



# Victorian Environmental Assessment Council

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## **COMMUNITY FORUMS A SUCCESS: VEAC**

More than 160 people have 'had their say on the Otways' during community forums held around the Otways region in the past month, VEAC has reported.

The Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) Chairman Dr Brian Robinson said he was pleased that so many people took the trouble to become involved in the investigation: "Each of the community forums attracted people who expressed a wide cross section of views.

"The idea behind the community forums was to give the local community an opportunity to get a first-hand briefing on the discussion paper, ask questions and express their views. We were certainly kept busy at the community forums, which were held in Anglesea, Apollo Bay, Colac, Geelong, Lavers Hill and Lorne," Dr Robinson said.

"The open-house style of the forums meant everyone had an opportunity to meet face to face with a VEAC council or staff member and spend time talking through issues, questions and views. It gave us a great opportunity to really engage with the community on what's important to them and we really appreciate the time and effort the community made in attending the forums."

"VEAC's door is always open to members of the community who want to obtain further information about the investigation. VEAC staff can be contacted on 1800 134 803, or via email on [veac@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:veac@dse.vic.gov.au)," he said.

Dr Robinson stressed community submissions were a vital part of the investigation's process. "Every submission will be read by VEAC Council members and staff, and the views and information provided taken into account," he said.

Submissions must be received by close of business, Friday 5 December 2003. Posted submissions should be directed to: Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Environmental Assessment Council, Level 3, 250 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne VIC 3002. Submissions can also be faxed to (03) 9412 5153 or emailed to [veac@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:veac@dse.vic.gov.au).

Submissions will be considered in detail by VEAC in the preparation of its Draft Proposals Paper-, which will be released for public comment in April 2004. "The Draft Proposals Paper will have proposed boundaries for the National Park and other public land uses, possible implications of the proposals public land use and be available to the community during a further consultation period," Dr Robinson said.

Ends

For further information: Brad Miles, Acting Project Leader, (03) 9412 5670.