



New submission for investigation "Central West Investigation"

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Submission 1
Central West Inv

Submission for the investigation "Central West Investigation"

Submitted on **21-06-2017**

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Title: **Mr**

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Last Name: **Baelde**

Description:

I live on a property adjoining the Wombat Forest in Musk. The management of public lands has an impact in private landholders adjoining the land and vice versa. Key issues from my point of view: 1/ Invasive weeds Lack of concerted control by adjoining land holders, council and state government. There should be more enforcement of control of declared noxious weed species on both public and private land. Secondly it would be good to develop some joint government and private land holder initiatives in local areas. Organisation support and financial incentives can assist 2/Feral animals Similar to invasive weeds these occur on both private and public land. Incentives to remove these should be created through eg bounties or concerted control campaigns. Education about impact of pets on wildlife is necessary. 3/ Native animals Can cause damage and economic loss to private land holders. Active management and education is required. A scheme to reward adjoining land holders for conservation support measures in above 3 areas can help with a more holistic approach to managing natural values in the area. 4/Roads The main roads in our area are relatively busy. The roads are generally windy, have trees close to the edges and are subject to severe weather. Heavy transport (eg Geelong/Ballarat to Bendigo), and Melbourne commuters and tourist add to traffic flow. Speed limits for example on the Daylesford Woodend Road are not suited to the difficult road conditions and wild life. This leads to death and injury of wildlife, damage to vehicles and injury to people. A review of loss of wildlife and appropriate speed limits is required. Road upgrades and management of verges should be considered. Trees and tall grass close to the road edge make the roads more dangerous for people and animals. Removal of trees close to the road should be investigated as well as providing proper drainage, culverts, wildlife grids etc. In some cases private land use has encroached on the road reserves. Restoration and maintenance of proper road reserves can help managing the safety of road users and wildlife as well as maintenance of aesthetic values. 5/Timber harvesting Timber harvesting has virtually stopped in the Wombat after a period of unsustainable harvesting. Rather than a more or less blanket ban I would like to see an assessment of which areas would be suitable for sustainable harvesting of hardwood and what a sustainable management regime might look like. We have removed economic activity from the area. Demand for high value hardwood products is still high. We have only managed to outsource unsustainable harvest practices to other countries with less controls. I believe

sustainable hardwood production both on public and private land in the area is possible. An economic viability study could encourage private landholders to invest in firewood and sawlog plantations.