

Joan C. Mason

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Non-Confidential Submission for Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline

I have lived at the foothills of the Baw Baw ranges and also close to the Murray River.

As a botanical artist I have walked wetlands and forests and respect the biodiversity in some of the different ecosystem types.

Early maps of Victorian forested areas from only 100 years ago bear no resemblance to those of today. So many ecosystems have gone forever. Their health is our health and could provide important data for unknown future issues.

Surely an inquiry into their decline is urgently needed. As deforestation, illegal logging, the draining of wetlands, unnecessary shipping ports & the greedy destruction of our State continues unabated, there simply will not be a future for essential ecosystems.

Sincerely concerned,

Joan Mason