

From: [POV eSubmission Form](#)
To: [ecosystems](#)
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria
Date: Sunday, 30 August 2020 1:00:40 PM

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

MR Shane Ellis
[REDACTED]

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Dear Members of the Committee,

I would like to make a submission to the Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria.

My name is Shane Ellis and I am privileged live in beautiful South Gippsland.

I run a successful business as a farrier and as such spend many hours travelling.

10 years ago my partner and I realised that native ecosystems in Victoria were noticeably in decline. We attributed this to urban sprawl, bushfires, logging and clearing of land for agriculture.

Deciding that we simply had to do something we purchased a farm in The Gurdies. Since purchase we have eliminated weeds, cleaned up the creek and planted 20,000 native grasses, shrubs and trees. It has been a lot of hard work but extremely rewarding. We have watched with pleasure as entire eco-systems regenerate. To see families of such things as Flame Robins, Superb Blue Wrens, Wombats, Wallabies, Snakes and Lizards move back in has been the success story of our lives.

The havoc wrought by the 2019/20 bushfires bought me to tears. It has made forest protection even more urgent. We simply cannot allow any more of our dwindling native habitat to disappear.

We are are in the midst of a climate catastrophe. Our forests are becoming increasingly important, in removing carbon pollution from the air we all breathe, nourishing us with clean air and safe, clean drinking water.

Victoria needs a new, independent, well resourced conservation regulator to police deforestation and other destructive industries. The EPA is the independent watchdog for pollution, but currently there is no independent watchdog to ensure industries comply with environmental laws, with numerous breaches to laws continuing to occur and a long

history of regulators turning a blind eye.

I think it is urgent we act NOW to save our beautiful, wonderful natural environment from further exploitation.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission, and I invite any further discussion.

Sincerely,

Shane Ellis.

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File1:

File2:

File3: