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The Planner
Mimosa Rocks National Park
National Parks and Wildlife Service
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Comments on the Mimosa Rocks NP Management Plan

Forest Condition

“ . . . The forests of the park have been selectively logged since the early years of European settlement. Timber harvesting intensified from 1948 onwards, and in the following 30 years some 37% of the future park (then state forest) was logged. Integrated harvesting for sawlogs and pulpwood occurred between 1976 and 1978 in the Nelson Creek catchment utilising a system of alternate coupe logging that left a mosaic of cut and uncut patches of forest. The varied appearance, structure and composition of the forest communities of the park are, in large part, legacies of this logging history. So too is the scarcity of mature eucalypt forest.”

In addition to logging, now over thirty years ago, the NSW Scientific Committee has acknowledged ‘extensive canopy dieback’ as a threat likely to drive koalas to extinction. It is unbelievable that no one in the NPWS or anyone they speak to has noticed or is concerned about this and it confirms the ongoing cover up about the extent and severity of dieback in these forests.

Koalas

*“ . . . Although the last confirmed sighting of a koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) in the park was along Doctor George Road in 1992, small numbers are likely to persist in places in the Nelson Creek valley.”*

The NSW Scientific Committee rejected the nomination for the Five Forests koalas on the basis of claims from the DECC and FNSW that koalas live at low densities throughout the south east. The speculation that ‘small numbers may exist’ is yet another attempt to boost up koala numbers without any evidence and while ignoring the threats.

Should the Minister adopt this plan without reference to these issues it will demonstrate that the NSW Government is corrupt and cannot be trusted with the management of public lands.

Robert Bertram
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