

To: VEAC commissioner

From: Miles Summers

Tuesday, 4 December 2018

To whom it may concern

Re Wombat Forest Park proposal

As a person that lives on a property that borders on the Wombat State Forest I am writing to acknowledge my support for the Wombat Forest park proposal (combination of national, regional and conservation parks) and all the recommendations including the Cobaw State Forest Conservation Park.

There are many reasons for my support for the proposal.

1. The Wombat State Forest is the headwaters for of six rivers. As the impact of global warming becomes more apparent it is important that these headwaters are protected. Both logging and the impacts of inappropriate use of 4 wheel drives not only cause erosion which alters streams but reduces the amount of water runoff in the catchment. Cornish (1993) noted that: "Water yields began to decline in all catchments 2–3 years after logging as regrowth eucalypts became established, and the rate of this decline was related to the mean stocking rate of eucalypt regeneration during the next 4 years. This water yield decline exceeded 250 mm in the sixth year after logging in the catchment with the highest stocking of regeneration and the highest regrowth basal area. Water yields in this catchment had declined to levels significantly below pre-logging levels by this time, supporting the notion that regrowth evapotranspiration had begun to exceed that of the old-growth forest."
2. Over the 35 years that I have resided in the Wombat Forest I have witnessed first hand the destruction of habitat by logging. Not only has logging removed valuable habitat for endangered animals such as the Powerful Owl, Brush-tail Phascogales and the Greater Glider but has also rendered the forest to be littered with the waste from logging making many areas hard to walk in for recreational walkers. The forest also provides habitat for migratory birds that come to the Wombat to breed in spring. As citizens it is our duty to protect biodiversity and what little forest there is left. I am very concerned about climate change and the lack of wild spaces for flora and fauna.
3. The Wombat State Forest is also an important area with the States largest variety of fungi, with over 400 species recorded. It is important that we protect the microclimates and flora that support the fungi.

I therefore support the recommendations about:

- No sawlog harvesting
- The supervision of recreational activities
- Increased protection for threatened species

Please show Victoria and the world that the environment matters. It is important that we preserve the little that is left of our natural areas for the future generations.

Yours Faithfully, Miles Summers

Reference: Cornish, P.M (1993). "The effects of logging and forest regeneration on water yields in a moist eucalypt forest in New South Wales, Australia", *Journal of Hydrology*, Volume 150, Issues 2–4, 1 October 1993, Pages 301-322