

**From:** Maurice Perry <campaigns@good.do>  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 August 2020 3:23 PM  
**To:** ecosystems  
**Subject:** To the Parliamentary Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

**Categories:** Submissions

Dear Committee Members,

Please genuinely protect our wildlife, both flora and fauna by halting and preventing any destruction or deterioration of ecosystems/habitat.

As a teacher, parent, concerned citizen and avid bushwalker I am very concerned about the declining health of Victoria's environment. We can never get a species back once it has become extinct....gone forever. Our natural environment must be protected for the future health of all people.

The 2018 findings of Victoria's Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability are alarming. It is not only our responsibility to halt this decline but we must urgently begin to restore and rejuvenate damaged systems.

The Victorian Government is doing an admirable job during the Covid 19 crisis but they must respond to the State of Environment Report with their action plan. Covid 19 cannot be used as an excuse for complacency and apathy. The environmental credentials of this government are not good.

The body of information and evidence growing around the impact of Climate Change and the supporting evidence seen in bushfires, extreme weather events, sea level rises and the loss of species needs to be addresses urgently. The loss of plants animals and and the degradation of waterways and landscapes are all grave warnings.

We must end the use of fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse emissions and move to non polluting sustainable power sources.

We must stop all land clearing and deforestation, move to plantation timbers only, and regenerate forests or vegetation in all denuded areas. Victoria should immediately transition out of native forest logging, with financial support for workers and the industry. The Victorian Parliamentary Budget Office estimates this would save the Victorian budget \$190 million. Victoria is the most cleared state in Australia, with around two thirds of the state cleared of native trees, shrubs and plants. In Victoria, over 700 native plants, animals, insects and ecosystems are under threat.

The declining state of biodiversity in Victoria was made profoundly worse with the Black Summer fires, which burned 1.4 million hectares, just in Victoria, and destroyed more than 50% of the habitat for 185 rare and threatened Victorian animals, plants and other creatures.

Victoria has more than 70 forest dependent threatened species, yet native forest logging is set to continue until 2030 in Victoria. This is despite a recent federal court case that found much logging in Victoria is in breach of national environmental laws and is directly driving animal extinction.

As part of this whole plan we need to eliminate invasive species of flora and fauna with a comprehensive and fully funded program to remove introduced plants and animals and a massive replanting program to restore habitat across the state. This would also be a great way to employ many out-of-work Victorians as we rebuild our economy following COVID-19.

A fully funded and public program to prevent any further loss of species and to save those threatened by extinction must begin immediately. The losses since settlement are astonishing and are continuing, made worse by recent bushfires and the logging and land clearing that still continues.

Negotiation and cooperation with private landowners must be included in the plan as the losses are not just occurring on public lands. There are many individuals already doing what they can to restore farms and properties, and they would benefit greatly from Government assistance and guidance. Buying back denuded private land is also a valuable way of increasing the effectiveness of the plan.

The protection of our environment must be better enshrined in legislation that actually gives the Government and its representatives the power to intervene when laws are being ignored; and also compels the responsible departments to act.

Thank you for listening. People not profit!

Yours sincerely,

Maurice Perry

[REDACTED]

---

This email was sent by Maurice Perry via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at [campaigns@good.do](mailto:campaigns@good.do), however Maurice provided an email address [REDACTED] which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Maurice Perry at [REDACTED]

To learn more about Do Gooder visit

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dogooder.co%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cecosystems%40parliament.vic.gov.au%7Cf5df4d901f844e53b9e208d8426dad52%7C821af0ec31404137af0e6690286fb673%7C0%7C0%7C637332386124084020&sdata=oiVECFfIbQW0vfgOjruU45yevwRCZsdiw%2BGDRvqxEs4%3D&reserved=0>

To learn more about web protocol RFC 3834 visit:

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftools.ietf.org%2Fhtml%2Frfc3834&data=02%7C01%7Cecosystems%40parliament.vic.gov.au%7Cf5df4d901f844e53b9e208d8426dad52%7C821af0ec31404137af0e6690286fb673%7C0%7C0%7C637332386124084020&sdata=vts3RVH0CMCUh9G3ErsJd43st9UWUrThIjpLjclGa7w%3D&reserved=0>