The philosophies of production forestry and conservation: what can we learn from each other for the future of Australia's forest health

> logic, ethics, epistemology, knowledge metaphysics,







https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SLNSW\_19071\_Stanwell\_Park.jpg

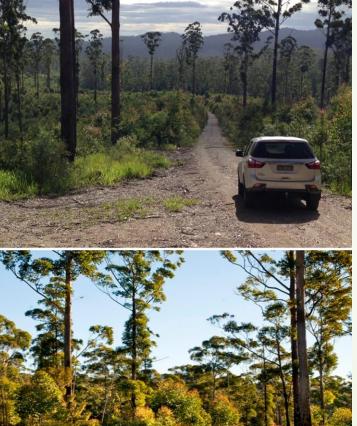
lan Jackson 2024



Until the 1960s, few people outside forestry or the forest-based industries appear to have had much interest in forestry in this country. The vast majority tended to take forests and forestry products for granted. But, with the wave of concern for 'conservation of the environment' which started to gather force around that time, many people began to take a critical, personal interest in the forest estate of Australia, its management and its managers. That interest has intensified during the past decade and there is now a wide range of opinion about how the forest resource should best be managed. Indeed, there is every indication that, during the next decade, expressions of opinion will get stronger and the division of opinion will be widened. I am firmly of the view (though perhaps unduly optimistic) that the most satisfactory resolution of this division of opinion and the most satisfactory planning for the future will come, not from the sort of confrontation that has been an unhappy feature of the past decade, but from reasoned discussion amongst reasonable people, and that an appreciation of the historical course that forestry has followed (for good or bad reasons), on the part of everyone involved in that discussion, is essential to reason and reasonableness in it.

Carron, L. T. (1985) A History of Forestry in Australia. ANU Press. ISBN 0 08 029874 5







Matt de Jongh



#### Ecosystem

Ecosystem functionality

- Stock of natural capital
  - Abiotic (geology, soil, air, water)
  - Biodiversity (genes, species and ecosystems)
- Ecological processes
  - Interactions between and movements of organisms
  - Formation of biophysical habitats
  - Space/time variability in primary productivity
  - Hydrological processes
  - Natural disturbance regimes (e.g. fire, flood)
  - Climatic processes

Ecosystem Services (flow of provisioning, regulating, cultural ecosystem services)

#### Influence (human actions modify or disrupt ecosystems and affect the flow of ecosystem services)

### Socio-economic system

#### Benefits

- Energy (e.g. fuelwood)
- Materials (e.g. timber)
- Water
- Nutrition
- Pest and disease regulation
- Hazard protection (e.g. floods)

Value

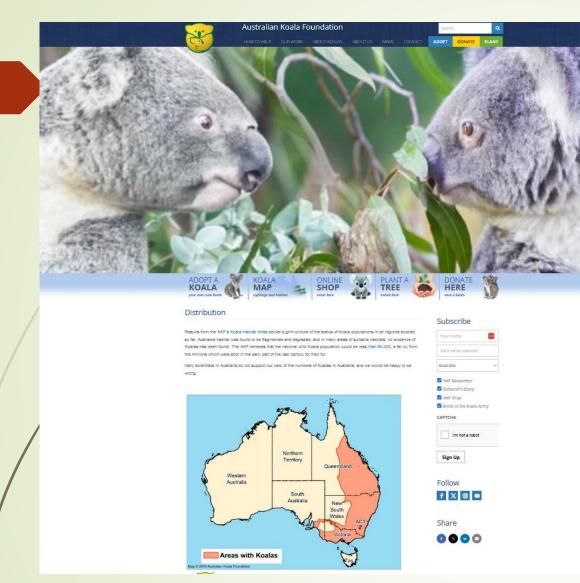
- Economic
- Social and cultural
- Health
- Response
  - Policy, law, regulations, rule of law
  - Institutional arrangements
  - Social and cultural actions

2023 Max Jacobs Oration, Dr Neil Byron asked whether forestry responded adequately to social, demographic and economic trends?

