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Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria
Date: Sunday, 30 August 2020 8:57:46 PM

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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There is no shortage of evidence that has been produced by Government and NGO reports showing the dire state of Victorian and Australian Flora and Fauna and the Ecosystems on which they depend.

Yet despite this evidence, we have continued to do "just a little bit more damage".

Repeated appeals to VCAT and LGA's to employ the

Precautionary Principle and protect a Grassland or Grassy Woodland are invariably rejected simply because the decision makers do not have the ecological knowledge to make relevant decisions. They see things in the false colours of economic growth and cannot see how air, water and land are progressively becoming more damaged.

This ignorance has to stop.

We must accept greater responsibility to Care for Country and reflect on how we have so seriously polluted and degraded the land we have stolen from the Aboriginal people.

Perhaps Covid 19 will act as a circuit breaker and cause us to change direction, to Reset the Compass and help our land to heal.

We need more funding for the agents that try to protect country but are continually, ignored, underfunded or disrupted. We also need more support for landscape scale revegetation projects like Habitat 141, Gondwana link and the sort of work that Greening Australia used to have sufficient funding support to carry out.

Victoria also needs a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in the west of the state to value our Western Basalt Plains Grasslands.

And we need an end to the non-level playing field in VCAT or court, where dodgy consultants are well-paid to lie for developers, while conservation groups have to raise funds to fight for local conservation.

Stuart McCallum

Friends of Bannockburn Bush

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File1:

File2:

File3: