



From: POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>
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Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Ms Elspeth Ferguson



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Australia is one of seventeen countries described as being 'megadiverse'. This group of countries has less than 10% of the global surface, but support more than 70% of the biological diversity on earth. These 17 countries represent more than two-thirds of all (known) life forms (Australia is listed first for vertebrates). Australia is home to between 600,000 and 700,000 species, many of which are endemic - that is they are found nowhere else in the world.

Victoria's rapidly declining biodiversity, wildlife and ecosystems are of great concern to me. After the bushfires at the end of summer this year, SO many animals, plants and microbes died. Over 70% of the forests in East Gippsland were destroyed. Protecting the natural places we love is now more important than ever.

I like to visit the natural places that Victoria has to offer. I like to go for walks in nature with my husband, family and friends, I find this relaxing. I walk for exercise, I watch birds, look for plants in flower and breathe deeply as the air is cleaner and I feel relaxed.

Logging and land clearing are the key drivers of biodiversity loss. The state government still approves the destructive logging in thousands of hectares of threatened species habitat across Victoria.

Areas of native vegetation need to be adequately funded and maintained to ensure there is sufficient control of pests and weeds and humans who damage our state properties.

There should be legislative parameters in place to ensure policy, governance and funding solutions in order to facilitate ecosystem and species protection, restoration and recovery in Victoria in the context of climate change impacts.

We need MUCH stronger safeguards for wildlife and biodiversity, starting with protection of forests. We need to ensure the adequacy of legislative checks and balances to protect Victoria's environment including grasslands, forests, marine and coastal environment and native species.

I am calling for stronger laws prohibiting logging of native forests, better regulation and a rapid end to native forest logging.

Logging and land clearing have serious impacts on Traditional Owners. There's NO consent from First Nations people to log their country which holds rich stories and cultural heritage.

There are opportunities to restore Victoria's natural environment while upholding First People's connection with country and increasing and diversifying employment opportunities in Victoria. First nations people must be listened to when asking for protection of the spiritual and cultural values in Victoria's rich and diverse ecosystems.

The government is still approving destructive logging in thousands of hectares of threatened species habitat across Victoria. We need MUCH stronger safeguards for wildlife and biodiversity.

Timber is a resource and it can be managed without massive bites into nature. Suitable trees can be grown privately on farm plantations.

Climate change is another serious threat to the continued survival of vulnerable species and ecosystems. Hotter climate leads to hotter and longer fire seasons. After the horrific bushfires last summer taking action on climate change has never been so important. The bushfires burned through more than 12.6 million hectares of Australian landscape, an area almost the size of England. There were reports that billions of individual animals were lost in these fires, pushing some native species to extinction.

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File1:

File2:

File3: