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**From:** POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 August 2020 10:36 PM  
**To:** ecosystems  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

**Categories:** Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Mr Dale Rattle

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**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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To Standing Committee on Environment and Planning Members

I request the Parliamentary Inquiry to recommend that the Victorian Government provide:

Improved support for National Parks, as Parks Victoria funding has been reduced over many years and is inadequate to adequately support our parks. The parks are good for people and nature, including the economy.

A significant increase in funding (to at least 1% of state annual expenditure) be made, in addition to resources and expertise for habitat restoration programs and ecosystem management in national parks and conservation reserves. This needs to include increased control of feral animals, including deer, foxes, rabbits, cats and horses. This needs to include declaration of invasive pest animals and plants in legislation.

Specifically declare deer a pest species, and release a detailed state-wide deer control strategy. Expand funding and planning for control measures and mitigating impacts.

Reductions in land clearing and improved protection of our forests.

The transition of the native forest logging industry to plantation only timber production by 2030 be brought forward.

Abandon the West Regional Forest Agreement and conduct a review of all Regional Forest Agreements in wake of our massive fires.

VicForests to stop using our taxes to subsidise the logging and destruction of public native forests and threatened species habitat.

That the \$3.3 million grant that is due to expire this year for "Western Community Forestry", not be renewed to prop up the damaging logging industry in the region.

New marine national parks and sanctuaries.

Expand monitoring across Victoria's various land, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems in national parks and reserves, as well as expanded support for citizen science programs.

Support for community engagement, including 'Friends' groups to increase community connection to parks and reserves.

Address habitat fragmentation by developing stronger native vegetation laws and regulations plus well-funded, and on-going strategic revegetation and land care programs.

Increased response to climate change and bushfires. increasing point of ignition control, including developing landscape-wide aerial firefighting capabilities to suppress ignition points. Improved funding to support aerial operational responses to wildfires in remote areas and to support the protection of environmental and cultural assets.

Kind regards  
Dale Rattle

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File1:

File2:

File3: