

S00022 – Madeleine Cannon

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

I have not yet read the papers fully but would like to bring to your attention an insidious system of damage and will quote my latest example of angst.

I live in a village out of Dubbo and the roadside near my house consists of an endangered habitat – not so much the trees, but the habitat – it is part of a corridor from a local forest area and the highway habitat. The empty block of 12 acres is being partially developed (4 acres with 8 lots). I discussed with the developer the matter of clearing trees and he agreed that we could for the most part not interfere with the habitat, and the development area entrance would be on the other street, This has happened. BUT the section towards the corner had a stand of trees with low bushes – flowering a little while ago and grass and ground cover. Frogs were often seen crossing the road in damp conditions, no doubt lizards etc. (those surviving the local cat population) and in these drought conditions the birds are doing it tough. I observed double barred finches, wrens and grey headed (threatened) babbler, choughs and the little apostle birds all busy in this area. Next morning I found the area completely scraped. The large trees remain; the scrub completely gone and the area dosed into a gully rusher for the next flood. This may look neat for the people doing the developing but not for the killed or hungry creatures. I do not see that it is right for a developer to interfere with the habitat outside the fence line. In this case I don't think it was the developer himself but the workers. The fact that they have to replace the grasses with seeding is not much help. It is likely to be something not native and won't save the animals they have displaced.

And NBN has done nearly as much damage opposite my house! Another block used to welcome migratory birds nesting – no longer.

People are staling timber – and cutting down gum trees in the forest illegally. This is not policed.

My point is that I see licencing – rightfully- being legislated for the keeping and management of wildlife, but nothing going in place to make development less damaging to the local areas. I am sure this could be done. Although with the freeing up of clearing on land I have now seen some beautiful old habitat trees going down as I travel.

One hears a lot of debate about loss of species etc. but I don't see too many people applying it close to home – which might not look “neat and tidy” but would be effective.

All domestic cats should be housed – not free to kill.

Thank you

Madeleine Cannon