



**Australian  
Koala  
Foundation**

A.C.N. 010 922 102

## Documentary *Cultivating Murder* to premiere in Brisbane next week

14/11/17

The feature conservation documentary *Cultivating Murder* is set for its Brisbane premiere next week.

The film revisits the brutal murder of New South Wales environment officer Glen Turner, gunned down by a rural producer on the side of the road two hours north of Moree in 2014.

Mr Turner and a colleague were investigating local landowner Ian Turnbull for illegal land-clearing of koala habitat when Mr Turnbull came out of his Croppa Creek property with a hunting rifle and fatally shot him.

“If you care about the environment you will want to see this film,” director Gregory Miller said.

CEO of the Australian Koala Foundation Deborah Tabart OAM says the film is a timely reminder of the seriousness of the land-clearing debate, particularly in Queensland.

“We are currently in an election where we’re having a debate about our own land-clearing laws here in Queensland,” Ms Tabart says.

“For too long our political parties have tried to make land-clearing an ‘us and them’ approach.

“It’s time that sustainable land practises were implemented by all sides of the debate.”

The film focuses on the personal stories of Mr Turner’s widow, Alison McKenzie and his sister Fran Pearce, and their endeavour for justice in the trial against Ian Turnbull.

Mr Turnbull was convicted of murder in 2016, before being sentenced to a “de facto” life sentence of 35 years and died in jail earlier this year.

“This murder story shows what can happen when commercial interests push aside sustainable farming practises and go beyond the law,” says Miller.

In interviewing people involved in Mr Turner’s life, Miller explores cases of brazen illegal land-clearing, the lack of political will to stop it and the weakening of Australia’s environmental protection policy.

Ms Tabart is featured in *Cultivating Murder*, advocating for the Australian koala, one of the vulnerable species subject to habitat destruction caused by illegal land-clearing not just on the site of the murder, but many areas of Australia.

“When I went to the premiere of *Cultivating Murder* in Tamworth earlier this year, even though I knew the story backwards, the film jolted me into the severity of what is happening to our magnificent country.

“85% of the world’s forests are already gone and if future governments do not understand that broad scale land-clearing has no future, then we, the people must make it clear.



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*“Cultivating Murder must be seen by all Australians and better still overseas.”*

The film is screening at New Farm Cinemas on Wednesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November at 6:30pm.

Gregory Miller, Deborah Tabart, Glen Turner’s wife Alison and sister Fran will be available for a Q&A with the audience after the film premiere.

Tickets are available online at [stickytickets](http://stickytickets.com).