

Jan Welsh

Submission re
VEAC Central West Investigation
Draft Proposals
29.10.2018

As a resident of the Macedon Ranges, and having been a bush walker and bird watcher for over 30 years in the areas covered by the investigation, I respectfully make the following comments and submission.

Australia has a poor record, as the country with greatest number of fauna becoming extinct since European settlement .

I strongly support the recommendations for the Wombat and Cobaw blocks.

I commend any strategy which protects high bio-diversity, including the protection of habitat for threatened species such as :

- **the Greater Glider, Powerful Owl and Brush-tailed Phascogale.**
- **threatened flora species**
- **migratory birds in Spring, as habitat world-wide is shrinking, causing bird numbers to dwindle as their food sources disappear due to development.**

I would strongly support any recommendation to declare a National Park for Mt. Macedon, a unique area with immense significance for indigenous communities, bio-diversity, and passive recreation.

I request reconsideration to change and strengthen the recommendations for the Mt. Cole – Pyrenees block

I support the proposed Pyrenees National and Regional Parks, Mt. Buangor National Park, Ben Major Nature Reserve, and Waterloo Nature Reserve.

I was dismayed at the logging that had occurred up till the 1990s, when I last walked in the area, and noting recent photographs showing the effect this continued practice has had on the environment

As a catchment for the Wimmera and Hopkins Rivers, it is vital that natural forest be regenerated with strong revegetation practices. Not only does forest help retain the water, the health of the rivers for flora and fauna cannot be understated. Recent data shows that unique animals such as platypus are found in fewer and fewer watercourses across the State.

I request that the recommendation that logging be allowed to continue is reviewed, and disallowed .

Jan Welsh