

**Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission****From: Isaac van Rhyn****Dated: 18 November 2024****Submission:**

When I travel across country these days I see the absolute destruction of the ecology. It's most evident when you look on the Satellite, Zoom out and all the land has been cleared. From The moment John Batman Arrived with 200 sheep and 20 Cattle, an attitude that clear land was good land and a brain baked with western capitalism, the ecocide of these lands we have settled on was set in stone. Everywhere We have destroyed the carefully built soil fertility, Decimated the complex plant animal life interactions, eradicated tens of millions of precious animals found no where else. And most of this done in the name of 'Agriculture' The settlers brought with them the stupidest agricultural ideas that only resulted in degenerative systems of productions. They are not precious with the water, Do not care for the soil life that was growing there and made themselves dependent on expensive inputs like rock fertilisers that further destroy the fertility of the land and poison the waterways with the 60 percent of fertiliser that never even touches the plant, only ever destined to destroy country more. I am sure once upon a time this land could have supported 10x the life than it can today after the colony has had its way. Who, by the way, is driving us all to our death. The modus operandi of the Colony of Victoria is destruction. And it does feel like not until the colony is destroyed will their destruction stop. If the settler population is to remain, We should focus on putting into practice sustainable agricultural systems like dense permaculture food forests systems with animals that could reduce the footprint of agriculture Massively while being a net good on the environment. Once we have used a much smaller area for feeding the people, country could and should be restored on a huge scale. This is not impossible and as Human Beings we have the choice of being keystone species that act in the interest of the whole earth. The rain water harvesting basins would be dug and the first plants planted where we could apply ecological succession principles to restore the land as best as can be done. The land should then (or earlier) be returned to The respective nation. Anything less is not good enough from this illegitimate occupation. I hope to all the hope I have the destruction can stop and Healing can be done.

**END**