**Submission for the Protection of Woogaroo Forest**

**To:** [Relevant Authority/Minister for the Environment]

**Subject:** Urgent Call for the Protection of Woogaroo Forest

**Date:** [Insert Date]

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed developments in Woogaroo Forest, located in eastern Ipswich, Queensland. This forest, spanning over 450 hectares, is a critical habitat for numerous native species and plays a vital role in maintaining the ecological balance of the region.

Woogaroo Forest is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, including several species listed as threatened in Queensland. Notably, the forest provides habitat for koalas, powerful owls, and brush-tailed phascogales. Additionally, it supports other native species such as sugar gliders, platypus, kangaroos, wallabies, and echidnas. The forest's vegetation includes eucalypt forest and dry rainforest, with the presence of the highly rare and endangered herb, Coleus habrophyllus.

The proposed developments, which include the construction of 1,800 homes, a commercial centre, a childcare centre, and a local sports park, pose a significant threat to the integrity of Woogaroo Forest. These developments would result in habitat fragmentation, loss of biodiversity, and disruption of essential wildlife corridors. The removal of approximately 14 meters from the ridge lines to flatten the landscape would further exacerbate the environmental impact.

The destruction of Woogaroo Forest would not only lead to the loss of critical habitats but also negatively affect the local community. The forest has been a cherished natural area for generations, providing recreational opportunities and contributing to the well-being of residents. The loss of this green space would diminish the quality of life for the community and future generations.

I urge the relevant authorities to take immediate action to protect Woogaroo Forest by:

1. Rejecting the proposed development plans that threaten the forest's ecological integrity.
2. Designating Woogaroo Forest as a protected area to ensure its long-term conservation.
3. Implementing measures to restore and enhance the forest's natural habitats.
4. Engaging with local communities and environmental groups to develop sustainable land-use plans that prioritize conservation.

The protection of Woogaroo Forest is crucial for preserving biodiversity, maintaining ecological balance, and ensuring the well-being of the local community. I strongly urge the authorities to recognize the environmental significance of this forest and take decisive action to safeguard it for future generations.

Thank you for considering this submission.

**Sincerely,**

[Your Name]
[Your Contact Information]