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Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Kara Freedman



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am writing a submission in regard to the Inquiry Into Ecosystem Decline. I am a uni student at University of Melbourne studying a Master of Environment. In my subjects, focusing on natural resource management and climate change, we return time and again to the importance of forest ecosystems as carbon sinks and as essential habitat for innumerable flora and fauna big and small. I am very concerned about the rate of biodiversity loss and general ecosystem decline across Victoria.

In particular, I would like to address the term of reference (d) regarding “legislative, policy, program, governance and funding solutions to facilitate ecosystem and species protection, restoration and recovery in Victoria, in the context of climate change impacts.” I urge the government to protect native forests by mandating the logging industry to switch to 100% plantation logging as soon as possible, by 2021 at the latest. Maintaining and restoring Victoria’s native forests must be a key part of Australia’s climate mitigation strategy because these forests count for a huge percentage of the state’s natural carbon sink. The sooner that we move to protect these beautiful places and employ the services they provide to our benefit, the better.

As a bushwalker, a gardener, and a student of climate change and the environment, I urge the Victorian government to protect our forests by restricting logging to plantations in order to promote the conservation and restoration of our native ecosystems.

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