

Submission to Statewide Assessment of Public Land - 2/11/16

To whom it may concern,

My name is Andrew Zappelli and I am a 45-year-old beef farmer and land manager in the Otway Ranges ... and I care.

When I was growing up in the Otways, the firebreaks and fire access roads were easy to see for what they were. Now they are all gone – destroyed by ignorant greenies sitting in government offices. It is the decision of VEAC to stop all domestic grazing (VEAC-Angahook-Otway Investigation, May 2004, p. 33 CIII) that destroyed the Johanna River firebreak. Parks Victoria planted out the Castle Cover firebreak. I invite you to go and have a look at what Parks Victoria did to the Blanket Bay neighbourhood safe place.

The decision by the CCMA to plant out our creek frontages has destroyed the Gellibrand River firebreak. When I asked the CCMA why on earth they planted out such a strategic firebreak, the answer I got was “the government made us do it.” Hundreds of people told the CCMA that what they were doing was wrong, but they didn’t listen. They didn’t care. Everywhere the CCMA has gone, they have created bushfire-prone weed-infested messes. They have created a word for their actions. They call it the “Biodiversity Mitigation Protocol.”

The decision by DELWP to put vegetation protection overlays on all our roads has destroyed all our roadside firebreaks and fire access roads. In high wildfire risk areas, to have VPOs starting six metres from the centre of the road is utter stupidity. It is utter stupidity in terms of road maintenance, road safety, bushfire access and escape, and bushfire prevention and suppression. Even trees growing in our roadside drains have DELWP VPOs on them. On the Old Beech Forest Road, there is a court-ordered firebreak that now has a DELWP VPO on it. So our government departments have destroyed our two most important firebreaks. The DELWP destroyed the East-West Ridge Firebreak through neglect and office regulation, and the CCMA fenced off the river and planted as many trees as it possibly could. DELWP's ridge firebreak is by far the most critically important firebreak the Otways have. Please, if you care, VEAC, go and have a look at what DELWP have done to it. The former Otway Shire did its best to protect it. And look at what DELWP have done to it.

The Beech Forest Progress Association tried to reinstate part of the ridge firebreak to beautify the town and make it safer. The Colac-Otway Shire environmental planners, following DELWP VPO rules, refused to allow this to happen. Most of the trees growing in the Ridge firebreak and our fire access roads are blackwood. DELWP paid a consultant \$50,000 for a report that said blackwoods are a fire-retardant tree. The CFA, however, correctly classify them as a highly combustible tree. Have you ever seen a blackwood burn? They explode. VicRoads requested to be

exempt from the DELWP VPOs for road maintenance and road safety reasons. State Government refused this request so VicRoads had no choice but to sack its roadside maintenance crew.

It was a condition of the formation of the Great Otway National Park by VEAC that moves be made to protect the people, townships, water catchments and forest ecosystems from the ravages of wildfire. Why are the government departments sitting in their offices and doing the opposite? It seems they learnt nothing from Black Saturday. History should teach us. Why were some creek lines cleared and not others? Why are some ridges cleared and not others? Why are the roads and powerlines positioned as they are? What does the "P" stand for in DELWP?

My father has a 50-year agreement with DELWP to supply water on high fire risk days. No DELWP officer has checked its status in 20 years. This, despite the fact that water has been required during this period. My farm is on Denher's Track and I pay a yearly fire services levy of \$320. If I was to need to CFA, they will not be coming because of the DELWP vegetation protection overlay. I am paying a levy for nothing. And our Shire cannot afford to fix what DELWP have done.

Every year, millions of dollars are spent trimming trees from powerlines. When power first came to Victoria, why do you think powerlines were placed where they are? Does the "P" in DELWP perhaps think maybe they were sometimes positioned in the firebreaks because there were no trees in the firebreaks? Now we have trees between our roads and powerlines that are trimmed every year and these trees are mostly still mere babies. Is there no common sense left in our departments?

Two years ago, through our Colac-Otway Shire, the DELWP and the CCMA tried to get two new environmental overlays passed. The first the C67 overlay, the work of the CCMA was the most stupid thing anyone that cares has ever seen. To use a topographical elevation from a point of origin as some sort of scientific land management tool from the office is completely ridiculous. Don't they teach them nature at uni anymore? The second, the C70 overlay, developed by the DELWP and CCMA caused a mass outcry across the Shire. On my farm, if a tree fell across a boundary fence, I was not allowed to cut it up and fix the fence. Instead, I had to let my cattle roam the district roads while I applied for a permit to cut up the tree and fix the fence. And who were the referral agents for the Colac-Otway Shire to be when I was to apply for a permit to cut up the tree and fix the fence? Why, the DELWP and CCMA of course! On my farm, the CCMA drew an exclusion zone around a group of willows. It is utter stupidity. When I get the funds, I will remove those willows myself. On my farm, the DELWP drew on the map of my farm a wildlife habitat corridors through my pasture and straight through the DELWP ridge firebreak. During one protest meeting of over 300 people, and only that number of people because the hall overflowed, MP Simon Ramsay got up and admitted that the DELWP had been infiltrated by an ignorant green ideology. He explained that it was going to take at least five years to weed out these DELWP officers. Both overlays were thrown out by our Shire Councillors as being absolutely stupid. They were

handed back to the State Government. I would like to know how any DELWP or CCMA officer involved in either overlay can justify keeping their jobs when the environment is screaming for help while government officers sit in offices and create bullshit like that.

Last December, two lightning strikes started fires in the Great Otway National Park near Lorne. A decision was made by Parks Victoria and DELWP to send in DELWP's bulldozer and dozers from Contracting to tackle the first lightning strike. A side cutting was put in to access the fire and the fire was contained to roughly one hectare and blacked out. This was hailed a success in our local paper, *The Colac Herald*. The departments then turned their attention to the second lightning strike. The dozer driver indicated that he could access the fire, but that he would have to put in a much bigger side cutting than he did at the first fire. Parks Victoria did not want another side cutting scar on their National Park, so they sent the dozers home. Two days later, the CFA offered to help and Parks Victoria thought to themselves, "Why are they offering to help as there is no private land nearby?" And then the penny dropped. Parks realized that the CFA thought they were going to burn Lorne down. Then they threw everything they could at it. dozers were recalled. Every dozer they could find was called up. Dozer operators worked as teams for safety. While trying to ring the lightning strike and they nearly succeeded, two dozers rediscovered the original access track to the lightning strike area. Parks Victoria covered up the fact that this access track was found. This track was closed with the inception of the Great Otway National Park by VEAC. It is what so many submissions to VEAC said would happen if you gave control of our forests to *lock it up and leave it* Parks Victoria. VEAC ignored all concerns of the people who put in submissions. Even people with proof that it would happen. For a laugh, turn to page 80 of the Angahook-Otway VEAC May 2004 publication. Surely keeping that fire access track open would have been better than the loss of so much forest and wildlife habitat. We would not have lost 120 odd houses, wasted millions of dollars or dumped tonnes of phoscheck on the environment. Luckily nobody died.

Knowing the location, the forthcoming weather and the stupidity of Parks Victoria, I made a wager of a pot of beer to a DELWP officer that they would burn Lorne to the ground on Christmas Day. I also explained why it wasn't DELWP's fault, and why it was Park's fault. I ended up being wrong – Parks Victoria burnt Wye River to the ground, not Lorne, and I still owe that DELWP officer a pot of beer. Everybody thinks it's funny that the resulting investigation found nobody at fault. Everything that goes on in the fireground is supposed to be recorded in the firetowers and elsewhere so why didn't the truth come out? With the millions of dollars wasted and the millions yet to be wasted on the landslides as a result of this bushfire, surely Parks or someone in Parks must be held accountable?

On November 5, a private contractor lit a fire near Wye River. All permits were in place. A Parks Victoria officer flew by helicopter from Melbourne to a beach near Wye River just to check the permits. This was merely a taxpayer-funded joyride as he could have: a) phoned the contractor, b) contacted Lorne CFA, or c) checked his

own paperwork. Bronwyn Bishop lost her job for using taxpayer funds to fly from Melbourne to Geelong, yet this Park's officer? Yeah, no dramas. Seven weeks later, Parks burns Wye River to the ground. Following incidents on the Great Otway Walk, the State Emergency Service and the CERTS (volunteer ambulance) expressed concerns with Parks Victoria about the closure of access roads. And Park's response: "We will just airlift them out. We don't care."

When I asked DELWP for help with the deer problem, they ignored me and now look what's happened. I recently took Dad for a walk in the Otway Forest and he was shocked by what deer are doing to the undergrowth. When I ask DELWP why firebreak and fire access roads have DELWP VPOs on them, I get: "We're gonna have a long think about this." When I ask why they have done no bushfire mitigation work for 20 years, I get: "Andrew, what you're talking about is where we want to get, but it's going to take a few years to get there." Trouble is, that is what they used to do to try and protect the forest ecosystems and water catchments. It seems greenies have taken over DELWP and our government department has lost its way.

When I ask Parks Victoria for help with the wild pig problem, I get: "Andrew, this is our highest priority but I 'aint going out there. I might get shot." That is why I help as I can with the Otway feral pig eradication programme. When I ask Landcare for help with the weed management problem, I get: "We will get the green army to do it," but the green army are not allowed to spray roadside weeds. The weed problem is now a disgrace and CCMA, DELWP, Landcare, Parks Victoria, Vicroads and Colac-Otway Shire should be held accountable. Make them leave their offices. Nobody can understand why DELWP decided that ragwort was not a weed. The Colac-Otway Shire have a \$60,000 budget for weeds and the four environmental planners on \$60,000+ per annum each want to spend \$30,000 of that on mapping.

By now, we have all seen what Parks did at Cape Otway. If not, do so. After years of concerns and requests for action from locals, why did take a kid to write, during the stupidity of the CCMA and DELWPs C70 overlay, words to the effect: "I represent the forest. Does anybody care?" that forced Parks to act. Sadly, it is now too late. Why must our Shire, on behalf of the ratepayers and this kid order Parks to act? Were any other farmer or private contractor to do what Parks did, they would be prosecuted, fined and banned from land management for the term of their natural life. They turned Koala bears into "Drop Bears" and parks just sat there and watched and documented it. It was animal cruelty and environmental neglect on a grand scale. I challenge you to go and look at what their *lock it up and leave it* policy did. Even Parks solution is a joke on the environment and the taxpayer. Tell any beef, sheep or dairy farmer the truth of Parks actions and they will laugh at their stupidity, be upset by their cruelty and environmental desecration, and angry at the gross waste of taxpayer dollars. The locals are seething that all the koalas that they spent taxpayer dollars desexing are all currently giving birth to offspring. It is incompetence on a grand scale.

On Tuesday September 13, on page 5 of the *Herald-Sun*, Parks had an article claiming foliage in the manna gums had recovered. This is a blatant lie. Nobody who knows the truth can believe that Parks would lie and deceive the Victorian people in such a way. There are millions of dead trees. Who is holding Parks to account? I challenge anyone from VEAC to tell me that the koala transfer was a success. And what of all the other transfers of koalas to the Otways over the years? Has anyone checked? Where did the koalas in the convoy of DELWP vehicles that travelled through Gellibrand go and what has happened to them? What are they doing to the forest? In the C70, DELWP and CCMA drew a *lock it up and leave it* vegetation protection overlay on what Parks had already locked up and left. The trees are now all dead. This can only have been thought up by office junkies. Sack them.

It must be noted that the group of locals, farmers and conservationists that recommended the Cape Otway National Park strongly recommended to VEAC in their submission not to implement the Great Otway National Park. If they can't look after the land that they have, why give them more? VEAC ignored that advice and should be held accountable. And our local Landcare officer's opinion of what happened at Cape Otway: he wrote in our local paper "Our Cape Otway manna gums are at serious risk from global warming, changing land use and introduced animal species. Global warming? Well we will let the weather stations of Cape Otway and Weeaprounah speak for themselves on that. Indeed, the 1864 to present records from the Cape Otway weather station are an interesting read. If you actually thought that global warming was a reality, why would you allow the departments to do what they have to the firebreaks? Why would you allow Landcare and CCMA to plant the open spaces between our forest ecosystems with trees and weeds? Why would

VEAC do that to the Johanna River firebreak? No, it seems to me it's just an excuse for more snouts in the gravy train at the expense of the environment. Changing land use? The only change is that the local farmers and conservationists that gave it to Parks Victoria now regret it. And introduced animal species? Well, I thought that was generally a term used for introduced non-native species. Following complaints, [redacted] will never put an article in the paper again without putting his name on it. But I suppose the truth is that he can't. He has already taken the environmental land management money and run back to the city.

Now I see that the CCMA [redacted] have sat in their office and written a report titled "The Corangamite Plan for Climate Change." They are wasting taxpayer money writing reports that does nothing to help the environment. Surely they would not have planted out firebreaks and created bushfire prone weed infested messes if they thought climate change was real.

[redacted] the CCMA must be sacked. The taxpayer and the environment would be much better off with them on the dole.

To supposedly compensate for the more than \$8,000,000 dollar loss of revenue per annum to the community and land management with the cessation of native hardwood forestry, it was decided by the State Government to support the construction of the Beech Forest Rail Trail. How it compensates for the neglect of our forests by our government departments no one can answer me. Dad joined the Rail Trail committee to help, but has now given up – partly in frustration at the bureaucracy. In building one section, one of the four Shire Environmental Planners observed one of my environmental projects. [redacted] enquired whether [redacted] could use my environmental credits to allow for some tree removal. This is a joke. Four environmental officers on \$60,000+ per annum each and [redacted] wants my environmental credits? Nobody pays me. The trees [redacted] wanted to remove are in the East-West Ridge Firebreak and should not be there in the first place. DELWP should have supplied the credits as the only reason the trees are there in the first place is because of DELWP neglect. Another section was built from Beech Forest towards Dinmont until it reached a group of trees. It was built from Dinmont towards Beech Forest until it reached those same trees. There is sat for two years with the Shire environmental planners refusing to allow for the tree removal. It was not until I told the environmental planners that I was going to get all the kids of the district on horseback, pushbike and foot in the 20 metres of trees and get the *Colac Herald* to take a photo, put it on the front page and expose their environmental stupidity that common sense did prevail. One contractor who worked on the Rail Trail has vowed never to work for the Colac-Otway Shire again.

[redacted] This year, the DELWP allowed a bike race to occur on the Rail Trail. What a joke! Not what it was built for and thank God no one was injured. But DELWP don't care.

I find it funny that [redacted] at Cape Otway received taxpayer funds to look for quolls, because a quoll scat was found nearby. I find it funny that [redacted] thinks [redacted] rediscovered them. I never knew they were lost. I have already taken my kids to see

a quoll in the wild. I have taken them to see the one we donated to the museum. The one we donated to the zoo has been released. I have yet to show them or enable them to hear quolls during their seasonal migration. You do not look after an animal by looking for it. You look after an animal by looking after its environment. That is why you do not give its habitat to Parks Victoria to look after. Logging was never a threat to the quolls. Logging promotes biodiversity. The three biggest threats to our slowly recovering quoll population are foxes, feral cats and bushfire. According to Parks Victoria and DELWP, there is no such thing as a feral cat in Victoria. To have no such classification in Victoria is a joke. When Captain Cook came to Australia feral cats were already here. Does this mean Parks Victoria and DELWP classify cats as native while Landcare classify koallas as introduced species. Every time I travel through the National Park I must be seeing apparitions. I must be smoking wopee weed or the clean mountain air is getting to me. Get your act together government departments. You do nothing about any of these threats.

In your discussion paper (Angahook-Otway, May 2004), you talk about adequate compensation for those affected by the heritage river. But then you went and stole the land with no compensation. You talk about adequate funding for maintenance of the heritage river. What happened, did you spend all the money in an office creating the heritage river, that you now have no money to care and maintain it? You talk about adequate funding for the Great Otway National Park. Well that proved to be a joke too, didn't it?

I maintain land for many people. DELWP have passed a law that makes most Victorian farmers illegal operators. It is illegal to maintain land for fee or reward without a commercial operator's licence. Therefore, every single farmer who leases land or looks after land for someone else has been made an illegal operator by some city office dwelling DELWP officer. Just how many farmers do you think the DELWP heritage overlay laws make illegal? As the vets would say, "If DELWP spent as much time helping us as they do trying to prosecute us, imagine what we could do for animal welfare in this state." They have passed that many laws that it takes an army of DELWP officers to remember them. They do nothing on the land themselves anymore. How many farmers do you think the laws of the catchment management authorities make illegal? The government departments used to be our land management neighbours. They used to be our partners. Now they are our enemy. They are the neighbours from hell. Never before have the people had such contempt for our government departments.

The greenies are robbing the taxpayer and stealing from the environment. The people of the land are struggling to pay bills and put food on the table. They are going broke and committing suicide. Yet the environmental fat cats in the DELWP, catchment authorities, Parks, Landcare and VEAC are getting fatter sitting in offices stealing taxpayer funds meant for the environment. When the CCMA can award its own staff member a taxpayer-funded overseas holiday for planting a few trees on hobby horse blocks, you know the environment is being completely rorted by the people who are supposed to look

after it. And people say politicians rot the system? Well the politicians got nothing on the green movement. Our local Landcare officer on what? \$60,000. But then think there are six Landcare officers here, four Shire environmental planners, two Shire bushfire inspectors, and how many CCMA, DELWP and Parks Officers? And where are they all? In their offices. And what is happening to the land? It's being neglected. Instead of preparing for a bushfire beforehand, our departments ran a series of workshop meetings on "What to do on the first day of a bushfire." Still to this day, they have not prepared for a bushfire. They have forgotten what a chainsaw, slasher and water point are. Some say they haven't prepared for a bushfire since before they retreated to their offices.

When DELWP need an arbonist to tell them that a tree at their new \$3,000,000 Gellibrand office is dead and imminently going to fall on their new office, you know they have lost the plot. When a DELWP officer needs stress leave because the family pet rabbit died, you know they have lost the plot. His kids went to school, and he has a day's stress leave. When the Police, SES, Shire and VicRoads contractors are wasting so much time and money because of trees falling on the roads because of DELWPs VPOs, you know they have lost the plot. When mill logs are thrown off the cliff by DELWP on Binns Track and mill logs cut up for firewood in our firewood coups, you know they have lost the plot. When they do no land management and just sit in their offices and create new laws, you know they have lost the plot. When DELWP will authorize the letting out of the bath water that then allows the disease ganglioneuritis to decimate our coastal shellfish, you know they have lost the plot. When you find an environmental consultant to the State Government has done what he has to the part of the firebreak he owns at Forest, you know the departments have lost the plot. That firebreak was designed to protect the forests – just go and have a look at it.

