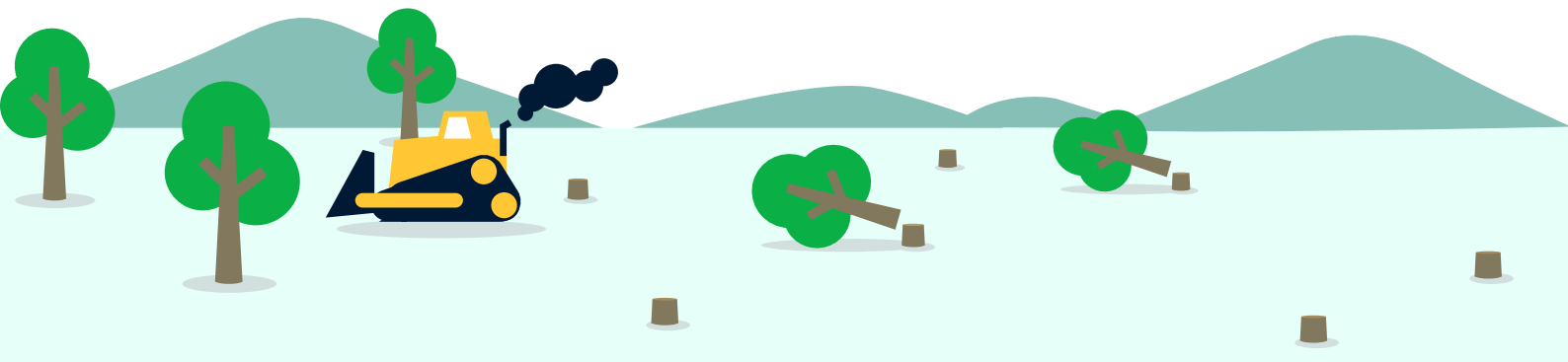


THE QUEENSLAND STATEWIDE LANDCOVER AND TREES STUDY

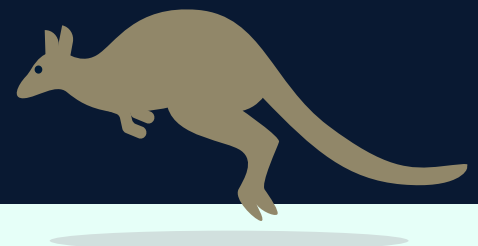
Queensland's plants and animals rely on healthy forests and bushlands to survive—from gliders to cassowaries. However Australia is now recognised as a global deforestation hotspot and Queensland is leading this environmental crisis.

At least 66% of the state's total land clearing activity during the 2019-2020 reporting period was linked to beef.

Queensland's latest deforestation and land clearing figures support a continuing environmental crisis across the state as further analysis by the Wilderness Society of the most recent SLATS has revealed that land clearing and deforestation for beef in Queensland is impacting the state's wildlife. Deforestation in Queensland is threatening native animals, trashing our rivers, escalating dangerous climate change and smothering the globally significant Great Barrier Reef with sediment and chemical runoff.



Sadly, 342 federally listed threatened species (out of 585 in total, nationally) had habitat mapped in areas impacted by clearing activities linked to beef in Queensland—28 of which were critically endangered.



The Wilderness Society's analysis found:

- A total of 920,969 hectares of mapped known or likely to occur koala habitat in Queensland has been impacted by land clearing activity in the last five years of reporting (2015-2020). At least 79% (724,070 hectares) is linked to beef.
- Land clearing activity in areas mapped as known or likely to occur koala habitat in Queensland was the second highest in the last reporting period (2019-2020) since 2013.
- In the last reporting period (2019-2020) 147,575 hectares of land clearing activity in Queensland was within mapped known and likely koala habitat was linked to beef. Of that, 55% was regrowth older than 15 years or remnant (80,631 hectares).



The 2019-2020 reporting period showed that:

418,656 hectares of land was impacted by deforestation and land clearing. Of which, 85% of land clearing activity was for pasture.

The Wilderness Society's analysis found:

- At least 66% of land clearing in Queensland between 2019-2020 was linked to beef (263,641 hectares).
- At least 85% of land clearing activity in Great Barrier Reef catchments from 2019-2020 was linked to beef.
- 261,970 hectares (66%) of land clearing activity in Queensland within mapped known and likely threatened species habitat was linked to beef.
- 342 threatened species had habitat mapped in areas that were impacted by clearing activities linked to beef—28 of which were critically endangered.
- Over the last five years (2015-2020) a total of 2,137,284 hectares of mapped known or likely threatened species habitat was within areas impacted by clearing activity. At least 66% (1,409,108 hectares) of that is linked to beef.

Queensland is the most species rich state on the continent. The analysis, conducted by The Wilderness Society, paints a bleak picture in the midst of a biodiversity crisis.

Out-of-control land clearing and deforestation is having a significant impact on nature, putting at-risk species like the koala on the **fast track to extinction**.

Recommendations

1. **Laws & incentives:** It's imperative for Queensland's forests and bushlands that the state government closes loopholes in the Vegetation Management Act and expands investment in incentives for landholders that protect and restore nature.
2. **Corporate deforestation risk:** There is growing demand, domestically and internationally, for deforestation-free beef. Queensland's big beef buyers like supermarkets and fast food chains should be ahead of the pack with strong deforestation-free commitments and their implementation.
3. **Regular release of SLATS:** The Wilderness Society recommends the release of 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 SLATS figures by the end of 2023 to ensure that the data on land clearing remains at a one year cadence. This helps industry and communities understand the extent of deforestation and land clearing in Queensland.

Learn more about the SLATS report



1. Queensland cadastral data weekly - whole of State (downloaded 14/10/2018) State of Queensland (Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) 2018
2. Rural properties - Queensland (27/11/2018) State of Queensland (Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) 2018
3. Valuation Property Boundaries - Queensland (05/12/2018) State of Queensland (Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) 2018
4. Queensland Valuation System (QVAS) (via Pricefinder) acquired 15/10/2018
5. Statewide landcover and trees study 2013 to 2014 Queensland (12/11/2015) State of Queensland
6. Statewide landcover and trees study 2014 to 2015 Queensland (05/08/2016) State of Queensland
7. Statewide landcover and trees study 2015 to 2016 Queensland (05/10/2017) State of Queensland
8. Statewide landcover and trees study 2016 to 2017 Queensland (10/12/2018) State of Queensland
9. Statewide landcover and trees study 2017 to 2018 Queensland (10/12/2018) State of Queensland
10. Statewide landcover and trees study 2018 to 2019 Queensland (30/12/2021) State of Queensland
11. Statewide landcover and trees study 2019 to 2020 Queensland (14/12/2022) State of Queensland
12. Remnant Extent - 2011 - Queensland (acquired 12/09/2018) State of Queensland (Department of Environment and Science) 2018 - supplied by the Herbarium
13. Remnant vegetation cover - 2017 - Queensland State of Queensland (Department of Environment and Science) Supplied by the Herbarium
14. Remnant vegetation cover - 2019 - Queensland State of Queensland (Department of Environment and Science) Supplied by the Herbarium
15. Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS) Sentinel-2—2019 woody vegetation age since disturbance—Queensland State of Queensland
16. Australia - Species of National Environmental Significance Distributions (public grids) Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment) - (published 22/11/2022) - <https://www.environment.gov.au/fed/catalog/search/resource/downloadData.page?uuid=%7B337B05B6-254E-47AD-A701-C55D9A0435EA%7D>
17. Forest classification of pre-clear regional ecosystems - Drivers of Deforestation and land clearing in Queensland - Wilderness Society - May 2019