



From: POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>
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Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Ms Judith and John Blyth



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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We are a 74 and 80 year old great grandparents now living in Perth (which we hope will not disallow our submission.) Having spent over half our lives in Victoria, during which time our family holidayed much in East Gippsland, and developed a passionate love of its complex and biodiverse systems, We feel strongly that we must make a stand for their preservation.

The extreme wildfires of the Black Summer of 2019-2020 were torture to wildlife and human life alike and so much was lost. We believe this devastation was a direct consequence of climate change and induced by human mismanagement of the environment. We also believe that lessons have been learnt and that we can do so much better in future. As the natural estate of Victoria diminishes it is all the more urgent that surviving biodiversity is protected by better laws and action. Unburnt areas must be protected as from them recovery can grow. We humans depend on the services that natural wilderness provides just as much as the terrestrial (and marine) flora and fauna. We lose it at our peril. We protect it if we are wise and thinking of the future. 70% of East Gippsland's forests were savagely burnt so it is imperative that surviving areas be saved from further destruction. No more land clearing or logging should be permitted. We also must spurn use of fossil fuels which exacerbate climate change. If we fail to achieve this urgent need we will inevitably experience more Black Summers in future, our winters will continue to shrink while our summers expand. It is so urgent that we, as a species at risk ourselves succeed in meeting the challenge of climate change.

Victoria's Black Summer experience has brought much more attention to the traditional fire management practices of its First People. They deserve respect for their wisdom honed over many millennia before European occupation of their country. Their knowledge of fire management and ecology was practised by some in the lead up to the last monstrous fire season. This proved that their way prevented some of the worst fire devastation in those areas where they had operated with carefully controlled use of fire. Sensitive patchwork burning showed that we White Fellas have much to learn from them - and we hope that we can learn fast! Let us respect and humbly learn and apply. It would be such a win-win. Traditional Owners should have the right to preserve their cultural and spiritual values. We owe them this at least and we will be the beneficiaries as well as Victoria's complex biodiverse ecosystems are strengthened under their guidance.

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File1:

File2:

File3: