



New submission for investigation "Central West Investigation"

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17/11/2018 09:57 AM

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## Submission for the investigation "Central West Investigation"

Submitted on **16-11-2018**

Information provided by the author:

Title: **Mr**

First Name: **Nick**

Last Name: **Pierce**

Description:

Nick Pierce 17/11/2018 I would like to voice my strongest concern about VEAC and it's proposed central west forest investigation. My objections are the following. I believe VEAC is a green left wing political group with a set agenda which does not represent the myself or the majority of Australians. The proposed over regulation of our public land will have profound effects on my and my communities way of life. Having lived next door to Kinglake National Park before, during and after black Saturday bushfires and seeing first hand how Parks Victoria mismanagement of the land and have no regard of human life I think handing any more land to these people is dangerous for the Victorian community. Areas that are over regulated with overlays, restriction and different management groups are impossible to manage fire fuel levels in. This has results in tragic loss of life and has effected me personally. The central west forests are currently much better managed for fire fuels than any national parks, nature reserves or water courses. The areas VEAC is proposing to slowly lock away from the public use are used everyday by my local community. Local people using these areas including myself to collecting firewood, keeping fire tracks open by moving fallen trees, bee keeping, prospecting for gold, exploring on bikes, homeless people living in cars, bush camping or others just getting away out bush. Like it or not but by doing these activies we have created a spiritual connection with the our bush. We the community are it's guardians and do a good job looking after it. When we find dumped rubbish we pick it up, when the fuel starts to build up and forest needs a burn we push to get it burnt, when a roo falls down a old mine shaft we get it out, we manage the pest species, we organise weed removal, when we dig up the gold we also take the lead, we report suspect or criminal behaviour to the police. The community already does and outstanding job managing these forest areas of free. Why would we surport VEAC proposed plan it makes NO sense. For the communities that have these forests on our doorsteps we need people to use these forest. We need more prospecting areas, more firewood collection areas, more hikers, more bike riders, more 4wd tracks, more bee keeping areas, more rock climbing spots, more orienteering location, areas to teach our history, more undesignated areas for campers. These people keep our towns alive with tourism, are our eyes of the

forests keeping an eye on things. They fill up at the petrol station, get the flat tyre fixed in town, go to the hardware for camp gear, stay in bnbs, support out local food and cafe shops. Employment in central victorian towns is a real issue, we need tourists to keep our youth employed and off the streets. Without jobs comes all sorts of other community problems. VEAC proposed restrictions will stop these valuable forest users from coming to our towns. The restrictions will have a negative impact on fuel management and first attack fire response times leading to worse bushfires. If the tracks are closed how do we put out the lightning strikes. Bushfire risk is increasing with climate change every year. The restrictions will lead to increased power and gas bills for local communities as their firewood which is sustainably collected from the forests is reduced. Restricting access will consequently result in negative mental health outcomes for many in our community who use our forest. I am angry at this proposals and believe that it will result in huge changes and economic loss to my town. A very disappointed. [Nick Pierce](#)

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