New South Wales and the ACT.

For your information KAI's objectives are to help koalas by urging local, state and federal government as well as businesses to retain native bush land habitat, provide resources to rehabilitate degraded bush land to increase its carrying capacity and encourage the replanting of koala food trees and other natives in parks, reserves and open spaces.

KAI provides free koala education and awareness presentations to community groups, schools and private enterprise. Members are also involved in the rescue and care of sick, injured and orphaned koalas as well as actively facilitate the creation and grow koala

food tree plantations.

KAI applies for grants and funding at a local, state and federal government level to enable our members to rehabilitate degraded bush land habitat and replant koala food trees and other natives wherever possible. In addition, KAI provides support to those raising koala orphans from their homes.

KAI recognises the importance of protecting the Pilliga forest which is the largest intact woodland in eastern Australia, stretching across half a million hectares in north-western New South Wales. It is a unique ecological refuge, home to 25 nationally listed including the koala and 48 state-listed threatened species, such as the Pilliga Mouse, which rely on the Pilliga for survival.

The sandstone under the Pilliga is a vital recharge area for the Great Artesian Basin, and creeks that flow through the Pilliga provide clean water into the Murray Darling Basin. These water sources are the lifeblood of farming communities throughout the southeast and inland Australia.

Members are deeply concerned that energy giant Santos has plans to industrialise the Pilliga with 850 coal seam gas wells. KAI believes and research supports us when we state that such activities threaten this natural refuge, negatively impact on our precious groundwater and may destroy the communities who rely on it. KAI also knows that if we're to maintain a safe climate and keep global warming below 2 degrees, projects like this cannot go ahead

Members of Koala Action Inc. are supporting locals like Anne Kennedy and Jane Judd who have lead the community protests against this risky project. KAI is grateful that for years they've managed to keep the project from progressing.

Members are deeply disappointed that the NSW Government has ignored the voice of the community in this project. It is our intention to stand with the community who has been tirelessly campaigning against this project for so long.

Although KAI is not directly affected by this Santos project nor do our members live in NSW we are aware that if this project goes ahead, it will affect all Australians. KAI would like to add its voice and the voice of our members to the many others who are also protesting against any industrial and/or development plans that will destroy this unique yet fragile ecosystem.

With thanks Vanda (aka Wanda) Grabowski  
President/Secretary  
Koala Action Inc.

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Submission: Online Submission from Vanda (aka Wanda)

Grabowski of Koala Action Inc. (object)  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?  
action=view\\_activity&id=189316](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_activity&id=189316)

Submission for Job: #6456 Narrabri Gas Project  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view\\_job&id=6456](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_job&id=6456)

Site: #2926 Narrabri Gasfield  
[https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view\\_site&id=2926](https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_site&id=2926)