

From: Jonathan de Kock <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Monday, 17 August 2020 3:21 PM
To: ecosystems
Subject: Submission to Parliamentary Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Victorian Parliament's Inquiry into ecosystem decline in Victoria.

I'm deeply concerned about the declining health of Victoria's environment, and wish to make a submission as such. I, as the whole community of Victoria depend on a healthy environment for our own health and wellbeing, and it's vitally important for MPs from all parties and the Victorian Government to take action to protect and restore our environment.

I understand that the Victorian Government was required to respond to the State of Environment Report with a plan of action within 12 months, and it seems this hasn't happened. While CoViD-19 is a priority in most areas of the government, it's important that the environment isn't neglected.

Decline in Victoria's ecosystems and wildlife is driven by some key threats. I'm not going to go into a lot of detail, as I am not an expert, and experts will provide the committee with the needed information. However, I wanted to highlight some key threats I have noticed, and it would be great if this committee could consider and address them.

The big thing we all think about is climate change, and our emissions. Burning fossils fuels is unsustainable, and will change the future of our planet in an irreversible way. Not only will the effects of climate change change the way we all live, but it'll also affect us all fiscally.

The summer of 2019-2020, we experienced the bushfire season in history, in Australia. People lost their homes, cities were blanketed in smoke for months and incredulous amounts of animals suffered. Not only did dry bush burn, but rainforests as well. Living in East Gippsland, I firsthand saw the effects of the fires, and was privileged to see the generosity of the public. However, the government must do its part. Imposing restrictions on emissions in Victoria, investing in renewable energy, and investing in the CFA will do so much to protect Victoria's environment, and stop animal extinction, at a low cost.

Victoria is statistically the most cleared state in Australia, with around two thirds of the state cleared of native trees, shrubs and plants. Please consider curbing this, and bring further restrictions on logging. Retrain workers, and stop subsidizing non-profitable ventures (such as in the Nowa Nowa region)

I'd like to highly recommend a save our species program for Victoria, further government investment, and more funding for our parks.

Right now, I am aware the Victorian Government is grappling with the complex nature of COVID-19. However, the threats to our environment have not gone away. We all depend on a healthy world for our health and happiness, and that means we need to be able to tackle the health crisis of COVID-19, while also protecting and restoring Victoria's ecosystems, that our animals, plants, people and communities depend on.

I look forward to seeing strong action to protect and restore Victoria's environment as a result of the work of this committee, and fiscal stimulus the support the economy and protect nature,

I am happy for my submission to be made public.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan de Kock

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