



New submission for investigation "Central West Investigation"

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Submission for the investigation "Central West Investigation"Submitted on **24-10-2018**

Information provided by the author:

Title: **Mr**First Name: **John**Last Name: **Daley**

Description:

Submission to the VEAC Central West Investigation Generally I concur with the draft recommendations as detailed in the publication. With the following comments; Firewood I believe permits should be issued and limited to the total amount of wood available each year. RATIONALE The argument pensioners need to get the firewood for heating and cooking is a lie. I doubt there is a single house in the Bendigo region that relies 100% for firewood. That generation disappeared in the 1970' in my opinion. Since then gas has been a major source of heating and cooking. I believe firewood use is a lifestyle choice. I live in the forest, I have only seem one person with a dodgy old trailer and car pickup timber. When the wood season opens I see a rush of late model 4WD vehicles and often larger trailers come in and the timber is gone within 24 hrs. I often see them driving anywhere but on tracks, at night and out of season. HUNTING I see and hear many shooters / hunters over the year, often within 200M of homes in the rural residential area of the Wellsford Forest. I always track them down and speak with them, they always are shooting at targets, trees and birds. I have never seen one group of shooters with any feral animals at their feet. I speak with them about joining a shooting club since there are some in Bendigo, they are not interested they say. PROSPECTORS This group should be required to pay massive restitution for the damage they cause. If I dug up their yards the way they expect to dig up the bush, they would be angry. I have seen the dig the banks of the Bendigo creek at Epsom and Whitehills, I have seen large areas of ground that contained fauna patches or small plants that are prolific around the central west forests, turned over so nothing grows. They drive anywhere, and burn fallen logs in fires the set. Their vehicles churn pot holed roads into mulch when its wet, and they never travel at a respectable speed to look after the road when they can. They should be banned. If they did the damage to private land that they do to public land, the owners would not be happy. MOTORCYCLES I ride and race motorcycles on the road and on circuits. I understand motorcycles and how they can be used. In the Wellsford they have created an off road track, which generally avoids made roads, and apart from damage to some irrigation channels they seem to work well for everybody. I am aware in higher rainfall and steeper land masses the damage done to tracks, slopes and some river

crossings is bad. BUT, some insist on removing their mufflers which makes them stand out and I can hear them riding badly. I believe some form of charge should go on their registration to rectify damage done to public lands. Once again, no private landowner would permit the damage done to public lands. **TIMBER HARVESTING** If harvesting is a method of actually improving the forest I will support it, but around my place I notice many larger trees with holes etc seem to be taken out. Thus depriving wildlife of any habitat. **WATER STEALING** I notice when the City of Greater Bendigo grades the roads in the Wellsford Forest, it draws water from forest dams which in dry periods can deprive the wildlife of water. Can this be stopped? John Daley

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