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**From:** Karl Williams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 28 May 2020 7:22 PM  
**To:** ecosystems  
**Subject:** Submission to Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Extinction Threats

TO: Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Extinction Threats

DATE: May 28, 2020

FROM: Karl Williams

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I write to express my concern for the grave threats facing our native wildlife and flora, to the point where so many are now endangered or even facing extinction. Matters were critical enough before our recent summer bushfires, but now the situation is alarming.

I live in a particularly blessed part of Victoria, in the Dandenong Ranges, from where I can close observe changes to bird life (in particular) as well as threats such as weed invasion. The intrinsic value of our natural assets are invaluable, but the economic value has been estimated with clear findings that the returns from logging in catchment areas is less than the value of the reduced volume and quality of Melbourne's water. Add to this the value of tourism, climate services and human wellbeing, and we clearly have a case for factoring in the True Cost of our natural resources into our state planning.

Already Victoria is the most cleared state in Australia. Already there are over 700 native animals, plants, birds, insects and fish are under threat (with 120 classed as being on the bridge of extinction).

I respectfully suggest that your enquiry must recommend:

- A well-funded tree planting program
- Squarely addressing the need to eradicate invasive weeds and species (feral deer in nearby Sherbrooke Forest are causing immense damage)

- Stronger, enforceable laws to end habitat destruction
- A particular focus for reviving those species currently facing extinction.