



“Un-Happy Threatened Species Day!” Conservation groups’ outrage at decimation of Queensland wildlife by out-of-control bulldozing of bushland

MEDIA ALERT AND STATEMENT For 7 September - Threatened Species Day

What: Visual protest outside Queensland Parliament

When: Thursday 7th September 11.30am

Where: Speakers Corner, corner of Alice and George Streets, Brisbane

- Community outraged at impact of tree clearing on our rare and endangered wildlife
- 34 million native animals including gliders, koalas, cockatoos and geckoes are killed every year by bulldozing of bushland in Queensland
- Lack of tree clearing controls will drive wildlife to extinction.

Thursday 7th September is National Threatened Species Day, and an alliance of conservation groups and wildlife carers representing tens of thousands of Queenslanders are highlighting the impact of tree clearing on Queensland’s rare and endangered wildlife.

The alliance launched in May 2017 comprises Queensland Conservation Council, WWF-Australia, the Wilderness Society, Environmental Defenders Office Qld, the Sunshine Coast Environment Council, Gecko Environment Council, Mackay Conservation Group, Cairns and Far North Environment Centre, the Queensland Koala Crusaders, Koala Action Inc, Pine Rivers Koala Care Assoc. and other groups.

The key facts are that:

- Bulldozing of bushland kills, injures and displaces 34 million native mammals, birds and reptiles every year in Queensland, according to a recent report from eminent zoologists¹.
- Animals affected include the vulnerable koala as well as gliders, cockatoos and geckoes.
- 84,000ha of koala habitat was bulldozed in Queensland from 2013 to 2015², leaving hundreds of koalas killed, hurt and homeless.
- Queensland is in the midst of an environmental crisis from land clearing, which is having a direct and destructive impact on Queensland’s wildlife.
- A recent *Scientific review of the impacts of land clearing on threatened species in Queensland* found that tree clearing threatens 210 animal species and 739 plant species on the protected list in Queensland, especially the koala, the mahogany glider, the black throated finch and Condamine earless dragon.³
- More than one million hectares has been cleared in just four years⁴. This is equivalent to lining up one thousand D9 bulldozers side by side and clearing a 5km wide swathe of destruction stretching from the Queensland-NSW border up to the tip of Cape York.
- For our threatened wildlife to survive, Queensland needs much stronger laws to prevent the bulldozing of their habitats.

The alliance is calling on all political parties to back the push for stronger tree clearing laws to better protect remnant and other high conservation value woodlands and habitats, and to use a range of means to strengthen legal safeguards, remove risky self-assessments, support better enforcement monitoring and reporting of clearing and its impacts.

For further comment contact:

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Wilderness Society Queensland Campaign Manager - Gemma Plesman on 0423 044 431

Environmental Defenders Office Qld Solicitor - Revel Pointon on 0424 313 627

WWF-Australia media contact: Senior Media Officer - Mark Symons on 0400 985 571

¹ <http://www.wwf.org.au/news/news/2017/tree-clearing-kills-68-million-animals-in-queensland-in-two-years>

² <http://www.wwf.org.au/news/news/2016/84-000-hectares-of-qld-koala-habitat-destroyed-in-2-years>

³ <https://www.chp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/threatened-species/documents/land-clearing-impacts-threatened-species.pdf>

⁴ Queensland Government SLATS reports and linear projection.



For images or video of tree clearing visit <http://bit.ly/1THkSIy> or <http://bit.ly/2rALxO1>