



New submission for investigation "Central West Investigation"

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15/11/2018 12:25 PM

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From: veac@veac.vic.gov.au

To: veac@dse.vic.gov.au,

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Submission for the investigation "Central West Investigation"Submitted on **15-11-2018**

Information provided by the author:

Title: **Mr**First Name: **John**Last Name: **Watts**Organisation: **individual**

Description:

Wombat State Forest Reclassification I refer to the Melton and Moorabool STARWEEKLY Newspaper front page dated November 13 2018 "Director [Matt Ruphel](#) (Victorian National Parks Association) told Star Weekly recreational users would not be locked out. State forests are generally put aside for extractive use and there's no regulation or management of state forests other than for logging operations and large scale mining. He said. Changing to a national park excluded those very damaging activities For everything else regarding recreational activities, camping, trail bike riding and four-wheel driving the rules are exactly the same for state forest and national parks" There are no large scale logging or large scale mining operations in the Wombat State forest. We had all those protests in the 1990's, to create those management rules and exclude those very damaging activities. Director [Matt Ruphel](#) is at best being dishonest. If there is no change regarding recreational activities (rules are exactly the same) then why change to a national park. That is also not true because our recreational activities are going to be subject to new rules and further restrictions. I refer to specifically overnight dispersed camping and the collection of firewood for private use. We have noticed that there is gradual increase in MVO tracks. Management Vehicles Only tracks. Due to funding cuts the staff are overworked and are unable to attend to the maintenance of the tracks, so the solution is to close the tracks and over time they become not used and then overgrown and then they disappear. Then the undergrowth mounts up and WHEN the bushfires start again there is too much tinder and very little access to put the small fire out and so it becomes a big one. The current state government wants to appease a particular electoral minority and save money by transferring the Wombat State Forest to Wombat National Park and to this I object.

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