



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

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Queensland landholder destroys 60,000ha of bushland home to threatened species without federal assessment

- **Bulldozers must have been operating seven days a week, governments too slow to act**
- **Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt must seek prosecution and remediation**
- **Palaszczuk Government must close LNP loopholes that allow bushland destruction**

Strathmore Station owner Scott Harris has wiped out some 58,000 hectares (580 square kilometres) of woodlands home to threatened species without getting the needed assessment from the Federal Government.

Harris received a Queensland government permit under the Newman LNP government only because it had torn up sensible restrictions on broadscale land clearing. However, the area should have been assessed by Federal Government as it was mapped as habitat for Australia's rarest bird of prey, the Red Goshawk, and other threatened species.

The Wilderness Society first raised concerns about illegal land clearing on Strathmore Station in the northern Gulf country in early 2014 but it seems the Federal Government, the Newman LNP Government and the Palaszczuk Labor Government have all failed to act in time to stop this clearing. However, it has now emerged that the current Queensland government did issue orders to stop the clearing, which were ignored.

"The clearing at Strathmore is truly horrific, and Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt should be throwing the book at Strathmore Station owner Scott Harris for his actions," said Wilderness Society Queensland Campaigns Manager Dr Tim Seelig.

"Harris has apparently ignored orders to stop clearing. Instead, he has pulled out all the stops to clear as much land as possible as fast as possible, despite there not having been any assessment of potential impacts on threatened species. The bulldozers must have been in operation seven days a week.

"This clearing should have been referred to the Federal Department of Environment. Now that appears too late, Minister Hunt should seek prosecution of Harris and orders to remediate the land.

"Meanwhile the Palaszczuk government must shut down the LNP loophole that allows broadscale clearing for cattle grazing. All remaining permits for so-called high value agriculture should be cancelled, and all other new clearing in Queensland allowed by the Newman LNP closed down."

Footage and images of the clearing at Strathmore Station are available on request.

For further comment contact:

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