

SUBMISSION TO THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND ECOSYSTEM DECLINE

Helen Keller once said that “the only thing worse than being blind, is having sight but no vision”

My wife and I are not scientists and have no particular expertise on the subjects of biodiversity or ecosystems. But we are deeply concerned individuals who are witnessing the impact of global warming and ecological devastation in our lifetimes.

We feel an overwhelming sadness about the environmental destruction we are leaving to our future generations. As with climate change, management of the ecology and associated ecosystems, are a complex issue, riven with vested interests and government complacency. There has been an appalling lack of leadership – a political black hole in regard to direction, action and outcomes. This is despite the availability of informed scientific advice. The environment must be a priority for our elected representatives to address.

The killing of native animals for sport or recreation, the indiscriminate clearing of wildlife habitat for commercial purposes, or shockingly inefficient water management programs, appear as typical examples of political short sightedness. Again, this is in the face of informed scientific advice.

We feel overwhelmed with the many environmental and ecological issues that the Inquiry will need to address. But, at the same time, we feel hopeful that sound, expert advice will prevail.

Please take these words as a sign of encouragement for your task, with a plea to fill that black hole that now exist. Give us the vision we now need.

Thank you for allowing us to make this small contribution.

Best wishes for a rewarding outcome,

Ron And Barbara Woodward