

Denise Ewin
77 Upper Crystal Creek Road
Crystal Creek NSW 2484
Email: deniseewin@yahoo.com.au

Kings Forest Residential Subdivision Project Approval Modification

Application No: MP08_0194 MOD 4

I object to this proposal because the developer has broken its promise of total commitment to high conservation values, including the extension of the Cudgen Nature Reserve as put forward in Stage 1 of the project. Originally, Kings Forest was going to enhance this natural asset by:

- Adding 178 hectares to grow the Reserve by almost 40%-part of an overall 350 hectares handed back to community ownership.
- Doubling the core koala habitat area in public ownership
- Planting 20,000 koala food trees

Other measures put in place for protection of koala habitat around this development have now been amended in the revised application.

- The proposed modifications now reverse very strict conditions of approval from both State and Federal Governments for this development.
- The original promise to plant 20,000 koala food trees has been amended to only provide secondary koala food trees which will be of little benefit and not adequate for their survival.
- The developer was required to plant koala food trees on a 27 hectare parcel of land in the Cudgen Nature Reserve which was an important and strategic measure put in place to counter lost habitat. This modified application now removes that condition.
- The Environ Road corridor is important for koala movement. The modification now shows a reduction to the southern end of the East West Corridor from the minimum of 100m down to 50m wide. This means that this corridor will not link to the Environ Road corridor.
- The revision of the locations of koala fencing and fauna underpasses now shows connection roads without any fencing placing koalas in direct contact with vehicle strike and people with their pets on foot.
- The developer also wishes to delete the use of calming devices during preliminary works with heavy machinery. This is an extra precaution required through this crucial time.
- The developer does not want to put in place crucial environmental management plans prior to commencement of heavy duty earthworks in a sensitive environmental protection zone.

Community faith in developers is now at rock bottom with the Kings Forest Development. It has been a long, ongoing issue with the plight of the koalas in this area- one of the last koala colonies on the Tweed Coast. It seems that community rights and thoughts are of no consequence and developers have all the strength and right to not abide by conditions originally set out. Personally, I can't understand why our koala is not seen as something much more important than money, such a unique animal, found only in Australia. Development on the coast seems to be all out to wipe out our coastal koalas. When do those making decisions stop and consider the outcome and long term environmental ramifications and cost of the modifications to this development? I urge you to deny the modifications applied for in this application so that the koala population may survive.