



New submission for investigation "Central West Investigation"

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## Submission for the investigation "Central West Investigation"

Submitted on **11-09-2018**

Information provided by the author:

Title: **Mr**

First Name: **warwick**

Last Name: **cooney**

Organisation: **DELWP**

Description:

I am placing this submission to explain my reasons on why the Wellsford state forest should be left as such. In my many years of working for DELWP I have seen the difference of how state forests are managed compared to regional parks are miss managed. It is easy to say that people will still be able to enjoy the area if it is changed. This is not the truth the Wellsford is the healthiest area of bushland in the Bendigo area. This is due to the care and management that takes place by the employees of DELWP. The border of the forest and park on Plant road is the most obvious example of this. You can instantly see the change in the quality of the roads and the health of the environment. DELWP manages the areas it is responsible for by the upkeep of roads, thinning the forest to give room for happy healthy trees to grow and not be a mess of strangled unhealthy and unhappy trees. This practice also allows pioneer plants to get sun and provide a healthy under story for the fauna in the area to use, these pioneer plants also prevent noxious weeds from taking over. Talking of weeds this is another problem in Parks where as in state forests regular spraying and chipping practices help keep the noxious plant numbers down and provide a much more enjoyable environment for all. As a forest fire fighter I can also speak about the differences in fire control and the ability to be able to get to incidents in forests and parks. Parks tend to burn hotter and for longer as they are very overgrown and unhealthy also the ability to be able to reach the fires is largely reduced due to the conditions of roads lack of forest management and also more dangerous for the people involved as it is also difficult to get out of danger if required. I could continue to write on the lists of problems and difference in parks and state forests but I will leave it at that. Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss further. I would have attended the drop in but due to poor communication to the community on dates and places I was unable to attend the Bendigo one.

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