

## Lendlease and NSW Government must be transparent about koalas

Sydney, 8 December 2022

Australian Ethical says it cannot remain invested in Lendlease unless it does more to protect a significant koala colony that will be impacted by a proposed housing development at Mount Gilead, near Campbelltown, NSW.

Australian Ethical's main concern with the development is the width of the planned koala corridors that are needed to ensure koalas have east to west connection across the site; and to ensure the Nepean River koala corridor does not become a functional dead end at Mount Gilead.

Australian Ethical is disappointed with the lack of transparency provided by Lendlease and the NSW Government in the public consultation, which began on 21 November and is only open until 19 December.

The Government had foreshadowed that it would publish mapped koala corridors for the Gilead development, showing how the average width was calculated, but it has failed to include this information as part of its public consultation.

"We are very concerned that the NSW Government is seeking consultation on Lendlease's proposal without providing information that is critical for making independent assessments to determine whether the proposed corridors will provide koalas safe passage through the development," Australian Ethical spokesperson Amanda Richman said today.

"We do not think the development should proceed unless Lendlease and the NSW Government are transparent and provide interested parties the ability to provide feedback through its public exhibition – but we can't do that without this key information," Ms Richman said.

Australian Ethical says it is concerned the proposed development will have a net negative impact on koalas in its current form, as evidenced by the fact Lendlease will need to use koala offsets.

"Australian Ethical, has been using its holding in Lendlease to engage with the company over the last four years to ensure that the development does not negatively impact this native koala colony – one of the last remaining healthy colonies in NSW."

"We've seen significant progress over this period, including commitments to increase total koala habitat, provide underpasses, and widen corridors. We are hoping to continue to work with Lendlease to get a better outcome for koalas but, if we can't achieve that, Lendlease is aware that we will sell our shareholdings in the company," Ms Richman said.

**Media enquiries:** (m) 0405 825 005 (e): [media@australianethical.com.au](mailto:media@australianethical.com.au)

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