

SUBMISSION TEXT:

To the Project Director Land and Biodiversity White paper project team
DSE – Victoria
P. O. Box 500
East Melbourne, 3002

I, Melissa Carstens (BSC (Hons)) am grateful for the opportunity to express my qualified opinion and my concerns in the Government and DSE 'Land and biodiversity at a time of climate change' White Paper.

I do recommend that the Minister John Thwaites urgently appoints a Wildlife Advocate to assist him in protecting our biodiversity. Without which, Minister Thwaites is walking blind. Qualified Scientists are needed to help guide changes to maintain current biodiversity.

It is very clear that the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change, John Thwaites has so many responsibilities, too many responsibilities -he is being pulled in too many directions. The demands on his time do little justice to the value of Australia's biodiversity, the needs of which are simply not being met at this time of climate change. It is becoming harder and harder for Australia's plants and animals to survive, with climate change adding greatly to this struggle.

Each of the three categories for which he is responsible are vitally important for the future survival of biodiversity. Asking that the Minister be adequately researched, informed, briefed and able to address the pressing needs and requirements of biodiversity is simply not possible. He needs a qualified advisor to help him make the best decisions for Australia. Minister Thwaites needs a qualified advisor to help him protect Australia's rich, ancient & highly endemic biodiversity.

Victoria's native fauna need a Wildlife Advocate to assist the Minister at this most critical time of need.

Please consider my above opinions and statements as a serious submission.

Regards,

Melissa Carstens (BSc (Hons))