



New submission for investigation "Central West Investigation"

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10/10/2018 12:54 PM

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

Information provided by the author:

Title: **Mr**First Name: **Meyer**Last Name: **Eidelson**

Description:

Dear VEAC Thank you for providing the extensive research and studies of this important and much-loved area. Members of my family and friends have worked in and have grown up in the Wombat State Forest and Lerderderg area. We have camped with our children and bushwalked for decades including walking three days through the Lerderderg Gorge twice. We always do so with our dogs who have harmed nothing. We intend to continue to do so. 1. We strongly oppose the hugely increased restrictions on dogs and camping. This VASTLY reduces the areas we can access as we have done for two generations. We know national parks well but can rarely go there because of severe dog restrictions which you brush over. 2. Restrictions on dogs and camping in the areas surrounding Nolan's Creek, Lyonsville Springs and O'Briens crossing are particularly onerous and unnecessary. 3. Your reports provide no evidence that huge improvements in forest management and conservation cannot be achieved without your onerous restrictions on the public recreational access to the forest with their dogs. 4. If as you say there are large anticipated increases in the Victorian population that can access this area, then people will need more access to the forest not less. 5. You state respect for Aboriginal culture. Aboriginal people once camped freely in the forest with their dogs experiencing the wonderful wilderness. One of the few places we can experience the freedom of this Indigenous lifestyle and contact with nature is the Wombat State Forest. That is why we love this area. Your proposals replace freedom with regulation. 6. Your report provides little if any evidence that the public are harming the forest. Rather it shows that long-term neglect by the responsible government land managers is the problem including the failure to implement the Royal Commission fire prevention recommendations. 7. Your recommendations wrongly target us the public and our access and use as the problem. The solution is improved education and interpretation infrastructure and land management NOT restricting access by the public and their dogs to a minute fraction of their former range. 8. Dogs with their owners are not harming the central highlands environment. Feral deer, goats, foxes, cats and neglect are harming the environment. Tackle the real problem, Do your job that you should have done years ago and remove them - not the public and their dogs. Regards Meyer

Eidelson

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