

To whom it may concern.

My name is Shane Ellis. My partner and I own a small farm in South Gippsland. Since purchasing the farm we have been working to eradicate weeds and pests, clean up the dams and creek and plant thousands of native trees and shrubs.

It has been truly amazing to witness the return to health of our land and watch the rapid return of wildlife. We have been able to do this in conjunction with running a small cattle breeding operation. This indicates to us that commercial activity and restoration of native habitat can beneficially co-exist.

Like many Victorians we were shocked and saddened at the unprecedented destruction of flora and fauna caused by this summer's bushfires. The numbers in terms of habitat destruction of rare and endangered species was genuinely horrifying. However, as we have witnessed on our property, with correct care, management and protection these systems will flourish again in the future. I believe it is incumbent for Victoria to act now to preserve and protect our ecosystems.

I would call upon the government to act now to provide some or all of the following solutions.

1. A dedicated program for reviving species facing extinction.
2. A massive program of weed and invasive species eradication. This would have the added benefit of providing jobs.
3. A state-wide and full time tree-planting workforce to restore habitat.
4. Rapidly transition to renewable energy, phasing out fossil fuel. It is interesting that Tasmania and South Australia (States that do not have a coal lobby) have been able to transition rapidly and effectively. COAL IS DEAD. Move on.
5. Strengthen laws that allow the destruction of native habitat and animals with little ramifications.
6. Stop the ever expanding suburban spread. Use London as an example and draw a line past which no further development takes place.
7. Put an end to native forest logging and transition to a plantation based model.

Kind Regards,

Shane Ellis,


