



22 June 2015

Victorian Environmental Assessment Council
PO Box 500
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

VIA EMAIL veac@delwp.vic.gov.au

Dear VEAC,

Statewide assessment of Public Land

Warringal Conservation Society appreciates the opportunity in providing comment in relation to the Statewide Assessment of Public Land to be undertaken by VEAC.

The Society wishes to make the following submissions:

- We consider that public open space in Victoria, including active and passive recreational parks, reserves and places of conservation significance, provide important spaces for the community.
- It is submitted that there should be no logging of old growth forests, nor logging in water catchments.
- It is submitted that activities including car touring/4 wheel driving & mining of any sort be prohibited from nature conservation reserves and Trust for Nature private protected areas.
- The Society considers that those reserves and parks of high conservation value are protected from logging and development. This is especially the case where areas of public land that act as habitat for endangered species should be protected from all forms of development and logging.
- It is imperative that strategies are put in place to ensure the long term viability of our parks and reserves Victoria wide, especially in those conservation areas where there should be enhanced protection of flora and fauna.
- The Society believes that Victoria needs to increase its National and State parks system, as well as increasing the number of wilderness reserves, and areas of high conservation values. An example of this would be the creation of the Great Forest National Park.
- Metropolitan parks and reserves are becoming more important as Melbourne's residential allotments reduce the size of their backyards to accommodate larger dwellings. Increased pressure will impact on our open spaces as the population of metropolitan Melbourne increases. Any annexation of public land for residential or commercial development should be avoided, but if there is no alternative, there should be a requirement for a contribution of land for open space by the applicant and/or council that is the equivalent or greater in size and conservation value.
- It is submitted that there should be recommendations for the increase in areas of open space wherever possible, especially in highly urbanised areas. It is considered that wherever possible urban parks and reserves be expanded and linked to provide for habitat and wildlife corridors.

Yours faithfully,

John D'Aloia
President