

## Submission to the Parliamentary Enquiry into tackling the extinction crisis in Victoria.

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

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Over the years our family have camped and bush walked in Victoria's National Parks, especially enjoying the wildlife at Wilsons Prom and The Grampians. In fact the first time, in 2001, we saw wombats, parrots, wallabies, koalas and fairy wrens was at The Prom, we thought it was a veritable wonderland.

However, now in 2020, Victoria is the most cleared State in Australia, with over 700 ecosystems under threat and 120 Victorian animals, birds, plants, insects and fish now at the brink of extinction. How can these decades of senseless destruction of the environment and wildlife have occurred? How can the homes of threatened species still be being logged? How can I explain to our grandchildren this is what is happening?

This all has to change and there are solutions which could create thousands of jobs in the city and in the countryside; weeds and invasive species eradication, tree planting to restore habitat, dedicated programs for reviving species facing extinction and an end to habitat destruction and strengthened nature laws. In fact this is the perfect time to take these essential steps in the post Covid environment.

Give us all back some hope, some good news please. NSW has committed \$100 million to a 'Save Our Species' program. Why not Victoria? The Andrews Government needs to stop bowing to pressure from small groups of people.

It's time we think about the kind of future we want to create for everyone in Victoria and have the courage to move into the 21st century, which we have done with many other issues, showing the way.

Thank you