

Victorian Extinction Enquiry

Submission.

I love living in Victoria. It is state of immense beauty and diversity.

My most treasured memories and have been bushwalking and camping at Wilson's' Promontory and in the High Plains in the Victorian Alps with my family. I have experienced a connection with the natural world throughout my life and I understand personally how vital to this is to my health and outlook.

I am deeply concerned about the threat of extinction of our native species and the threat to our environment exacerbated by devastating bushfires of unprecedented scale and severity.

I would like to see a solutions mindset applied to the management of the environment in Victoria.

There are achievable solutions that will be successful with the right commitment and funding.

Charles Massy (Call of the Reed Warbler) discusses regenerative farming. This creative agricultural approach addresses current widespread destructive farming practices. The life supporting concept not only overcomes environmental degradation but contributes to healthier food production which impacts on everyone's health.

I recommend working closely with the first nations people who have an immense knowledge of land management born out of a deep connection to the earth.

Tree planting and wildlife monitoring workforces could be established. A dedicated program of reviving species so healthy populations of animals, birds and plants can be restored would require commitment and funding. Funding for research for scientists addressing solutions is urgently needed.

Habitat destruction which is driving extinction must be addressed. We need to end native forest logging, phase out coal and gas burning and wide scaled clearing of habitat. Transition to renewable energy, regenerative farming and a commitment to the essential benefit of what sustains us can create healthy environments for all of us.

We need to do everything we can at this time of climate crisis to stop extinction and to restore thriving environments that support healthy communities and our wild life.

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