

From: maria miranda [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 June 2020 3:45 PM
To: ecosystems
Subject: Submission to Inquiry into Extinction Crisis

To the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Extinction Crisis

I moved to Victoria several years ago and live in Melbourne. One of the great things about living in Melbourne is the proximity to some of the oldest and tallest forests in the world. It is a wonderful experience to walk amongst the tall trees of Sherbrooke forest in the Dandenongs, to visit the Yarra Valley and see what remains of Toolangi Forest, Healsville, Kinglake and the Yarra Ranges. These are special places and I have been amazed and awed by their beauty.

Yet, often not far from where I walk I will spot a logging coup – or what looks like a nuclear bomb had exploded in this most beautiful place. At first I was shocked but have since tried to understand why this is happening. When fire destroyed parts of the 1,000 year old Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris thousands of people were seen weeping in the streets grief stricken and shocked. Yet we live in the last remaining forests in Victoria – and the world in some cases. These forests were cared for by Indigenous people for tens of thousands of years, these forests **are** the cathedrals of the Indigenous people, they are sacred. Yet, logging companies are allowed to destroy these ‘cathedrals’ every day. Our disrespect and recklessness is apparent and shocking. Many people here and around the world are weeping with grief. Many people have awoken to this nightmare and want to stop the destruction. Unlike Notre Dame, these cathedrals cannot be rebuilt. They will take hundreds if not thousands of years to ‘rebuild’ and even then they will not be the same, because many delicate creatures will have been lost forever. FOREVER. That’s what extinction means – forever gone. In any case it will not happen in our lifetime. And to top it off we are facing catastrophic global warming.

Habitat loss through logging, insensitive development, creeping suburbia and fires now fuelled by global warming are leaving these precious places exposed and defenceless. There are many ways that we humans could help stop the ongoing ecological destruction. Rather than ripping the clothes off a homeless person and shoving them into the ongoing traffic we could offer to care for them bring them inside and offer them a cup of tea.

Similarly we need our governments, we need MPs like you who represent the will of the people to understand that logging companies, shooting Australian water birds for sport, and greedy overdevelopment do not have a social license, they do not have permission to destroy these sacred places. These actions are crimes and should be prosecuted rather than encouraged. It is the responsibility of Governments to stop the extinctions of birds, mammals, insects and fungi – the complex web of life that live in our forests. It is only through strong legislation, strong Nature laws, and deep understanding of the fragility of life, that we can stop these extinctions. We, the community, cannot do it alone, we need our governments to step up and put in place legislation that will stop the extinctions. This is your responsibility, no one else has the power to stop the logging, the overdevelopment, the senseless shooting. The Victorian people are demanding that our MPs understand, and do something.

As I write this, young people are marching in the streets. The next generation understand. They are watching, they are watching in horror as the world they will inherit is being destroyed. They are furious and I don’t blame them. We will fail future generations if we don’t act now.

May I suggest a field trip. Go and spend a day in the forests walking and breathing in the air, listen to the birds and animals. Listen to your heart. The forests of Victoria are magical, there is nothing else like it.

As Indigenous people try to tell us, “care for Country and Country will care for you.”

Thank-you,

Yours Sincerely,
Maria Miranda
[REDACTED]

Phone. [REDACTED]

My submission can be made public