



## Aerial images show extent of land clearing

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Lucy Ardern | April 8th, 2011

A DRAMATIC change in the landscape of land at Worongary -- [where a koala was recently photographed clinging to the top of a bulldozed tree](#) -- has been shown by aerial pictures.

The images, available on [nearmap.com](#), show how many trees have been felled on the land between May 2010 and January this year.

The land, owned by millionaire hermit "Spiney" Bob Anthes until he died in 2004, is now controlled by his nephew and the Perron Group, who are planning to use it to develop high-density housing.

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Councillor Ted Shepherd says council's environmental officers expressed concern on several occasions in the past 18 months about the extent and method of land clearing at the 342ha site off Hinkler Drive.

However, Cr Shepherd said the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) told council officers to "mind their own business".

State Environment Minister Kate Jones said she was alarmed by the accusation, saying evidence of departmental neglect would be investigated, along with claims of a tree being felled while a koala was in it and any illegal relocation of the koala that may have followed.

Property development manager Chris Alston maintains there was nothing illegal about the company's actions, saying it had permission from DERM to clear the land, which was currently used for farming.

The property's farm manager also says the koala climbed up the tree after it had been bulldozed, Mr Alston said.



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