



From: POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>
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Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Mr Peter Dunn



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I have been a member and active participant of numerous friends' groups in the area of Knox and Yarra Ranges for approximately 10 years, including the Knox Environment Society, the Friends of the Glenfern Green Wedge, and Friends of the Glenfern Bushlands. I am well aware of the rates of extinction in our local area, available through data from Birdlife Australia, Knox Council's Sites of Biological Significance, and the rare and threatened lists on the Flora and fauna Guarantee Act as well as listings on the EPBC Act. In my area, this includes 37 species of threatened birds, 5 species of threatened mammals, and 2 species of threatened fish (as detailed on the SWIFFT website). I have watched in dismay the gradual destruction of trees and other habitat in our area, as farming land and bushlands is cleared to make way for houses in a process of death by a thousand cuts. When I first moved into the area, 30 years ago, there were platypus in our local creek, only yards from my property. They are now extinct in this area. I am also aware that Victoria is the most cleared state in Australia, with 66% of our land having been cleared for development, and in the process we have destroyed the habitat needed to support our beautiful native wildlife. I am deeply disturbed by the immorality of illegal logging in Victorian Forests by the state-run VicForests – no government should be directly involved in the logging industry. Instead, it should be focussed on supporting sustainable, renewable industries. More than 70 threatened species can be found in forests that are still being logged. I believe we need stronger legislative protections and implementation from local through to federal levels if we are to halt the decline in ecosystems. Even working in our local area, we rely on state and federal legislation and lists of endangered species, but our experience has been that these are frequently ignored and developers, often with the support of local councils, are able to find ways around their legal obligations when it comes to planning and protecting local species. The Victorian government must make protection of the environment a priority above all else, because our health and well-being depends on it.

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File1:

File2:

File3: