
From: POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 31 August 2020 1:38 PM
To: ecosystems
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Mrs Gina Silis
[REDACTED]

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Please Inquiry members investigate. My submission is based on experience around my home and issues that have developed. regards G. F. Silis

Immediate protection of areas of the Yarra State Forest and its surround for identified threatened species that live within her. Acknowledging the biodiversity requirement for the Critically Endangered Leadbeater's Possum and other members of the glider family that the Yarra State Forest and her surround currently offer.

Impact due to Habitat fragmentation due to illegal Mt Biking activity in native forest and the extension of intended 30 + hectares of Mt Bike Park intended to be developed through the Yarra State Forest and surrounds

Data expressed in the "State of the Environment 2018" clearly indicates issues in data collection procedures. Reliance on submission using "desk top" surveys which as expressed in "State of the Environment 2018" are submitted and then funded on old and inadequate information. I ask the Inquiry recommend a halt be placed on the Warburton Mt Bike project in all areas involving State Forest until on the ground survey work is carried out.

A deliberate and clear monitoring and action needs to be implemented to cease all illegal activity in the area of the Yarra State Forest by DELWP in line with regulations and current State Environmental Acts.

The forest around our home in Old Warburton has supports great biodiversity of native wildlife. Healthy Koala and Wombats reside here, neither are afflicted by the debilitating diseases effecting these species. Lyrebirds are breeding very well.

Uncontrolled escalation of illegal clearing, by members of a local Mt Biking group has resulted in: damage to the edge, and transitional areas utilised by the Koalas, wombats, Leadbeater's possum and other members of the glider family.

- deformation of natural ground structures, causing erosion and extensive damage to reptile and insect habitat

- felling of trees greater than 30 cm in girth potential habitat for the critically endangered Leadbeater's Possum that are identified as living within the area
- brush cutting and removal of continuous understory vegetation in areas already subjected to controlled burning practice which has resulted in single species regeneration. Intensity of the last controlled burn has resulted in replacing a slower burning understory with highly inflammable single species (e.g. Hop Goodenia) disrupting the connectivity of understory.
- removal of natural rocks and rocky outcrops to enable illegal tracks through dry and wet stream gullies

2. Native forest logging impact

I Gina F. Silis ask the Inquiry recommend that the transition of the native logging industry move to plantation only timber production immediately, not the targeted date of 2030.

Please investigate how:

Vic forest 2019 Coups located on the southern slopes of Mt Bride (Yarra State Forest) surround forest designated as rainforest of significance.

Please Inquiry members how can logging all around this area not impact on its biodiversity, water quality and increase the risk posed by fire. The impact on diversity of native animals that live on Mt Brides slopes and in neighbouring forest.

3. Impact of unsupervised firewood collection in State native forest, in particular the Yarra State Forest Mt Tugwell /Mt bride Zone

I ask the Inquiry to investigate the suitability of this activity in an area home to the critically Endangered Leadbeater's Possum. Gathers quickly collect the naturally fallen timber and. Then for the rest of the year mature tree felling is carried out. This issue has been continually brought to DELWP's attention. The procedures appear to be static and not responsive to what is occurring in the forest.

Please also investigate procedures for allocation and duration of an area being allocated. I again offer ideas in relation to this. As DELWP staff can not be responsive I now approach and discuss. Something had to be done in the last year over 30 areas have beeb felled and illegally removed.

The State of the Environment Report 2018 reference:

Fo:01A Area of forest satellite data. Rated POOR

Fo:03 Area of forest type by growth stage distribution in protected zones Rated FAIR

Fo:04 Fragmentation of native forest cover

Fo:05 Number of in-situ and ex-situ conservation efforts for forest dependent species POOR

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File1:

File2:

File3: