



From: POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 31 August 2020 8:53 PM
To: ecosystems
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Mr Robert Pease



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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28/08/2020

RE: Inquiry into Species Decline in Victoria

Dear committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry into Ecosystems Decline in Victoria.

As a passionate Victorian and father of three children who loves our wildlife and wild places I am very concerned about the severe decline that I have seen in Victoria's natural environment during my lifetime and the very negative impact that this is having on our wildlife including Victoria's faunal emblem, the Leadbeater's Possum. Victoria has the highest number of threatened species of any Australian state ... and the impacts of climate change are accelerating this decline.

A coordinated and forward-thinking response is required from our government to protect Victoria's environment assets for future generations.

Key issues that I would like the committee to address include:

- Recommending the strengthening of Victoria's environmental laws by ensuring that the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 is adequately implemented, and/or made stronger including a requirement for the creation of enforceable management plans to guide and implement conservation action for all listed species and communities. This should include improving compliance and enforcement with our environmental laws by acknowledging the need for an independent conservation regulator with a clear legislative foundation and all the legal powers needed to ensure Victoria's conservation laws are complied with.
- Recommending a halt to logging in all old growth forests including the acceleration of the announced transition of native forest logging industry to plantation only timber production by 2030. While only 1% of Victoria's Central

Highlands Mountain Ash ecosystem remains unlogged and unburnt, it is almost unbelievable that we continue the unsustainable and uneconomic logging of these precious high value old growth forests for conversion to low value products such as photocopy paper. These forests provide precious habitat for wildlife and are an essential resource for biodiversity and the reversal of species decline.

- Recommending the establishment of the Great Forests National Park which would provide a major tourist and economic asset as well protecting endangered species before clear fell logging by Vic Forests destroys the continuity of these iconic central highland forests forever.
- Recommend the provision of adequate long-term funding for the monitoring and management of Victoria's RAMSAR listed wetlands in-line with the recommendations of the recent Public Accounts and Estimates Committee parliamentary inquiry. Recommend a halt to the environmentally damaging and economically crazy AGL gas important terminal which is located immediately adjacent to a RAMSAR wetland on shores of beautiful Westernport Harbour.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Pease

[Redacted signature]

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File1:

File2:

File3: