



New submission for investigation "Central West Investigation"

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**Submission for the investigation "Central West Investigation"**Submitted on **04-12-2018**

Information provided by the author:

Title: **Mr**First Name: **Graeme**Last Name: **Newton**Organisation: **The Blackwood Trust**

Description:

To: VEAC Central West Investigation Submission on behalf of: The Blackwood Trust

I provide this submission on behalf of an extended family who owns two properties located in the Wombat State Forest. All the family members (40 in number) love and enjoy the Wombat. We support all the recommendations for the Wombat State Forest (combination of national, regional and conservation parks). The boundaries in the report allow for a variety of uses as well as protecting key environmental values. They strike a good balance. We have had the pleasure of seeing a Powerful Owl in the vicinity of the Blackwood section of the Wombat. Such an experience is something that needs protection now and into the future. I cannot see how sawlog harvesting would do this. The bush has only just begun to recover from the previous sawlogging and it would be a travesty to allow it to occur again.

Wherever there is a National Park there is always a strong growth in tourism and Victoria would gain economically by adding another National Park to its estate.

There are all the well documented benefits of protecting a patch of bush of the size of the Wombat such as maintenance of a carbon sink and biodiversity locally and through regional linkages, as well as water production and supply.

This is good land management as well as benefiting humans into the future. The western growth corridor from Melbourne to Ballarat is an actual planning designation by the Victorian government so the population pressure on the bush area should be very carefully considered and acted on now. Having designations to the Wombat allows for proper supervision of the various recreational activities that can damage the environment. While people may not intend to damage the bush, the culmination of impacts can be unfortunate. But this does not mean that recreation can't continue and we don't agree with those that think that they will be locked out of the Wombat as the recommendations allow for a very extensive range of recreational activities. We whole heartedly support the stopping of hunting (without authority) as we have been at times quite concerned by shooting in the vicinity of where I am walking enjoying the bush. Our property also has had some late night shooting across its paddocks. The

message sent by designating uses such as National Park would help to deter these illegal activities. The one concern we have is for those with freehold within the proposed National Park. There will need to be clarification with these few properties on what can and cannot occur with regards to dwellings and land use. Having said that, most with freehold love and enjoy the bush. The upfront conversation and development of understanding before finalisation of designations would be very much appreciated and go a long way to building good will down the track. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. Yours sincerely Graeme Newton For and on behalf of The Blackwood Trust

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