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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

Monday, 22 October 2018

VEAC  
GPO Box 527  
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Submission: Central West Investigation

I write as an Associate Professor in Ecology at the University of Melbourne, but also as a resident of the Pyrenees Shire, having lived at \_\_\_\_\_ for the last 16 years.

My views concern principally the Mount Cole-Pyrenees block, with which I am most familiar. I give my full support to Draft Recommendations as described on pages 106-110 of the Draft Proposals Paper (August 2018). As identified in the Paper, this area has high conservation status and deserves better protection. As a component of this additional protection, it is essential that management agencies are subsequently resourced to address the growing issue of damage by feral (and erroneously classified game) animals, particularly deer and pigs, which, from my observation, are increasing in number and destructive capacity. It is critical that this is not achieved through access for recreational shooters, but through a carefully coordinated program of integrated pest control administered by the relevant management agencies.

I particularly commend Recommendation D6 concerning the current Waterloo State Forest, which is not far from where I live and an area of high conservation status. While no comprehensive survey of this area has been undertaken to my knowledge, it supports a diverse range of flora and fauna not well represented elsewhere in the region.

Yours Sincerely,

Associate Professor Alan York