

EXPERT QUOTES



Professor Hugh Possingham FRS, FNAS

“There is no reason to destroy carbon-rich and wildlife-rich intact forest for houses in South-East Queensland – there is plenty of degraded cleared land.”

“The people of Springfield will see their mental and physical health significantly degraded if Woogaroo Forest is destroyed.”

“Woogaroo Forest contains koalas, flying-foxes and populations of declining woodland birds – it should be protected.”

Dr Christina N. Zdenek, BSc, MPhil, PhD

“We are at a tipping point for the conversation of many species. Losing an area so significant as Woogaroo Forest will decimate local populations of native species, and I believe it could lead to the extinction of a number of species.”

“What is happening here is exactly what’s wrong with the nature laws in Australia and why we continue to lose species quicker than just about any nation in the world. A 30-year-old development control plan (the Springfield Structure Plan) is somehow overpowering our national environmental laws (the EPBC Act). It’s utterly shameful and deplorable.”

Professor Sarah Bekessy

**Professor of Urban Ecology and Biodiversity, School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences.
University of Melbourne**

“Quite frankly, it’s staggering that the clearing of such significant vegetation and wildlife habitat so close to a city is even being considered. Nature in cities is critical to livability, delivering substantial benefits to climate resilience and the health and wellbeing of people. It’s a total no brainer to be doing everything we can to restore and bring back nature in cities, but at the very least to protect the golden bits of nature we have left.”

Professor Carlos Nobre FRS.

Senior Researcher, Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Sao Paulo. Director, Amazon Third Way Initiative/Amazonia 4.0 Project

“The global warming is very likely to reach 1.5 C by 2030. It is essential and urgent to reduce GHG emissions globally. Even if emissions are totally reduced within 2 decades, there will be overshooting and global warming may reach 1.7-1.8 C by 2040. It is necessary removing CO₂, and the best way is to zero deforestation and implement large scale forest restoration globally. The Amazon forest is very close to a tipping point, and it is mandatory to zero deforestation, degradation and wildfires by 2030 and implement large scale forest restoration to prevent the tipping point and protect the biodiversity.”

“Australia is being asked to do what every nation is from the Amazon to the Congo: protect what mature native forest remains. Woogaroo is one of those decisions, and the world is watching how it is made.”

Dr Christine Hosking, PhD Conservation Biology, University of Queensland

“People need somewhere to live, but decision-makers must stand firm to protect critically important wildlife corridors such as Woogaroo Forest. Ultimately, local residents will be the winners when the ecosystem services that Woogaroo Forest provides are preserved.”

Professor Rob Heinsohn

Conservation Biologist and Evolutionary Ecologist, Australian National University

“Critically endangered Swift Parrots and Regent Honeyeaters fly thousands of kilometres to feed from remnant woodlands like that found in Woogaroo Forest, Springfield. The Red Ironbarks, Forest Red Gums, and Angophora literally save them from starvation when the trees they normally visit further south fail to flower.”

Professor Margaret Grose

Professor in Landscape Architecture, Agricultural Science and Ecology, University of Melbourne

“The social challenge of housing today should not destroy mature bushland wisely kept by our ancestors. We must avoid arboricidal mania, long a problem in Australia.”

Cr Seal Chong Wah, Greens Councilor for Paddington

“We must stop reckless clearing and protect our wildlife, our community, and our future. Once our precious ecosystems like Woogaroo Forest are lost, they’re lost forever.”

Professor Euan Ritchie, Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at Deakin University,

Councilor within the Biodiversity Council, and President of the Australian Mammal Society

‘Woogaroo Forest is a much-loved and irreplaceable haven for threatened plants and animals, right on the doorstep of Brisbane. For Australia to turn around its dire conservation record, governments must conserve Woogaroo and similarly vital remnant habitats across Australia.’

Professor Rowena Maguire, Director, QUT Centre for Justice

“Biodiversity offsets cannot replace a mature ecosystem like Woogaroo Forest, approving clearing on that basis is not ‘no net loss’, but the irreversible loss of ecological integrity.”

Professor Martine Maron, University of Queensland

“It is hard to see how we can aspire to nature positive outcomes if significant areas of bushland, habitat for threatened species, continue to be destroyed.”