

The following is a submission to the Parliamentary Extinction Inquiry.

I am extremely concerned at the catastrophic state of Victoria's natural environment and the inaction of the Victorian Government to deal with, what is truly, an emergency situation. Victoria is the most cleared state in Australia - 66% of our land has been cleared of native trees, shrubs and plants - the habitat that supports our native wildlife. Further, over 700 native plants, animals, insects and ecosystems are under threat, with this number growing every day; 120 Victorian animals, birds, plants, insects and fish are now at the brink of extinction. More than 70 threatened species make their home in forests that are still being logged.

This summer's bushfires, which burned 1.4 million hectares in Victoria alone, have hastened annihilation for many species. I find this wanton destruction one of the most depressing facets of the sorry state of the world in which we now live. Depression turns to outright anger when I consider that the actions and inactions of the Victorian Government are exacerbating this destruction; particularly logging of native forests, allowing land clearing, permitting duck shooting and giving licenses for salvage clearing of fire-ravaged areas, despite the evidence that this will finish off many species which may otherwise have survived.

Victoria needs to inject real money into rescuing species which face extinction. I note that NSW has committed \$100 million to this task while Victoria spends next to nothing. We urgently need breeding programs, habitat regeneration and research to begin the long process to environmental recovery.

We also need to stop the destruction of wildlife and their habitat:

- we need an immediate end to logging of native forests
- phasing out of coal and gas burning to reduce emissions causing climate change-induced disasters like this summer's fires
- legislative change to ban the slaughter of native animals and the clearing of native grasslands.

I would like to be kept informed of the progress and outcome of this inquiry. I am happy for my submission to be made public.

Yours sincerely,

Jennie Bremner

