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Rob Mellett

KOALAS at Woogaroo Forest at Springview will toy with death when tens of hundreds of homes are built at a master-planned community built by Stockland.

The forest is home to over 130 native bird species, 60 native animal species (not including insects, spiders and other invertebrates) and over 200 native plant species living in the environmentally significant, core koala habitat. Save Woogaroo Forest campaigners said residents should stand up for nature.

“The lives of current Springfield residents and future generations will be irreparably damaged if people don’t save the forest,” she said.

“This is a perfect example of where Ipswich must draw the line.

“Hopefully we, as a people, have evolved to realise that the value of our natural ecosystems is far higher than developer profit and short-sighted council decisions.

“People should fight on behalf of the thousands of defenceless animals, including the endangered and vulnerable.”

Since 2018, the RSPCA’s two wildlife hospitals in southeast Queensland have treated more than 5,000 diseased and injured koalas, with two thirds of those euthanised.

Koalas are dying in shocking numbers across the southeast.

At Whites Hill, in Brisbane, more than 52 koalas have died within a six-kilometre radius of nearby Whites Hill Reserve this year.

Another 26 have been euthanised by vets due to injury.

Campaigners estimate Stockland will profit by around \$200-\$400 million, with sales of approximately \$800 million over the sales period of the development.

Meanwhile, the government has reannounced a 2022 commitment for \$3 million to improve habitat for platypuses and lungfish in Brisbane catchments, including Woogaroo.

“The project will support increased resilience of the Brisbane and Woogaroo catchment to flood impacts, as well as providing the Ipswich community with better access to nature,” a press release stated.

Ipswich Council stands to profit by approximately \$26 million from infrastructure fees.

Sign the petition at <https://shorturl.at/eZwps> – volunteers go to <https://shorturl.at/pKwmS>.
