



New submission for investigation "Central West Investigation"

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Submission for the investigation "Central West Investigation"Submitted on **04-12-2018**

Information provided by the author:

Title: **Mr**First Name: **Tony**Last Name: **Westerhoff**

Description:

To Whom it may Concern My wife and I moved to this area 40 years ago, Over the past years we were and still are avid users of the local state forests. I myself am a hunter, four wheel driver, motorcycle rider, prospector, bush walker with dogs, we foster children and find the forest a great therapeutic asset in helping these kids back to normality, we also rely on being able to cut firewood to heat our home. I am also an active firefighter with our local brigade. My wife was an endurance horse rider and we hosted many endurance rides thru the Mt Cole state forest and the Pyrenees ranges, Over that period of time we have noticed a major increase in the feral pest species that inhabit the forests. Track maintenance and track closures due to a lack of funding are a significant issue from the fire fighting aspect. The increase in both native animals and feral animals is placing an ever increasing financial burden on neighbouring landholders. The overall lack of resourcing of the current state forests has seen the management of these areas suffer, and the bandaid solution is to over regulate the majority by turning major areas into National parks. The sanctuary status of the deer in Mt Cole should never have existed, like our Alpine National parks deer have become a major issue up the whole east coast. These forests have been logged hunted grazed for over a hundred years and it is obvious that your experts do not appreciate the benefits of the local and visiting public in assisting with the managment issues of thes areas. Regards [Tony Westerhoff](#)

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