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APPROVAL of the Springview Village Precinct Plan on 170ha of native bushland could pave the way for the extinction of the area's koalas according to a local wildlife expert.

That is the damning verdict of Bellbird Park ecological expert Keith McCosh.

"This is such a vast expanse of their territory that will be lost that I can see no way the local colony of koalas shall survive," Bushcare leader Mr McCosh said.

"They will likely become extinct.

"Taking the forest away will mean a dozen or more koalas cannot join the gene pool of the local group of 100-plus other koalas in the area.

"And this is likely to mean a reduction to around 50 koalas; such a size as this would be too small to sustain themselves.

"So much bushland would be taken out of production, it must be a tipping point for koalas in the area.

"Stockland's environmental report stated no koalas were found, yet a couple of residents spotted five koalas during their own study on a morning walk.

"No one has the right to make koalas functionally extinct in Springfield."

Stockland's plan at Mur Boulevard includes bulldozing ridgelines 14m lower in height and using the overburden to fill the gullies.

Council waived through the plan as councillors sat idle in caretaker mode last week.

Brookwater teacher Emma, one of the more than 200 residents who signed a petition against the plan, said her children have been affected psychologically by the news.

"They say to me, 'Mum, these are endangered animals, how can they kill them like that?'

"One day, we will look back and regret what we did to the environment – it is inevitable; I've lost all faith in local politicians."

Mr McCosh said Mayor Teresa Harding's pre-election campaign of "sustainable growth ... [with] responsible ... environmental stewardship ... minimising negative impacts on ... the environment" has been proved as nonsense.

"When exactly are we going to begin acting sustainably because we now have a frightening scenario unfolding before our eyes," former environmental officer Mr McCosh said.

"A huge eco-system is about to be scrubbed, with Stockland's environmental consultants deeming the land worthless.

"The council gives us a heatmap about planning for urban heat zones, yet they approve a plan to knock down all the trees to create the perfect environment for that very thing.

"So many codes in council's controls have been overlooked by Stockland; council was not without the ability to influence the outcomes.

"Developers are running amok because they have a development control plan; it's unprofessional and bordering on a criminal act to the environment what is happening."

Original plans, she said, had been amended: “To remove some proposed dwellings on the western side, and retain this area as further open space adjacent to Opossum and Woogaroo creeks” and to “retain native wildlife corridors and koala habitat trees.”

Regent honeyeaters, phascogales, rock wallabies, and sugar gliders inhabit the area.



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