

Letter to the Editor: Imagine

Imagine the magic we could bring to our beautiful native forests if each state forest could be given well-paid and well-qualified protectors drawing on the knowledge and practice of traditional owners who cared for this land before colonisation. Their knowledge is not lost; their knowledge lies in the land – they know it still.

Each of the 75 or so state forests in the southern region could be managed according to its needs and attributes. Managed to deal with the awful way they have been left and for eradication of pests and weeds. Managed for the way they could yet be again – places of beauty, biodiversity, with blossoming eucalypt canopies and moist forest floors; habitat for threatened and vulnerable forest species such as koalas, gliders, and owls; a welcome safe haven for migrating parrots; and secret places for lizards, ants, fungi and bacteria.

How much easier would it be to manage fire if canopies were left intact. What a wonderland of excitement could be generated if we set our sights on returning our forests to their natural state and planting even more. What an economic boost could be made from tourists coming to see these places of richness and beauty. How proud would this make our nation!

It would take decades of clever work but we need to stop pussy-footing around and get on with the job – 100s of jobs in fact.

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