

I would have liked to have attended to speak on behalf of my country and support my friends here tonight.

Our beautiful country is not just our home but the home of all creatures who exist here and it is our job as humans, as the custodians of this country to care for all living and nonliving creatures.

In this country in this place for well over 40,000 years the trees, plants, insects, water ways, skies, animals and rocks to name just a few have been cared for by aboriginal people. All these things rely upon humans to keep them healthy.

Let's first ask ourselves before we destroy their homes, have we given them a thought? How many large eucalyptus are left for the birds , possums and insects? How many are left to clean our sky and our soil and protect our rivers from becoming clogged with silt?

If we don't stop and think of all the other living creatures in our landscape then we have failed in our job as custodians of earth. And that failure will affect our own health and the health of us all for generations to come.

Do we need more homes in this area or can we find another solution?

I'm not a city planner and I don't pretend to have knowledge in this area.

But we are all here humans with the responsibility to care for our people and all living things in this area like we have since the beginning of Aboriginal occupation and like we will until the last human being leaves this place.

If you go ahead with housing developments in greenbelts you are choosing to destroy the lives of millions of living creatures who created these homes. Ask yourself if that is a price worth paying?

This landscape is a living entity that needs diversity to survive. Please consider this before you destroy more of my beautiful country.

Andrew Mansell

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