



New submission for investigation "Central West Investigation"

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Submission for the investigation "Central West Investigation"Submitted on **28-10-2018**

Information provided by the author:

Title: **Mrs**First Name: **Leanne**Last Name: **Wardrop**

Description:

I am a regular user of State forest, as a horse-rider, and have been for over 40 years. While my local forest is not currently under threat of conversion to a National Park, I am very concerned about the amount of State Forests that have been recommended in the latest VEAC report for this purpose. In my many years of using State Forest to ride in, I have on a number of occasions reported illegal dumping of rubbish and other non-desirable activities to the managing authorities. I've pulled out small patches of invasive weeds, stopping them from spreading further, picked up rubbish and generally been a visible presence as a deterrent to those that are not using the bush responsibly. I don't abuse the bush because I love it and all the native plants and creatures in it, as do the majority of other law-abiding bush users. It seems ridiculous to exclude so many activities from publicly owned land when most bush users are doing no harm to the environment, on the contrary, many actively help to protect and care for the bush. Where there are areas of particular sensitivity that are being damaged by specific activities, then the answer may be to restrict access for those activities from these smaller areas only, not to lock away thousands of acres of public land so few can enjoy it. Please consider the many, many people who currently love, enjoy and care for our bush and wish for themselves and generations to come to continue to do so.

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