



Victorian Environmental Assessment Council

Embargo: Monday 17 November 2003

TWO WEEKS TO GO! HAVE YOUR SAY ON ANGAHOOK-OTWAY

People with an interest in the future of public land in the Otways have just over two weeks to make a submission to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) on its Discussion Paper into the establishment of a new national park and other public land uses in the Otways.

Submissions to the Angahook-Otway Investigation are due by close of business, Friday, 5 December 2003, Dr Brian Robinson, Chairman of VEAC, reminded the community today.

“The investigation is helping to shape the future of the Otways and the community’s input into the Angahook-Otway Investigation is valued - every submission will be read by VEAC Council members and staff, and the views expressed and information provided taken into account,” Dr Robinson said.

“The Council’s Discussion Paper (which was released in September) and community forums consultation have been successful in generating interest in the investigation and there’s been a wide range of views already expressed. Submissions are starting to flow in and we’re certainly looking forward to receiving many more.”

Dr Robinson said submissions did not need to follow any strict guidelines and could be typed or hand-written, detailed or outlined in bullet-points. Submissions could be emailed, faxed, mailed or hand-delivered to VEAC.

The Angahook-Otway Investigation Discussion Paper is still available and can be viewed at local libraries and on the VEAC website (www.veac.vic.gov.au). The Discussion Paper can be purchased for \$10.00 (plus postage) from Information Victoria (1300 366 356), from the Apollo Bay Information Centre, and from Department of Sustainability & Environment offices in Colac, Forrest, Geelong, Gellibrand and Melbourne. Free summary brochures are widely available, including from local DSE and shire offices.

Dr Robinson reminded the community that only submissions sent directly to VEAC would be considered.

Submissions should be sent to Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Environmental Assessment Council, Level 3, 250 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne VIC 3002. Submissions can also be emailed to veac@dse.vic.gov.au or faxed to (03) 9412 5153.

Dr Robinson added the Discussion Paper contained no recommendations. Proposed park boundaries would be included in the Draft Proposals Paper due for release in April 2004 for public comment. A final report is due to be presented to the Minister by 3 September 2004.

Ends

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