

To Whom It May Concern  
Enquiry into Victoria's Extinction Crisis

As a long time resident of the Yarra Valley with a master's degree in Environmental Science I am very concerned by our ever decreasing natural resources.

As the human population escalates and becomes more avaricious, there is a corresponding decline in wildlife habitat and species survival.

Without appropriate care and government legislation, human populations in the future will be denied many of Australia's unique resources and lifestyles.

Just as today we are denied the joy of spotting a Tasmanian Tiger, so we risk losing other unique species, through government neglect.

Since federation, Victoria has lost over half of its original tree cover and the losses continue.

Even Victoria's faunal emblem, the Leadbetter's possum, is critically endangered due to the continued human destruction of its particular eucalypt forest.

Eminent scientists like David Lindenmayer, using extensive on-the-ground research, have long proclaimed the need for change to our forest management.

Our planet is finite; humans need to live within its limited resources. It should be the responsibility of the government to ensure long term survival of all native species.

It is inevitable that some people will wish to exploit our natural resources but they must be controlled in the interests of sharing long term benefits.

Australia has the unenviable world record of most species extinctions.

This must change.

The burgeoning human population must be controlled.

And Victoria must play its part now, before it is too late.

Extinction is for ever!

Ian Whitford

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