

V.E.A.C. Submission

Thank you for carrying out the Central West Investigation .

I fully support the Draft Proposals for the Wombat/Macedon block.

I live in Trentham and visit the Wombat Forest regularly, mainly for birdwatching, general nature observation and appreciation and fungi mapping activities.

The Wombat has many areas of habitat with large, hollow-bearing trees which are vital for threatened species such as the Greater Glider, Brush-tailed Phascogale and Powerful Owl, and other species like the Mountain Brush-tailed Possum and the Eastern Pygmy Possum.

It is also an important habitat for migratory birds which arrive in spring to breed, including the Rufous Fantail, Satin Flycatcher, Rose Robin and Sacred Kingfisher.

The Wombat Forest has a remarkable diversity of fungi – about 400 species have been recorded.

The range of flora is amazing, amongst which are the endemic species, Wombat Leafless Bossiaea and Wombat Bush Pea.

Trailbike riding is one activity that concerns me as some riders, (not all), often leave the formed tracks and create new tracks through the forest, destroying vegetation and disturbing waterways in the process. The Wombat has within it the headwaters of six major rivers and they require strong protection.

It is imperative that logging, mining and other destructive activities are stopped in order to protect the very high biodiversity conservation values of this area.

Community support for these parks is strong and they are essential as critical safe havens for the conservation of our threatened natural species and habitats.

A Wombat/Lerderderg National Park would be a great natural asset for this part of Victoria.

Margaret Phillips