

MEDIA CONTACT



Professor Hugh Possingham FRS, FNAS

Scientific Authority and Media Contact, Save Woogaroo Forest Group

Professor Hugh Possingham is one of Australia's most distinguished conservation scientists, holding a research appointment at The University of Queensland and serving on the Board of the Biodiversity Council, where he contributes to national policy on nature conservation and ecological restoration. He also holds the position of President of BirdLife Australia.

A mathematician and ecologist by training, Professor Possingham is internationally recognised for co-developing Marxan, the world's leading systematic conservation planning software, now used to design protected area networks across more than 100 countries. His work has directly shaped how governments and conservation organisations prioritise where and how to protect nature.

Professor Possingham contributed to the development of Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, the very legislation now being called upon to protect Woogaroo Forest. He also co-authored the Brigalow Declaration, an urgent scientific call to end broadscale land clearing in Queensland. The Declaration directly influenced Premier Beattie's decision to halt land clearing, representing one of the most significant conservation policy wins in Australia's history.

Professor Possingham is a former Queensland Chief Scientist, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, a Fellow of the Royal Society, and a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences. He is a two-time winner of the Eureka Prize for Environmental Research.

He is an anchor signatory to the Expert Open Letter urging Federal Environment Minister Murray Watt to refuse development approvals that would clear Woogaroo Forest, a remnant bushland of national ecological significance in South-East Queensland. He is available to speak with media about the science underpinning the campaign's case for protecting the forest.

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"Federal environment laws are clear: Developments likely to have a significant impact on federally listed species should not proceed."

Professor Hugh Possingham
