



New submission for investigation "Central West Investigation"

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From: veac@veac.vic.gov.au

To: veac@dse.vic.gov.au,

Submission for the investigation "Central West Investigation"

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Information provided by the author:

Title: **Mr**

First Name: **Greg**

Last Name: **Noonan**

Description:

I congratulate VEAC on an impressive Draft Proposals Paper. The considered and detailed effort to address a range of competing interests and the solutions proposed have resulted in a valuable contribution to the optimum use of public land in the study area. An outcome of the recommendations if adopted is that this part of Victoria between Ballarat and Bendigo and close to Melbourne will include invaluable protected reserves and breathing space for a much increased population. This region has been neglected over many years in relation to finalisation of appropriate protection regimes. I and many others are delighted with the meticulous efforts of VEAC. I strongly commend the recommendations to establish a Wombat-Lerderderg National Park, most especially the continuity of the central Wombat- Lerderderg zone, adjacent more diverse use regional parks around the river headwaters, a Pyrenees National Park with its abutting Regional Park, and Cobaw Conservation Reserve. The deft juxtaposition and placement of the national and regional parks is a neat resolution of competing interests and priorities. A glance at the larger map will show the importance of the proposed Cobaw Conservation Reserve as a landscape continuity link between west, east and north. I do have one dissent in that I call for protection of a greater proportion of Mt Cole. While the enlargement of Mt Buangor National Park is to be commended, a closer study of the maps provided shows that the Mt Cole zone is very largely left open to logging and that the Wimmera River headwaters are unprotected and open to clear fell logging. This seems quite at odds with the approach taken with the river headwaters in the Wombat region. The Wimmera River is a critical river of our west. I respectfully suggest that logging is at best a marginal industry for this region and that protection of the minimal forest reserve remaining is an imperative of much greater importance. I submit that the draft proposals for the Mt Cole zone be revised to significantly reduce the area open to logging and to enlarge the protected estate. Thank you for the opportunity to make these submissions.

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