



New submission for investigation "Central West Investigation"

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Submission for the investigation "Central West Investigation"Submitted on **02-10-2018**

Information provided by the author:

Title: **Miss**First Name: **Nakita**Last Name: **Thomson**

Description:

I am a young Bendigo La Trobe University student passionate about conservation and naturalism. The knowledge that I have from visiting and observing the Wellsford has lead me to believe that the proposed protection to the Wellsford is not enough to protect the valuable and unique flora and fauna of the area. Currently there is a lot of firewood being taken and sold elsewhere throughout Victoria, I have witnessed these trailers passing through the bush. I don't believe that leaving a part of the Wellsford as regional park would provide adequate protection of the trees in the area. The thinning of the bush has been further fragmenting the habitat of the brush tailed phascogale who rely on the tree canopy to jump from tree to tree. The removal of the trees for wood from non-locals and locals alike has forced the phascogale to the ground to get to new trees which makes them vulnerable to predators like cats and birds. There is also a great deal of reptiles/goanna's who rely on the vegetation for hiding from predators. The allowance of mountain biking in the regional park will also further endanger the wildflowers and fungi in the area. Majority of the current tracks have been illegally made and are commonly used by motorbikes who don't always just stay on the track. Due to some of the tracks being used my motorbikes and the boredom of using the same tracks over and over again the bikers continually encroach more on native vegetation. This is unsustainable and puts many wildflowers and fungi at risk of eventually being wiped out. The Wellsford produces some of the most nectar per square metre in the world making it an essential habitat for our bees. As the risk of bees disappearing threatens the survival of our agriculture industry it is surely sensible to apply the highest possible protection to this vital habitat which being put at risk by current human activity. Climate change is also a real threat especially for my generation, I find mostly older people opposing the protection of this land, but they don't have to deal with the consequences of climate change. Young people do and though our generation generally don't make many submissions I can say we care an awful lot; we are frustrated with the continual degradation of these essential forests. The trees in this area serve an important purpose both as a carbon sink to mitigate the effects of climate change and a guardian of biodiversity for our native animals. Please VEAC protect the Wellsford for my generation to

appreciate, please recommend that it be made national park. I do appreciate that you are intending to make the Wombat forest national park that decision is also vital for the preservation of that area and I believe the Wellsford is just as significant.

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