

Level 39
2 Lonsdale St,
Melbourne 3000

veac@delwp.vic.gov.

Dear VEAC

Re: Central West Investigation Draft Proposals

I do not want the Wombat State Forest to become a National or Regional Park & I don't want to see industrial logging returned to this forest.

The Wombat State Forest is a degraded forest!

The Wombat State Forest has been left in a mostly degraded condition after two decades of intensive unsustainable logging. I believe there should be a collaborative ecological restoration plan for the Wombat State Forest to return it to a more natural structure and species composition, such a plan would;

- o Improve habitat for biodiversity
- o Increase the carbon potential of the forest
- o Benefit water catchment protection
- o Decrease potential wildfire impacts
- o Address pest plants and animals

The Wombat State Forest is a people's forest!

Many who live in and around the Wombat State Forest and people who visit it have strong personal connections with this place. People should be able to utilise the Wombat State Forest for its current range of uses. If there is an identified problem with a user or a particular use then this is a management issue that should be dealt with through education and compliance not exclusion.

I am disappointed with the VEAC Central West Investigation!

It appears that the Central West Investigation is delivering a predetermined outcome that has not been declared by VEAC. The Minister should immediately intervene to ensure the process becomes impartial and transparent, and includes meaningful community consultation and representation.

I am a member of the Newbury Reserve Committee of Management and the Reserve's upkeep and maintenance relies on the funds from horse riding

club events and campers that utilise the Forest, which has been the case over the last 25 years. Closure of the wombat Forest to Public use would then in fact have a huge adverse effect on the management and use of the Reserve, including social events. I also regularly use the Forest for recreational activities. I therefore oppose the Wombat Forest becoming a National or Regional Park.

Signed

Name

LANCKE WHITEHOUSE

Contact