

Tree clearing concern is back

By **PETER GARDINER**

TWO years after bulldozers and timber fellers took to the back of Peregian, the same sort of clearing is taking place again and that is potentially bad news for the remaining koala population.

Back then it was land bordered by Monak and Murdering Creek Rds, but this time the felling that has seen large trees taken down and left lying near the roadway, is on the western side of the Sunshine Motorway.

Noosa MP Glen Elmes has been alerted to the latest apparent logging in the area and believes this parcel of land belongs to Jim Barns, who failed to win council approval years ago for a 1200-home, master-planned community.

The dirt tracks that cut through the gum tree forest on Monday led to a stockpile of logs.

Mr Elmes, back in April 2009, demanded a halt to logging being undertaken with a forest practice permit because of



FELLED AGAIN: Trees logged and stockpiled at the back of Peregian.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

concerns the felling would degrade the environmental values.

Mr Barns' legal representatives back in 2006 informed the then Maroochy Council that the owner was not required to have a permit to clear timber.

This was because this was a forest practice under the Vegetation Management Act and was exempt.

Last Monday, this mattered little to the Peregian Springs' resident who noticed that inroads had been made to the local forest canopy and trees brought down.

"Really, there has to be somewhere for the animals to live and land where trees are safe from being cut down," the resident said.