

Tue 11/12/2012

Submission for threatened species

Committee Secretary,

Dear Sir/Madam,

Firstly let me introduce myself. My name is Daniel Bell, I'm 62 years old, married with two grown up children, one grand child and more on the way.

My wife and I have lived all our life in the beautiful Yarra Valley. We have travelled extensively throughout our great country, I therefore have first hand knowledge just how fragile this continent is and realize something has to be done urgently to protect our native plant and wild life from further extinction. It's not just threatened species that need to be considered, it's all species.

It's a known fact that we live in one of the driest continents in the world and since white settlement, we have cleared huge tracts of land, but we still continue to plunder and trash what little is left of our beautiful forests, with the majority of the timber going to the wood chip industry.

Habitat destruction is still continuing at an alarming rate, clear felling in the native forests of Victoria is threatening our very own faunal emblem, the Leadbeaters Possum. Urban sprawl is eating into koala habitat, so the developers put up a sign with a koala emblem which reads "we live here too". What a joke! Does anybody believe they can co-exist with cars, cats, dogs and people. My point here is, we must stop intruding on their domain and put these harmless creatures first before the almighty dollar and ruthless multinational companies. Otherwise the only place in the not to distant future you are going to see certain varieties of wildlife will be at sanctuaries or zoos, and that will be a sad day for future generations.

I therefore urge you as custodians of this beautiful country to act now with the utmost urgency before it's too late and listen to and implement recommendations from knowledgeable people, such as David Lindenmayer, Tim Flannery, etc, etc.

Thanking you in this matter.

Daniel Bell