

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Mr Andrew Coutts
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

--

As a passionate and active bushwalker I am deeply concerned about the negative impacts of native forest logging and land clearing on biodiversity, threatened species and ecosystem decline. The catastrophic impacts of the 2019/2020 bushfires which wiped out over 1 billion native animals, and over 70% of forests in East Gippsland means now more than ever we need to enhance protection of native forests. My concerns extend to the ongoing impacts of climate change that threaten species, the strong links between climate change and bushfires - which poses a severe threat to the continued survival of ecosystems, along with inadequate protections for threatened species and their habitat and weak / ineffective state and federal environmental regulation.

I strongly endorse and support the urgent need for the following actions:

- A rapid transition out of native forest logging to remove one of the key drivers of decline of threatened species in Victoria.
- Key areas of habitat must be identified and protected, as critical areas which threatened species rely on to survive are still under threat of logging.
- Greater protections for threatened species against extractive industries such as logging, mining, development, and fossil-fuel projects.
- Climate change and bushfires also have significant and grave impacts on forests and wildlife. Taking strong action on climate change has the potential to halt these impacts to climate change vulnerable threatened species.
- Restoration of areas which have been heavily impacted by logging and other extractive industries, as well as areas impacted by the horrific 2019/2020 bushfires.

--

File1:
File2:
File3: