



New submission for investigation "Central West Investigation"

veac

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From: veac@veac.vic.gov.au

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

## Submission for the investigation "Central West Investigation"

Submitted on **04-10-2018**

Information provided by the author:

Title: **Ms**

First Name: **Debra**

Last Name: **Shaddock**

Description:

Dear VEAC, I write to you to express my disappointment at what I see as a lack of meaningful community consultation and representation regarding the Central West Investigation draft proposal. Until recently, I have not heard of any opportunity to contribute to the considerations regarding the proposed change of Wombat State Forest to National or State Park. I note that public drop in events were conducted throughout the investigation area, however nothing in this neck of the woods. I live on the Wombat State Forest in Greendale and have a strong connection to this area. I have no political motivation, just a love for the environment that I live and play in. My family and I, along with our neighbours and many people that reside locally love and utilise the forest for much of our recreational activity and to support mental and physical wellbeing. We love this forest, and for the declared forest area to be made national park or state park would inhibit our current use and activity. The current proposal has no provision for current use, by way of a buffer area. It is a complete change and appears to 'lock out' many existing user groups and activity of individuals. As a family that accesses the forest often we ride horses, walk our dogs and bushwalk. We clean up dumped rubbish and control noxious weeds as we go. We are responsible users, as are most, and we take our responsibility to give back to the forest seriously. There has been no mention under the proposed recommendation as to how the management of these large tracts of what are currently State Forest will be managed if it is declared State or National park. A great concern for me is that I see no mention that the potential future land manager, Parks Victoria, will be resourced with both human and financial needs to responsibly do their job. It would be beyond disappointing to see this well accessed forest locked up and current user groups locked out. I believe the Wombat State Forest should remain State Forest. Thank you

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