



# *Albury Lapidary & Allied Crafts Inc.*

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Date 22/11/2018

Victorian Environment Assessment Council.

Dear Committee members,

Re Central West Investigation.

We have read the proposal by V.E.A.C to lock up another 79,000 hectares of forest and recreational area of Victoria. We believe that while there is an argument for the preservation of a number of areas there is also a strong argument for continuing to allow public usage of the National environment.

The Wellsford Forest and other areas around Bendigo and the Pyrenes are prime areas that support the recreational activities of Gem and Mineral Clubs, Prospecting Clubs and Fossil Collectors. The proposal as it stands does nothing to support the continued existence of these clubs as a recreational activity for many people, (Voters in Victoria). While we agree that some sights of Historical value and to Indigenous Heritage should be preserved, we think that this proposal will do more harm to people living in and using the area in a sustainable and protected way, particularly in the area of tourism.

We, The Albury Lapidary and Allied Craft Club, are affiliated with the Victorian Gem & Mineral Clubs Association and follow their code of conduct as well as having our own with respect to fossicking which is enforced by our Field Trip Officer. This area could be well protected rather than locking up yet another slice of Victoria.

Fay Antone,  
Secretary ALAC.