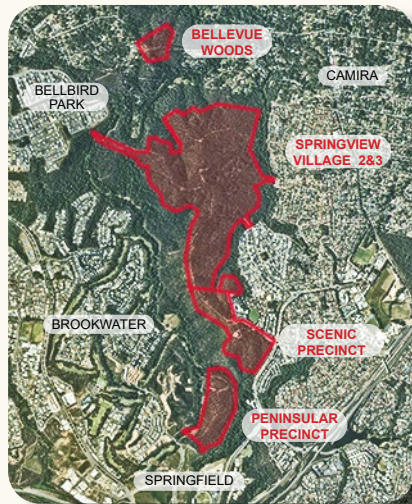


WOOGAROO FOREST: FACT SHEET



WHAT IT IS:

- 450 hectares of remnant eucalyptus woodland and dry rainforest
- Contains critically endangered Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia
- Over 1,000 species recorded by scientists and community naturalists

Woogaroo Forest is one of the last large, mature, connected remnants of native bushland in South-East Queensland's Ipswich/Springfield corridor; a 450-hectare patch sitting at the meeting point of Brisbane, Ipswich and the Lockyer Valley. It is one of the last major remnant of intact native bushland linking the Goodna and Camira wildlife corridors to White Rock Conservation Park. It has taken thousands of years to become what it is today - a thriving, complex ecosystem that cannot be replanted, recreated, or replaced.

THE THREAT:

Four separate development proposals all propose clearing the forest for housing and a commercial centre. Current EPBC Case Referrals: 2019/8575, 2020/8629, and 2020/8651.

The developers: Springfield City Group, Cherish Enterprises and Stockland.

The land has no formal conservation protection. Together they would fragment the corridor, pushing endangered species toward local extinction.

Proposed offsets (replanting cleared paddocks elsewhere) cannot replicate what is lost. Australia is facing an extinction crisis and cannot afford to lose more critical habitat.

A PLAN FROM ANOTHER ERA:

The development was locked in on 23 January 1997 when the Springfield Development Control Plan was gazetted under Queensland planning law. The EPBC Act, Australia's national environment legislation, did not yet exist. It was enacted two years later, in 1999. Koalas were not listed as threatened under any federal law. They would not be listed as endangered in Queensland until February 2022, 25 years later.

This 1997 planning instrument has been carried forward through transitional provisions in every subsequent Queensland planning law, meaning Ipswich City Council and the Queensland Government have no obligation to reassess the development against current environmental standards. The proposed developments are effectively pre-approved under a last-century framework that predates modern biodiversity law, modern koala protections, and modern environmental science.

The Federal Minister's decision under the EPBC Act is the only mechanism through which contemporary environmental standards can be applied, the last regulatory check between this forest and the bulldozers.

WHO LIVES HERE?

- Endangered koalas - including Maximus, the forest's most photographed resident
- Platypus, echidnas, sugar gliders, powerful owls and brush-tailed phascogales
- Provides potential habitat for critically endangered Swift Parrots, Regent Honeyeaters and Greater Glyders seen in the local region.
- Vulnerable Grey-headed flying-foxes and over 130 native bird species
- 400+ native plant species, including critically endangered Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia, rare Woogaroo vine scrub and other rare and endangered plants.



Image: Maximus the koala



Image: resident Powerful Owl