


Conservation groups join forces to lobby government to protect against land clearing

 Toby Crockford

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Every three minutes, a vegetated area the size of the Gabba stadium will have been cleared somewhere in Queensland.

On Sunday, local wildlife and environmental groups joined forces to pressure the government into reinstating policies protecting against such land clearing.



Vanda Grabowski (right) joined the alliance of wildlife and environmental groups pushing for the Queensland Government to reduce land clearing. Photo: Toby Crockford

A total of 10 organisations signed a joint statement outlining a policy plan to protect native vegetation, which will be delivered to every political party in the state.

Wilderness Society state campaign manager Gemma Plesman said the battle began when the Newman Government did not enforce planned legislation protecting against land clearing and gutted the Vegetation Management Act.

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She added the Palaszczuk government had tried to reinstate some protective policies last year, but the LNP opposed the reforms and they were not passed.

Vanda Grabowski from Koala Action Inc also joined the alliance after experiencing first-hand the effects of land clearing.

With almost 25 years of koala caring under her belt, Ms Grabowski said she had cared for thousands of the animals and successfully raised and released more than 50.

However, she has since had to bury 10 of those released koalas, after they were found dead in cleared areas by rescue groups.

"In the olden days, koalas could jump from tree to tree," Ms Grabowski said.

"With the land clearing, it forces koalas to the ground in search of food and shelter, which puts them at risk of being struck by vehicles or attacked by dogs."

She added that she was happy the victims of land clearing had been able to experience life in the wild, but said every death call was just as hard as the last.

"It breaks your heart every single time.

"These are animals I have spent hours looking after, medicating, feeding and cuddling so they're as much a part of me as a human child would be to a human parent."

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