

From: Melissa [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 August 2020 2:37 PM
To: ecosystems
Subject: Extinction Enquiry Submission

Categories: Submissions

Hi fellow Victorian,

My name is Melissa Hartmann and I live in Melbourne. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] This is my submission to the
Extinction Enquiry, and I am happy for it to be public.

As a proud Victorian and Melburnian, I'm horrified by what we are doing to our native environment. Our country thrived for 60,000 years before Europeans, like my family, arrived here. In the time since, we've cleared 66% of Victoria with 120 Victorian animals, birds, plants, insects and fish are now at the brink of extinction. We're still logging forests where more than 70 threatened species make their home. And for reasons I cannot fathom, we are logging forests that were burnt in the devastating 19/20 bushfire season, despite traditional owners advising that they should be left to regrow, and provide homes for our vulnerable native animals, birds, plants, insects & fish.

Europeans have been here for a MAXIMUM of 10 generations; my family, 6 of those. Aboriginal people have been here for up to 2,400 generations. We are destroying land that was lovingly tended. For what? Cheap printing paper. Toilet paper? Even in 2020, a toilet roll is not worth that much.

My nearly two year old son is obsessed with animals. He reads his book of 'Aussie Animals' to himself and makes the animal sounds. He loves pointing out the 'baby' koala and possum to his baby sister. I want my children to be able to enjoy the childhood I did. Wading in creeks, camping in the bush, listening for the sounds of the kookaburra and chasing after goannas. I want them to experience this for real, not just from a book, which might be titled 'The Australian Environment we were too greedy & stupid to Protect.'

To do that, we need:

1. To back the Green New Deal
2. A tree-planting workforce, to restore habitat
3. A dedicated program for reviving species facing extinction
4. An end to habitat destruction and strengthened nature laws
5. Actual enforcement of these laws and severe penalties for breaking them. Some businesses will whinge about this, but good businesses will pivot, to create the businesses

of tomorrow. Some long time employees of those businesses might need help to pivot their careers.

These steps will help us preserve the environment we are so fortunate to be the current custodians of, and create a future that all Victorians can be proud of.

If you have any questions about my submission, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Go gently,
Melissa Hartmann

