

Submission to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE on the  
Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

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We live on a 167ha property midway along the eastern edge of the Grampians NP. Our property has two Trust for Nature habitat protection covenants that were issued as part of the Grampians to Pyrenees biolink. A primary goal is that our property protects biodiversity.

## Halting & Reversing Ecosystem Decline

Ecosystem decline is due to degradation & loss of habitat, with land-clearing, segregation of habitat, logging, introduced pest species, climate change, poisoning and pollution the major factors. Each of these should be addressed, with a new legislated independent body established that

- Sets and reviews ecosystem targets
- Sets and reviews ecosystem restoration action plans
- Is sufficiently resourced, with a fixed-base, indexed budget that cannot be reduced by government (although government may allocate additional funding)
- Has the power to impose meaningful penalties

## Land-clearing, Habitat-segregation & Logging

- An immediate halt whilst a review is undertaken
- Introduction of a carbon-price and carbon-offset market
- Incentives for revegetation on private land, including for shelter-belts, biolinks and erosion-control
- Increased funding for habitat protection covenants
- Review the whole concept of habitat offsets, which more often than not result in no net gain

## Pest species

- Major eradication programme for foxes, wild dogs, feral cats, hares, pigs and goats, as well as introduced fish and insect species
- Ongoing eradication of deer and feral horses in national parks
- Culling or capture of feral horses outside national parks
- Rabbit and rodent control (they are a major dietary component for many raptors and cannot be eradicated until native marsupial numbers are rebuilt)
- Concentrated targeting of weed species

## Climate Change

- Assistance with community clean energy programmes
- Factor a carbon price into fossil fuel energy
- Incentives for purchase of electric vehicles
- Increase energy rating minimum standards for premises, appliances & vehicles

## Poisoning and Pollution

- Review use of agricultural poisons
- Review use in control of rodents and broader effect on predator food chain
- Impose disincentives for use of packaging and single-use goods that can be detrimental to the environment

## Native Species

- Establish integrated action plans for all vulnerable species
- Immediately halt the legal killing of native species, starting with ducks and quail.