

To whom It May Concern

It is depressing to read that 66% of land in Victoria has been cleared, yet there are forces that wish to clear even more.

It seems obvious to me that this would cause further extinctions of flora and fauna.

We need to heal the land and we need leadership and resources to do so.

Galvanise people to heal the land, not just deal with crises.

I don't agree with the sales pitch for destructive practices to create jobs, when there are so many restorative practices that

could also create jobs. If it's about creating jobs, we should go for the jobs that are not going to rip up the land and cause more of the same sorts of problems we have now.

We need to reduce our waste of resources and energy. The wasteful lifestyle of many is directly linked to the destruction of landscapes either by providing energy or extracting resources. Thus, wasteful lifestyles contribute to species extinction. Many jobs could be created to reduce waste.

I have spent a lot of time in Victoria's National Parks and Reserves and other natural places. Bushwalking, canoeing, swimming, rock pooling and also restorative work as a volunteer (my personal favourite).

You can breathe in places like this. Breathe and relax, even if you are working. They are important.

It's important that the flora and fauna are there even though you might not be lucky enough to see them.

They all help to keep the ecosystem, with us in it too, healthy and sane.

I would like to submit my thoughts to the inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Branagan.