



From: POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>
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To: ecosystems
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Mr Roger Morris Gamble



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Dear committee members,

My name is Roger Gamble.

I am trained in Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Soft Systems Analysis and Theology. I have had experience in broad-land farming, advising farmers and teaching; agricultural college, RMIT and secondary - students for many years.

I am concerned that you have not yet made the connection between forest clearing and low rainfall, with the associated impact of not retaining water within a catchment and consequent dryer landscapes, predisposing them to horrific bush fires and loss of native fauna and flora. ABC presenters readily make the connection between lower rainfall and climate change, but not to the disastrous consequences of massive forest clearing. The people of Australia need to be informed of the prolonged impacts of massive forest clearing throughout Australia.

'On the spectrum of what we value and discriminate against, native fauna and flora hardly rate. Across Australia, axed logging protections allow massive forest clearing, especially in Queensland, for cattle grazing on marginal lands. If you consider a period of 40 years from 1990 to 2030, with 200,000 km² bulldozed, windrowed and burnt, 400 million trees felled, 2 trillion animals killed - you get an idea of the enormity of what is happening. When animals lose their habitat, they don't run away, they die. In the last few decades, this mass annihilation, has equated to >60% of all our native animals. We're now on a par with Congo and Amazon, for unbridled greed and sacrilege. People around the world, shake their heads in disbelief. Environmental costs are staggering *substantially reduced already low rainfall *erosion, silting and death of barrier reef coral, *massively increased release of carbon dioxide, *Loss of biodiversity and ecological services, *of bees, insects, birds. Beekeepers must travel 40,000 km/y, equivalent to earth's circumference, just to ensure their bee's survival and to keep existing crops pollinated and productive. Ecological services from 200,000 km² of forest, is worth \$100 billion per year. Cattle grazing income at just \$18/ha, or \$½ billion, and this is wiped out by the staggering environmental impact costs. The lowered rainfall, drier landscapes, and destructive wildfires throughout Australia over past months - are along with climate change, a

direct result of gross short term greed at every level of decision making within our society.'

In Victoria the state government supported Forrest Commission has basically been allowed for decades to constantly thumb their noses at forest protections put in place, without any real consequences. This has to stop. There needs to be a surveillance body with teeth to oversee forest activities. They have recently lobbied the state minister for the environment to remove ~400 of these protections. That clearly shows their values in treating the forests with contempt - that belong to all Victorians. We are selling off our precious resources - to paper, cardboard and wood chip companies and often exporting overseas for a pittance. Our value system has to change. Forest resources, indigenous ecosystems, rainfall, tourism - are all precious resources not to be allowed to be pillaged at will, out of pure greed. Let us not follow the forest devastation being enacted in other states, and let us be far more circumspect in our own state.

Kind regards,
Roger Gamble.

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File1:

File2:

File3: