

From: Ney Shine [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 22 August 2020 4:47 PM
To: ecosystems
Subject: Submission into Eco-system decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

To Whom It May Concern,

I am greatly concerned about ecosystem decline in Victoria. I do not want to live in a world where we do not work to protect our ecosystems, which supply us with improved living conditions and mental health through cleaner air, the sounds of nature, the ability to recharge in nature, the inspiration drawn from the natural world.

I studied Environmental Science at University – and was discouraged by the lack of action on the well-researched scientific reports that were readily available and a seeming lack of monitoring and accountability with Victorian Forestry. This year, after the losses suffered from the disastrous fires in 2019, my concern only deepens.

Protecting the remaining habitat of threatened species is critical for the safeguarding against ecosystem decline. Ending old growth native logging and reconsidering the zoning of projected urban sprawl to be limited to ensure viable agricultural lands, and wild places, where ecosystems can thrive, is of utmost importance.

We must further resource and strengthen the enforced regulating of harmful chemicals in our natural places and waterways. This knowledge has been with us since the sixties and I am unclear as to why these priorities are not given the resourcing they need to be enforced. Here in the city of Melbourne, the Merri Creek has turned bright blue and bright pink with no one held accountable.

When eco-system protection is so poorly regulated, and unnecessary road upgrades are prioritised over the protection of significant places, we are inflating the importance of human convenience. The road upgrades near Ballarat to improve the faster road speeds safety is an example of human privilege gone over the top. Perhaps reduce the speed limit slightly? It will take a little longer to travel down this road, safety can be achieved, and the money saved can be used to re-deploy workers in nature conservation work. If COVID has shown us anything it's that operations can be altered much more than we ever acknowledged before.

Great vision and an ability to adapt to our approach to development to focus on rehabilitation and reviewing current models with the view to adapt is the fresh and inspired leadership we need.

In hopes for a willingness to reconsider,

Neylan Lisa Aykut
[REDACTED]