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SOMETIMES we forget how unique and special the birds around us in Ipswich are.

Ecologically adrift as an island continent for millennia, Australia benefited by this with the evolution of a remarkable diversity of fascinating, colourful and extremely intelligent species of birds.

Australia is home to around 830 species – more if you include the surrounding islands.

In Ipswich, we are lucky to be able to see many of these wonderful birds right on our doorsteps.

Many species call Woogaroo Forest at Springfield their home – in fact, every single bird you see on this page was photographed at Woogaroo Forest by **Glenys Passier**.

The Ipswich Tribune this week celebrates our stunning birdlife with this special poster for your wall.

Unfortunately, all is not well for the forest and its wildlife.

The forest is earmarked for destruction for the proposed Springview Villages 2 and 3, which will mean clear-felling trees on 160ha of land for more than 1,500 homes.

Interestingly, a Saunders Havill ecological report for the developer Stockland identified only 59 bird species at Woogaroo Forest, despite the online ebird library (<https://ebird.org/home>) detecting 126 species known there.

If you are looking for somewhere to go on the weekend, head to Woogaroo Forest with your camera and help set the record straight.

The council has rubber-stamped only the initial stages of the plan so far, so all is not lost for our wildlife.

The Federal Government is reviewing the biodiversity of the forest via the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.

The EPBC Act regulates development proposals that will have a significant impact on a Matter of National Environmental Significance.

And don't forget, next time you're outside, look up into the trees and appreciate our Aussie bird marvels of evolution for what they really are.

The Ipswich Tribune asked State Premier Steven Miles to discuss with us the plan to bulldoze the forest, but he declined the offer.

Instead, a Housing, Planning and Public Works spokesman said: "Ipswich City Council is responsible for the assessment of the development application.

"The Springfield Structure Plan sits under Ipswich City Council's Planning Scheme."

Get involved with the Save Woogaroo Forest group on Facebook and sign the Queensland Conservation Society petition at

https://www.queenslandconservation.org.au/save_woogaroo_forest_petition