

[REDACTED]

**From:** POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 22 August 2020 1:20 PM  
**To:** ecosystems  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

**Categories:** Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Timothy Oseckas  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

--

Victoria's ecosystems and biodiversity has been in serious decline since the arrival of British colonial settlers which has lead to widespread destruction of forests, grasslands, marine environments, and native species populations caused PRIMARILY by an expanding population of humans AND an expanding population of other animals bred by humans. A growing human population leads to further decline of biodiversity and ecosystem destruction through the creation of demand for more housing, more roads, more infrastructure, more transport, more mining, more deforestation, more pollution, more irrigation, more carbon emissions, more waste, and more agriculture and its associated land clearing. Various publications including the UN's Livestock's Long Shadow (2006) have shown the environmentally destructive impact caused by breeding populations of cows, sheep, pigs, horses, chickens, goats, etc to be subjugated, exploited, abused, and killed by humans for their flesh, milk, eggs, skins, and hair.

If ignored, the continued growth of the human population and the populations of other animals bred by humans in Victoria will lead to further land clearing, deforestation, fresh water pollution and depletion, waste, ecosystem destruction and biodiversity loss and contribute to further carbon and methane emissions and the worsening of climate changes leading to more destructive weather events and patterns, which is the cause behind worsening wildfires, that in itself lead to an enormous death toll last summer as the habitats and lives of millions of other animals were destroyed, and an estimated 1 billion lives lost across the continent.

The current legislative framework is inadequate for protecting Victoria's environment, including grasslands, forests and the marine and coastal environment, and native species. Encouraging population growth, consumption and ultimately waste is not compatible with a framework adequate for protecting Victoria's environment.

Government programs and funding protecting and restoring Victoria's ecosystems are woefully inadequate and ineffective. Ecosystem destruction and biodiversity loss is happening before our very eyes. The human population continues to grow and expand, as does the populations of other animals humans breed as demand for their body parts and secretions grows, which the UN has shown to be a major cause of climate change, pollution, and environmental destruction.

Legislative, policy, program, governance and funding solutions to facilitate ecosystem and species protection, restoration and recovery in Victoria, will therefore need to focus on stopping human population growth as soon as possible by removing social and economic incentives that encourage procreation and immigration which are the main drivers of human population growth, consumption, and destruction of our environment. Solutions will also need to focus on transitioning employment, infrastructure, and the economy towards plant based agriculture, which is not only less destructive to the environment, but also more compassionate, just, and civilised. Making these changes will ultimately help mitigate the impacts of climate changes to come, including the impacts on populations of humans and other animals affected by those changes.

By transitioning to plant based agriculture and employing local people, instead of relying on immigration and overpopulation overflow from other countries for labour, more opportunities to restore Victoria's environment while upholding First Peoples' connection to country, and increasing and diversifying employment opportunities in Victoria will arise.

An economic system dependent on endless growth in human population and consumption is not compatible with the conservation and restoration of Victoria's ecosystems and biodiversity. The current government systems are therefore fundamentally flawed, and therefore fundamental changes need to be made by any government serious about addressing ecosystem decline and biodiversity loss.

--

File1:

File2:

File3: