

To whom it may concern

I am writing to make a submission to this inquiry.

Following the devastating impact of the 2020 bushfires that killed literally billions of native animals and destroyed huge swathes of habitat, we are facing an unprecedented extinction crisis in Victoria. The potential loss of iconic species like the Lead Beaters Possum, squirrel glider, spotted quoll and red-tailed black cockatoo are just the tip of the ice-berg. If we do not take series immediate action to preserve remaining habitats we will lose a huge amount of our natural heritage for ever.

The key to species preservation is the immediate reigning in of Vic Forests whose illegal logging activities and unsustainable practices - including the destruction of already damaged ecosystems to 'harvest' burn timber - are exacerbating an already appalling situation. We must end the unsustainable and irresponsible clear felling of old growth native forests in Victoria immediately. The creation of new parks and reserves will help support a tourism led recovery for the state and help preserve critical water catchments that will become increasingly important as climate change continues to worsen. All the scientific data makes it clear that this action has to be taken now and any delay simply worsens the problem.

These are times of unprecedented challenges for the natural environment in Victoria and you have a responsibility to act to preserve what is left before it is too late. The people of Victoria expect nothing less.

Yours faithfully

Dr Dave Kelman
(Jan Juc Victoria)