



New submission for investigation "Central West Investigation"

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From: veac@veac.vic.gov.au

To: veac@dse.vic.gov.au,

Submission for the investigation "Central West Investigation"Submitted on **14-09-2018**

Information provided by the author:

Title: **Mr**First Name: **Mark**Last Name: **Shannon**

Description:

Firstly thank you for allowing me to have the opportunity to make a submission to the VEAC draft report. I must admit that I do not support the premise that creating National, Conservation and Regional Parks as well as Nature and Bushland Reserves from State Forests is actually going to benefit the State of Victoria, the people of the State of Victoria or the Flora and Fauna of the State of Victoria. My view is that the only benefit will be to those that are driven by radical ideology and a desire to keep themselves firmly attached to the public purse. From the information distributed by VEAC staff at the Bendigo meeting, both printed and verbal, I found that it was heavily qualified, such as "horse riding will be allowed", but then in the fine print "horse riding on roads and tracks as specified by the land manager; no overnight camping with horses". I believe the pamphlets on the Wombat-Macedon Block and the Mount Cole-Pyrenees Block have eleven such qualifications each. The Wellsford Block has a mere eight qualifications. Some have described these as weasel words, others as being disingenuous. I believe both descriptions would be appropriate.

Economically this VEAC report will have disastrous consequences for the region. The VEAC quoted "gain" for our economy of some sixty eight million dollars from memory, due to an increase of "ecotourism", pales in comparison to the current spend by, campers, four wheel drivers, trail bike rides, horse riders, prospectors, hunters, miners, bee keepers, and timber harvesters. This report also does not take into account the negative economic impact the removal of fire wood collection will have. A lot of Central Victorians rely on this collection of wood for heating. We do not have the ability to access cheap reticulated gas like city people do. Service industries will see a down turn in income. That is not good for a region that is already struggling. I also question the wisdom of creating parks that will become "untouchable" in terms of reducing forest floor fuel loads. Our state forest managers already struggle to reduce fuel loads in what is one of the most fire prone areas in the world. Making it more difficult for them to manage fuel loads by being inflicted with added mountains of "green tape", I can only describe as stupidity in the extreme. This draft proposal WILL, not may, result in tragedies that we see all too often. We need to maintain "ACCESS FOR ALL" not access for the chosen few. Shred this draft report and

start again with proper consultation and reports that come from experts that are not driven blindly by ideology.

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