

I oppose the making of more parks in Victoria, in particular the extension of Mount Buangor State Park encroaching into Mount Cole State Forest.

I do not agree with limiting the practices of bush users and those who use the bush to horse ride, walk, shoot feral pigs and deer, fish, prospect, collect fire wood or just to camp in.

Personally I'm a horse rider and I enjoy the solitude and peace of riding in the mount. I have been riding in the mount since I was a small child and I am now 63 years of age and I have many friends (older and younger) who all enjoy riding in their our mount were we do harm riding on the roads and tracks.

My family have been residents of Warrak fore 4 generations, some of my family's land was gifted to the state approximately 50 years ago on the understanding that the land would be there for all to visit and use – bee keeping, riding, wood collection etc. This land was at the end Ord's Orchard Lane in Mount Buangor State Park.

I have land in Warrak and regularly ride in the mount on tracks such as Chinaman's track, Dutchman's track, Sandy Pinch Road, Spring Creek track . I use my horse on tracks and roads – in the poop the manure remains on the road and is very unlikely to spread weeds in the mount. We have a large number of deer, pigs and kangaroos who all travel out of the mount and back in again who would spread more weeds than any horse and in addition the biggest problem with weed infestation would be the millions of cockatoos who fly into the mount to roost.

There will be 1000's of people who will be turned away from our mount should there be a change to the current status of forests and the economy of smalls towns located close to these forests will suffer greatly.

I implore those to rethink this current proposition to change the status of forests and parks and leave the Australian bush for all Australians to use – it has worked for the last 200 years and will continue to do so.

Regards,

Julie Lofts