

Bellbird Park, 19th February 2026

To:
Minister for the Environment and Water
Australian Government
PO Box 6022
CANBERRA ACT 2600

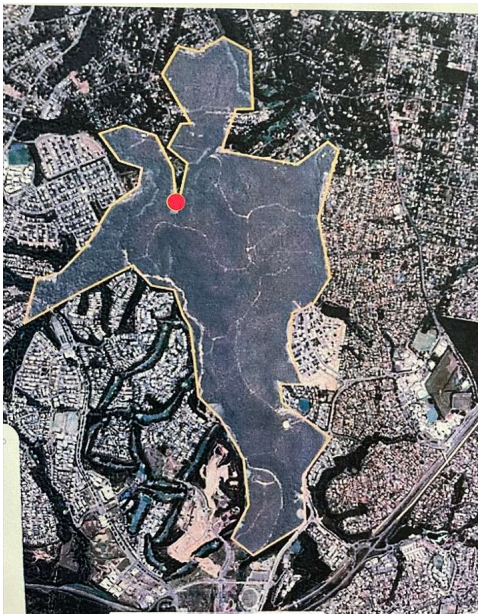
Ref: EPBC case 2019/8575 – ‘Springview village 2 & 3’

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you to express my concerns regarding the proposed development of a bushland in western Springfield in Ipswich, Queensland. This parcel of land proposed to be developed is part of Woogaroo Forest, which is what we locals have named this last refuge for the wildlife in this area. In this document, I will use the name ‘Woogaroo Forest’ to make it easier for you to understand my comments.

This proposed action is a controlled action and should be rejected! Some of the reasons why are described below.

Below to the left, I have inserted a map of Woogaroo Forest and its borders. The map to the right outlines each of the total of four(!) proposed developments within this forest. The red dots represent the peninsula at the end of Fiona Street in Bellbird Park. It is only there for your reference.



Bellevue Woods = EPBC 2018/8350
Springview Village = EPBC 2019/8575
Scenic Precinct = EPBC 2020/8651
Peninsula Precinct = EPBC 2020/8629

For years, housing developments surrounding Woogaroo Forest have been using this bushland as an unofficial offset, meaning developers have referred to this forest as the place ‘where the animals can

move on to' once their proposed developments got approved and land clearing began. Apart from fragmented koala corridors leading to tiny patches of bushland to the north (which keep decreasing every year as more developments are approved), these Endangered species have nowhere else to go. This forest is all they have left. Without it, they will perish.

Overview of the land:

The part of Woogaroo Forest where Springview is proposed to be built is quite steep and dominated by a tall ridge. The difficult terrain keeps most people out, which has given the wildlife a much-needed sanctuary in this otherwise heavily developed part of our country. There are several deep gullies, some of which the developer plans to fill in with dirt taken from the ridges. The area near the creeks is where the weeds are, and that is the land the developers plan to leave for the wildlife. Away from the riparian areas, the bushland is quite open and easy to move through beneath the eucalyptus canopy.

Important to note: The best Koala Habitat area is located right where they plan to build and that land is all listed by the government as **Core Koala Habitat!**

Below: The Springview block from above



Below: one of the beautiful gullies the developer plans to fill with dirt:



KOALAS:

There is a local koala population in this area.

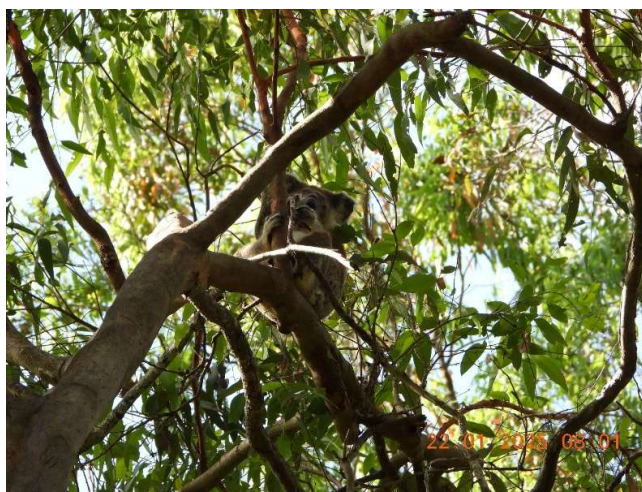
Below are two quotes from the ecological report for this EPBC case:

'Vegetation on-site is largely intact and known koala food trees are present throughout. The proposed action will result in the direct impact (clearing) of approximately 136 ha of native vegetation that is habitat for the Koala, and an indirect impact of an additional 26 ha of native vegetation.'

'The proposed action is hence considered likely to have a significant impact on critical Koala habitat'

My comments: I think those two quotes above speak for themselves.

Below: some of the residents in Woogaroo Forest.



Two koalas who were released back into Woogaroo Forest in 2025. Both had been at the RSPCA for treatment. The RSPCA were also present at both releases. [More information available on request to the EPBC].

Maximus release - April 2025:

William release – April 2025:



The developer states that should this proposed development go ahead, habitat connectivity for the wildlife will be limited. They will all be forced down to Opossum and Woogaroo Creeks.

'While the referral area represents a large remaining pocket of vegetation, connectivity to contiguous vegetation is limited, except via Opossum and Woogaroo Creeks. It is important to recognise that these habitat areas do not link with broader habitat areas where local populations of koala are more likely to be present.'

Conclusion: the developer is fully aware that the koalas have nowhere else to go. All that will be left along the creeks is a slim corridor, a big portion of which is infested by weeds.

