Community panels to address ecosystem decline inquiry

The Legislative Council's Environment and Planning Committee will hold a public hearing via Zoom for its inquiry into ecosystem decline in Victoria, on Tuesday of next week.

The public hearing will be broadcast live on the Victorian Parliament's <u>website</u> from 10:45 am to 4:00 pm on the 10th of August.

The Committee will hear from representatives of government agencies, including the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, the Office of the Conservation Regulator and Parks Victoria in the morning session.

The afternoon session features 'community panels', including Friends of the Barwon, OzFish and others. The full schedule is available on the Committee's <u>website</u>.

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 received nearly 950 written submissions.

You can find transcripts of earlier hearings here.

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