

18th June, 2007

Project Director,  
Land & Biodiversity White Paper Project Team,  
Department of Sustainability & Environment,  
PO Box 500,  
EAST MELBOURNE 3002

Dear Sir,

I am interested and actively involved in the environment at a local level through groups such as Bird Observers Club of Aust., Birds Australia, Australian Plants Society and Landcare.

I would like to comment in regard to the Section Our Ecosystems of the Consultation Paper, in particular to the Page 9 heading "Is the loss of flora and fauna a major problem" 2nd paragraph "No other area of similar size in Australia supports such a broad range of ecosystems."

I believe we are currently seeing a loss of health of remnant vegetation including local remnant vegetation patches, roadside corridors, small bush patches on public and private land and individual paddock trees.

These corridors that link remnant vegetation are critical to the migration, nomadic and seasonal movements of birds to and from breeding and feeding areas. Many of Australias birds make annual journeys to return to specific locations to breed and feed while others are more nomadic and seasonal following better conditions depending on weather and rainfall events.

As older trees and isolated vegetation succumb to a change of climate through weather extremes, temperature changes and disease natural regeneration may not occur. Add to this increased pressure from industry and urban expansion, pollution and invasion of exotic plants and animals and these remnant corridors will no longer exist except in isolation, creating a loss of biodiversity of species of flora & fauna.

Victorias ecosystems are intrinsicly linked to each other and are becoming more isolated from each other as time passes. We need to have Policy in place to enhance and protect remnant vegetation and corridors linking such patches.

Yours faithfully,



Pauline Bartels.