

15<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

Turk's  
Agricultural  
Services



AGN: 79 168 035 308

To the Environmental Planning Committee c/o Melina Bath MP

RE: Submission into ecosystem decline in Victoria and the creation of a Land Use Commission

Dear Ms. Bath,

I have been in contact with several other people regarding the questions raised in the *Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria*.

As you are aware, we have pushed hard over many years to have the voice of the timber industry heard in this debate, especially in regards to job creation, bush fire safety and sustainability of the natural environment.

All indications are that the present system of National Parks is not delivering good outcomes and yet further locking up of state forest has been recommended to government. This threatens the sustainability of the timber industry and so far, we have not been able to find any avenue for appeal or to have a rational argument heard, despite expert reports that the industry is operating well within sustainability limits.

I am aware that there exists a proposal for the creation of an independent Victorian Public Land Use Commission that intends to look at a broader picture of sustainable industry and give fair voice to the concerns of commercial stakeholders.

I would like to take this opportunity to voice my approval of such an idea, as I feel that more money, more locking up of forests and more interference by uninformed public servants is not in the public or industry's interest.

Your Sincerely,

Xavier Van Dugteren  
*Turk's Agricultural Services*