



Submission for Central West Investigation

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From: [Phillip Nahed](#) <

To: "veac@delwp.vic.gov.au" <veac@delwp.vic.gov.au>,

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing in support of increasing or adding new national parks in the Central West Region. As an arborist I understand the need for preserving biodiversity and the role in which plants, particularly large trees, play in cooling, increasing rainfall further inland, preventing soil erosion and reducing run-off, among many other ecosystem services that plants provide.

I also understand that removing firewood can both reduce biodiversity and remove valuable nutrients from the forests, and human activities can spread disease such as *Armillaria*. It may also be worthwhile the government supporting household changes from log fires to electric heating to go with their support for household solar which could help reduce the need for firewood and reduce overall emissions. As a Daylesford resident I see a number of Ute's and trailers carrying logs from the Wombat State Forest on a daily basis, and in my job I continually see people cutting and gathering firewood from roadside areas with signs suggesting areas of significant vegetation. The protection of more natural areas will have far more benefits than losses.

Regards

[Phillip Nahed](#)