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Sent: Saturday, 29 August 2020 10:14 PM
To: ecosystems
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission for Extinction Enquiry

Categories: Submissions

SUBMISSION FOR EXTINCTION ENQUIRY.

I am writing this submission because of my concern for the ongoing destruction of the habitat of our native wildlife.

I live in Arthurs Seat across the road from the Arthurs Seat National Park on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria.

The views of Port Phillip Bay from the lookouts along the roadside as you drive to the top Arthurs Seat are spectacular, but unfortunately the invasive Boneseed weed covers most of the roadside bush.

Every weekend I hear the sound of chainsaws going, 8 foot high kangaroo fences going up, cypress pine hedges being planted and acres of native bush being cleared. It's frightening. I recently reported a new neighbour to the local Council compliance department. This person had just bought a 20 acre property a couple of months ago and he started clearing native bush on his land with out permits. He is well known wealthy lawyer. I don't think paying a fine is a problem for him.

Reasons for killing native animals and birds are on the Mornington Peninsula are:

Shooting kangaroos - they wreck fences. Kangaroos.

Shooting eagles - they kill sheep.

Shooting parrots - they eat fruit from trees. Shooting snakes - they will bite.

The above occurs in and around Arthurs Seat on the Mornington Peninsula.

The rest of Australia record of destruction of habitat is scary.

I have just read about the near extinction of the swift parrot. There are now only around 1000 swift parrots. Twenty years ago the numbers were 8000. Logging, development, weak and ineffective environmental laws are to blame.

Only the Australian Federal and State governments can stop this mindless destruction. Australians should be ashamed that we are the only developed country to continue logging our native forests.

Environmental laws need to be implemented that actually work. There's is no point having laws just for the sake of it. They need to be taken seriously and be implemented when they are needed.

I notice a big issue amongst the Australians is the fear of bushfires and it seems the general attitude amongst the Australian population is that trees and bush cause bushfires. Then we have this situation of blaming the 'greenies' for not letting anyone cut down every tree in site.

Gone is the time when farmers and loggers were the backbone of the country. They have had 200 years of clearing our land now is the time to stop. We need to grow up and save what is left.

Please, please there is an urgent need to educate Australians about caring for our bush, and not to develop and destroy it like it's our God given right.

My suggestions for practical strategies are as follows:

*Government to instigate employment programs of weeding and planting of habitat for native animals.

*Stop logging and encourage the use of tree plantations.

*Encourage and educate all landowners to conserve the bush and wildlife on their properties.

*More funding and grants for Conservation groups and National Parks to assist in conserving wildlife and their habitat.

Implement laws throughout Councils, State and Federal Governments that will be focused on the common good of conserving our native wildlife and it's habitat across Australia.

I beg the Australian, state and federal governments to please do everything they can to work together to conserve what is left of our native wildlife and their habit now.

Regards
Mary Waterman
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