

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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The Covid-19 pandemic has given us all time to reflect on the priorities in life, and the value the natural environment is right up there with family health and safety, clean energy, education and useful employment.

On the global scale, Victoria is a rarity to have areas of forest and bushland so close to cities, and there are very few places in the world having biodiverse natural areas extending from coastal ecosystems to rainforests and alpine plains. As a long-time field naturalist in eastern Victoria, I have documented the diversity of flora in East Gippsland and I have observed the impact of clear fell logging, bushfire, feral animals especially sambar deer, horses and pigs on these fragile ecosystems.

The value of native forest to our climate, air, water supply, future science, recreation and tourism cannot be estimated in dollar terms. The true value will never be realised through clear felling, the true value is in remaining there.

Establishing plantation timber in marginal farming areas not only provides a sustainable future for timber industry, it provides long-term employment as well as mitigating CO2 emissions. And in doing so, it leaves our natural forest areas in tact forever.

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File1:

File2:

File3: