

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **1. Aims and role of the committee**

The Chair of the committee (Professor Mary O'Kane AC, NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer) has been asked to establish a committee to undertake a review into the decline of koala populations in key areas of NSW. Following completion of the review, the Chair will provide the Minister for the Environment a report that:

- sets out a framework for a whole of government approach to addressing pressures
- includes core learnings from other programs
- analyses successes/failures
- assesses policy options trialled to date
- considers key koala management policy settings
- identifies knowledge gaps
- recommends possible approaches to address the decline in koala numbers.

It is expected that the report will provide the Minister sufficient evidence from which a koala strategy for NSW can be prepared.

### **2. Membership**

The Chair is requested to ensure that the koala advisory committee comprises at least the following, in addition to the Chair:

- two independent researchers
- members from the following NSW Government agencies:
  - Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)
  - Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
  - Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)
  - Roads and Maritime Services (RMS)
  - Department of Primary Industries (DPI)
  - Department of Industry Division of Resources and Energy

### **3. Role of chair**

The Chair is requested to:

- actively and regularly engage with the committee
- deliver a report to the Minister
- draw on advice beyond the koala advisory committee if required
- develop evidence-based options to address the decline of key koala populations
- facilitate consideration of the wide variety of agency interests
- apply robust business acumen to decisions
- liaise directly with Minister[s] on behalf of the committee when appropriate
- raise significant matters of concern directly with the Minister[s]
- act as a spokesperson for the committee as required.

While the Chair will consider input and evidence from the committee, the report to the Minister will be the Chair's report. The Chair does not require the committee's consensus or support for the report's recommendations.

#### **4. Role of members**

- The role of the members is at the discretion of the Chair.

#### **5. Guiding principles**

The Chair will develop options that consider:

- increasing regulatory efficiency, removing duplication and promoting consistency in approval requirements
- increasing upfront clarity and transparency in environmental standards
- minimising the private costs and maximises the public benefits of the options
- encouraging economic development, including by supporting regional and rural communities without devaluing koalas and their habitat
- building resilience to environmental hazards and risks.

#### **6. Operating protocols**

##### **Meetings**

Meetings will be held regularly (at least one each fortnight) at times to be determined by the Chair.

Agency support officers will have a standing invitation to attend meetings.

Meeting attendance in person should be preferred but may occur via teleconference or videoconference as arranged with the Secretariat.

##### **Secretariat support**

Secretariat support for the Chair (and committee) is provided by OEH. This will particularly be in terms of:

- administration including agendas, papers and minutes
- logistics including pre-briefs, meetings and workshops
- appointment of members
- coordination and information flow including between the Minister[s], chair, and members
- contribution to research, analysis, policy development and advice
- supporting stakeholder liaison, communication and engagement.