



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"Submitted on **17-10-2018**

Information provided by the author:

Title: **Mr**First Name: **Dennis**Last Name: **Emanuelli**

Description:

Dear VEAC, As a gold prospector for more than many years years, I write to you concerning the changes you are proposing, which would affect my hobby and the hobby of many thousands of other Australian's, to our detriment. I am a member of a Facebook group with over 6700 members who are also gold prospectors (Gold Hunters Victoria). Using metal detectors, which we paid a lot of money for in the very towns these changes will affect, we collectively take multiple tonnes of metal rubbish out of the bush every year, as can be seen in the "Rubbish Finds" topic of our Facebook group. We occasionally get some gold too! We are mostly also avid lovers of nature in general, and by us losing access to the areas we prospect in the gold fields, as has been proposed, you will lose our eyes and ears on the ground, doing the good things we do. We regularly rescue injured wildlife, we take out others rubbish, we fill in dangerous holes from diggers of previous generations, and in general we leave the bush in a better state than we found it. Unlike the diggers of previous generations, we take our rubbish with us. We respect the areas we are allowed to be, and we avoid the areas we are not allowed to be. By locking the law abiding citizens like us out, you risk allowing the law breakers to carry on their activities unchecked. For many of us it is also therapy. Finding and even just pursuing gold brings us a great deal of happiness. Many of our members suffer from various ailments such as returned servicemen and women with PTSD, depression, and anxiety for example, and gold prospecting is a fantastic remedy for it. Gold fever gives us the drive to do what we do, and if you take that away from us, you take away a big part of our lives that will leave an empty void for many. For many we also enjoy this is a family hobby. It gives us something to get our children into that they thoroughly enjoy, and will hopefully go on to keep them out of trouble on the streets in their later years, as it did for us, and many before us. You should not forget that this country and this state in particular was built on gold, gold prospecting, and gold mining. It is an important part of our history and culture. And gold prospecting continues to bring in recurring revenue that supports the small towns of the gold fields. As prospectors we collectively spend hundreds of thousands of dollars, perhaps even millions a year in these small country towns, and the store owners often tell us often that without us they would not get by.

What will happen to these small towns if gold prospecting revenue disappears? I can tell you because it has happened in other parts of the world - they turn into ghost towns. One thing you will understand, I am sure, is that if these changes are adopted under your watch, you will surely lose the votes of the hundreds of thousands of Australian's this will negatively affect. We will make sure it is well known that it happened under your watch come election time. I would also like to remind you that the land you are proposing to close access to gold prospectors to is, and always has been, public land. We as gold prospectors paid you (the Government) a fair and reasonable sum of money for the "Miners Right" to prospect on it. The Australian Government learned a lesson when they overstepped the mark back on the 3rd of December 1854, and that resulted in the Eureka Stockade. The people took a stand, and that is why we now have this "Miners Right". I can tell you there are many many thousands of angry gold prospectors waiting for your next move. On that note I will sign off with a famous quote that you should reflect on. 'All men make mistakes, but only wise men learn from them" [Dennis Emanuelli](#)

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