

Extinction Inquiry

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

Public Submission

I am concerned about the situation for our state's endangered fauna and flora. More land has been lost to clearing in Victoria than in any other state.

I am troubled by the impact of continued logging in Victoria's forests as well as the impact of ongoing development which has occurred in the context of limited overarching environmental regulation.

There are one hundred and twenty animals, birds, plants, insects and fish that are on the brink of extinction in Victoria, our government urgently needs to put in place unbreachable safeguards for the future of these species.

The current pandemic has shown the need to prioritise the environment — the coronavirus arose because of the depletion of bat habitat. It is speculated by scientists that numerous other potential viruses may also emerge and impact on humans if governments continue to place limited value on ecosystems and the environment.

The scale of this year's bushfires has also seriously depleted endangered species with fifty per cent of their habitat destroyed.

Magical creatures like the Sooty Owl deserve to be valued in their own right, but notwithstanding the owl's endangered listing, logging continues even now, in the bird's Warburton habitat.

I urge the Extinction Inquiry to act quickly to protect the existing habitat of endangered creatures — to save what little there is left in Victoria. Future generations will recognise the outcome of such an Inquiry as significant if it results in action that puts in place long-term safeguards ahead of short-term gain.

It is necessary for legislation to be enacted in Victoria which recognises the inherent rights of nature and ecosystems as happened with the Whanganui river in New Zealand.

I further urge this Inquiry to recommend an ongoing tree and understory planting to act to regenerate a fraction of what has been lost.