

Threatened Species Day

Thursday, September 7 was National Threatened Species day. Our endangered species (leadbeaters possum, sooty owl, barred galaxias, greater glider, spot-tailed quoll, broad-toothed rat) have little to celebrate.

Rubicon State Forest has virtually been logged out. One of the last areas of 1939 regrowth is the coupe called Sutcliffe at the headwaters of the Rubicon River. This proposed logging coupe occupies a knot of rivers, streams and creeks where barred galaxias and spotted tailed quoll have been found.

Sutcliffe plays a pivotal role as a wildlife refuge in an otherwise vast area of recently logged and burnt forest. VicForest machines are already rolling in.

Sutcliffe is to be clear-fell logged by VicForests in contravention of the biodiversity provisions of the Code of Forest Practice. The plants and animals that live there are threatened and so too the diverse ecosystem. The logging activities of VicForests absolutely contradict our State Government's new *Biodiversity 2037 Plan*.

Similar ecological calamities are occurring in the Royston Range, Royston River Valley and Snobs Creek Valley – which is the last relatively intact area of the Rubicon State Forest.


Nature requires biodiversity not bare ground and later monoculture plantations.



Forest coupes in the Rubicon. -S


Sure, trees regrow but where are the animals meant to go in the 100 years they take to reach maturity?

Take a walk in logged forest which has been regrown by VicForests and you will see mainly one type of tree, all of the same age with a carpet of blackberries underneath. It



Weekly Weather

September 12 to September 18, 2018





Alexandra

DAY	HIGH	LOW
Wednesday	15	3
Thursday	16	5
Friday	19	7
Saturday	12	2
Sunday	13	2
Monday	17	4
Tuesday	17	6

Yea

DAY	HIGH	LOW
Wednesday	15	4
Thursday	16	6
Friday	20	7
Saturday	12	2
Sunday	14	3
Monday	17	5
Tuesday	17	6

is monotonous and silent.

Animals need variety. They form colonies in the hollows of big, old trees and seek their sustenance from the variety of understory plants. Logging destroys all this leaving large areas of upturned earth.

Then take a walk in an unlogged area along dry-creek hill road just one kilometer above the spectacular Snobs Creek waterfall and hear the multitudinous sounds of birds and animals.

We found 30 greater gliders there in just one night. VicForests is planning to log this area and those gliders will be gone and NOT return.

In our shire, employment in tourism today and in the future greatly outweighs employment from a rapidly declining native forest logging industry. Once the forest is logged out, which at current rates will occur soon, Murrindindi will lose the opportunity to be a centre of environmental tourism.

Lea Jellinek, Taggerty