

AJ.(Toby) & FR.Decker

2/10/2018

***Victorian Environmental Assessment Council
PO Box 500
East Melbourne. Vic 3002***

Dear Committee Members.

Re Proposed Great Forest Parks.

As a member of Horsham & District Lapidary Club for 40 years , I wish to object to the proposed “ Great Forest National Park” and the restrictions to be placed on all prospectors, fossickers, bushwalkers, horse riders and many others that enjoy the bush by the proposed restrictions.

I have read the proposal by VEAC to lock up another 79,000 hectares of forest and recreational area of Victoria, This proposal does nothing as it stands and does, nothing to support the continued existence of clubs and organizations as recreational activity for people (Voters in Victoria) also many who are members of Gem & Mineral clubs that purchase Victorian Miners Rights will be disadvantaged and excluded from continuing their education and the art of lapidary and our environment.

While I agree with the preservation of Historical Valued sites and Indigenous Heritage should be preserved, I believe that this proposal will do more harm to people living in and using the area in a sustainable way, particularly in the area of tourism.

As a member of Horsham & District Lapidary Club who is affiliated with Victorian Gem & Mineral Clubs Association there is a code of conduct with respect to fossicking which is expected to be enforced by associated clubs,

I believe with proper regulation and management these areas will be protected environmentally rather than locking up yet another large slice of Victoria to the public.

Yours sincerely,

Ansell J Decker