

**From:** Charlotte Pache <campaigns@good.do>  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 August 2020 4:25 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 am making a submission as a member of the public because I'm deeply concerned about the declining health of Victoria's environment. All of us 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 live near the Merri Creek in Coburg and I've seen firsthand the impact of lax environmental controls - including one incident earlier this year when the creek turned pink due to illegal runoff. I'm concerned that polluters are not being punished for this kind of behaviour.

I also have an 8 year old son and I am very worried about what sort of world he is going to grow up in. What is going to be left of our precious natural environment by the time he is an adult?

I am particularly concerned about the ongoing rates of state-sanctioned land clearing and deforestation. Surely in the wake of Australia's worst bushfire season in history, and as a result of the economic impacts of Covid-19, there needs to be a radical rethink of our approach to the natural world.

Victoria can lead the way with a green recovery, but some things will have to change on an urgent basis:

- urgently stop burning fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) for energy by 2030 and reduce other sources of greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. from transport and agriculture) to limit global warming and its impacts

- immediately transition out of native forest logging, with financial support for workers and the industry

- instigate a comprehensive and fully funded program to remove introduced plants and animals and a massive replanting program to restore habitat across the state

- reform Victoria's Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act so that where private or government activities would damage our ecosystems and threatened species, the Environment Minister must by law step in to prevent or limit the activity

I look forward to seeing strong action to protect and restore Victoria's environment as a result of the work of this committee.

I am happy for my submission to be made public.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Pache

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