

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ENRRDC](#)
Subject: Invasive Species Summary and Recommendation.
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Inquiry into the Control of Invasive Animals on Crown Land.

Please find below a summary of and a recommendation stemming from my four submissions to this inquiry.

SUMMARY OF AND A RECOMENDATION FROM MY SUBMISSIONS NUMBERED 1 TO 4.

In my Submissions Numbered 1 to 4 I have provided information on various invasive species, their role in our ecology and their effects on our environment. There is detail on the “hows and whys” along with suggestions of how to address issues arising from these invasive species presence.

Of those afore mentioned invasive species one is an unprecedented stand out due to its mostly unknown current and future effects on our indigenous flora and fauna and as such demands our unwavering attention. It is the smallest but is the one which demands the most attention.

In my Submission No. 4 I labelled the European Wasp as **Australia's Ultimate Alien Immigrant** and did so with good reason. The European Wasp is our biggest ecological and environmental threat and to date it is successfully colonising Victorian Forests and affecting ecosystems via a relentless creeping growth as new nests are established at an unprecedented rate.

The wasp disrupts and destroys all insect life in its home territory - up to 900 metres from its nest - by preying on them for food. It also starves them by preventing the indigenous insects and bees from feeding on nectar because it also feeds on nectar. Being an aggressive species possessing an ability to gain nourishment from any opportunity the wasp is easily able to be the only surviving insect in its home range.

This in turn disrupts the normal pollination cycle of the various native flora who rely on insects for pollination. With a reduction and/or elimination of insects the small insect/caterpillar eating native birds – there are dozens of such species such as Wrens and Finches - who may well starve to death. Birds are territorial and are tied to their home range so they will remain in their newly insect depleted home

territory and die from starvation.

Yet no-one is paying attention to the Wasp threat, no-one is watching and no-one is interested in this unprecedented colonisation of our forests. Research funding seems to be solely dedicated to those European Wasps which are in close proximity to human habitation and crops. Budget allocations are needed to employ research scientists to investigate and understand the wasp and to find a way to stop and destroy it in our remote bush lands.

A plausible and likely explanation for the Wasp being a low priority is that its colonisation of native forests and its effects are an unknown fact in itself. That government and academia are simply not aware that forest colonisation by the Wasp is not only occurring but is doing so very quickly and in large numbers.

The Earth is currently facing an increasing loss of species that threatens to rival the five great mass extinctions of the geological past. Causes are thought to be human destruction of ecosystems, over exploitation of species and natural resources, human overpopulation, the spread of agriculture and pollution. This is known as the Sixth Extinction

Mass extinctions have occurred globally five times in the four billion year history of life on earth. They are loosely defined as moments in geological history when half or more of all marine and terrestrial species died off in a short period of time. Many credible scientists fear that the sixth mass extinction in the planet's long history is unfolding before us.

But what has this to do with the European wasp in Victoria?

Plenty! At the moment it cannot be substantiated but neither can it be disproved that the Wasp is altering the environment and ecology of the bush lands of The Great Dividing Range and it may very well be classified as a localised "Sixth Extinction" event restricted to the Victorian Alps.

The impact/impact/change the Wasp inflicts on our ecological systems is/will result in environmental change at all levels of life – both flora and fauna. The sad fact is that this devastating change is already well under way as the European Wasp breeds and thrives in an unstoppable colonisation of our native forests.

I am not being alarmist nor would I be so presumptuous as to tell this Inquiry what it must do but in good faith I caution this Inquiry that damage and ecological

change is currently occurring on a scale that is unseen and unrecognised along with unknown consequences. That everything we know and love about our bushland environment is under serious and to date unstoppable attack which is happening at an unprecedented rate.

The flow on effects of the European Wasp may be such that all our mammalian, reptilian and bird [Aves] native species – the large and small omnivores, carnivores and grass/seed eaters etc – may well be driven to 'threatened' or 'extinction' levels before our very blind eyes at the moment. This is certainly probable within a “local area” aspect of each Wasp nests home range.

The size of Victorian Crown Lands is huge. Parks and Conservation Reserves - 3,982,000 Hectares. State Forests – 3,138,000 Hectares. Other Crown Land – 796,00 Hectares.

Combined to a total 7,916,000 Hectares much of this land mass is virtually unreachable due to steepness, thickness of the forest growth and isolation from access tracks and roads. All of this land is suitable for European Wasp colonisation and totally out of sight of humanity.

I implore you to please give this matter your most earnest attention.

Thank you.

Dennis Keith.

- ENDS

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