Regent Honeyeaters:

This Regent Honeyeater in the photo below is one of a pair recorded just south of Woogaroo Forest on a number of occasions, so we know they make use of the native vegetation in this area.



Grey-headed Flying Foxes:

Grey-headed Flying Foxes come into this forest to feed at night on blooms in the Woogaroo Forest canopy. [Footage available on request to the EPBC].

Below: The Camira Flying Fox Colony - August 2024



Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia:

Two sections of Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia skirt the borders of the 'Springview' development on the western side (listed as '**Critically Endangered**' under the EPBC Act). Apparently they are planning to build very close to these areas, claiming their development will not affect this sensitive area.

There is also an Endangered Regional Ecosystem bordering the northeastern section of this proposed development. Housing already exists just east of that area in Camira. The Springview developer plans to squeeze houses in on the western side too, literally just meters from this sensitive ecosystem.

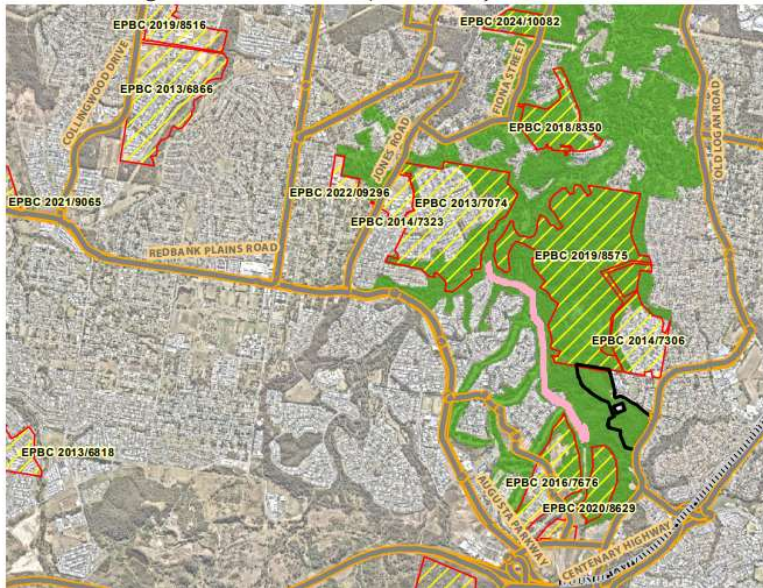
I am not an ecological expert, but even I understand that there is no way they can build that close without affecting these sensitive ecosystems.

Recent Forest Clearing in Woogaroo Forest for sewerage upgrade:

In December 2022, a sewerage upgrade finished along Opossum Creek. A wide belt of destruction was left behind by the bulldozers, stretching over 2 kilometers. I cannot see this mentioned anywhere in the developer's ecological report. Thousands of trees were removed, including Core Koala habitat. Grass, weeds and low scrubs have grown up here and there since, but the landscape is still badly scarred. Today, in February 2026, a few scattered sections of grass have been planted along this battered stretch. Apparently, there are NO plans to plant any trees. This belt of destruction is part of the area that will be left for the wildlife.

For your reference, I have marked this belt of destruction with a pink line on the map below. The belt is between 20 and up to 40 meters wide. (I got this map from EPBC 2020/8651, a proposed development that lies just below 2019/8575). The loss of habitat just for this sewer upgrade is substantial.

A2. Contiguous Landscape Analysis



Below: This photo was taken in 2023 and shows part of the bulldozed area along the sewer line, close to Opossum Creek. If you expand and zoom in on this photo, you will see two persons walking on the footpath in the middle of the photo, just to the left of the green lawn. This will give you a good reference of how wide the cleared area actually is.



Below: Photo taken in December 2025 from the very same spot as in the photo above. Grass plants and wattle have taken over.



Below: early 2023. Bulldozed area along Opossum Creek.



Below: December 2025. Same bulldozed area as above.



Below: December 2025: Lomandra grass has been planted in small sections along the belt of destruction but no trees. This is all part of the wildlife corridor the Springview developer is planning to leave for the koala!



Weed infested areas to be left for wildlife:

This developer plans to build on the very best koala habitat within the whole forest, leaving the weed infested areas near the riparian areas for the wildlife. In many areas the weed jungle is so thick that you cannot even push your way through them, nor crawl underneath.

Below are some photos of weeds along the northwestern edge of the proposed Springview development. **ALL photos were taken within area to be left for the wildlife.**









Below: Cat's Claw Creeper:





Conclusion:

The developer is fully aware that the koalas will have nowhere else to go. They even admit it. All that will be left for the wildlife is a slim corridor along the creeks, a big portion of which is infested by weeds. These corridors will not connect to any forest anywhere. I noticed that the developer has been careful not to mention how bad the weed situation in the 'area to be spared' along the creeks actually is. It is also interesting how the developer has chosen not to mention the already lost habitat that was recently bulldozed to make way for new sewerage pipes. A lot of the land near the creeks is Council land. The developer talks about weed control, but the likelihood of them removing weeds on Council land is zero. Knowing how the Ipswich Council operates, they will not want any part of it either.

The ecologist who wrote this report wants this development to go ahead. Judging by the way the report has been written, they make that very clear. This same ecologist is also working with Springfield City Group, who has two other active EPBC cases within the borders of this forest. If this is not bias, then I don't know what is. I firmly believe that Woogaroo Forest deserves an independent ecological report to be performed by someone who is not paid by the developer. That is not a fair process.

**One glaring question remains that the ecologist, nor the developer, have been able to address:
Once the trees start falling, where is the wildlife, including the Endangered Koalas, supposed to go?**

This is not a development. This is planned mass extinction of Australian wildlife.

Regards,

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