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Sent: Thursday, 27 August 2020 9:57 AM
To: ecosystems
Subject: Save our Ecosystems -Save us

Categories: Submissions

To Members of Parliamentary Inquiry into Ecosystems Decline

Restoring and promoting our ecosystems and restoring and promoting our economy are not mutually exclusive, the richest and healthiest ecosystems produce the healthiest economies .If we pollute and clog the rivers with chemicals and silt the rivers and ocean will produce the least riverine and marine produce.Land clearing leads to soils drying out and soil salination and this reduces the produce from these areas and allows weeds,feral animals and diseases to dominate It also increases the risk and intensity of bushfires which destroy ecosystems ,agricultural economies and lives and health of residents .None of these problems are getting better and it is not just the rural areas that suffer when the ecosystems are damaged smoke ,dust ,reduced supply and quality of water and supply of food also affect city residents. So we must use the best defence we have to prevent these problems and that is the natural ecosystems themselves as they have evolved to maintain good soil, air and water quality.They also need dedicated programs to help this process such as ending native forest logging,end the burning of fossil fuel of energy because renewables are cheaper, create jobs with a tree planting program to restore Victoria's lost habitats ,a Save our Species program with at least \$100million in dedicated funding and end habitat destruction now .The television program Saving Planet A gave an example of a sheep farmer in Victoria who planted 20% of his property with trees and this improved his soil and the amount of sheep he could farm by almost 100% and it also made his farm carbon neutral.So why couldn't we restore 20% of natural vegetation to every agricultural property in Victoria thus restoring ecosystems , flora and fauna and this would at the very least improve productive outcomes and reduce greenhouse gases.I don't want to see the increasing decline in forests ,rivers and grasslands and the flora and fauna that exist there thru repeated cycles of drought and fire .We must establish a minimum level of natural ecosystem in every shire of our state so the diversity and interconnectedness of our environment is maintained especially when fire and drought decimate areas such as they did in East Gippsland in recent times.We must have mandatory environmental laws that are enforced by an independent tribunal in a consistent and predictable way and not by the Minister using his discretion to advantage his political patrons.An economy based on environmental destruction cannot last because it will destroy our environment ,wealth, and way of life.So please let's save ourselves by saving our environment .

P.s Happy to have my submission made public

Yours

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