

Dear VEAC

Re: Central West Investigation Draft Proposals

I do not want the Wombat State Forest or the Cobaw State Forest to become a National Park or Regional Park.

The Wombat State Forest and the Cobaw State Forest are the peoples forest !

There are a lot of user groups that utilize the forests many live in the area and some visit to undertake their chosen activities, all of these bush users should be considered before there are any moves to reclassify the forests.

How many groups use the forests ?

Prospectors, fossickers, metal detectors.

Horse riders, Four wheel drivers, trail riders, motor bikes.

Campers, bush walkers, hunters and fishermen these groups are all tourists in their own right.

Logging and Firewood collection

Has there been an economic investigation completed to assess how much the different bush user groups spend in the local economy ?

What would the economic impact of closing the forest be and how much would the towns lose financially ?

How big is the firewood industry in the Central West ?

How many use Commercial firewood sales ?

How many households cut firewood in the forests ?

How much would closing the firewood industry cost the towns ?

What system would be put in place to replace the firewood industry ?

How much would the flow on effect cost the firewood contractors, residents and the towns, close of businesses, loss of jobs and income. (if the jobs are gone so is the money)

Please note – Firewood is the only renewable resource that we use, trees are renewable and there is plenty of firewood available, everything else is either unreliable or cost prohibitive or fossil fuel based.

I have a lot of other concerns regarding fire risk, fire access and track closures, fuel build up, cool burns and fire management all of these items need to be addressed prior to any decision on the creation of more national or regional parks.

Yours sincerely


ERWIN ADDINGTON