

From: Val Barrington [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 August 2020 10:05 PM
To: ecosystems
Subject: Submission to Parliamentary Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Victorian Parliament's Inquiry into ecosystem decline in Victoria.

There are many ways, large and small, of reversing the decline in native plants and animals due to deforestation.

I would like to submit that the best way to reverse this decline is through our farmers, who understand the land and its needs.

I would like to propose that we do this through providing water.

Farmers need water through the continual droughts which we face. In return for water, they could set aside a portion of their land for care and revegetation of native plant and animal habitat. Farmers in Tasmania have been happy to do this as part of a Landcare grant scheme.

It is time to think big.

Victoria and New South Wales together could set up an infrastructure project to desalinate water from the ocean and pump it into the headwaters of the Murray River.

The country needs a huge boost to confidence following the pandemic and infrastructure spending is the way to get businesses moving again.

Selling water bonds would raise capital. Even with interest rates at historic lows, the bond market has a huge appetite for new issues.

Genex Power Limited has built a Pumped Storage Hydro Project in Queensland, using solar collectors to pump water up through a series of reservoirs, to then generate electricity.

The technology is there. It just needs to be developed on a grand scale.

The Boulevard was built during the Great Depression to provide jobs through those bad years. Combined political will on water infrastructure could do the same now and be of lasting benefit.

Yours sincerely,

Val Barrington

[REDACTED]

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