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STATEMENT ON:Local Land Services Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2020

It won't be a surprise that Total Environment Centre and many other community groups and concerned citizens, oppose this Bill. The Environmental Defenders Office has found serious flaws in the legislation and these can be found here.

We wish to draw attention to the historic turning point in koala conservation that the Bill marks.

Koalas are undoubtedly under threat of extinction in NSW. The scale of threats is mounting exacerbated by land clearing and the bushfires. Current protections are inadequate.

As with other iconic species, the actions of the generation that signed the death warrant won't be forgotten.

In our view this legislation is a surrender to those who wish to avoid acting to conserve koalas on a state scale, whether they be property developers preparing to rezone land; those undertaking ill-defined or damaging logging activity; or farmers seeking to pre-empt future conservation needs.

Parliamentarians need to have an eye to how present and future generations will view their actions. **The Bill is nothing less than a koala destruction bill**. The small economic gains it may deliver are inconsequential to the damage to our environment.

We urge you to oppose the Bill.

Jeff Angel Director