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Wildlife carer upset at logging

Peter Gardiner | 12th June 2011

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Tags: koala habitat, koalas, logging, murray chambers, sunshine coast, wildlife carer

IT IS a shocking sight to break the heart and raise the hackles of Coast koala crusader Murray Chambers – a logged native forest, which he believes is vital to the survival of Peregian's local population of struggling marsupials.

On private land just west of the Emu Mountain Rd motorway section north of Murdering Creek Rd, large trees have for weeks lain where they were cut down in this koala habitat area.

For Murray, who makes up one half of Sunshine Coast Koala Wildlife Rescue with brother Ray, the tangled swathe of sawn and broken tree trunks and limbs is a possible koala death sentence.

"Any clearing around here should be a no-no – these are koala food trees," he said, after inspecting logged trees he estimated to be decades old.

The land is believed to be part of 155 hectares private parcel on either side of the roadway, which was knocked back as a site for a 1200-lot residential development in 2008.

Clearing on the other side of the road attracted concerns from Sunshine Coast Council and Noosa MP Glen Elmes in 2009.

"One of the big blokes there has got to be an 80-year-old tree – they have cut down the really big trees," Mr Chambers said.

"Noosa is in big enough trouble now with their koalas without this.

"Noosa is special because it still has what a lot of other places on the Coast have lost – its koalas. But that is not going to last long at this rate.

"Whoever gave permission for this to happen should be sacked. They should be picking up papers on the beach."

Mr Chambers said this apparent sanctioned logging operation was a demonstration of how governments at all levels were ignoring the plight of the koala.



Murray Chambers, of Sunshine Coast Koala Rescue, was disgusted with tree clearing of koala habitat at Peregian.

Geoff Potter

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