



**From:** POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 30 August 2020 5:09 PM  
**To:** ecosystems  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

**Categories:** Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Ms Jane Pammer



**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

--

Ecosystem decline is complex and picking out the most critical factors is hard. However as a bushland management professional working for 20 years in native ecosystems in Melbourne’s rural fringe, in my opinion the 4 aspects listed below are critical contributors to this decline:

1. There is a low level of knowledge & appreciation by land managers & planners of indigenous groundstorey vegetation (and its associated soil profile) – its presence and its role in the ongoing self sustaining survival of the remaining remnant vegetation.
2. Over grazing – presently by Grey Kangaroos (graze groundstorey) and Deer (graze shrubs/middlestorey).
3. Lack of appreciation that ecosystems are everywhere, not just in National Parks and conservation reserves, and not just in places with indigenous vegetation.
4. Too high use of resources by humans in all aspects of our lives.

Below I have detailed key actions need to occur to arrest this decline:

Critical decline contributor 1. There is a low level of knowledge & appreciation by land managers & planners of indigenous groundstorey vegetation (and its associated soil profile) – its presence and its role in the ongoing self sustaining survival of remaining remnant vegetation.

How to tackle 1:

Planning & Capital works (large & small)

- change the language used in planning documents & signage from ‘tree protection zone’ to ‘vegetation protection zone’.
- ensure vegetation assessors have expertise in groundstorey vegetation as well as larger middle & upperstorey plant species.
- fund adequate involvement by a officer with the above expertise in all parts of the project planning process –

concept, design, implement & post completion.

Land management - Parks & Gardens

- the horticulture apprenticeship system must include time spent with bushland management as this is a part of Parks not separate to.

Land Management - Native vegetation

– ensure weed management programmes in bushland is ‘context of weed’ driven not ‘weed species driven’ eg do not control weed *Allium triquetrum* where it is only amongst other groundstorey weeds, but rather only where it is amongst indigenous groundstorey. Much of Melbourne Water grant funding and vegetation maintenance works is of questionable value given most is ‘weed species driven’. They are not the only agencies to which this assertion can be levelled.

- ‘weed species driven’ work is not ecosystem management, it is amenity management.

- where there is remnant vegetation ensure most bushland management funding is on indigenous groundstorey vegetation management rather than being ‘weed species driven’ or planting.

Local laws

- explore ways that local laws can assist with protection of roadside vegetation from the adjacent ‘neatening’ resident, in particular the groundstorey.

Critical decline contributor 2. Over grazing – presently by Grey Kangaroos (graze groundstorey) and Deer (graze shrubs/middlestorey).

Critical decline contributor 3. Lack of appreciation that ecosystems are everywhere, not just in National Parks and conservation reserves, and not just in places with indigenous vegetation. How to tackle 3:

- invest in nudging urban open space management to view that amenity & biodiversity are not in separate parts of the open space, but together, one in with the other.

- invest in nudging same in backyards.

- invest in promotion of idea that all backyards should have a wild & quiet bit.

- ramp up appreciation that experiencing nature is important to our mental health.

Critical decline contributor 4. Too high use of resources by humans in all aspects of our lives.

How to tackle 4:

- Investigate ways to reduce the use of resource intensive Parks & Gardens activities – some ‘low hanging fruit’: reduce use of advanced trees and frequency/height of amenity mowing, do less neatening up of previously wild spaces.

- Investigate ways to reduce the use of resource intensive Bushland Management activities - ensure woody weed control is done with minimising resource use in mind i.e. leave standing, no burn piles or chipping.

-----

-----

--

File1:

File2:

File3: