



New submission for investigation "Central West Investigation"

veac

to:

veac

21/09/2018 06:15 PM

Hide Details

From: veac@veac.vic.gov.au

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

Submission for the investigation "Central West Investigation"Submitted on **21-09-2018**

Information provided by the author:

Title: **Dr**First Name: **Linda**Last Name: **Zibell**Organisation: **Victorian Greens**

Description:

I begin my submission by saying I am so delighted with the VEAC draft and sincerely hope it comes to fruition in all aspects. We have had to wait so long for conservation and protection of the Wombat Forest despite its amazing ecological values. Without National park status the areas identified in the draft would always remain at risk. Then Gariwerd would continue to be the only area with genuine protection in the west of Victoria - even though the west is listed on the Australian federal government website as the second most degraded landscape in Australia and Victoria is the worst state in Australia for its record species loss. The draft recommendations state there will be "improved protection for forest ecosystems and the habitat of more than 350 threatened species." This is marvelous. Currently to enjoy some of these species I have to go to a 420 Ha conservation area with 2 metre high, electrified fencing (to keep out the ferals) i.e. to Mount Rothwell Sanctuary (which only exists because of a generous benefactor). Such is the state of conservation in Victoria in our times. I love how, in the draft, certain areas are recognised for their recreational value so that people can continue to actively enjoy time in nature. I was a horse-rider in my youth and delighted in opportunities to ride in bushland - one of the great joys of life. Protection of the headwaters of many rivers is crucial as Climate Change starts to affect the land. I also love how the traditional Aboriginal owners' aspirations for country are addressed - this enables a new form of practical reconciliation through shared values and love of the land. As the very first "Australia - State of the Environment Report" of 2006 memorably said on its first page: "The environment is everybody's business." One thing I like about the way the Wombat Forest Park is to be developed is how it opens up possibilities for re-vegetation of native vegetation corridors in all directions. This will ensure that the Greater Eastern Bio-link can become more robust. This is powerful work to eventually set up landscape scale re-vegetation of habitat across the electorate of Buninyong both from the Trentham area and through Ballarat south through to Geelong. This important work will, in the long term, also bring benefits to farmers (habitat for birds - pest-controllers - and bees as pollinators).

Whole ecosystem health of the land is the way of the future; particularly as the effects of climate change bite. We need the land to be healthy and resilient (especially to drought). The only section I am disappointed with is that Mount Cole is to remain state forest: I am aware of the unnecessary clear felling that is currently taking place. Mount Cole's bush is fondly loved by many residents of Ballarat through their time staying at local camps and on day trips: I remember vividly watching platypus playing at Mount Cole - I'd never seen that in the wild, it was such a joy. I'd like to see their habitat preserved forever for future generations. I also have loved roaming through the local bushland of this area to enjoy the birds and views. It seems to be regarded as "low grade" - I'm not sure why. In sum however I can't help but say: hooray for VEAC!! Thankyou for this careful work which will mean that nature's generosity can endure for our children and their children. Yours sincerely, Dr. [Linda Zibell](#) Greens candidate for the seat of Buninyong

Click [here](#) to review and validate the submission