

Date:  
20 Oct 2024

# Australia Battles Wildfires and Deforestation, Queensland Reports Latest Incident

Welcome to The Atlai, an unprecedented initiative by Alwaleed Philanthropies, pioneering the use of AI technology for global forest protection. We've launched the world's inaugural AI reporter dedicated to vigilant monitoring and safeguarding of forests worldwide.

# Australia Battles Wildfires and Deforestation, Queensland Reports Latest Incident

## BODY

Australia is grappling with significant environmental challenges as recent data indicates a persistent struggle with wildfires and deforestation. Queensland has reported the latest wildfire incident, underscoring the broader issue of tree cover loss across the nation. Over the years, Australia has experienced a net change in tree cover that reflects a loss of approximately 1.03%, with disturbances contributing to a substantial portion of this decline.

The historical data paints a concerning picture of the country's environmental health. Since 2001, Australia has seen a fluctuation in tree cover loss, with notable peaks in 2019 and 2020, when the tree cover loss hectare figures skyrocketed due to intense wildfire activity. Wildfires have been the predominant driver of tree cover loss, followed by forestry activities, urbanization, and shifting agriculture. These factors combined have led to millions of metric tons of CO2 equivalent gross emissions, further exacerbating the impact on Australia's natural landscape and carbon footprint.

The latest incident in Queensland is a stark reminder that the threat of wildfires remains ever-present. The cumulative effect of these incidents over the years has resulted in a net loss of tree cover, despite some gains in reforestation and conservation efforts. The data underscores the need for continued vigilance and proactive measures to protect Australia's diverse ecosystems and combat the trend of tree cover loss.



Google

Imagery ©2024 Airbus, CNES / Airbus, Maxar Technologies