

Hello Political Leaders and Ministers,

I am excited to contribute to the Parliamentary Inquiry regarding Australia's extinction record, but also saddened that such a significant issue needs this much private effort to get attention.

I am currently one of very few whom worked on the partially failed project that was AusEnviroMap, an ambitious task to visually present all of Australia's environmental issues in one place, and provide an easier way to connect Australians to these issues. Though out of date now, the map does contain most of Australia's Critically Endangered, and Endangered fauna, as considered by the IUCN redlist. These are animals that might not make it to next year, or may in fact already be gone.

During my time collecting information, I scouted through DWELP offices trying to record issues. I was shocked when I got through to the lead forestry officer at the Swifts Creek or Ovens district (I can't remember which), whom had no clue of the lead beater possum, Victorias fauna emblem and critically endangered mammal.

Lately though my focus has been scattered elsewhere, and the project gathers dust, but I like to stay active with volunteer roles at Seawinds Nursery in Arthurs seat.

However my in kind efforts don't hold a candle to others. It continues to bother me the amount of research being done to conserve some critically endangered species is being done entirely from volunteer and out of pocket surveys, going up against large corporations determined to log the ancient habitat species rely upon, specifically I am referring to the incredible efforts of WOTCH. (<https://www.wotch.org.au/>)

It is sickening that the overwhelming scientific evidence towards the negative factor that is logging causing bushfire intensity, effect is being ignored and even ridiculed.

We are currently eyeing up a large situation of unemployment, so we should take advantage of available hands and provide opportunities to benefit society and the environment.

Jobs pushing towards habitat improvement, pest specie control, restoration and *CREATION* with *UPKEEP*, because you can't plant a tree and walk away, combined with a conservation focused tourism sector can turn around our state from a global perspective of environmental neglect.

Regrettably individuals in society in a position of vast wealth often ignore efforts to care for our environment, and pay of illegal vegetation removal fines. A case by case law to apply ongoing annual fines until the condition of the vegetation damaged has been restored (potentially decades) could greatly reduce these acts of vandalism, and provide income for long term vegetation efforts.

To view a visual map on the locations of most Endangered and Critically Endangered Fauna in Australia, please visit <https://www.ausenviromap.org>

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This submission can be made public.