



From: POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>
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Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Mr Jonathan Robson



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Please stop logging native forests. 60% of Victoria's native forests have already been cleared. We need to protect what's left. We're on the brink of extinction but still really lucky to have the biodiversity left that we have, and are losing at an alarming rate. We need to act now and protect the forests. Our native forests provide critical habitat from a huge range of species. Not just for fauna but the very forest itself. Forests are our life systems they create soil, we can't keep destroying and exploiting them the way we have been and are. It's disgusting and depressing. Nature has remarkable ability to regenerate but we need to protect what's left, and work with that to restore what we have cleared. Forests provide the blueprint for regrowing new forests. I'm not even sure if we know how to grow forests yet. The industry can't keep going the way it is and has been. They need to be sustainable on what's already been cleared through regenerative forestry practices. I think restoring or growing forestry will be a really important industry in the future, we should start working towards that. Need to start working towards restoring and regrowing forests.

We need to listen to and work with indigenous folks. They are the custodians of Australia and looked after Australia for thousands of years. They have an intuitive knowing and understanding of Australian ecology. In regard to managing the land the traditional ecological knowledge they hold, will be fundamental in getting us out of the mess we've created. Think we need to give land back to the traditional owners. Or for now at least a piece of land within each tribal area, and funding and support for the elders to educate the younger generations in their ways, language, stories. They know the land and its significance better than anyone else. Need to start putting in systems that preserve and support them to do that. Within each region or tribal group, they should have a say in how and what happens there. However before asking for help we need to acknowledge our true history, privileges and inherit racism. Any non native living in Australia is very privileged, and needs to recognise these privileges come off the back of stolen land and genocide. Which happened only within one or two generations. Which we choose to ignore and have failed to adequately address. There's still no treaty.

I think this year has been a big wake up for a lot of people. Mass rally's and school protests , fires and pandemic. We are on the edge of the cliff and need to look at this as a point of transition, and not just going back to the same short term economic gain and selfish pursuit. The efforts we make now to make things right, most likely won't be seen for

another generation or so. We have to move towards a more sustainable way of living and relating that accounts for future generations and the life of our planet and people.

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File1:

File2:

File3: