



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: **Mrs**First Name: **Kelly**Last Name: **Ellerton**

Description:

I am writing to you to express my concerns and disapproval of the draft proposal for the Central West Investigation in particular the Wellsford Forest. I have lived in this area for fourteen years now and i am an adjoining land owner to the proposed Nature Reservation at the Wellsford Block. In particular my concerns are the banning of Horse Riding and Dog walking in the forest, this is very upsetting to me, When my husband and I purchased this property fourteen years ago one of the main reasons was because of the location and the access to the bush right out our front gate, We share a love of horses and enjoy making use of the bush to ride them in. A wonderful way to relax and unwind after a stressful day at work. I know people in the street have purchased their property for this very reason. Taking away the access will be heartbreaking to many who live in the area. From what i see the locals are very careful riding in the forest, sticking to formed tracks and not gallivanting through the forest destroying the vegetation. My daughter who is only eight years old was recently given a pony from her nan and pa that she is training up to ride in the forest with her mum and dad. If this proposal goes through she won't even be allowed to walk out the front gate with her pony as this will become a criminal offence. To ask us to ride in another area is ridiculous, We would have to ride up the side of a sealed road with cars doing a 100km per hour, this would be for quiet a few kilometers as the allowed riding area is a fair distance from our property. This then becomes a safety issue for horse and rider with cars travelling at a high speed along side them. Locals have put a lot of time, effort and money into infrastructure on their properties, so they can house their horses from fencing, shelters, yards etc. Will the Nature Reservation drop the values of our homes? as who would want to move out of town onto acreage with their horse and dog if they cannot enjoy the bush right at their front gate. Really defeats the purpose of moving out of the city. Horse riders and Dog walkers are the eyes and ears of the forest. Without them who is going to report issues within the forest. Does it mean that if the forest is turned into a Nature Reservation there will be no more under burns?. It seems to me that the forest will become a massive fire risk to adjoining land owners. Who will take care of the forest? From my understanding of the report there is no real documented evidence that horses are doing damage to the forest.

So i then put this to you, Why try fix something that's not broken? I believe that leaving the forest the way it is will be the best outcome for this proposal, If not leaving it then putting another classification that allows horses and dogs within the forest, It's hard to think that for fourteen years now i have been able to enjoy the forest with my horse and the occasional walk with my dog, i have now started my own little family with the belief they too will be able to do the same. How do you tell your children they are no longer allowed to walk their dog or ride their pony outside the front gate anymore?

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