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From: Tony Polack [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 August 2020 8:40 PM
To: ecosystems
Subject: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Dear Committee Manager,

Please note the following:

- Impacts of native forest logging and land clearing as a key driver of biodiversity, threatened species and ecosystem decline.
- The catastrophic impacts of the 2019/2020 bushfires which wiped out over 1 billion native animals, and over 70% of forests in East Gippsland.
- **No consent from Traditional Owners in regards to logging, no consideration of the cultural and spiritual significance of forests and wildlife to First Nations Peoples, no consideration or acknowledgement of the impacts of environmental degradation on First Nations Peoples.**
- The impacts of climate change on threatened species, and the strong links between climate change and bushfires, which poses a severe threat to the continued survival of threatened species and ecosystems.
- Inadequate protections for threatened species and their habitat.
- Weak and ineffective state and federal environmental regulation.
- Lack of funding for National Parks, restoration projects, weed and pest control

Recommendations/actions:

- A rapid transition out of native forest logging to remove one of the key drivers of decline of threatened species in Victoria. Key areas of habitat must be identified and protected, as critical areas which threatened species rely on to survive are still under threat of logging.

A R Polack
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