A few years ago, the CFA identified that if a bushfire impacted Gellibrand's water supply, the people of Gellibrand would have no water to defend themselves. Twelve government staff and two Shire environmental planners met onsite to discuss solutions. When the DELWP officer said: "where's the fire coming from anyway?" I laughed out loud. I just could not help it. Afterwards my boss said to me: "Andrew, I bring you to these quotes because you have more knowledge than that lot. They think they are important and you must never laugh at them, no matter how stupid they are." I challenge you, VEAC, to go to Gellibrand's water supply and see the decision that 14 environmental bureaucrats made. It is a joke. Another quote I was involved in was Charlie's Creek Road (not an original fire access road, but surely it should be classified as such). The VicRoads officer said: "the manual states that you are to get a bobcat and pull all the weeds and roots out. You are to separate the soil and batter it back into the banks. You are to put the weeds in a tiptruck and take them to a designated weed tip." I said: "With our rainfall, if we do that we will block the drains and waste taxpayer dollars." I said, "We will knock the blackberries down, do a good job and make it look good for the politicians, but you must come back in three months and spray the weeds." Eight years later they still haven't been

back. During this quote, VicRoads sent a Melbourne University scientist at an expense of more than \$500 per hour to examine the locations of the Otway Black Snail and create exclusion zones. The next year, VicRoads wanted to put in an overtaking lane in the previous year's Otway Black Snail exclusion zone. Funnily enough, when the university scientist came back at the same ridiculous rate he found no Otway Black Snails. VEAC must do something about these ridiculous environmental laws and stop the gravy train. It is not helping the environment. It is just creating fat cats and costing the taxpayer dearly.

The Barwon Downs CFA identified that if a bushfire impacted Barwon Downs, the CFA shed would burn down. They applied to the Colac Otway Shire to remove the trees and make their fire station safe. The Colac-Otway Shire environmental planning department would only allow a portion of the trees to be removed. When one travels past the Barwon Downs CFA shed now, all the trees that the Colac-Otway Shire environmental planning department refused to allow Barwon Downs CFA to remove have gone missing. One can only assume that these trees have packed their bags and gone on holiday!

Another job I did was Gellibrand to Colac road (original firebreak and fire access). Julia Gillard paid for someone to sit and watch that I did not take out any vegetation past six metres out from the centre white line and six metres above the centre white line. When the contractor raised the road in parts by up to one metre, we had to come back with all safety and traffic control and retrim vegetation. DELWP must do something about their VPOs. VPOs are bad for road maintenance, road safety, bushfire access and escape. They are bad for the environment and they are bad for the taxpayer.

Three years ago, I went to a cool reduction burning information session at Forest, organized by the DELWP. No DELWP officer attended. The crowd was full of greenies wanting to stop cool reduction burning. These greenies were the same people who came in and attacked our forest workers. These greenies were the same people who Steve Bracks listened to, rather than his own scientists. The first speaker, Joan Lindros, the President of the Geelong Environmental Council, bemoaned that wallabies would die. She wanted the government to move all wildlife before conducting cool reduction burning. What a joke, and to think that Steve Bracks actually listened to her! The second speaker, Simon Birrell of the Otway Ranges Environment Network bemoaned that there was no money for the environmental political movement. He seemed upset that Bob Brown no longer paid the Otway Ranges Environment Network. The third speaker, a scientist who works for the State Government, showed that he was married to the money. He first bagged the hell out of (ex DELWP staff) firebreak for being too narrow for fire suppression. He then bagged the hell out of for making it too wide for wildlife to cross. It's funny, but what featured in containing the Wonga Hill bushfire in that same season. Sack that scientist! The fourth speaker was brilliant. He was a wildfire ecologist and no matter how hard the crowd tried to lead him on and sway his words, he stuck to the science and the facts of his research. The

research on previous fires, their impact and behaviour was most informative. His research into the actions of Black Faced Wallabies during cool reduction burning operations was cutting edge science and made me think that there is some hope for our government's environmental departments. If we could sack the top 1000 people in Parks, DELWP, CCMA, Landcare and VEAC and employ 1000 of them, imagine what we could do for environmental management and animal welfare in this state.

With mistletoe now doing major damage to our forests, what is VEAC going to do? Some of these trees are 500–1000 years old. We cannot leave it to Parks' *lock it up and leave it* policy. A decision must be made. The trouble is, all the decision-makers are sitting in their office and don't even know there is a problem. They probably don't want to know, because a problem means a decision must be made and office decision-makers don't like making decisions.

