



Wombat Forest Park campaign.

[William Hetherington](#)

to:

VEAC@delwp.vic.gov.au

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To: "VEAC@delwp.vic.gov.au" <VEAC@delwp.vic.gov.au>,

I would like to record my vote AGAINST the proposal to turn the Wombat Forest into a national park. I was born in Daylesford 73 years ago and have used and enjoyed the bush ever since, as did my father and his ancestors back to the 1850s. I admit the

forest took a severe battering in the early days for mining props and wood for the boilers but recovered well once mining finished. But keep in mind the economic gains got Australia going and set us up for the life we currently have today. Sawmillers followed on but used the resources wisely, only using trees of appropriate size and by using selective felling methods allowed the next batch of trees to flourish. The start of clear felling started the rot, even I and most long term users were appalled by this method, the results have been a failure due to overcrowding which prevents any trees from flourishing.

I still use wood as my heating source as do many thousands of people spread over the vicinity of the Wombat. Talk of allowing two areas for access firewood is of small comfort if you reside 50 kilometres from them. As it is the current firewood areas are a joke. Any decent wood is taken in the first week or so and sticks are all that are left. In the case of the Creswick firewood zone the same area has been used for the past two years, while millions of tonnes of dry, fallen trees are lying right throughout the entire area, blocking access to tracks and waiting for the next bushfire to be blackened and wasted and sometimes smoulder for weeks until the next windy day and start another fire. The management is a disgrace at the moment, some of the old time Foresters, e.g. [Reg Fuller](#) would be turning in their graves.

The idea that tourism would flourish should the Wombat become a National Park is also a pie in the sky theory. In my many years of use I could count on the fingers of one hand the number of people I have seen, apart from other firewood gatherers. If they were so keen what difference would it make whether it is a National Park or the Wombat Forest?

NO.

William J HETHERINGTON