

**Question on Notice  
No. 529  
Asked on 19 May 2004**

QUESTION:

MR ENGLISH asked the Minister for the Environment (Mr Mickel)-

How is the Koala Protection Plan progressing?

ANSWER:

Development of the Plan requires two rounds of public consultation. The first round invited submissions from members of the public and was completed in June 2003.

Ninety-five percent of submissions received during the first round of public consultation supported the development of the Plan.

The Plan is being drafted and will contain three parts:

- background information about koala biology and ecology and identification of the key threatening processes;
- management program detailing draft strategies to manage the threatening processes; and
- legislation to detail statutory requirements.

The process of drafting the three parts of the Plan includes responding to the submissions obtained from the first round of consultation and liaising with relevant agencies and organisations.

A number of meetings and workshops have been held with State agencies; local governments; development industry and conservation groups; key community interest groups; and koala research experts to ensure the important koala management issues have been considered during the preparation of the draft Plan.

This is an exhaustive process with the direct engagement of ten State agencies to ensure a strong whole-of-government outcome from the Plan.

It is expected that the second and final round of public consultation will commence in the next few months.