

NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee

Mr Robert Bertram,
P.O. Box 161,
Bermagui, NSW 2546

Dear Mr Bertram,

Thankyou for taking the time to provide the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) with a very detailed nomination for "*Extensive Canopy Die-back Associated with Dry Weather and Drought*" (DADD) as a Key Threatening Process (KTP) under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

The Committee has reviewed your nomination in detail and has decided that rather than being a Key Threatening Process this phenomenon represents a symptom of a broad range of Key Threatening Processes and other factors including "natural climate extremes". This is particularly so for the issues of change to soil fertility, soil erosion, soil water holding capacity and impacts on vertebrate fauna such as the Koala which form the basis of your nomination. Die-back associated with dry weather and drought is a result of a range of other Key Threatening Processes rather than being a KTP itself.

Of the KTPs already listed by the NSW TSSC there are at least 10 which have an impact on the biotic processes and interactions essential for forest health and have caused a disruption of biotic processes and interactions and soil quality as you have discussed. These include:

Forest Eucalypt Dieback Associated with Over-abundant Psyllids and Bell Miners (BMAD)

Anthropogenic Climate Change

Clearing of Native Vegetation

High Frequency Fire

Loss of Hollow-bearing Trees

Removal of Dead Wood and Dead Trees

Predation by Feral cats; Foxes

Grazing and habitat destruction by rabbits, feral deer, feral horses, goats

The determinations for all Key Threatening Processes listed by the NSW TSSC can be found at the following website.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/nsw-threatened-species-scientific-committee/determinations/nsw-threatened-species-scientific-committee-final-determinations?search=key%20Threatening%20Processes&tags=Key%20threatening%20process>

The Committee has decided not to proceed with further assessment of this nomination.

Yours sincerely,



20.09.2019

Anne Kerle

Chair
NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee