

Environment and Planning Committee
Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

16th August, 2020

Dear Members of the Committee,

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

My name is Leda Ly. I am a community member, and also a lawyer who is passionate about human rights, social justice, and environmental justice.


I believe that there is no human rights without a healthy, thriving Planet Earth, and we need to do the utmost now to ensure that we do everything in our power to protect the environment and prevent the decline of Victoria's ecosystem.

I have lived in Melbourne since I was young (I was born in New South Wales), and have moved around substantially over the 28 years of my life. I am proud to call myself an Australian citizen, that is, until I heard about the rapidly declining situation of our wildlife and forests, in particular, the Great Barried Reef and the near-extinction of koals, which I love, and have had the pleasure of hugging one once, on a family trip to north Queensland.

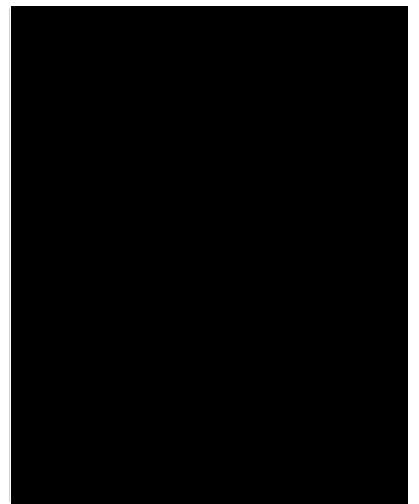
It would absolutely devastate me if species like the koalas and Greater Gliders became extinct, due to the logging that is happening to their habitat, and the deforestation of Victorian forests, places I and many other nature loves love to escape to on a weekend, to improve mental/general health and wellbeing, and to get some fresh air, something I think we would all agree is integral, since the presence of COVID-19, and once Lockdown 2.0 is over in Victoria. One of my favourite places to hike is the Werribee Gorge State Park (pictured).

As you undertake this important inquiry into Victorian's extinction crisis, I request that you please:

1. Bring your commitment to the 2030 rapid logging industry transition forward, immediately prioritising the protection of unburnt Greater Glider habitat and a continued moratorium on logging in East Gippsland;
2. Develop carbon accounting and policies that include Victorian forests;
3. Recognise the rights and interests of the Traditional Custodians of the land, including traditional management practices such as cultural fire, and recognise the impact that declining ecosystems have on First Nations peoples; and
4. Ensure the EPA holds industries to account and compliance with environmental laws.

I thank you kindly for your consideration of my submission, and I invite any further discussion via email at .

Yours Sincerely,



Leda Ly



(Wurundjeri Country)