

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [ecosystems](#)  
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Ecosystem decline is happening the world over. It is contributing to increased CO2 emissions, leading to an acceleration in climate change which is in turn accelerating the rate of more ecosystem decline as demonstrated by the recent and unprecedented record breaking Australian bushfires. The bushfires made an unprecedented contribution to CO2 emissions. Thereby, ecosystem decline and climate change are two elements of a positive feedback loop. Each contributing, reinforcing and accelerating the other.

It is quite clear then, that to mitigate the effects of climate change we should do all that is within our power to stem the tide of ecosystem decline happening in the world. Deforestation and land clearing are two aspects of ecosystem decline that is caused by human activity.

With respect, there has been more than a great deal of articles, reports, and scientific papers arguing against the logging practices that are maintained by Australia's State Governments. We heed the voices of our chief medical officers when it comes to dealing with the Covid19 pandemic. However, we have yet to heed the voice and opinions of our top ecologists and fire chiefs on the subject of ecosystem decline in our native forests.

The following are 4 brief but important points with relevant links.

For our local region of Victoria. The following points should be considered by our government:

**1. *There has been no consent from Traditional Owners in regards to logging, no consideration of the cultural and spiritual significance of forests and wildlife to First Nations Peoples, no consideration or acknowledgement of the impacts of environmental degradation on First Nations Peoples.***

I am not of indigenous heritage, so I cannot speak as to how they might feel about the current level of destruction occurring in Victoria's Native Forests. I know that the pictures of Vicforests logging practices causes me an immense level of anguish. If the Djab wurrung birthing tree blockade is anything to go by, the level of spiritual pain and anxiety they must feel when they witness native forest sites that have been clear felled. It must be unimaginable.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/apr/01/trees-are-at-the-heart-of-our-country-we-should-learn-their-indigenous-names>

**2. *Climate change is having an enormous impact on threatened species. The strong links between climate change and bushfires poses a severe threat to the continued survival of threatened species and ecosystems.***

Frances Pike, the author of the article included in the following link made a very pertinent point;

"The contribution Australia's carbon-dense forests could play in sucking carbon down from the atmosphere is not only being squandered; it's in full reverse. We're sending some of the most carbon-dense forest carbon stores overseas to be converted to atmospheric CO2. Intact South-Eastern Australian eucalypt forest ecosystems can store an average 640 tonnes per hectare.."

[https://independentaustralia.net/environment/environment-display/forests-logging-and-climate-change\\_12668](https://independentaustralia.net/environment/environment-display/forests-logging-and-climate-change_12668)

### **3. Native forest logging and land clearing is a key driver of decline in biodiversity, threatened species and ecosystems.**

A healthy ecosystem, as it is growing and drawing in carbon, is much more effective at mitigating the effects of climate change. Though it is somewhat difficult to measure against a standard, a forest or habitat rich in biodiversity is widely considered to be healthier than one that is not.

In the report 'LOGGING AND ITS IMPACT ON FOREST AS A LIFE SOURCE', Rex Eruotor writes;

"The most important conservation impact of logging forest is the attendant loss of biological and genetic diversity. It is quite clear, felling substantial areas of forest will result in loss of species. The detrimental effect of logging, which has been underestimated, for sometime has become, according to most studies, concentrated on the larger and more obvious species, such as mammals, birds and flowering plants. Although these groups are likely to suffer decline after felling, effects are often partial and confusing with certain species showing at least short term increase. Plants and animals vanish with the forest. However, the impact on invertebrates, lower plants and microscopic life forms is far more significant but has generally still not been assessed and often goes unrecognized.."

<http://www.fao.org/3/XII/0751-B1.htm>

### **4. The catastrophic impacts of the 2019/2020 bushfires wiped out over 1 billion native animals, and over 70% of forests in East Gippsland.**

Considering these figures and the dynamic synergy between climate change and ecosystem decline, it is beyond comprehension that a responsible government would allow the continuation of native forest logging.

Mike Foley from the Sydney Morning Herald cites Brendan Sydes from Environment Justice Australia;

"Environment Justice Australia chief executive Brendan Sydes said "huge areas of national parks and reserves as well as special protection areas" were burnt over summer and "to roll over this agreement for another 10 years is grossly irresponsible".

"Over a 20 year period RFAs have proved inadequate in protecting conservation

values and to pretend they can now provide an adequate framework to respond to the catastrophic fires is implausible," Mr Sydes said.."

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/victoria-s-plans-for-logging-in-bushfire-zones-grossly-irresponsible-20200401-p54g0t.html>

**All logging in Victoria's Native Forests must cease immediately.**

Rupert Veitch

