



Shepparton to host cultural burning demonstration for parliamentary committee

Victor Steffensen, Co-founder of the Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation, will demonstrate traditional fire management techniques for the Legislative Council's Environment and Planning Committee in Shepparton next week.

Mr Steffensen is the author of *Fire Country* and an expert on Indigenous fire management.

The demonstration will kick off two days of public hearings for the Committee's inquiry into ecosystem decline in Victoria, held on Tuesday and Wednesday in Shepparton next week.

Tuesday's hearing will also hear from Monica Morgan, Chief Executive Officer of the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Rodney Carter, Chief Executive Officer of the Dja Dja Wurrung Group and Matthew Shanks, Strategic Advisor, Cultural & Natural Resource Management from Taungurung Land and Waters Council Aboriginal Corporation.

Following the cultural burn in the morning, the hearing will begin at 1:30 pm and continue to 3:45 pm on Tuesday at the Parklake Quality Hotel.

The proceedings will not be broadcast.

Hearings on Wednesday will commence at 9:30 am and continue until 11:45 am and feature evidence from Wendy Radford and Stuart Fraser, from the Bendigo and District Environment Council, John Pettigrew and Louise Costa from the Goulburn Valley Environment Group and Paul Dainton and Sharon Terry from Greater Shepparton City Council.

The hearings come ahead of the historic regional sitting of the Legislative Council in Bright on Thursday April 29.

The schedule for the hearings 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 received nearly 950 [written submissions](#).

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