

Maeve Bannister

From: POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 31 August 2020 7:27 PM
To: ecosystems
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

--

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Our family cherish the natural environment of all of Victoria. From the forests of East Gippsland to the dry bush of the Mallee.

We have a holiday house in Phillip Island and love the bush walking and variety of nature that the varied geography of the island supports. We have concerns about the future of the wildlife, marine life and natural vegetation of Phillip Island and Western Port.

Our main concerns are related to the lack of action by the Victorian Govt in protecting and enhancing the natural environment of Phillip Island and Western Port. The whole of Western Port lies within the international Ramsar Site to which Australia has obligations.

The government should take actions that ensure that there is no further decline to the Victorian ecosystem.

Some of the actions that are critical include:

1. Remove all industrial uses from Western Port including those at the existing Port of Hastings which is a blight on the natural beauty of Western Port.
2. Not proceed with the construction of the AGL re-gasification unit at Crib Point and the pipe line to Pakenham.
3. Include the whole of Western Port in a State Park, Marine Park or similar to offer protection to the ecosystem for the next hundred and more years.
4. Restore important parts of the original Koo Wee Rup swamp to its original condition. Including relocating the Highway further inland away from the mangroves and/or by elevating sections of it to protect the tidal wetlands which support migratory bird roosting sites and primary foraging habitat. It is less than 100 years since this wonderful large wetland was destroyed by the Highway and farming.
5. Remove Phillip Island from the list of designated bush fire prone areas so as to stop the unnecessary removal of native trees and bush land.
6. Provide a long term management plan for the Ramsar site and provide funding for improved management and protection.
7. Introduce mandatory controls to prevent helicopters, light aircraft and drones from operating inside the Ramsar

site without a permit.

8. Introduce laws that restrict all dogs to be on the lead at all beaches on Phillip Island and at all beaches within the Ramsar site. This law to also restrict dogs at all times from designated hooded plover (protected species) beaches.

9. Introduce a law that prevents jet skis, power boats and other powered water craft from operating within 200 metres of whales, dolphins, seals and other large fish and sea mammals. The exception would be for registered and experienced tour boat operators.

10. Introduce lower speed limits on all roads on Phillip Island so that road side vegetation can be retained and to reduce the road kill toll of wallabies, koalas, cape barren geese, echidnas etc.,

Thank you.

Terence and Brigitte Nott