



From: POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 31 August 2020 5:33 PM
To: ecosystems
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Ms. Carol Campbell



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

--

Environment and Planning Committee
Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

31st August 2020

Dear members of the Committee,

I would like to make a submission to the Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria.

I have lived in Victoria for all of my 59 years. Mostly in the Latrobe Valley but also in East Gippsland and the Western districts for a few years.

The Latrobe Valley was surrounded by lush forests, all within a two hour drive. The Strezleckis, the Baw Baws and within easy access to Marysville, East Gippsland and the High country. As a regular traveller to family interstate I have enjoyed the forest drive through Healsville and over the black spur on many an occasion. I have also travelled the Cann River Highway through to the border for consecutive years.

It's breathtaking. Dense tree ferns, blackwood, mountain ash and myrtle beech forest, the scent of leaves and loamy earth, fresh air and wildlife. Wonderful.

Our Victorian forests provide a home for animals that don't live anywhere else. They are the lungs of our state of Victoria and attract rainfall that filters water into the catchment areas that supply Melbourne with some of the best drinking water in the world. They moderate our climate, and they are carbon rich. You don't need to be a scientist to understand that an intact forest is one of the best ways to store this greenhouse gas.

In spite of all this and the ongoing risk of bushfires many of these native forests are still on the logging schedule.

Recent research by noted Australian Professor David Lindemayer would indicate that the worst thing we can do to our country is to not maintain our forests and the diversity of animal and plant species within them.

It doesn't make sense to me that there needs to be a discussion about whether or not we need better and more effective laws to defend nature. We should already be defending nature.

If you look at the big picture, Victoria's natural places form part of the intricate web of life that is integral to the survival of all life on Earth. In these times where people are seeking refuge as a result of devastation wrought by the changing climate and destruction of our environment, we must act as the global citizens we are and do everything we can to safeguard our future as one with clean air, water, food, and places of spiritual nourishment.

We need to do everything in our power to protect and restore nature, including recognising the rights and practices of Traditional Custodians, who have been managing these landscapes for the past 60 000 + years.

As you undertake this important inquiry into Victoria's extinction crisis, I urge you to ensure that: Community rights are guaranteed when governments are making environmental decisions, including the right to participate, the right to access necessary information, the right to challenge environmental decisions and the right to transparency in government decision making.

The rights and interests of Traditional Custodians are recognised in all aspects of land and water management, as well as decision-making in relation to their traditional lands, including traditional management practices such as cultural fire.

The Victorian state government's commitment to a 2030 native forest logging industry transition is brought forward, including: immediate protection of Greater Glider habitat; a continued moratorium on logging in East Gippsland; releasing support for working people before 2024.

Plans for recovery of threatened plants and wildlife are implemented urgently and properly resourced.

The government protects forests for all Victorian's to enjoy now and into the future including supporting the Emerald Link conservation economy proposal for East Gippsland.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission, and I invite any further discussion via email at

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Carol Campbell

[REDACTED]

--

File1:

File2:

File3: