

From : Cathie Roby and Reg Elder.

COMMENTS ON VEAC DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CENTRAL WEST INVESTIGATION

Reference: Draft VEAC Recommendations on the Central West Investigation concerning;

- Mount Cole Forest
- Pyrenees Forest
- Wells Forest
- Wombat Forest and Macedon Region
- Smaller Reserves totalling 8420 hectares+

The recommendations made in the VEAC Draft Recommendations Report are most welcome as they include significant conservation requirements for the areas considered by the Central West Investigation.

We are concerned that the recommendations do not fully consider threats and difficulties in some areas such as:

- Increased logging and protection of flora and fauna.
- Gold mining and prospecting.
- Poorly maintained and illegal tracks which are causing erosion.
- Rubbish dumping.
- Control of feral animals and noxious plant species. In particular the increase in the feral deer which are moving into area in ever increasing numbers.

We are particularly concerned about the Mount Cole Forest where not enough of the area is protected by National Parks and Reserves. The recommendations include increased Intensive logging, or more accurately 'clear-fell'. This is most disturbing.

We have read various reports and attended a VEAC briefing on the Central West Investigation and as mentioned above many of the recommendations are most welcome. However, from a conservation point of view some recommendations are disturbing. We fully support the Victorian National Parks Association position on this matter and hope their well considered comments have some bearing on the final recommendations.

We appreciate the release of the draft recommendations and the opportunity to comment to VEAC. It is hoped all submissions will be carefully considered and that the next Government will take note of the final VEAC recommendations and implement them.

Cathie Roby and Reg Elder