

To whom this may concern,

Me my fiancé and two kids live in Bullengarook our house backs onto the Wombat State Forest. I myself have lived here for my whole life born and raised here. We love living here and DO NOT want it changed to a National Park because we won't be able to do the things we love to do here. I have depression and my daughter has Asperger's and we both can manage these problems by doing things that they wouldn't be able to do if the Wombat State Forest was changed to a National Park. Such as taking our dogs for a walk though it which we do every afternoon, taking our horses for a ride on weekends and school holidays, going trail bike riding which I have done for over 20 years. Getting the kids out into the forest and camping out there for a few nights letting them get in touch with nature and how to look after it and seeing how animals live in it. All these things help with my daughters Asperger's it helps with her anxiety and calms her down when she is having a hard day. It also helps with my depression I am always happier when we are all out in the forest together doing all these things. Not only does it help with health problems but if changed to a National Park our house value will be affected, and the risk of fires would be greater and more dangerous. There would be increase of vermin which we already have a big problem with. This forest can be protected from logging and still stay a State Forest, this is the peoples land and is for everyone. Nobody has the right to lock us out. The activities we do in the forest are mostly on the tracks which keeps them clear for fire brakes and fire trucks. Without these tracks being used there is much greater chance of the forest being burnt out completely. We believe that the activities we do in the forest are better for us and the forest. This is our heritage and our right of freedom.

I hope this will help with keeping our forest as a State Forest.

Yours sincerely Keith Newton