

17/10/2018

To VEAC,

We are writing this submission as we are extremely concerned with what VEAC is proposing to do with some of our State Parks, in particular the areas included in the Pyrenees Ranges.

We are members of the PMAV and have been prospecting in these areas for about 10 years as have many of our friends. Prospectors do not destroy the bush on the contrary we care deeply for environment and often discover significant sites as we venture off the beaten track. Not to mention clearing the ground of unwanted lead and rubbish. We should be used by the authorities to assess what is happening in the bush, to gather data re flora and fauna and to notify them of fuel loads and rubbish dumps.

We bring income into small towns as we pay for camping, food, fuel etc. These towns will suffer greatly if we can't prospect any longer and it would be a tragedy to see them cease to exist because so many of them have a cultural significance connecting them to the gold rush days and our State and Australia's history. We should be protecting and preserving them for future generations not threatening them with their demise.

VEAC claims it is trying to protect the environment but many bush users disagree. By locking us out of these areas many problems will arise. Bush fires are likely to increase and be more severe due to heavy fuel loads. The number of feral animals and invasive plants will thrive due to lack of control. Park rangers have trouble maintaining what they already have and often rely on bush users to hunt these animals and report on areas that need watching. By increasing the land area they have to patrol the work load will be insurmountable as we don't see the number of rangers increasing accordingly.

We believe that the bush can be protected and utilised by keeping the status as it is.

**PEOPLE NEED THE BUSH AND THE BUSH NEEDS PEOPLE!!**

Kay McCord and Gary Bartsch.