

Submission to DSE White Paper: "Land and biodiversity at a time of climate change".

From the Kilsyth Branch of the Australian Labor Party

1. Extractive Industries and mining:

Legislation must be enacted to:

- ❖ prevent extractive industries from operating in urban environments.
- ❖ ensure that a no quarry is allowed to operate without a minimum "safety" zone of 500 meters or more from dwellings, schools, national parks and so on.
- ❖ Cause the end of the operation of the hard rock quarry in Montrose and also to the adjoining concrete recycling and asphalt plant operation in Montrose (which emit silica dust, formaldehyde etc).

These are causing:

- Health risks to the young and elderly attending the numerous kinders/schools and retirement institutions respectively within a few hundred metres distant
- Severe damage to the Ken Leversha Reserve and Bungalook Creek – and area of rich biodiversity and an important habitat for rare species where local people volunteer their time to do weed eradication and bush regeneration work
- Poor air quality with freshly fractured crystalline silica PM10 and PM2.5 fine dust particles.

2. No nuclear power plants in Victoria and increases in the numbers of subsidies to assist research to investigate more benign power generation from means such as thermodynamic, wind, solar etc

3. Expunge the loss-making, carbon-expensive Grand Prix. Transfer the millions that are spent annually from the public purse on this event to assist with the subsidies mentioned in 2 above and the implementation of carbon credit trading schemes for all.

4. Publicity Campaigns

Indicating to the General Public why retaining biodiversity and protecting native flora and fauna is important

How to set up a carbon trading scheme for your home, work, hobby pursuits and so on.
Why and how to remove environmental weeds and revegetate with endemic indigenous natives?

5. The burning and fire-break clearing activities of DSE in our nearby national park with its areas of vulnerable Grassy Forest and a rare community of Grassy Dry Forest need to be based on clearly defined, thoroughly researched data rather than the generalizations and inexact "science" on which decisions to burn are currently made. Well researched scientific data is critical to prevent the further loss of endemic, indigenous plant and animal diversity. The cruelty of these burning activities to indigenous animals needs to be considered – such as the utilization of wildlife rescue teams to be sent in following burning episodes.

6. DSE/Parks Victoria/DPI and Shire Councils must be resourced BETTER so as to provide adequate resources to curtail the burgeoning weed growth in parks, reserves, roadsides coastlines etc. It is not feasible for the State Government to expect Shire Councils to fund weed eradication – councils need Grants for this.

7. Educational campaigns through Bush Fire Blitzes and Community Fireguard activities, the public at the rural urban interface realize that each household must have a fire-plan and be ready to protect themselves and their property in a bushfire. DSE's policy from the early 1990's (with no apparent scientifically-based justification) to spend public money on purchasing private properties near parks needs to be immediately quashed – and the money

spent on bush regeneration activities to rectify the weed the infested land and the weed escapees it has neglected since its residential property purchases in the early 1990's.

8. Until rigorous and independent peer-reviewed scientific research unequivocally reveals that genetically modified organisms (GMO's) will not be harmful to humans, domesticated animals and Australian native flora and fauna, and that cross pollination from GMO's to agricultural crops can be prevented, Governments must resist all efforts to allow "trials" of GMO's in this country.

9. Planning authorities and personnel such as VCAT members must be prevented from overturning planning laws that prohibit the desecration or removal of remnant or biodiverse native flora and fauna habitat.

10. Tuition for shire planners and VCAT personnel needs to be implemented to enable them to understand the importance of retaining remnant indigenous flora. Legislation may need to be enacted to "encourage" them to disallow planning permits where biodiverse flora an fauna is at risk.

11. Implement worthwhile incentives to encourage the installation, in new and current buildings, of double glazing, solar heating, grey water recycling, water tanks etc., to reduce carbon loadings and reservoir fresh water usage

12. Instigate easily accessible carbon credit trading schemes for property owners - private, commercial, government and also for 'stewards' – e.g environmental community groups, sporting clubs). A good example of these carbon credit trading schemes is the CERES work with schools.

Under the Heading of 'what else should the white paper address'

This White Paper/Green Paper process MUST recommend that logging in water catchments and non plantation forests ceases immediately. Optimising current water catchment facilities and retaining mature forests are critical to helping us combat the effects of climate change.

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