

From: Norie Neumark [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 30 May 2020 10:28 AM
To: ecosystems
Subject: Please stop extinction

To the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Extinction Crisis

As someone who moved to Victoria in 2010, I want to share with you how much I've grown to love the Victorian bush and how valuable, essential, our ecosystem is to all of our well being, happiness, and futures. It is the main reason I'm staying here even though my job here has finished. Living in suburban Melbourne, I go bushwalking around the Dandenongs for my sanity and health —fresh air, tuning into nature's rhythms etc. Special trips for me have been the Prom and the Grampians where the emus and kangaroos are a total delight and the trees and rocks and waterways are unique. It is so essential all this complex ecology is preserved for future generations and the wildlife and flora that thrive there — as well as for our enjoyment now. With the effects of COVID-19 meaning local Victorian tourism will be even more important as many, like me, will not be traveling outside the state or outside Australia as much, preserving the beauty and life of our ecosystem is all the more vital economically as well as environmentally.

Seeing the destruction of the fires this summer was devastating and heartbreaking for us all. It is hard to fathom why, on top of that natural (climate change-fuelled) destruction, we allow wilful, and totally unnecessary, destruction through logging, clearing, coal and gas burning. Who was dry eyed watching tv images of kangaroos and koalas suffering in the fires? But the same suffering goes on with the daily habitat destruction that is legal in Victoria. And what about the native water birds in our beautiful wetlands who suffer at the hands and guns of shooters who shoot for fun rather than food — injured birds left to painful death, extinction of rare species? Why is our lovely progressive state allowing this legal slaughter when other states don't?

The threats to our wonderful and unique wildlife and native plants are mind boggling, when we have an image of Victoria as a green, lush, and progressive state. When people hear about the extent of the unnecessary devastation and extinctions, they are appalled. Rather than a very few (relatively) jobs in timber industry in old growth and habitat forests, we could employ people in the cities and country-side caring for and replanting parks, streets, rivers, creeks, forests— expanding growth of native vegetation and regenerative farming.

Anyway, I'll leave it to the experts in green ecology and habitat protection to provide the sad details of the ongoing and unnecessary devastations, as well as, on the positive side the sorts of very achievable solutions that Parliament could put in place to avoid extinctions. What I want to convey as a proud Victorian is how much I and my friends and family and neighbours are terrified by the growing extinctions and habitat destruction and lack of care. We love the habitat and wildlife and implore you to enable them to be restored and protected.

Yours Faithfully,

Dr. Norie Neumark
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My submission can be made public

I respectfully acknowledge the Boonwurung and Wurundjeri people of the Eastern Kulin nation on whose land I live and work. I acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded and pay my respects to elders past and present.