

From: Anna [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 August 2020 1:53 PM
To: ecosystems
Subject: Submission to extinction inquiry

Categories: Submissions

To the inquiry into Victoria's extinction crisis,

My name is Anna Thwaites. My phone number is [REDACTED]. Below is a short submission to your inquiry, I'm happy for it to be made public.

It's a bad irony that I find wild nature to be the most comforting and restorative place to turn when feeling low, and that the main source of my worries these days is the destruction of that wilderness. In trying to comfort myself I am meditating on the very thing that I'm worried I'm going to lose - a source of comfort and joy that could become a historical idea for a future generation who won't ever be able to get away from human environments and into a place that shows them a larger perspective.

The beauty of the Victorian bush and wildlife is enough to lift your spirits in and of itself. Seeing something beautiful can change your mood, day, month. But the knowledge that there are places and creatures that have been here for thousands of years and continue to be unaffected by and oblivious to whatever human concerns I am caught up in, whether or not I am experiencing their existence firsthand, is existentially comforting. The world is bigger than us. The fact that opportunities for these experiences of beauty and of something larger than myself have already been massively reduced, and that what remains is increasingly imperilled by the supremacy of short-term financial gain over all other ideas of happiness and quality of life is awful to face and I hope that the findings of your inquiry will prompt action that changes that trajectory and works to restore what has been lost where possible, and prevent any further losses.

Please change the laws so that native forest logging is ended, coal and gas are phased out, destructive and unnecessary development is stopped, and strong penalties are applied to those who kill native wildlife or clear natural habitats. Please invest in plans for regrowth and restoration of native wildlife before we lose any more species and butcher ecosystems and the future of the Victorian bush.

Thank you,

Anna Thwaites