

From: Julie Eagles [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 August 2020 4:30 PM
To: ecosystems
Subject: Inquiry into the Loss of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

[This submission is not confidential.](#)

I live on the south west coast of Victoria - a coast that our local government always refers to as pristine when it is in fact a landscape that has been significantly modified since European settlement. I grew up on this coast and it was not until I returned as an adult and through my experiences as a volunteer with our local landcare group, that I started to more fully realise the devastation in terms of biodiversity loss and ecosystem decline that has happened to the landscape I love.

As a kid, the bare dunes and paddocks were our normal experience and we just loved the land and rivers and coast as it was. Our primary school helped plant trees as part of the enormous volunteer revegetation efforts at Tower Hill, which was a devastated wasteland. Today the park is well known for its easy visitor access to wildlife and birdlife and the unique features of a dormant volcano. The bare, unstable coastal dunes I grew up with now have native vegetation in many places thanks also to the efforts of volunteers over many years and we see native birds, wallabies and echindas (as well as rabbits and foxes and weeds on our daily walks). My own lack of eco-literacy for most of my life is reflected in the broader population. We see nature as a resource that we can continue to use up in an economy that is based on the lie that perpetual economic growth is possible. We don't see the loss and decline because it becomes normal until someone helps us to see what we've lost and that we could play a role to help to restore and protect at least small bits of our natural world.

I want to see so much more done than what can be achieved by the efforts of volunteers. In our recovery from the pandemic we have an opportunity for change that moves us away from measuring the health of our society and economy by rates of consumption. Our leaders have listened to science and experts to guide us through the pandemic and we need our leaders to do the same and listen to the experts who already know what is needed to stop the trend towards further biodiversity loss and decline of our ecosystems. And then to act with the same determination and urgency that we have seen during the pandemic.

Thank you

Julie Eagles

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I respectfully acknowledge the (Maar) Gunditjmara people as the original custodians of the land where I live and acknowledge the traditions and knowledge of their elders past and present.