

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Dear Committee Members

I would like to make a submission to the Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria. I do so as a member of the public, resident in Geelong.

CAUSES OF DECLINE

There are a number of causes of ecosystem decline which are well known, well researched and well documented:

- Climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels
- Logging and clearing of native vegetation
- Invasive species.

SOLUTIONS

To combat these causes of decline, I would like to see the following measures implemented:

1. The urgent closure of all coal-fired power stations
2. The cancelling of projects for gas to generate power
3. Replacement of petrol, diesel and LPG vehicles by electric vehicles.

In place of fossil fuels, power generation by methods of renewable energy should be expanded to whatever capacity is needed to provide all of Victoria with sufficient power.

The progressive use of electric vehicles, charged from renewable energy sources, will eventually reduce vehicle emissions to zero.

4. Logging and clearing of native vegetation must be halted.

Logging of native trees should be replaced by plantations of timber in suitable locations.

The practice of urban agriculture should be made widespread throughout urban areas of the state. Victoria is already well resourced in this, since Melbourne is a leading centre of urban agriculture.

Meat (especially beef) production requires huge amounts of (cleared) land, water and other resources, and emits large amounts of greenhouse gas, for relatively little calorie and protein value. As a matter of policy, therefore, this should be continually highlighted to the public, and the consumption of vegetable-based diets, including meat substitutes, should be encouraged.

Once these solutions are put in place, large amounts of agricultural land will be taken out of commission. Some can be used for commercial production, e.g., timber plantations; much more can be devoted to rewilding to provide good habitats for native animals, particularly endangered species.

5. A policy should be actively pursued for the elimination of non-native flora and fauna. Country communities could be assisted in this by means of funding for the eradication of invasive species.

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File1:

File2:

File3: