

Justine Donohue

From: Robert Mancini [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2020 1:06 PM
To: ecosystems
Subject: Extinction Enquiry

Dear members of the Victorian parliament,

I am writing to express my concern for the state of Victoria's forests and the ever increasing threats to our biodiversity.

I wish to express my disappointment and anger at the Victorian Governments decision to log fire damaged forests and additionally it's more general policy of still logging native forests including clearly legitimate 'old growth forests' which are not classified as such because of dubious assessment models.

While opposition members seem to be critical of just about everything the current Labour government does I haven't seen any criticism it's unsustainable logging practices and they seem quite keen on the idea of expanding gas production in the state. Both things potentially disastrous in relation to pushing more species to extinction and sacrificing the sustainable future of the planet in relation to human habitation. It's all pretty straightforward really!

All this activity goes against all the science with the world's leader in the area David Lindenmayer warning of the negative impacts of logging recently burnt forests. While Victoria has fortunately had good rains recently however on the back of dry years and the recent devastating bushfires this proposed logging along with the more general baffling logging practices still being undertaken can only be described insane and as environmental vandalism with it's negative effects on biodiversity and our water catchments.

Considering Victoria being the most cleared state in Australia, 120 species on the brink of extinction and with many living on forests still being logged it make the continuation of logging in our precious and seriously depleted forests even more obscene and incomprehensible.

There has never been a more important time with nature clearly showing us how our abuse of it is not in our interest keeping the planet viable for human habitation. With the risk to species and ecosystems, our dryer and warming climate, the loss of CO2 converting and rainfall producing forests are vital to our sustainability on this planet.

Why do these fundamentals pass by politicians in their quest for some perceived short term political benefit. You have the facts in hand to know what the right things to do are.

Also in relation to green lighting onshore gas exploration, why do we hide behind the truth, pedalling gas as a cleaner option and our saving grace in relation to power generation. Again the science is clear, gas is only cleaner then coal when burnt for power generation however overall in its harvesting and production it is a worse contributor to CO2 emissions. To see the Federal government basing gas as central to it's emission reduction program is obscenely stupid and an absolute joke. The contribution of climate warming to the increase in putting species at risk cannot also be underestimated.

Politicians are required to protect vulnerable species by law but they seem to operate with impunity in relation to this. You will ultimately be held accountable and if the current practices such as inaction in relation to improving our forest ecosystems continue you will be found culpable in this regard.

I know it's not a popular common practice for politicians look at the science (unless it's pandemic related) however please do so we can attempt to secure a smarter, forward looking economy. A handful of heavily subsidised jobs and support of dinosaur logging practices and fossil industries are not the way to a sustainable future. Maintaining a richness and high level of biodiversity is critical to this for all our wellbeing into the future, if we wan't one that is?

Regards

Rob Mancini

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