



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 Marion Gray



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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In Victoria we are facing the collapse of ecosystems and an extinction crisis of native species at an alarming rate. Our government has contributed to this through its inaction and lack of transparency, allowing rogue operators to engage in illegal logging and land clearing of native forests over a long period of time. As a result we are quickly losing the biodiversity which will be a key to the survival of future generations.

This situation is now even more dire due to the catastrophic impacts of the 2019/2020 bushfires, which wiped out over one billion native animals and over 70% of forests in East Gippsland.

It is of utmost urgency that we strengthen our state environmental laws and enforce them, to close the loopholes that allow exploitation of nature. We need a rapid transition away from the practices of the past - extractive industries can no longer be given a free pass to encroach on Victoria's natural environments.

We need strong action on climate change, recognising the impacts of climate change on threatened species and ecosystems, and the strong links between climate change and bushfires.

Adequate protections need to be put in place for threatened species and their habitats. Key areas of habitat must be identified and protected, as critical areas which threatened species rely on to survive are still under threat from logging, mining, development and fossil-fuel projects.

We need adequate funding for the restoration of areas which have been heavily impacted by bushfires and / or logging and other extractive industries, and for weed and pest control in Victoria's National Parks.

First Nations people need to be given custodianship of their traditional lands and be involved in their management.

These changes will help create a resilient future for Victorian nature, wildlife and communities that we can all depend upon.

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File3: