



From: POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 28 August 2020 4:31 PM
To: ecosystems
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Mr Thomas Lock



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

--

Dear Environment and Planning Committee, I would like to make a submission to the Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline.

My name is Thomas Leslie Lock and I am a twenty-three-year-old history and literature student. I am fortunate enough to have grown up and continue to live on the beautiful Mornington Peninsula. This experience has provided me with an immense appreciation for the natural environment of both my home and the wider Earth as a whole.

As a result, I regularly go camping with my friends and family, as well as, enjoying the daily activities that the planet has to offer. This combined with continued and accelerating ecological disaster has compelled me to write this submission. I urge you to take action on the most pivotal issue not only affecting our generation but all those that will come after us.

I implore you to take a look at the Wilderness Society's recommendations concerning the future of Victoria's, and Australia as a whole, environmental policy. I've provided an outline below;

The devastation inflicted on our wildlife and forests from the 2019 - 2020 bushfires has made forest protection and a rapid logging transition more urgent. The Victorian state government's commitment to a 2030 industry transition must be brought forward. Two immediate priorities are protection of unburnt Greater Glider habitat, and a continued moratorium on logging in East Gippsland.

There are opportunities for the state government to protect forests for all Victorians to enjoy now and into the future. Two community led initiatives are the proposed Great Forest National Park and Emerald Link conservation economy proposal.

In the face of climate catastrophe, Victoria's forests play a critical role in removing carbon pollution from the air we all breathe, nourishing us with clean air and safe, clean drinking water. The Victorian state government must develop carbon accounting and policies that include forests.

The state government must urgently implement and properly resource Action Statements (plans for recovery) for all threatened plants and wildlife. Victoria's plants and wildlife are at risk, with over 2000 recognised as threatened with extinction however only 15% have Action Statements.

The rights and interests of Traditional Custodians should be recognised in all aspects of land and water management, as well as decision-making in relation to their traditional lands, including traditional management practices such as a cultural fire. First Nations - declining ecosystems have profound implications for First Nations.

Victoria needs a new, independent, well-resourced conservation regulator to police deforestation and other destructive industries. The EPA is the independent watchdog for pollution, but currently, there is no independent watchdog to ensure industries comply with environmental laws, with numerous breaches to laws continuing to occur and a long history of regulators turning a blind eye.

Community rights must be guaranteed when governments are making environmental decisions, including the right to participate, the right to access necessary information, the right to challenge environmental decisions and the right to transparency in government decision making.

I look forward to seeing my recommendations implemented and wish you all the best in your endeavours,
Thomas Leslie Lock

--

File1:

File2:

File3: