

Dear Facilitating Review Expert Committee,

As a 64 year old Australian resident since 1957, having first hand witness to the damages done, I am also well aware of the ravages in lost biodiversity, forestry, cultural expertise, brutal exploitation, rising salinity, polluted waterways, and foolish massacre of all species from marine and freshwater shellfish, through migratory and essential food sources like Bogong moth, to the Thylacine and the first Australians, the damages done from 1788 until today, through ignorance hiding behind unwarranted and ill-founded arrogance.

We, decedents out of Europe, Red Coat, and convict both, have mucked up savagely and made a complete wreck, optimistically NOT irreparably so yet, of land management and sustainability.

Rabbit and mouse plagues are merely symptoms of the dysfunction of our practices.

I am ashamed of our species and ashamed of our nation.

On behalf of the innocent, both those of flora and fauna we threaten, the soils we ruin with chemical fertilizer and consequent need for pesticide, by destroying subterranean fungi and friendly insects with insect pests, and all creature depending upon either On behalf of our unborn generations who may never have a memory of the creatures and world be have lost, I cry out in the darkness for some measure of enlightenment from a leadership which might currently be suspected of either brain damage through excess consumption of "Rum", or of being too dull of mind to care for more than moneyed exploitation, as if peace of mind comes from quantity instead of quality, or our leadership are mere slaves, bought minions of corporate vested interests in agriculture by slavery to chemical support, in fossil fuels and unrecycled plastics, and in the status quo of exploitation until the prey is dead, dirty and paved in concrete and steel.

Standard of Living is a myth hiding the quality of Life ALL OF US desire.

There is inequity between what is desired by the people and what is provided by the leadership. There are greater penalties for the wildlife rescuer than for the wildlife destroyer. It is easier to acquire a licence to kill the innocent than it is for a drunken fool to get a licence to drive. Too easy to cull 50 tortoises without investigation or scrutineer, by a tick upon a piece of paper, and too easy to be callous and cruel to a joey in a pouch, or a bird on the wing, when no one is watching, and no one seems to care.

When a child loses empathy sufficient to torture an animal, there are reasons to believe such a child without proper treatment thee and then may grow into something homicidally serial, and it is not a huge extrapolation from this, that the empathy lost by proxy butchery providing presumptive bloodless hands, turning the silence of the lambs into Easter for Christmas, might grow later into genocide of our own for reasons of eugenics.

Take Care. If you are different, you might be next!

Peter Singer has been teaching wisdom for many years, and for me at least, he is a philosopher I can be proud to know is Australian. Which I am sadly sorry to admit, is not what I can say about our present Prime Minister, who is an embarrassment beside the leaders of Saharan nations, and the leadership of continental India.

More shameful than Red Coat Rum Rebels, who have what understanding there might be within another time in history, of cat o nine 20 score whippings, and turning men into cannibals, like Alexander Pierce of early Tasmania and Macquarie Harbour, escapee and one upon a time petty criminal.

Being a fool is no exemption from the shame leadership may bring to be borne upon us all, as history in 200 years writes biography of our time. Do we wish to be remembered as a solution to the problem or participating supporters of the cause of the disaster pending? I will not live long enough to see repair and renovation completed, since the damage is already so severe, but I may just be able to rest in peace if I can see that the process to do so has begun.

Thank you for your time.

I pray the child within does not cry itself to sleep again or for much longer.

Raymond Stephens

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[docmercury7@gmail.com](mailto:docmercury7@gmail.com)

YouTube shorts...

<https://youtu.be/5RPap1BWYns>

Tasmanian Tiger: newly released footage captures last-known vision of thylacine. (1935)  
19<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Guardian News.

<https://youtu.be/cfl7mSG13e0>

We're Giving Nature a Vitamin Deficiency.  
13<sup>th</sup> May 2021. SciShow.

<https://youtu.be/ml6OrO8VwI0>

Australia's Invasive Species Problem.  
2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021. BioArk