

From: Clarke, Imogen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 August 2020 8:15 PM
To: ecosystems
Cc: office@ellensandell.com; office@vic.greens.org.au
Subject: Extinction Enquiry submission

Categories: Submissions

Full Name: Imogen Clarke

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Dear Committee members,

Thank you for this much needed opportunity for the public to share their thoughts regarding climate action and justice.

I am a fourteen year old girl living in rural Victoria, and I am passionate about the fight against climate change and the destruction of Earth's biodiversity. I have attended multiple climate protests, including both on the streets and digitally.

It is time for the government to open its eyes and fulfill its moral obligation of protecting our state's environment. Victoria could claim the title of taking the first decisive and effective action against the current and impending climate crisis, through the widespread establishment of renewable energy and wildlife protection legislation.

Although the Victorian government and much of Australia is focused on saving lives during the Coronavirus pandemic, there is also another disaster that will inevitably claim many more. Due to the increasing average temperatures globally, the ocean is warming and becoming more acidic at an alarming rate. Sea levels are rising, causing many low lying islands, such as Tuvalu to become inundated. This will lead to mass migration and the loss of homes for millions across the globe. The Victorian government must play its needed role in the fight against those types of events that humanity is currently heading towards through its own self destruction.

This includes introducing government pay-outs to households around the state to install solar panels. With governmental assistance, more will be able to afford these vital energy producers, reducing the need to burn harmful and future-wrecking fossil fuels. Australia has some of the highest levels of direct sunlight in the world, why don't we use it instead of burning coal, gas and oil that will eventually run out?

The Victorian government must also fund the creation of new technologies around recycling and a transition away from plastic. With so many other options, such as biodegradable seaweed and mycelium 'plastic', the pollutant is no longer needed in today's society. With the emergence of new technologies and science around these areas, Victoria has the chance to harness a new and sustainable future. The creation of efficient and ecologically sound recycling plants around the state will create more jobs and an easier and more accessible recycling system.

As well as this, the Victorian government needs to create a more sustainable and wildlife-conscious logging industry. Only a very small area must be allocated towards deforestation, with the large majority of Victorian bushland reserved for the protection of endangered wildlife and the conservation of our beautiful forests. Would you agree with the notion that it is vital for the next generations to come to be able to witness the majesty and unique biodiversity of Victoria's natural landscape? Or is it more beneficial to contribute to brutal deforestation and the dwindling of our much loved native species?

The next generation would like a world to live in, let alone a safe and thriving one. Humanity can choose its path; will it select self-destruction, or will it take control of this growing crisis and create a safer and more enjoyable planet, for all species?

Imogen Clarke, [REDACTED].