

As a voter and taxpayer, I commend the parliament for undertaking an inquiry into the critical issue of loss of biodiversity.

I am deeply concerned by the exploitation and disrespect for animals and the natural environment and the unbridled encroachment on animal habitat which is morally abhorrent and unsustainable.

I believe we need to immediately end the release of large tracts of land for housing development. It is simply unsustainable to keep building further out from Melbourne. We need to create a hard green belt around the metropolis...and stick to it...not push it out further when it suits developers. To support this, we also need to look at viable population levels and not continue to artificially increase the population through migration in the service of economic growth.

We also need to introduce harsh penalties for people who harm animals. I was so disgusted by the proposal of a Crown high roller to create a wombat shooting range for the enjoyment of tourists. Yet, it happened here in Victoria, right under the Government's nose and he very nearly got away with it.

We should also invest a lot more in infrastructure that supports and protects wildlife such as animal overpasses over busy roads so that they have an alternative way of reaching feeding grounds rather than having to tempt death going across highways.

I'm not an environmental expert but I care deeply about the environment and I see the devastation that humans are causing to biodiversity which, once lost, will never be recovered.

Please use your elected roles to protect our native flora and fauna and make custodianship of the land the legacy of your office.

Please note, I do not wish my submission to be made public.

Thank you, Christina