

28 October, 2018

Victorian Environmental Assessment Council
Level 39
2 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Vic 3000

Dear Sir/Madam,

Access to Public Land and Waterways

I would like to voice my anger at the government of today who are trying to close up our forests to members of the public re Bush Walking, Bike Riding, Horse Riding, small time Prospecting with metal detectors and small hand picks, Bee Keepers, Bird Watchers, Timber Workers, Fishing, Campers, School Nature Studies, Artists, 4 Wheel Driving, Dog Walking and just simply enjoying the bush.

This has come about because the Dja Dja Wurrung aboriginal people said that they have walked the land and claim it to be theirs. They may have walked the land hundreds, if not thousands, of years ago but this does not give them ownership of the land.

My family is several generations Australian. During the First and Second World Wars my grandfather, father and uncle all had individual farms and worked hard. I am 75 years of age and have walked most of the forest the Government want to close pursuing my hobby which is prospecting with a metal detector.

As a true Australian I feel I should be able to walk Crown Land which is owned by the people of Australia such as Wombat, Wellsford, Mt Cole and Pyrenees forests, commonly known as the Golden Triangle rather than them being closed up by "The Greens" and Dja Dja Wurrung people. The forest is for all Australians. It provides opportunities for exercise and stress relief, especially for retirees.

Access to these forests also boosts the economy of the small towns we visit with the purchase of fuel, accommodation, meals, groceries, incidentals etc. The majority of all people/groups who use these areas leave them as they found them taking away their rubbish with them

Yours sincerely,



Robert Lake