



Wombat state forest
Lee Kelly to: veac

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to express my deepest concern in relation the the changing of wombat state forest and surrounding areas to national parks.

As an avid four wheel driver and gold prospector I find it really concerning that this is even up for debate. If this proposal was to take hold all surrounding small towns would have to shut up shop and ultimately would lead to the closure of such beautiful historic townships that already struggle to survive.

If closure of these areas were to happen, the amount of fire fuel that would be in the forests would be substantial and in the even of fire would lead to unmanageable conditions.

The amount of vermin that would then take over the forests would also sky rocket. Although not a hunter myself I thoroughly support the pest control that the public do for you and don't ask for a cent in return. Instead of allowing people to hunt in the state forests you will turn to 1080 baiting therefor resulting in native birds eating baited remains and ending up dead too.

I have been visiting state forests for 22 years of my 22 year long life and I find it a real shame that anyone is even thinking of closing these areas. We are privileged to have access to the areas and people like myself and my family would rather visit the bush and support small towns than go into Melbourne and have to spend money on the already thriving economy.

I would suggest that just myself would spend 3,000-4,000 in small towns surrounding the forest each year. With the numbers that currently visit forests this money is vital to their survival.

Lastly, I just want to express how upset I am about all of this that is going on and that I believe there should never even be a proposal to carry out such lucrative plans.

I await your reply,
Lee Kelly

Sent from my iPhone