

16/07/2020

Dear Environment and Planning Committee,

I would like to make a submission to the Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline.

Over the last 3 years I have spent more time in nature, from hiking, sports, to weekend camping trips with friends and then starting a small business. I've realised that the environment is my future, it's my joy, my entertainment, it brings my friends together and is at the core of my business.

My business Coastline Adventures takes people all over Victoria to visit nature, from the waves in Torquay to the mountains in our Alpine region, and across the Adelaide border. We work in conjunction with nature, supporting other local businesses, engaging Indigenous and wildlife tourism, use eco friendly accommodations and we know tourists and locals alike are conscious of our environmental impact and want to support businesses that consider this.

I want to be operating my business hiking, surfing, snowboarding and diving, and going camping with my friends in State forests for years to come.

However due to the decisions of our leaders to support the degradation of our nature, my business, and our tourism community is threatened.

- Victoria needs a new, independent, well resourced conservation regulator to police deforestation and other destructive industries. The EPA is the independent watchdog for pollution, but currently there is no independent watchdog to ensure industries comply with environmental laws, with numerous breaches to laws continuing to occur and a long history of regulators turning a blind eye.
- The devastation inflicted on our wildlife and forests from the 2019 - 2020 bushfires has made forest protection and a rapid logging transition more urgent. The Victorian state government's commitment to a 2030 industry transition must be brought forward. Two immediate priorities are protection of unburnt Greater Glider habitat, and a continued moratorium on logging in East Gippsland.

I urge the Committee to look to the future of small local businesses that support nature and our future in tourism.

Here is a link to the website for my business Coastline Adventures:

<https://www.coastlineadventures.com.au>

Yours Sincerely,

Jane Hart

[Redacted signature]



"I agree to this submission being made public" Note - we encourage public submissions. They will be published on parliament website but your address or contact details will not be made public. Otherwise, if you prefer please ask for submission to be treated as confidential.