

Hello,

I wanted to add my voice, re Victoria's extinction crisis.

As a regular visitor to Victoria, I despair whenever I learn more Australian animals here are under threat, knowing our authorities turned a blind eye and helped allow them to disappear from our planet.

How can Victoria be proud that it's the most cleared state in Australia? That more than 120 plants, animals and insects are in the brink of extinction?

That there are more stuffed koala toys, made in China, than the real life, captivating creatures that once abounded in Victoria and are now under such threat from developers, tree clearers and bush fires?

The economy, "jobs and growth" is never an excuse to wipe out the natural world.

It reflects poorly on us as a nation - and specifically, Victoria as a State, that we allow these magnificent animals, unique to Australia, to vanish.

Plus we all know tourists come here to see our animals, in doing so, boosting our economy, so why wipe them out?

Is your vision of our future, endless, dreary suburbia?

I would like to see stronger laws in place that can more readily reject development proposals that would lead to destruction of important native habitat. To know respected wildlife experts, not just bureaucrats, are part of the decision making process before large new developments are allowed. That developers are obliged to disclose the amount of native habitat affected by their actions in prominently read publications, and that these developers are obliged to assist in regeneration in some form..

And perhaps, just as architects of major buildings here in WA are obliged to include a work of art on their site, developers are also obliged, with every new project that gets the go-ahead, to make a hefty contribution to a Victorian wildlife cause.

But that's just prevention stuff. What about more proactive measures as well? It's terrible that forests are still being logged containing more than 70 threatened species.

So much more can be done to protect Victoria's native plants and animals.

Please be remembered as leaders who worked to end habitat destruction and strengthen nature laws.

Our kids, plants, trees, birds and native animals deserve so much better.

It's all such common sense; I'm sorry to even have to write a submission!

Sincerely

Jacqueline Lang

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.