



**From:** POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 31 August 2020 5:37 PM  
**To:** ecosystems  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

**Categories:** Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Dr Peter Turner



**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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As a 78 year old retired physicist whose father, the late Professor John S Turner, was an active conservationist, I have a strong appreciation for Victoria's natural environment and deep concern for the losses of forests, flora and fauna that have occurred over the past 200 years and continue today. I do not have the expertise to address many of the issues covered by the terms of reference of the enquiry but would like to make two points for consideration.

Nearly 70 years ago it became clear from the research led by my father as head of the School of Botany, University of Melbourne, that cattle grazing across the Bogong High Plains were damaging the delicate ecology of the area, especially along watercourses. This and other work led, eventually, to the declaration of the Alpine National Park to protect the precious and highly diverse High Plains ecology, and to the removal of cattle grazing. It is pleasing that the Victorian Government has approved the removal of wild horses that have been causing continued damage.

Following the work of the Land Conservation Council established by the Hamer Government, Victoria has an invaluable range of National Parks to protect the wide range of ecological areas that remain, despite the enormous loss of the original grasslands, forests, coastal landscapes and vegetation, etc, since European settlement. What successive governments have failed to do is provide adequate resources

- to protect and where necessary restore our National Parks,
- to maintain the critical range of biodiversity each contains, and
- to avoid further losses through creation of new National Parks to protect ecosystems that are still under threat, as recommended by VEAC.

So my request to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning is that

- expert scientific advice be given the highest priority in seeking solutions to ecological decline, as it was (eventually) for removal of cattle and feral horses from the High Plains;
- a much higher priority be given to the funding required to maintain the biodiverse ecologies protected within our National Parks through much more employment of and leadership by scientifically trained staff, through surveys of fauna and flora, through restoration of degraded areas, through removal of feral animals and plants and preventing damage through incompatible human activities;

- actions are taken to ensure that our grand children and their children can learn about, appreciate and enjoy the unique natural environments of Victoria.

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File1:

File2:

File3: