



From: POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 30 August 2020 7:10 PM
To: ecosystems
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Sharon Mason



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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My brother visits me in Warrandyte, he lives near the casino, he likes the noise of busyness, he is obsessed with sport. We sit on the front veranda and chat. All of a sudden, he is excitedly exclaiming what is that? Is that a bird? Oh, there is another one, it is different, this place is really amazing, it's exciting, its relaxing, you could charge people to sit here. My brother is one of many who sit and think there is so much life here, even others who live in Warrandyte. I have made an effort to make the small space around me be a home for as many creatures as possible, I import dead wood when a branch falls on the road, I bring it home and put it in the yard. The branch becomes a source of food for some invertebrates and fungi, its structure allows shelter and cover for reptiles, birds, insects and spiders, and then even more little creatures come to feed off other creatures, and find mates, be eaten etc. The branch also acts to protect the plants under it from being grazed by Kangaroos and Deer, so there is more cover and more little creatures. These plants produce seed, another food source. My yard is messy, my yard is a fire hazard, people pick/steal wildflowers from my yard to put in vases. If we want to save ecosystems and biodiversity many, many more people need to have yards/properties like mine. How to achieve this?

We need to manage every square meter that we can for biodiversity. Every square meter of land that still has remnant vegetation on it should be protected and managed.

Public land managers need to set an example of best practice land management. At this point in time there is a bit of substandard management happening on public land. Rare plants have been mistaken for weeds by land managers and contractors. Putting in more money does not necessarily mean more ecosystems will be saved.

Every council and shire in Victoria need an ecologists/botanist or equivalent employed in the planning and engineering and parks & gardens departments. This is to ensure the subdivision, the new path, the tree planting, the playground, the road widening etc are designed and implemented to preserve and enhance all the native vegetation that remains. All includes the small things like native grasses and small ground storey plants.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission

Sharon Mason

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File1:

File2:

File3: