

TRANSCRIPT

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Melbourne—Wednesday, 12 May 2021

MEMBERS

Ms Sonja Terpstra—Chair

Mr Clifford Hayes—Deputy Chair

Dr Matthew Bach

Ms Melina Bath

Dr Catherine Cumming

Mr Stuart Grimley

Mr Andy Meddick

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Ms Georgie Crozier

Mr David Davis

Dr Tien Kieu

Mrs Beverley McArthur

Mr Tim Quilty

WITNESS

Ms Lisa Pittle, Manager of Environment, Nillumbik Shire Council (*via videoconference*).

The CHAIR: I declare open the Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee public hearing for the Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria. Please ensure that mobile phones have been switched to silent and that background noise is minimised.

I would like to begin this hearing by respectfully acknowledging the traditional custodians of the various lands which each of us are gathered on today and pay my respects to their ancestors, elders and families. I particularly welcome any elders or community members who are here today to impart their knowledge of this issue to the committee or who are watching the broadcast of these proceedings. I would also like to welcome any members of the public who may be watching these proceedings via the live broadcast as well.

I will just take the opportunity to introduce committee members to you. I am Sonja Terpstra; I am the Chair of the Environment and Planning Committee. With me is Mr Clifford Hayes, who is the Deputy Chair. Up on the Zoom screen we have Mr Stuart Grimley joining us. Back in the room we have Ms Nina Taylor, Ms Melina Bath and Dr Matthew Bach.

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All evidence is being recorded, and you will be provided with a proof version of the transcript following the hearing. Transcripts will ultimately be made public and posted on the committee's website.

Could I just get you for the Hansard record to state your name and the organisation you are appearing on behalf of, please.

Ms PITTLE: My name is Lisa Pittle, and I am the Manager of Environment appearing on behalf of Nillumbik Shire Council.

The CHAIR: Great. Thanks very much. All right. Well, with that, I will hand over to you now. If you could make your opening remarks and please make it about 5 or 10 minutes in duration. I will give you a 2-minute warning as we approach the end of that time. Thanks, Lisa. Over to you.

Ms PITTLE: Okay. Thanks. Good morning to committee members and staff. Thank you for the opportunity to present to the committee on behalf of Nillumbik Shire Council. Council's submission was developed with input from council staff and members of our environment and sustainability advisory committee and was reviewed and endorsed by council in August 2020. I will do my best to represent the diversity of views. We had input from people with a variety of expertise and experience, and we tried to incorporate that into our submission. Our submission provides the relevant information about the shire and our recommendations, so I will not repeat that here. I do want to take the opportunity to highlight some key issues for a municipality such as Nillumbik in relation to ecosystem decline.

Firstly, there are some overarching narratives in our submission that I would like to emphasise. Firstly, biodiversity conservation—which is the work to halt ecosystem decline—is a shared task in Nillumbik across multiple land tenures with multiple thousands of landowners. It is very different from a national park or a state forest with a single landowner having management responsibility for a large area. Nillumbik council has a strong track record of leading landscape-scale biodiversity conservation projects and bringing on board multiple stakeholders and a multitude of landowners.

Secondly, council must balance biodiversity conservation across a number of competing objectives such as road safety, electric line clearing, bushfire mitigation, infrastructure provision and urban development, just to name a few.

Thirdly, council, with support from commonwealth, state and private foundation grants, does a lot of work on the ground. We do work to protect and enhance biodiversity on our own land, and we are engaging with

traditional owners in delivering on-ground work. We lead projects to protect threatened species across various land tenures. We guide and educate people about local biodiversity conservation and what they can do on their land. We also provide opportunities for people to get involved on public land, and we provide opportunities for the community to experience the natural environment in our bushland reserves. We offer private landowners advice, incentives and grants to do things like control weeds and pest animals or to protect habitat and threatened species. Lastly, our community considers the increasing threat and reality of bushfire, particularly catastrophic bushfire, is and will be a significant factor in biodiversity decline. So they are the overarching narratives.

Some more specific points that are key for Nillumbik are on data. Having access to good-quality data helps to make good-quality investment decisions. Council relies on biodiversity data provided by the state government through, for example, NatureKit and the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. As stated in our submission, a welcome outcome of this inquiry would be a greater focus on local and landscape-scale biodiversity monitoring and data collection to help identify the most effective and efficient management actions to benefit biodiversity.

On climate change, we are all beginning to learn about the potential impact of climate change on local ecosystems, both positive in terms of the ability to sequester carbon but negatively in terms of species and habitat loss, as we documented in our submission with the CSIRO work that we referred to. Since we made the submission we have surveyed the Nillumbik community about climate change, and we found that Nillumbik residents are extremely concerned about harsher fire weather and longer fires seasons. That scored an 8.5 out of 10 in terms of importance or concern. Water shortages and drought and the health of the natural environment were the next highest, and they scored 8 out of 10 in terms of concern.

On funding, we rely on grants from other levels of government to fund long-term landscape-scale projects. Three-year funding programs have been really welcomed; however, the work to protect our local biodiversity values, including threatened species, has a longer time frame than three years. Of course we recognise the importance of accountability for public money; however, there is an administrative burden for a small local council in regular grant application.

So in closing, local government is well positioned to deliver action designed to halt ecosystem decline. We can engage and motivate our local community. We have leveraged tens of thousands of hours of volunteer effort in biodiversity conservation. We look to other levels of government for support in providing us with data and analysis to help us direct the work and of course look to other levels of government to help resource the work as it provides benefits for the broader community. That is the end of my introductory comments. Thank you again for this opportunity, and I hope I can answer your questions this morning. Otherwise I am happy to take questions on notice and provide follow-up in writing.

The CHAIR: Great. Thanks very much for that. All right. Mr Hayes—a question.

Mr HAYES: Thanks very much, Lisa. I just wanted to ask you a couple of questions. We are hearing a lot of evidence about rapid decline in biodiversity and habitat, and I am just thinking of changes we could make to the planning scheme. I wonder if you have got any suggestions as to where you could put an overarching objective into the planning scheme for biodiversity towards conservation of habitat and things like that so it would have to be considered at all levels of strategic planning and statutory planning.

Ms PITTLE: I am not a planner, so I cannot give you an expert opinion on that. I am aware that Nillumbik has very strong planning controls in relation to biodiversity conservation through the application of environment significance overlays and significant landscape overlays. At a higher level than that I would probably need to get advice from our strategic planners.

Mr HAYES: Do you mind taking that one on notice for me then—

Ms PITTLE: Yes.

Mr HAYES: and seeing if you could get an answer from them? That would be great. If I could go to a second question—

Ms PITTLE: Sorry, can I just add to that?

Mr HAYES: Yes. Sure.

Ms PITTLE: The strength of the Nillumbik planning scheme is based on the evidence that we have. So again, it comes back to data. So having a planning overlay needs to be based on something real, and our environmental significance overlay relies on work that was done in the 90s, which was the North East Regional Organisation of Councils report on habitat in that region. To redo that work at that level is an expensive exercise, and I think there is some really good foundational work in terms of data that the state government could do to support that kind of planning control.

Mr HAYES: Okay. Thank you. Yes, a lot of people talk about data being outdated and not relevant now. My second question goes to challenges. You are a green wedge council. What challenges do you have to the green wedge as an area for conserving biodiversity and habitat?

Ms PITTLE: I could go on for half an hour about that. There is a lot of detail in our submission on that. I really would not want to gloss over some of the detail.

Mr HAYES: Okay.

Ms PITTLE: I think in broad terms it is important to say that we are a peri-urban council where on both sides effectively there is a large amount of residential development. So the impacts of development are on the boundaries of the green wedge, and if you understand the edge effect, all of the threats of weeds and pest animals and incremental decline, climate change—all of those things—impact us.

Mr HAYES: Thank you.

The CHAIR: Thanks. Lisa, I might just ask a question here if I can. I know Nillumbik council has been doing work with the local community on the Eltham copper butterfly. I think there is a good history there around that project. Would you like to just outline for the committee how you have worked with the local community on that and the role that council has played in collecting data and managing that?

Ms PITTLE: For sure. I think it goes back to the 70s or 80s, prior to Nillumbik. Land was reserved for the protection of the Eltham copper butterfly in Eltham—again, based on data.

The CHAIR: Council land?

Ms PITTLE: Council land. I think there is also state government land that is reserved. Some parcels are owned by Yarra Valley Water. Council has committee of management responsibility for some parcels, and we work cooperatively with other land managers. I think it is fair to say that the Eltham copper butterfly has become a flagship species in the community for threatened species conservation. So a lot of work has been done in the community, in schools, educating kids about the life cycle of the butterfly. We have got trails that connect the butterfly habitat. Every year we run effectively a citizen science project where larvae counts are undertaken. People can come along and join in those. That is part of our annual budget. But we have really good data about the species numbers, and we have done a lot of work on the ground with experts to understand management techniques within the reserves to get multiple outcomes in relation to bushfire mitigation but also to ensure the maintenance of the habitat for the species, to the best of our understanding. It is an action research project. At Eltham Lower Park there is a butterfly playground, and there is a butterfly motif throughout that structure.

The CHAIR: That is an excellent example, really, of council showcasing how it is taking a lead role in your local biodiversity and how you are educating your local community around that as well. I have just one other question—First Nations people. Could you just unpack for us a little bit about how council engages with your First Nations people and, if you are doing that, how you are doing in regard to biodiversity or even in other ways. How do you engage with First Nations peoples—traditional owners—there?

Ms PITTLE: We have been working with the Wurundjeri Narrap team, which are an Indigenous land management group. We employ a number of contractors to do work in our bushland reserves. Council has 400 hectares or so of bushland reserves, which we manage for access and amenity but also for biodiversity conservation. So we directly employ the Wurundjeri Narrap team. We are just having a conversation with the team about what that relationship will look like going forward. We also engage with them around traditional burning in our reserves, so we are looking at opportunities for that. The other thing that council has is a monthly meeting with Wurundjeri elders, and we use that as a forum to discuss issues around biodiversity conservation

or for any environmental issue. For example, we have just had a discussion on our climate action plan with the Wurundjeri elders.

The CHAIR: Okay. Fantastic. I do have other questions, but I might put them on notice because I will open up to other committee members who might like to ask you questions as well. Ms Taylor. Over to you for your question.

Ms TAYLOR: Thank you. Yes, I was just interested to hear a bit more about the pilot peri-urban deer control program. I am glad there has been a lot of focus here on climate and emissions reductions, but obviously there are many, many impacts on the environment and I am just wanting to hear about the management of pests in that regard.

Ms PITTLE: We have had a long history of doing collaborative pest control, particularly around rabbits, helping communities and groups of landowners do collaborative rabbit control. We thought we were doing pretty well and then the deer issue really exploded. My understanding is—you know, some thinking is—that it is a consequence of the 2009 bushfire. This was brought to our attention in about 2016—that is, ‘What are you doing about it?’ So we effectively as part of a grant application received funding which incorporated deer control. What is not well understood is how to do deer control in a peri-urban area, so we have had a really interesting four-year process of understanding how to support landowners to control deer on their lands. Effectively it is shooting—that is the only current control that is available. It is expensive to do. But as part of this project we have put together a lot of fact sheet information. We have got webinars that are available to the local community, and the grant has funded a project officer who really is at the leading edge in terms of understanding how to do this work in a peri-urban area. And she is going to be part of and I think the chair of the Victorian Deer Network, which DELWP is auspicing. Yes, I mean, it has been an exciting piece of work. We have controlled a lot of deer, and we have learned a lot along the way. I guess I could go into a lot more detail again about that. If you would like, I can provide you with some of our updated—

The CHAIR: On notice, that would be great.

Ms PITTLE: Yes.

Ms TAYLOR: Thank you.

The CHAIR: Any others?

Ms TAYLOR: No, I will let someone else go for now, and I might come back if there is time.

The CHAIR: Ms Bath.

Ms BATH: Thank you, Chair, and thank you very much for appearing before us today. I am interested in your submission. Being a green wedge council and having a lot of trees in your council area and managing bushfire risks, I am going to that. You spoke about the 10/30 rule and you mentioned that it is not one size fits all, and you also mentioned that:

Council fully supports and implements the recommendations of the 2009 Bushfires Royal Commission.

Can I just give you an example that has happened in my electorate? I am in Eastern Victoria, so this was Gippsland. In 2018–19 there were fires south of, we will say, Morwell and Traralgon—they were in that Yinnar area. There was a gentleman who at that time owned a property and at that time he was about to be fined by the council because he cleared land substantially around his property. I cannot find the right word in my head this morning, but he was a tree loppist—he was a tree surgeon.

Ms PITTLE: He was an arborist.

Ms BATH: Thank you. That is the word that was evading me. Thank you. He had done a magnificent job of clearing all the undergrowth and trimming the trees. The fire came from the Morwell National Park into his yard, into his substantial area. The CFA could put it out there because they could access his property and there was not the fuel load. He was in effect seen as a bit of a hero even though he was going to be fined by the council for in effect doing the wrong thing. So I am giving that as an example. Could you unpack your comments more in relation to the 10/30 rule and some examples from your council?

Ms PITTLE: Again, this is a strategic planning issue. I will do my best. Our submission to the state government—I think it was VC79; there was a planning scheme amendment—at the time was really about the application in our township areas. There was concern in downtown Eltham where the risk of fire was particularly low that this was being used opportunistically to clear vegetation. I cannot comment on your example other than to say that I am highly familiar with the wicked problem of trying to achieve multiple outcomes. I have been an operational manager in this space as well, so I fully understand what our responsibilities are in relation to the CFA and the *Emergency Management Act*, and I fully understand that there is a balance that needs to be achieved.

Ms BATH: Let me explore that from, I guess, an environmental point of view. On one side we are concerned that we are removing vegetation that can be habitat. Another consequence is the risk of fire is real, and we have heard that the CSIRO report of 2019 says that bushfire is the largest risk of all to threatened species, or rates it as the highest risk. So, I guess, what is council doing within the community to educate people about maybe future plantings and what they are doing in relation to their homes and new homes? Is that a conversation that council has had?

Ms PITTLE: We have. I mean, from a bushfire perspective or from an environment perspective?

Ms BATH: I guess I am saying that they are quite linked in a way. One is to encourage habitat, but the other is to encourage habitat but then keep fuel mitigation at a maximum.

Ms PITTLE: So it probably depends on the context. So out in the rural areas we have active Landcare communities, and council provides advice about, you know, property management and revegetation, but we also provide advice about bushfire safety. So again, we work with people in both spaces, and we need to balance the advice in relation to the individual property owner. So it is just not one size fits all.

Ms BATH: Sure, thank you. And I will just borrow one quick one—thanks, Chair. Thank you. I know that the Yarra Ranges council do amazing work in terms of their Indigenous fire stick practices, and Uncle David Wandin and Dixons Creek, I think, have been some exemplars of where they have done some cool burns. You mentioned that before. Is that something that could have potential to operate and be more enhanced in Nillumbik?

Ms PITTLE: We have been really keen on it. We were about to commence a cool-burning program in April 2020, but it was shut down, as many things were, by COVID. We are in the process of getting it started again, so it is definitely something that we are interested in.

Ms BATH: Thanks very much. Thanks, Chair.

The CHAIR: Dr Bach.

Dr BACH: Thanks. Thanks, Ms Pittle, that is fascinating evidence. Can you tell me why the cool-burning program was shut down by COVID? I would have thought being outside in an environment like that was probably a pretty COVID-safe thing to be doing.

Ms PITTLE: We rely on CFA approval for our burn plans, and the advice from the CFA was that they were not approving burns at that time.

Dr BACH: Sure.

Ms PITTLE: So it was the height—it was an autumn burn, so it was around April, when there was a high level of uncertainty about COVID and how to manage safely et cetera.

Dr BACH: No, of course. Thank you very much. You note that Nillumbik is home to numerous species of threatened flora and fauna. Would you mind talking to us a little bit more about your view regarding current strategies to address decline and to support threatened species? And if you have views about how things could be done better in that space, I would love to hear them.

Ms PITTLE: That is a great question. We have a knowledgeable community and an active community who have been participating in protecting threatened species for a long period of time. I guess it is the top-down, bottom-up discussion. We have had a very bottom-up approach, which has pushed, you know, council and state government through the planning scheme, through the application of overlays such as the ESO, to really recognise and do work in this space. And we regularly hear from the Nillumbik community that they think it is

important work for council to do. So the top-down approach is really interesting, and that has been evolving over time as well. We find the strategic investment approach of DELWP really useful, because it helps us to define—you know, it is working in cooperation. Rather than us having to sort of shout from the sidelines that we have a significant population of phascogales, which is a threatened species. We need to do work to protect it. Now there is more of a shared understanding of where biodiversity hotspots are. And I think that continuing to improve that model and that level of investment will be really helpful.

Dr BACH: All right. Thank you very much.

The CHAIR: Dr Ratnam.

Dr RATNAM: Thanks very much, Ms Pittle, for the submission and evidence here today. I just wanted to take us back to some of the comments you made earlier in your verbal submission but also captured in your written submission about data collection. You talk about a greater focus on local and landscape-scale biodiversity monitoring and data collection being needed. I would like you to expand on this if possible. Do you see this as something the state government should be doing but is not doing adequately? And what do you think will be the impact of us being able to do that data collection better?

Ms PITTLE: As many people have said already this morning, data is key and it is always out of date and there is always not enough of it and it is always difficult to access. You know, in a perfect world we would have really good long-term data that was well analysed. And if you think of local government as the operational arm of this enterprise and the state government providing us with good data and good analysis in relation to biodiversity and threatened species protection for us to be able to operationalise in our community and on the ground, I think that is a really good model. How to make that work better—some really simple things for mine would be around the accessibility and usability of NaturePrint. I understand that it needs to do lots of things—you know, it needs to meet some statutory obligations—but connecting our community into that information would be really good and for it to be more accessible would be really good, rather than local government needing to reinvent the wheel in terms of how we present the information to the community, to work more collaboratively on that. And just wearing another hat, the work that is currently happening in relation to *Recycling Victoria* and the level of work that is going into understanding data and understanding messaging to the community—you know, the whole community—is incredibly powerful, and it is work that local government has been doing on its own, reinventing the wheel from local government boundary to local government boundary. To see that happening at the state level is very powerful, and to have a similar focus at the state level on what our biodiversity is, how we understand it, how we can celebrate it and how we can interact with it would be fabulous.

Dr RATNAM: Thanks very much. Just one follow-up question as well. We are only just starting to hear from councils now at this point of the inquiry, so it has been interesting in terms of hearing from another vantage point about that interaction between local government and state government and how it should work best for biodiversity protection. I am interested in your experience through your council about how that relationship is working. You have talked about data. You would like some support with proper data collection and a statewide approach as opposed to piecemeal, LGA by LGA, which we have seen other examples of, including the recycling example. Can you talk us through how that relationship works within biodiversity conservation and how do you think it could be improved?

Ms PITTLE: So at the state government level there are multiple stakeholders—you know, there is DELWP and there is Parks Victoria—and again it is sort of the strategic and the operational. I think if there was a much clearer set of relationships, working relationships, in state government around outcomes in relation to biodiversity, that would be helpful. Nillumbik council leads landscape-scale biodiversity projects in the area, and a lot of the reason for that is that because of the multitude of landowners we have that relationship. But it is interesting to see DELWP representatives and Parks Victoria representatives, who essentially work for the state government, but they are separate stakeholders. So I would be interested to see, I guess, a more streamlined understanding of what the work is from a state government point of view. That is not to say it is not happening. I think *Biodiversity 2037* is a really fantastic document and provides a really great basis. It is how that is operationalised that seems a little bit piecemeal and a little bit clunky.

Dr RATNAM: Thank you very much. It is really helpful.

The CHAIR: Mr Grimley.

Mr GRIMLEY: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Lisa, for your submission. My colleagues have stolen my thunder with my question, so I have nothing at the moment. So I will pass back.

The CHAIR: Okay. Thanks. Actually, given that we have got a bit of time—and sorry about that, Lisa, before when I had a typo on my page—I might ask something about the heat island effect. This came up yesterday in evidence from one of our witnesses from the planning authority. I know that Nillumbik as a shire, as you said, is a really interesting shire because you are an interface council—you have got green wedge but you have also got large private landholdings which have been cleared, so there is a legacy of the clearing of trees over a long period of time. But also then, as I said, we were talking about the heat island effect yesterday. So is council aware of that? This might be a planning question, so again, if you cannot answer it, feel free to take it on notice. Is council considering the heat island effect in looking at its planning and development proposals? And how are you then looking at: how can we address biodiversity at the same time? Because one of the things that is coming out is: could you address the heat island effect by looking at more green-type infrastructure, as an example? Have you got anything you can enlighten us with on that?

Ms PITTLE: We are looking at urban heat island effect, and with the Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee I note that Alan Thatcher, who is giving evidence to the committee, has been driving that through the committee. We are looking at the work that DELWP produced for Resilient Melbourne. It does not extend into the rural parts of Nillumbik. We would need to recreate that work. So operationally, again, it is early days in terms of thinking, but in terms of the planning scheme I understand that the ESD planning controls are being revised, the Victorian provisions. We have provided feedback on that and welcome that. Urban heat island effect is of interest in the urban areas. All I can say really is we have got a lot of work ahead of us in that space.

The CHAIR: Okay. Maybe if I could just have one other question, I guess following on from Dr Ratnam's line of questioning around data. I think council provides a really good example of local data collection, as I spoke earlier about the Eltham copper butterfly. Do you share that data with other state government agencies? Perhaps you could comment on how you have done it and what the successes are of how you have done that locally and how that can be shared. Are their successes, and do you think there are things that could be improved?

Ms PITTLE: So we share our data with the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. When we do reserve surveys we share data with the biodiversity atlas. We have done work to make sure that our data collection standards meet the requirements of the atlas, so it is a two-way relationship. How could it be improved? I do not have a lot of detailed understanding of how the atlas works and the mechanics of it. I just know that from a community perspective—how can they see that data? How can we make it real for them that this is Eltham copper butterfly habitat or phascogale habitat and what the characteristics are? NaturePrint is a great tool, but how do you show people? How do you give them that experience? How do you layer on top of their experience of a reserve those layers of information?

The CHAIR: Just for my benefit, and I am sure other people may have the same question—NaturePrint? Do you want to tell us what that is?

Ms PITTLE: It is an online tool. I have such difficulty using it, but it is an online tool, and I think the image of Nillumbik and the tree cover that we included with our submission is from NaturePrint—or NatureKit, sorry.

The CHAIR: NatureKit.

Ms PITTLE: It is a GIS tool and you can layer different values—biodiversity values, tree cover in a local government area, threatened species. It has got heaps of information in it—heaps and heaps. I just find it difficult to use.

Ms BATH: A recommendation would be to make it—

The CHAIR: User friendly.

Ms BATH: user friendly.

Ms PITTLE: Yes. As a government we are spending all this money collecting the information. What are we telling our community about what it looks like? We do it for internal reasons because we need to be scientists and understand, but then the people who are effectively funding it, who are the community, how do they access

that? I guess that is a really particular local government lens. It is about: how do you tell people what you are doing so that it is transparent and accountable?

The CHAIR: And accessible.

Ms PITTLE: And of value, yes.

The CHAIR: All right. I will just check and see if committee members have got any other questions. Ms Bath, any other questions?

Ms BATH: I think that has been most instructive. Thanks, Chair.

The CHAIR: Ms Taylor, anything?

Ms TAYLOR: Well, I was just thinking. This is a little bit lateral, but what do you find inspires local people? What levers inspire local people to have that greater affinity and respect for biodiversity? I mean, some people might be raised to think that way but others might be inspired through pragmatic mechanisms. I am just thinking what, in your experience, you have found.

Ms PITTLE: Really simply, getting out there—people being in reserves. We do a lot of interpretation, and COVID was really interesting because you would get 20 to 30 people to come along to something about the powerful owl or Eltham copper butterfly, but we moved online and we had 300 and 400 people coming to our webinars about aspects of biodiversity or pest management. But there is nothing like getting out there and having a look and having some—not super-expertise; you do not have to be a PhD, but to be able to interpret the environment and show people things that they have walked past 100 times but are seeing it differently for the first time. In my career I have found that that is really powerful.

Ms TAYLOR: Great.

The CHAIR: I like that. All right.

Dr RATNAM: Chair, could I ask one question on notice, if that is okay?

The CHAIR: Yes.

Dr RATNAM: Thanks very much. I am just conscious that we are running out of time. Something else you mentioned in your submission and statement was around greater opportunities for increasing and diversifying employment through environmental restoration being needed in your council area, so I would like if you could take it on notice: what opportunities do you see for employment in land restoration and how would you like to see the state government support these opportunities?

Ms PITTLE: Okay, cool. Can I just ask: the questions on notice—I am assuming someone is recording those?

The CHAIR: Yes, they will be sent to you, so you do not need to write them all down.

Ms PITTLE: Fantastic. I am just thinking my notes—I might not be able to interpret them.

The CHAIR: That is fine. The secretariat will forward them to you, so that is perfectly fine.

All right. Well, thank you so much, Lisa, for your presentation this morning. It has been really fascinating and you provided a really good example of how local government can play a role in this space, so thank you once again.

Witness withdrew.