

Extinction Enquiry Submission

[REDACTED]
Sun 24/05/2020 06:19

To: ecosystems <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>

To whom it may concern

As a passionate supporter of Victoria zoos and their breeding programs I am distressed by what we have seen happening to native animals and the bush over the last summer. Decades of land clearing, invasive animals and plants have degraded our soils and bush. Thank goodness for the work of private organisations and volunteers in assisting animals and caring for our fragile land however we need more. We need State policies and legislation to protect our heritage.

This year my family celebrates 180 years since they arrived in Australia. My ancestors have contributed to the destruction of the bush and the ecosystems that sustained the native animals. I am sorry and want to learn from our past mistakes. I recognise the traditional owners of this land and their 65,000 years plus care for our bush and animal habitats. I believe we can learn from Aboriginal knowledge and practices in caring for our land and any solution must include listening to their voices.

What I have missed most during our pandemic lock down is my access to nature. I am a rate payer and tax payer in the seat of Corio and regularly visit the Brisbane ranges, You Yangs and the southern coastal areas. I take delight in listening to the bird calls, smelling the eucalyptus and seeing an echidna. The solace we seek in fresh air and native bush is reducing fast and I am fearful for what our children will have left to experience. Why can't we create jobs in restoring and protecting our ecosystems? Jobs that plant trees and build renewable power sources instead of destroying by digging, clearing and polluting. We have the science and the technology to create these jobs for our future. We just need the will.

Yours sincerely

Kiri Pickering
[REDACTED]

Public statement with contact details kept private.