

Kylie Lang on Sunday

Different form of cruelty

AS THE population swells and developers carve up backyards and manufacture new suburbs where once there was bush, our wildlife is fast becoming homeless.

Some of us might still delight in the laugh of a kookaburra and our kids marvel at possums scurrying along powerlines, but for how long?

When I grew up we had wallabies and koalas in our backyard and that was suburban Brisbane only 30 years ago.

Many types of wallaby are now classified as endangered on a list that is growing.

This is not simply due to development, but also to climate change and introduced predators, says Environment Minister Vicky Darling, adding the State Government will double nature reserves by 2020.

Extending protected land and waters is not enough.

We need a sustainable plan for urban and regional development that values nature as more than a pleasing aesthetic and green space as more than a selling point.

We do not own this land; we share it.

As sickened as I was to read last weekend about six hens having their legs ripped off – the pets' owner thinks it was "young people amusing themselves" – isn't disregard for the rights of wildlife to a safe habitat merely another form of animal cruelty? Introduced predators also walk upright.

