



Ecosystem decline inquiry to hear from threatened species experts

Next week the Legislative Council's Environment and Planning Committee will hold two days of public hearings for its inquiry into ecosystem decline in Victoria.

The public hearings will be broadcast live on the Victorian Parliament's [website](#) from 10:00 am on Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 February.

Among the witnesses are experts and organisations working in the field of wildlife and/or threatened and endangered species. Also appearing are organisations dealing with invasive or threatening species, including advocates for evidence-based management of deer and brumby populations. The schedule is available on the Committee's [website](#).

Witnesses on Tuesday include the Threatened Species Conservancy, Victorian Wildlife Shelters Coalition and Wildlife Victoria.

On Wednesday the Committee will hear from the Invasive Species Council as well as the Australian Deer Association and the Australian Brumby Alliance.

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.

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