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From: Tom Clarke [REDACTED]
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To: ecosystems
Subject: Submission to Vic Parliamentary Extinction Inquiry

Categories: Submissions

Hello there

I'd like to share my thoughts below with the Committee examining extinction in Victoria.

Thanks

Tommy Clarke
[REDACTED]

I'm deeply concerned about the increasing rates of deforestation around the world and the tragic extinction that results from it. Here in Victoria, we can play our part in reversing this trend.

In addition to preserving our current areas of pristine wilderness, we have an opportunity to expand our nature reserves. Through an ambitious tree planting and weeding program we could ensure native wildlife have adequate habitats to live in, we would be helping global efforts to tackle the climate emergency, and we could create thousands of jobs at a time when we are needing economic stimulus.

One of my favourite places in Victoria is Wilson's Promontory National Park and the surrounding areas such as Cape Liptrap Coastal Park. When I'm walking through the forests in the Coastal Park with my children, it's easy to assume the forests have been there for hundreds of years, but in many parts it was actually farmland less than a century ago. The point I'm making is, in the scheme of things it doesn't take long for these sorts of investments in tree planting and land rehabilitation and management programs to provide our communities and wildlife with such priceless treasures.

The farmland behind the Coastal Park also featured many windmills generating clean energy to Victorian homes. I'd love to see the Victorian Government significantly boost the amount of renewable power produced in our state. All of the best evidence suggests we have about 10 years to avoid runaway climate change by urgently transitioning to a carbon free economy. It's the right thing to do and the amount of jobs that would be created through these initiatives would be significant.

The community looks to Parliament and our law-makers to manage our lands and ensure our forests, rivers and mountains - and the animals that call them home - are all protected.

I hope you take this opportunity to create stronger environmental laws, that:

- will end native forest logging
- stop the killing of wildlife
- wont allow companies to clear land and destroy habitats with little accountability
- immediately phase out coal and gas burning and begin a just transition to a carbon free economy.

Thanks for listening.