



Gippsland the focus of final hearing for ecosystem decline inquiry

The Legislative Council's Environment and Planning Committee will hold the final public hearing in its inquiry into ecosystem decline in Victoria tomorrow.

The public hearing will be broadcast live on the Victorian Parliament's [website](#) from 9:15 am to 4:45 pm on the 26th of August.

The Committee will hear from veteran bushfire scientist David Packham OAM and Traralgon forestry and business consultant, John Cameron, as well as Gerard Drew, Executive Committee Member of the South Gippsland Conservation Society and Tom Crook of the East Gippsland Conservation Management Network in the morning session.

From 1:30 pm the Committee will hear from Jill Redwood of Environment East Gippsland and representatives of The Howitt Society, the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation and the Friends of Bats and Habitat Gippsland.

The full schedule is available on the Committee's [website](#).

The inquiry is examining measures to restore habitats and populations of threatened and endangered species. Under the terms of reference, issues being considered include:

- the extent of the decline of Victoria's biodiversity and the likely impact on people, particularly First Peoples, and ecosystems
- the adequacy of the legislative framework protecting Victoria's environment and ecosystems, particularly in the context of climate change impacts
- the adequacy and effectiveness of government programs
- opportunities to restore the environment while upholding First Peoples' connection to country.

The Committee has heard from more than 100 witnesses and received nearly 950 [written submissions](#).

You can find transcripts of earlier hearings [here](#).

The report is expected to be tabled by November this year.

Issued: 25 August 2021