

14/12/2012

Submission for threatened species

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you in regards to care and management of threatened species, in particular the Lead Beater's Possum. How much vegetation and forest needs to be cut down, burned and pulped before you realise more needs to be done to protect our native species?

I have lived my entire life in the Upper Yarra Valley, living in bush surrounds where my curiosity and empathy for native animals was nurtured. I have always been careful to not disturb nests and habitats, as the animals belonged here first and have a right – in my eyes – to live in a peaceful and safe environment. Australians are blessed with unique animals and we should do more to foster and protect them from what they cannot protect themselves from. Us!

Driving through various areas of the Yarra Valley, smouldering log coups are an absolute eyesore. And where are the animals that once took shelter in the trees and undergrowth? Where are their babies? Where is their food source? That's right, it's been consumed by greedy, wasteful humans who seem to be showing more interest in the almighty dollar, here and now, rather than the preservation of animals and habitats for future generations.

Sure we have zoo's and animal sanctuaries, but I don't want to have to take my children or grandchildren to these places to see animals that once thrived in the great Australian bush. Breeding has proven difficult among some native species, especially the Lead Beater's Possum. They just don't cope in captivity. Why should they have to adapt to that when there is perfectly good bush and forest for them? Oh yes. It's being depleted by the day. The Lead Beater only lives in a small pocket of Victoria and it seems you have no qualms in making this pocket even smaller – pushing them out of their homes and into extinction.

Please have a heart, think about the future and our native animals. Protect them. All the money in the world can't bring them back once they are gone. It is time to act now! Before it's too late. Extinction is permanent.

Yours sincerely

Melinda Taylor