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To: ecosystems
Subject: submission to extinction enquiry

Categories: Submissions

Anne Gibson



I'm writing to express my deep concern about how many of our flora, fauna and entire ecosystems are threatened (700) in Victoria, all of which have been exacerbated by the 2019 -2020 bush-fires.

We lost our house at Wye River in the 2015 Xmas day fire. Over 100 other houses were destroyed. It was traumatic but the resultant cleanup where the blocks were felled and scraped clear was just as traumatic and much more destructive to the environment long term. The result of such whole sale clearing was erosion followed by landslides and the subsequent over development and over engineering of a delicate environment. This continues in the area.

We did not allow our block to be clear-felled, because we wanted to preserve as much habitat as we could including fallen and felled trees. We carefully rebuilt a BAL 40 house (which took five grueling years) with the aim of preserving the habitat. As a result we have fabulous regrowth and have attracted so much of the wild life back. But the mind-set of clearing continues. A ring around Wye river has been bulldozed where the lower vegetation has been removed and the ground has been mulched thereby destroying so much more habitat.

We chose to build in Wye River over thirty years ago fully aware of the risks and willing to take those risks in an area where in fact there should be no houses. We did not expect the natural bush and wild life to be destroyed for our benefit, but this is the expectation of many people who now clear and prefer a mowed lawn rather than trying to preserve the habitat.

It is a real concern to me that one of the recommendations in the bush fire review is mandatory land clearing by the owners. By this do we destroy more habitat?

It's a simple but horribly complex equation:-

Destruction of the environment and extinction

Because of

Emissions heating the planet

over development

land clearing (66% of forests cleared)

Pollution

Partisan politics influenced by vested interests



Extinction of our native animals, insects, plants, ecosystems



Destruction of the Environment

We simply can't allow this to continue. We can't continue to destroy our environment.

We have to –

- Stop logging forests
- Stop clearing land for development especially in sensitive areas
- Stop emissions esp. now when there are alternative green energies
- Stop human greed prioritizing over every other species
- Stop the land and ocean pollution by enforcing manufactures to be responsible for their waste products.
- Stop whole- sale clearing and over engineering in areas burnt by bush-fire so habitat can be allowed to regenerate

There is much discussion about burn-offs and the Aboriginal method of slow burns as bush fire preventative. This was probably much easier in the times where there was less population and before climate change became the most urgent problem our planet faces.

The only real solution is to put every measure in place to prevent our earth heating further.

In the meantime, every society has to learn to live without constant economic growth which pushes this, and we need to put every measure in place to prevent further habitat loss and further extinction.

Mu submission can be made public

