

Dear VEAC,

Regarding: Central West Victoria Investigation, 08/11/2018

Please find my comments on the draft recommendations from the VEAC report.

Firstly, I support nearly all of the recommendations in the report, except the Mt Cole region and some of the Wombat/Macedon block.

I think there are some great new additions to the conservation and protection of important forests and ecological communities. I support the new parks and conservation areas. I spend a lot of time in the Wombat Forest, with my children, riding bikes and bushwalking and enjoying the birds and nature. I also have worked in the forest, doing motion sensor cameras and fauna surveys. I am very keen to ensure these forests are not subject to logging and large-scale mining, the biggest threats to the forests. The current state forest tenure of the Wombat Forest does provide adequate protection for its flora, fungi and fauna.

The Wombat State Forest contains no less than the headwaters of six major rivers and contributes to water supply for regional towns and farms. There is also a need to protect these headwaters from sawlog harvesting and mining, which are permitted activities in a state forest.

Climate Change:

These forests are a vital carbon sink for future climate carbon storage, and also a refuge for a huge number of flora and fauna species. The deep gullies of the wombat forest will be some of the most vital habitat refuges in the west of Victoria. I believe a park will be better protection for this important natural asset, as it will prevent broadscale damage from logging activities.

Changes to the VEAC draft document:

1. I would like to see more area in the Mt Cole region set aside for Park Status. It is very open to logging at the moment, and the mix doesn't seem very balanced.
2. Regarding the Wombat/Macedon Block, I believe that more Regional Park are needed around the townships of Bullarto and Glenlyon, and other towns that are surrounded by the proposed national park. Many people are fearful of not being able to walk their dogs, ride horses and get firewood, so perhaps a larger regional park might be a better idea. This still protects the forest from logging and mining. The National Park might only apply to the areas of highest conservation importance and furthest from townships.

Regards and thanks, Ivan Carter and Family, Daylesford

veac@dewlp.vic.gov.au