A few years ago, the CCMA fined the Colac-Otway Shire and its ratepayers \$1,000,000 for a private contractor who maybe ran over a few legless lizards on Shelford Road. The fine to the CCMA for Princetown, therefore, should be in the tens of millions. The fine for Parks at Cape Otway should be in the billions. Why is it our Shire's job to tell Parks that you cannot oversee such environmental degradation and animal cruelty? What should the fine be for Parks for the Wye River bushfire and the resulting landslip issues occurring on the coast? What is the fine for DELWP for authorizing the release of the disease that destroyed much of our coastal shellfish? What is the fine to Parks, DELWP and CCMA for not doing bushfire mitigation work. I get fined if I don't and you are my neighbour. What is the fine to Barwon Water for Boundary Creek drying up and the resulting acid sulfate soils? What is the fine to Barwon Water for what they did at West Gellibrand Dam in April? The CCMA claim it's not their responsibility and everyone knows Southern Rural Water never leave their office. Hundreds of people are disgusted, yet VEAC, CCMA, DELWP, Parks and Southern Rural Water don't care. and you don't care. It is time the \$1,000,000 fine imposed on the residents and ratepayers of this Shire by the CCMA was repaid in full with interest. So someone shuts down an \$8,000,000 native hardwood forestry industry, which guaranteed a portion of the funds came back to road, land and forest maintenance. Then VEAC gave that land to Parks to neglect. And then you fine us \$1,000,000 for how many flattened legless lizards? All the while, fish float out to sea. Disease spreads along our coastline. Weeds proliferate. Firebreaks disappear. Bears drop out of the sky. Acid sulfate soils pop up. Creeks run dry and others are sucked dry. C'mon VEAC, tell me it's not a joke.

When a guy like _____ who gave his life to the land, the forests, the environment and the departments hangs his head in shame at what his department has become, you know there's a problem. A man like _____, who made enemies protecting the environment and winning the respect of most to even think of coming out of retirement to get some common sense back into the department that he gave his all for speaks for itself. Dad always used to tell me, "Andrew, you have

knowledge, you care, you could help the departments.” I think it’s too late. There are
and Dad no longer tells me I can help them.

Thank you for reading my submission. I wrote it because I care and I know that you do not. I also know on past-VEAC history that you will ignore my submission. You ignore or explain away everything that you do not want to hear. If on the off chance there is a staff member within VEAC that does care, you are welcome to visit me and I will show you the truth of how bad it is. In saying goodbye, I will leave you with just one response to my campaign to get the environmental fat cats back out of the office and into the environment where they belong. Only then can they get back in touch with the reality of nature.

“Hear, hear, well done. Hopefully something is done about these blood-sucking environmental parasites soon. Don’t hold your breath too long though, mate. We need more community enlightenment of their failure to perform the roles they are paid big money to implement. If only the millions of dollars paid to these imbeciles was spent on what they are supposed to achieve. What a wonderful world it could be. Keep the pressure on long enough and some of these spineless twits might jump off the gravy train and get their snouts out of the trough. I hope I live long enough to see these half-baked theories go full circle and arrive back at the common sense that used to apply. I always knew that if you disband a department that did the work, and replaced them with 5 that just make new rules, pay consultants to write reports and not read or implement the finding, that it would all end in mother nature’s tears.”

I recently visited the beautiful campground I used to enjoy growing up in the Otways 20 years ago, at the Redwoods. All I found was a bulldozed site completely smothered with noxious weeds spreading into the river. I can’t believe that anyone responsible for this area could sleep at night. It just goes to show how meaningless, out of touch and incompetent these authorities have become.

May I say, God save the environment, because nothing will save the government bureaucrats... Except maybe public apathy and acceptance.
Have a great day!”

P.S. VEAC must be held accountable for this campground as VEAC gave it to Parks to look after and promote tourism. Parks just closed it. While you investigate the truth, please look at what Parks has done on the Hopetown Falls Flats below Hopetown Falls.

Yours sincerely
Andrew Zappelli