



New submission for investigation "Central West Investigation"

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Submission for the investigation "Central West Investigation"Submitted on **19-10-2018**

Information provided by the author:

Title: **Miss**First Name: **Brea**Last Name: **Thornton**

Description:

As horse riders we need room to ride, not a few kilometres here and there, real kilometres. How would people accept only being able to shop for an hour, see a movie for an hour, only permitted to visit the same group of shops....for an hour? That is how we feel what you are doing to us. The recommendation has the Cobaws as a no go zone for horses and yet allowing 4WD. How would it be if there was a no pram policy at a shopping centre but everyone else is welcome? That is how we are feeling. We live in the area. Many equestrians use the Cobaws. Now you are asking us to drive further away, add cost and time to our recreational valued moments. You are asking to place ourselves on the road more, travelling, or to ride on roads, creating a dangerous situation. We know many people that horse riding has healed mentally and physically. This is of high significance. Cutting off areas, limiting access, is so detrimental to the well being of so many people. A high percentage of riders are woman and children. They may not want to participate in another sport other than ride. Kids in the bush is so much better than kids at home in front of a TV or messing around at a shopping centre. After we horse ride, we do a cuppa in the bush sitting with good buddies, there isn't anywhere else we would rather be. Not much to ask....please. Also, not to forget the impact on businesses from horse riders coming to the area to ride the Cobaws or that regional towns surrounding the Cobaws have an extremely high amount of stockfeed, saddlery shops and other equine interests. We understand there can be a need for certain protected areas but we can still enjoy part of it as we have been.....please. National Parks allow horses but it is with a permit and also after the meetings, there will only be formed road access, none of the tracks we currently ride. Riders you need to know this, you will not be able to ride on the tracks formed between the more 'main' roads. We need room. Some of us make it a day and take our lunch out with us. The issue of horse manure spreading weeds.....have you ever looked at the edge of a major or any busy roadway? We don't ride horses along there and weeds come up. Birds bring in seeds, car wheels do too. I cannot see how some manure on a track will cause an issue. Our horses do not eat Blackberries, they eat grass and produced clean feed. We are certainly putting ourselves out there to work hand in hand to create areas in the Cobaws and any other area required

so we can all enjoy and keep the bush a beautiful and sustainable part of Victoria. Thank you for reading this.

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