



Two days of hearings scheduled for ecosystem decline inquiry

The Legislative Council's Environment and Planning Committee will hold two days of public hearings for its inquiry into ecosystem decline in Victoria, on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.

The public hearings will be broadcast live on the Victorian Parliament's [website](#) from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm on Tuesday April 20 and from 9:00 am to 4:15 pm on Wednesday April 21.

On Tuesday the Committee will hear from the Yarra Riverkeeper, Andrew Kelly, Nicholas Aberle, Campaigns Manager with Environment Victoria, Paul Sullivan, CEO of Birdlife Australia and experts on ecology and environmental law.

On Wednesday the Committee will hear from, among others, Professor David Cantrill, Executive Director Science at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and a range of technical and scientific experts.

The schedule is available on the Committee's [website](#).

The inquiry is examining measures to restore habitats and populations of threatened and endangered species. Under the terms of reference, issues being considered include:

- the extent of the decline of Victoria's biodiversity and the likely impact on people and ecosystems
- the adequacy of the legislative framework protecting Victoria's environment and ecosystems, particularly in the context of climate change impacts
- the adequacy and effectiveness of government programs
- opportunities to restore the environment while upholding First Peoples' connection to country.

The Committee has received nearly 950 [written submissions](#).

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