



## **ACT NOW! 5 minutes of your time could make a world of difference**

**I**N April this year the Victorian Government launched a draft plan for rebuilding the state's devastated natural environment and protecting threatened species from extinction.

This "Green Paper" is a precursor to the final *Land and Biodiversity at a Time of Climate Change White Paper*, which should guide the way Victoria manages its natural environment for the next 50 years.

Sadly, the Green Paper lacks vision.

With nearly a third of Victoria's native animals and close to half its native plants threatened with extinction the State Government needs to show leadership and come up with the programs and resources needed to create a healthier, more robust natural environment in the face of climate change.

### **Your voice counts**

The Victoria Naturally Alliance is urging everyone who cares about our natural environment to make a submission to this important process.

Quick fixes won't save our threatened species. We need long-term solutions including:

- At least a 10-fold increase in funding levels if we are to help protect and restore habitat.
- Plans to restore native habitat and create large-scale wildlife

*The Victoria Naturally Alliance...*



The Victoria Naturally Alliance is led by the Victorian National Parks Association and includes The Wilderness Society, Australian Conservation Foundation, Environment Victoria, Greening Australia, Invasive Species Council, Trust for Nature and Bush Heritage Australia. Thanks to the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust for their support. Printed on 100% recycled paper.

### **Help save Victoria's threatened plants and wildlife**



### **Take action now!**

Please use the form on the back of this flyer to make a submission to the *Land and Biodiversity at a Time of Climate Change Green Paper*.

You can add your own comments at the bottom of the form. You can also use our **online submission form** at [www.victorianaturally.org.au](http://www.victorianaturally.org.au).

The deadline for submissions is 30 June 2008.

**Turn over to make your submission!**

corridors to help species cope with climate change.

habitat fragmentation and species extinction.

### **Who we are**

The Victoria Naturally Alliance is a partnership of eight environment groups that want to see concerted action taken to protect the state's biodiversity from a range of threats including climate change,

### **More information**

Join our free ebulletin by emailing your name to [info@vnpa.org.au](mailto:info@vnpa.org.au).

Download the Green Paper from [www.dse.vic.gov.au/landwhitepaper](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/landwhitepaper) or request a hard copy by phoning the DSE on 136 186.

*Please include your name and address at the bottom of this form and mail to:*

Project Director, Land and Biodiversity White Paper Team  
Department of Sustainability and Environment  
PO Box 500, East Melbourne VIC 3002

**Submission to:**

# Land and Biodiversity at a Time of Climate Change Green Paper

## To solve Victoria's environmental crisis I believe leadership and investment are needed

- The natural environment in Victoria is more damaged than anywhere else in Australia.
- Nearly a third of our native animals and close to half our native plants are threatened with extinction.
- The Land and Biodiversity Green Paper is an excellent opportunity to turn around Victoria's biodiversity crisis. It has some good suggestions, but on the whole is disappointing.
- Much stronger government leadership is needed. The State Government must come up with long-term plans and programs that are fully resourced.
- A major fault with the Green Paper is that it fails to discuss the level of government investment needed to turn around the state's biodiversity crisis. Instead, it has a very strong focus on market solutions to the exclusion of nearly all other policy tools.
  - We need to see at least a ten-fold boost in government funding to restore and protect wildlife habitat.

## Please commit to saving our precious plants and animals

- The Green Paper asks (p53) how the government, given its "finite resources", should prioritise efforts to save species, and whether the community should accept that some species will not survive in a changed climate.
  - It seems the Victorian Government has given up without ever having invested enough money and effort into ensuring the survival of our species.
  - We must not give up. Victoria is wealthy enough and has the knowledge to commit to saving our endangered species. If we can't do it, who on Earth can?

## Protecting remaining bushland and linking habitats

- I agree that we need to reconnect habitats across the state through very large wildlife corridors including restoration of habitat along rivers.
- Marine and national park issues are largely ignored in the Green Paper. They must be fully considered and effective programs put in place.
- The government should ensure native vegetation clearing controls are enforced. It should also protect high-quality and rare native vegetation, such as endangered grasslands.
- The final White Paper must ensure carbon storage through native vegetation is achieved with biodiversity benefits and appropriate transparent standards.
- Weeds are a major threat to bushlands, feral animals are a major threat to our native wildlife. Thousands of Victorians work on these issues but much more is needed including a commitment to control, manage and monitor weeds and feral animals.
- We need strong science with a systematic, long-term biodiversity monitoring framework, including targets and indicators to evaluate and publicly report on progress.
- The White Paper needs to support the provision of scientifically based environmental flows for rivers.

## Community action

- The Green Paper recognises the community's key role in protecting and restoring the natural environment. But it puts too much responsibility back on community. Instead, the Victorian Government must lead with targets, plans and resources.
- A high-profile, state-wide education and awareness program for schools, landholders and the general community is crucial.

## Additional comments (please add your own comments to personalise your submission):

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*Please include your name and address*

**Your name** ..... **Address** .....

**Note: To count, submissions must include your name and address.** They will become public documents published on the Department of Sustainability and Environment website. If you would like your submission to remain confidential you must supply a separate written request.