



From: POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 August 2020 3:42 PM
To: ecosystems
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Mr Tom Knowles



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Dear Members of the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning,

I am writing to you with regard to your enquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria. As a young child my parents instilled in me a love for nature and especially for bushwalking and mountain climbing. That was nearly seventy years ago and my greatest pleasure remains getting out on foot into the bush and communing with nature.

However that pleasure has diminished over the years as our precious and wonderful ecosystems have come under severe pressure from a several quarters. These are easy enough to identify: urban sprawl, industrial development, poorly resourced environmental management, poorly enforced environmental protection legislation, destructive forestry practices, the unchecked invasion of predatory feral animals, and above all the over-arching and increasingly ominous threat of global warming and climate change.

There are many initiatives that I hope you will ensure are taken to protect the diversity of flora and fauna in our state ecosystems. I will confine myself to a few:

1) ensure that protected areas are not small isolated plots of land. It is essential for native animals to be able to move freely in adequate space. It's not enough for the overall amount of protected land to add up to an impressive total.

There needs to be a system of wildlife corridors connecting these spaces so that they link up and create a large enough habitat for native species.

2) ensure that adequate measures are taken to control the invasion of feral pests such as cats that prey on native birds and animals and deer that damage the ecosystem. I fully realise these are contentious actions which arouse strong feelings in the community but sentiment must not prevail over the imperative of saving our native species

3) ensure that commitments to secure, protect and conserve native grasslands are honoured and implemented within a mandatory short time-frame; these commitments have been shamefully neglected.

I will just name a few others: an end to the logging of native and old-growth forests, the extension of marine parks along the coast to protect marine plant life and fish, a permanent ban on both on-shore and off-shore fossil fuel exploration and extraction, and speeding up the transition from fossil-fuelled power generation to renewable energy.

I urge you to take a robust and resolute stand on these and associated issues. Victoria's biosystems are invaluable. They need protecting now.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Knowles

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File1:

File2:

File3: