

Ms Lily D'Ambrosio
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change,
Parliament House,
Melbourne 3000
16 May 2019

Dear Minister

RE THE NEGLECT OF BIODIVERSITY BY PARKS VICTORIA

I was appalled to learn today that zero budget was allocated this year by Parks Victoria for biodiversity protection and enhancement at Yarra Bend Park. I wasn't surprised by this however as I have noticed in many parks that biodiversity work - pest plant and animal control, and ecological restoration - is severely neglected.

Now I know why. Today I saw that your instructions to Parks Victoria (in your Statement of Obligations under the Parks Victoria Act, dated 27 October 2018) neglect to mention biodiversity in the Purpose, Objects, Overall Goal or Guiding Principles, and only weakly mention biodiversity in section 8. Flora, fauna, ecology and weeds are not mentioned at all.

The recent report from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) provides overwhelming evidence that the health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. As a result we are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide.

In this context I submit to you that your next instructions to Parks Victoria should prioritize biodiversity conservation and enhancement by explicitly including it in the Overall Goal and Guiding Principles.

You may be interested to see my website article on this matter at <https://faithfull.id.au/index.php/parks-victoria/12-zero-budget-for-weeds-reveg-at-yarra-bend-park> to which I have attached a copy of this letter, and to which I will attach a copy of your reply.

Yours sincerely

Tony Faithfull