



Veac investigation submission

Tim Arnold

to:

veac

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Hide Details

From: Tim Arnold

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I am opposed to this draft and any other recommendation that will.

1: Remove the domestic firewood collection on the grounds that my self and my parents who are pensioners rely on the firewood collection areas to collect firewood to heat our homes. The cost to buy firewood is around \$150 a cubic meter and during the winter we can go through a minimum of 6-8 cubic meters that equates to \$900-\$1200 a politicians wage that may be lunch money but not to pensioners. And the next problem that also causes is the increased fuel load to fuel wild fires. I would urge you to go and look at any of our state forests and state parks and other reserves that firewood collection is not permitted and see the amount of fallen timber and dead trees that are just waiting to burn. We are getting closer and closer to a state wide wildfire that hundreds of lives will be lost due to the negligence of parks Vic and the state government in failing to manage the threat. Dwelp go through and select specific areas where they are allowed to and thin these areas out for firewood collection. One of these areas previously used for firewood collection had a planned burn last year and because the fuel load wasn't there the fire actually had trouble burning which is a fantastic outcome as the areas that had a higher fuel load burned clean and helped the regeneration of the forest and the parts that never were safe for the native fauna to stay safe.

2: regularly camp in the state forests if the veac recommendation goes ahead parks Vic will put a stop to this unless in a paid campground and the ones we currently have in the state and national parks are poorly maintained as it is let alone finding one that allows you the privacy and peace and quiet to just sit back and enjoy the bush and the animals that wander through. If we only have a designated camp ground then the increased traffic to that one area will be detrimental to the native flora and fauna due to repetitive traffic in that one area. Do you live next to a night club and would you want to because I'm sure the animals wouldn't.

3: along with a lot of other people I like to take my dog out in the bush with me which at times she is used for hunting as well and the creation of any park restricts and in a lot of cases prohibits dogs to be taken into the parks.

4: I grew up riding horses and still have access to them and if our state forests are changed into parks then I have no hope of ever enjoying a nice quiet horse ride through them ever again due to the most ridiculous reasons anyone has ever heard. For the record weeds have more chance of being spread by birds, kangaroos, wild deer, wild goats and wild pigs all of which we have in our state forests but I'll get to that further down.

5: as a prospector I also enjoy spending time out bush walking with a metal detector in hand looking for gold or old relics that have been lost in the bush during and since the gold rush. Prospectors are not only very low environmental impact but we also spend time cleaning up the rubbish that the city folk leave behind. We spend a lot of time in small towns spending money on not only supplies but also things in small shops and cafes as well. We buy local produce helping support the small families selling on the side of the rd. We are the ones in the bush all the time unlike the city dwelling activists who only venture out to have their violent protests. We stop and look at all the flora and fauna. If you look at any prospecting pages on social media you will regularly see photos prospectors take of the local flora and fauna. To

6: As I spend most weekends in the forests along with most other bush users we also have a big impact stopping illegal dumping and quite regularly come across rubbish and find names and addresses but we also frequently come across people in the act of dumping rubbish and take photos and report them to either dwelp or the Epa if we are not allowed to use these areas then the illegal dumping will escalate and all the taxpayers will be the ones to pay to have this cleaned up taking the vital funding that is needed for other areas of the budget.

7: because I spend so much of my weekends in the bush I see what parks Vic has already done to marked roads and tracks. Because they don't have funding they close all but a very few select tracks with signs that either say "management vehicles only" or "seasonal track closure" now from my observation lot of these tracks are never actually open and are closed/ for no real reason except they don't want to maintain them and therefore stops people

from seeing all the fantastic flora, fauna and historical sites along them now the other problem this also creates is that quite a lot of bush users clear fallen timber from the tracks as they go to keep clear access. How will the state government apologize when fire crews are trapped and lose their lives by either a Locked gate or a fallen branch or tree that a bush user would have removed do we really want another preventable incident like linton in 1998 where lack of water was the cause however water is not going to last long if your escape route is blocked.

8: if this draft plan is accepted by the state government the effect this will have to small towns that rely on the tourists that come to use these areas prospectors, hunters, 4 wheel drives, horse riders, motor cycle riders, just to name a few. These towns will suffer just like picola and barmah after the government never listened to the public and these towns have now lost small businesses and a lot of family's that could have been avoided. How would you feel if this was yours or a family member or friend who was affected?

9: this is my biggest concern and that is the fact that hunting is banned in over 90% of this area now this is a huge financial hit to my family as we rely on hunting to put food on the table. For me to go out and hunt a deer, pig or goat that can save me the equivalent of a mortgage payment or the yearly car registration now not only this but the fact that introduced animals are a massive threat to the native flora and fauna and to cut out this amount of taxpayer FREE pest control is the biggest mistake the government could make. We as taxpayers just wasted \$60,000 for parks Vic to employ 2 New Zealand professional shooters to cull approx 40 goats in the Grampians national park because the taxpayer FREE hunters like myself are not permitted to hunt in there. Now that's just the start as we have had one aerial cull in the alpine national park this year and another 2 are planned in mt buffalo national park and mt baw baw national park. I'm still yet to find out the cost of this. Yet 2 more areas hunting is not permitted. The next issue of heavily restricted hunting is the cost to the taxpayer of 1080 baiting. Now not only is this extremely expensive at a cost of approx \$200 per fox baited it also the risk of secondary poisoning that you may be aware is currently under investigation from the poisoning of a large number of birds of prey including owls that were suspected to have been poisoned by this extremely dangerous chemical. We also have a high number of feral cats and wild dogs across Victoria that are a massive threat to the native wildlife and the most effective and the cheapest way to control invasive introduced species like deer, goats, pigs, foxes, feral cats and wild dogs is hunting. There is no scientific methods that are effective in controlling any of these animals and I have done a lot of research on this as the greens will try and tell you otherwise but can't provide any evidence to back this up.

And the fact that the raft deer management strategy is proposing \$300,000 to the ADA, \$85,000 to the federation of Victorian traditional owner corporation, \$624,000 to deer management in the grampians, \$230,000 to eradicate deer from wilson's promontory, \$500,000 for deer management at lake Tyers and various other projects over 3 years at a cost to taxpayers. What will the cost be once hunting is prohibited by the veac proposal now also take into account the cost of other pest management in these areas as well foxes, cats, dogs, pigs, goats ect.the fact we have 37,000 licensed game hunters and around 210,000 licensed firearm owners of which a lot hunt pest animals.

Tim Arnold