- What do TODAY's public want from their forests in the future?
- Are they well informed about the options? How many of them even care?
- What are they telling their political representatives about how they want forests managed?
- What might the "as yet unborn" want us to bequeath to them – what mix of Natural, Financial, Physical, Social and Human capital, in what forms and qualities?

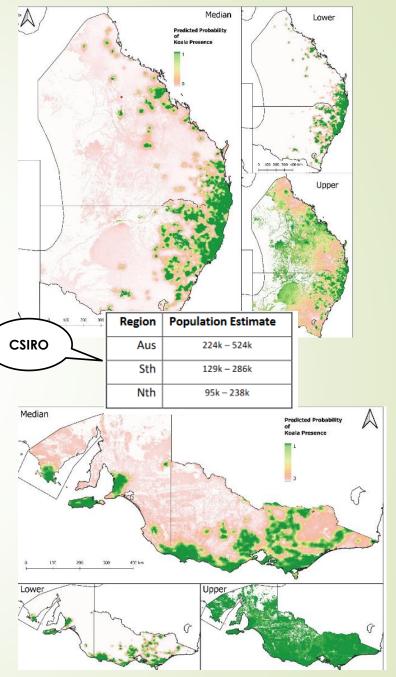
## Coddiwomple

# to travel purposefully toward an as yet unknown destination, possibly meandering



https://www.savethekoala.com/about-koalas/distribution/

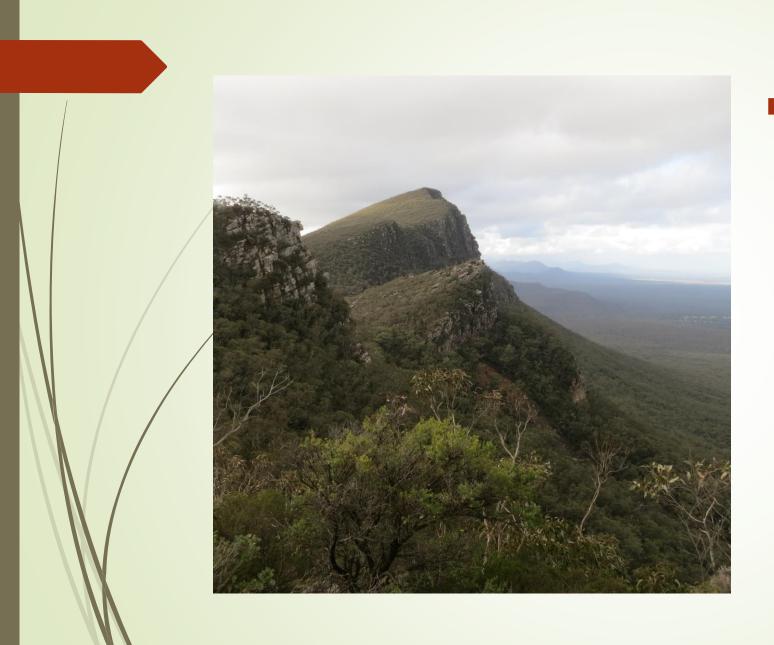
The AKF believes that the national wild Koala population could be less than 60,000,



https://www.nkmp.org.au/docs/NKMP\_2024estimates\_report\_150424.pdf



share information and tools to promote cross tenure understanding of what the evidence of different approaches to forest management is telling us and to identify gaps in knowledge so that research and data collection can be directed to enable adaptive management.



Conservation and production forestry should collaborate to better understand how adaptive and active management of forests can be best applied, including for forest restoration.



Catastrophic Bushfires, Indigenous Fire Knowledge and Reframing Science in Southeast Australia

- The reciprocity between Australian Indigenous people and the world around them underscores a markedly different relationship between people and landscapes from the European-style management paradigm that prevails in Australia today.
- This Indigenous relationship is one in which the health of people is linked to the health of the world around them (Country), an epistemology that obliges people to "care for Country".
- This reciprocity is fundamental to the health, lives and livelihoods of Indigenous Australians, and reconnecting people to places through the lens of natural resource management has had significant and widespread social and cultural benefits and significant environmental benefits.

