



Ecosystem decline inquiry to hear from forestry experts

The Legislative Council's Environment and Planning Committee will hold two days of public hearings for its inquiry into ecosystem decline in Victoria, starting tomorrow.

The public hearings will be broadcast live on the Victorian Parliament's [website](#) from 9:45 am to 3:15 pm on Wednesday March 10 and from 9:00 am on Thursday March 11.

Wednesday's hearing will focus on forestry with representatives from VicForests, the Office of the Conservation Regulator, the Australian Forest Products Association, Wood Products Victoria and the Friends of the Leadbeater's Possum.

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

On Thursday the Committee will hear from, among others, fire ecology expert, Dr Holly Sitters of Melbourne University, the Wilderness Society, Environmental Justice Australia and Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting.

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 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.

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