



New submission for investigation "Central West Investigation"

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Submission for the investigation "Central West Investigation"

Submitted on **08-09-2018**

Information provided by the author:

Title: **Mr**

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Last Name: **James**

Organisation: **Mr**

Description:

I take this opportunity to share my views on the future of Public land in Victoria, and its users. As a Prospector, hunter and bushwalker I use Victorian Public land for 3 separate reasons, and each one takes me to different areas around the State, but mainly western Victoria and the Goldfields. Whilst staying in various country towns I camp in caravan parks or stay at B&B's, buy souvenirs, and purchase all my necessities (food, fuel, entertainment) from local providers. In my own position, if public land is closed to users, it will be the end of my three hobbies, and much less support for local communities. As a Prospector I often clean up rubbish left behind by users from 20, 30, even 100 years ago, which actually has a positive effect on the native bush rather than a negative one as many people believe prospecting has. As I find old rubbish I take it away with me. As a hunter I am helping control fox and rabbit numbers. On hunting trips I again remove rubbish left behind from the past. As a Bushwalker I get to experience our wonderful Australian bush, and I have exposed my own children to nature, unrestricted, and they in turn are doing the same to their children. Any closures of Victorian Public land would have a serious negative effect on not only the users of the land, but the land itself, as it is the users that help maintain it and clean it, and enjoy its beauty in return for the use of it, and seriously affect small town tourist trade. Hundreds of Australian towns survive due to users of Public Land. Closure of land would kill their communities.

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