



From: POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 31 August 2020 3:09 PM
To: ecosystems
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Ms Jeanette Lobato



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I wish to make a submission to the inquiry into Ecosystem decline in Victoria. This is the most important inquiry for the Parliament to consider for our future existence. Last summer's bush fires destroyed immense areas of irreplaceable ancient rainforest areas, and huge tracts of forested and bushland areas throughout Victoria. In my lifetime I have lived through 3 such events. Each one coming in quicker succession and each one more intense, indeed horrific and destructive to wildlife and plant species.

This is killing our connection to our beautiful state and a a deep and spiritual ache inhabits our hearts and minds.

This has been caused by uncontrolled, haphazard, unregulated land clearing, since white settlement, rabidly continuing today.

Climate change is multiplying impacts of other drivers of decline, and it is unbelievable that this is still a matter of contention, instead of universal acceptance, with the issue urgently being driven and repeatedly elucidated by Government leaders.

Invasive animals and plants such as feral deer, pigs, goats, horses, rabbits, cats and foxes, and serrated tussock and willows are major contributors to loss of habitat and species.

Native forest logging should not be permitted. Not only does it fragment forests, it destroys habitat for forest-dependent species. These ancient forests are part of the lungs of our world, and need complete protection as they are ancient irreplaceable troves of our natural world.

Unsustainable hunting of native wildlife such as native duck shooting or over-fishing are big contributors to species decline.

Altered water regimes due to dams or over-extraction for irrigation threatens the water supply for our unique trees, plants and animals.

Unfettered population growth, especially around metropolitan and large urban centres, lead to permeant land clearing and fragmentation.

Land-use intensification – including increased grazing pressure or changing from grazing to cropping or irrigation is very important. We must move to more sustainable models and types of farming and agriculture.

There are relatively few timber jobs left in Victoria. With careful planning these jobs can become ones in forest maintenance, ecotourism and education. We will never recover our unique forest and habitats. Leadership and commitment of resources for ecosystem management are critical and increased investment is needed as we are still going backwards.

We can never recover the animal and plant species lost to date. We must do everything we can to preserve, extend and treasure Victoria's natural environment and habitats.

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File1:

File2:

File3: