



New submission for investigation "Central West Investigation"

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Submission for the investigation "Central West Investigation"Submitted on **25-09-2018**

Information provided by the author:

Title: **Mr**First Name: **Paul**Last Name: **Hart**

Description:

I am a long time member of metal detecting club based in Melbourne. As a club we visit the bush almost every month. We have 200 members and can have up to 90 members camp in the bush for up to 6 nights. There are quite a few similar clubs to us. We have a lot of members very concerned that the creation of more "Parks" will mean more gold areas will be taken from us. It is difficult to understand because we really have very little impact on the areas we go. I am very proud of the condition we leave the bush after our visits and in fact some would argue that through removal of lead bullets, nails, cans etc that we actually leave the bush in a better condition. I often say we are more than a prospecting club as most of us have 4WD vehicles and caravan's. We are also a social club that very much looks forward to getting together at our monthly meetings and weekends. I think the average person would be surprised at the money that is spent by prospectors on our cars, vans, camping and detecting gear. We also add to the economy of rural areas through our spending on fuel, food, restaurants etc. Lastly I am also concerned about the representation of VEAC as I have heard it is almost all "environmentalists" with no representation from Bush User groups such as prospectors, hunters, 4WD's etc. This does not strike me as fair and difficult to see how decisions will not be biased. Paul Hart.

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