

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views and concerns about the Biodiversity Emergency we are facing on our planet. The World is in the 6th mass species extinction, driven by one species - HUMANS!

We are slowly but surely damaging our amazing planet and ensuring its rapid demise. Because of ignorance, greed and the relentless pursuit of money and profit, humans are putting this planet under intense stress and pressure, and if we don't wake up to the main drivers and address the real issues, then we will ensure a very sick, depleted and dying planet for our children and grandchildren to inherit. The very least we owe them is to do all we can to repair the damage we have already caused, and change the way we treat this earth. She deserves so much better.

In this particular instance, the emergency is on our doorstep and in our hands - occurring right before our very eyes, in our beautiful state of Victoria; and at the end of the day, it is our own back yards we need to clean up before we can direct any blame elsewhere.

Why wouldn't we want to conserve the beauty and magnificence that is right before us? Why wouldn't we want a better world for our children and grandchildren to enjoy and grow up in? We have to act, and we have to act now!

It is obvious that we are facing a Biodiversity Emergency in Victoria. The 2018 State of the Environment Report from Victoria's Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, was DAMNING!

The status of 60% of the Biodiversity indicators are rated as POOR, none are GOOD, and 51% of indicators are deteriorating! How much more evidence do we need before we wake up!! ONLY 1 out of 35 improved - Private land conservation. What is this telling us? I don't think the answer is rocket science.

The main drivers of Biodiversity Loss are habitat loss, climate damage, invasive species and over-exploitation, and in order to prevent further damage, it is obvious that these factors need to be addressed and tackled now. If they

continue to be ignored, there will be no planet for our children and grandchildren!

Animal Agriculture is one of the major contributors to Biodiversity Loss, and this disregard, exploitation and disrespect for our fellow non-human animals is dramatically accelerating the damage to our world, and in this case - our state of Victoria.

In every way that matters - in their ability to seek companionship and to love and care for their babies, to avoid pain and find comfort, to love and be loved, they are just like us; and in their capacity to feel pain and suffer, they are our equals. The question is not can they reason, but can they suffer?

To answer the question, Is this HUMANE?, you only have to ask yourself, Would I like this done to me? Yet what we do to animals in the agriculture industry is beyond cruel and heartless, and it is about time we put the word "HUMANE" back into humanity.

So, if Animal Agriculture is in fact one of the drivers of Biodiversity Loss, isn't it about time we stopped treating innocent animals with such disregard and disrespect, and for the good of all, look to other, more sustainable, kind and ethical practices, that would, not only make us feel better and cleanse our souls, but save the planet and the beautiful state we live in.

Why can't we become the leaders in kindness and compassion, and in the process lead the rest of the world in reversing the damage we have already caused, by finding new and innovative alternatives to cruel, unethical practices that should have been outlawed decades ago, and that should have never existed in the first place.

A kinder, more sustainable and beautiful state is possible. On a quiet day I can hear her gently breathing.

Choose Kindness. All living beings deserve it.

Kindest Regards

Kim

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File1:

File2:

File3: