

Dear VEAC,

Re: Central West Investigation Draft proposal.

I have heard that the Wombat State Forest is to be turned into a National Park.

I am a user of the Wombat, and I do not want to see either of these happen.

I use Wombat to go dispersed bush camping which is the way I like to camp, not in a defined camp ground with a lot of other people as my friends and family like to use this time to spend some quality time together.

I also use it to collect firewood to use in the fire pit at home. I believe this helps in keeping the ground clear of excessive timber which helps when there is a bush fire as the fire does not burn as hot and cause as much damage.

I am also a four wheel driver that enjoys getting out in the bush and spending time with my family and friends. We use this time to catch up and recharge the batteries. We also do some bush walking with the girls when out in the bush.

When we do go out there, we always stop in one of the towns in the region and spend money, even if it is just a cup of coffee. If we cannot do our activities, we will not be going to these towns and they will miss out of this revenue, which even though can sometime not be a large amount, it would all add up for them.

All of the above activities we do with our daughters, which gets them off their devices and helps us bond as a family.

We also enjoy the Wombat as it is a great way to escape the stresses of daily life and work.

I also have trips away with mates as we live all over Melbourne and sometime have a weekend away in the Wombat to catch up and spin a few yarns around a camp fire.

As a bush user I love and respect the bush and care for it. I have been involved in clean up days where we have removed tonnes of rubbish that thoughtless people have dumped. I have done this to help preserve the bush and look after it.

As a four wheel driver, we also keep the tracks open as we will move a tree that has fallen over a track. Feedback from the CFA has been that they appreciate this immensely as it allows them easier access to fight fires.

I also have issue with the lack of public consultation in the whole process. Why have the public not been consulted? The process has not been very transparent at all. I know people who live in Dales Creek that have not heard of this.

Regards,
Andrew Willard.

Email: /