



New submission for investigation "Central West Investigation"

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to:

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From: veac@veac.vic.gov.au

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Submission for the investigation "Central West Investigation"

Submitted on **10-12-2018**

Information provided by the author:

Title: **Mr**

First Name: **Rod**

Last Name: **Allen**

Organisation: **member of Landcare , Farmer .**

Description:

Dear VEAC re Central West But my comments are also relevant to North eastern forests around Melbourne . About me briefly . I have been involved with the environment all my life , not just as a farmer . Initially in managing a project with Melb Uni , consulting to NSW and Vic state depts. , consulting in the USA , President of two Landcare groups , regional committees on both Landcare and environmental management , inaugural state wide Landcare body . Also on the management committee of a RMIT campus . A regular participator of activities within these forests . I believe strongly that there is no evidence that justifies the change in status of any of these forests . There should be more staff employed to govern and monitor these forests at a LOCAL level . But of course this will not happen , has not happened in the past and will not happen with a change of status . NO government has funded increases in local field staff to do an adequate job . So in field practice not much will change . BUT What will occur is that 95% of the users of these forests will be excluded if the forests status is changed or the people will be classed as criminals . In either , all or 99% of each forest there is no logging or other commercial operations . The people effected will be families , mums , dads and kids . No more camping , bike riding , horse riding , walking dogs , driving , pest and introduced species control , fossicking . Families will no longer be able to appreciate and enjoy these forests just as a single unit family activity . These forests are CROWN land , State land owned by the people of Victoria , not by a government nor department nor commercial company . It is public land for the public . No longer should governments be allowed to take the rights of families away purely for expedience or political gain NOR should a government dept.. There is NO biological scientific analytical evidence that the current general public users are causing any form of destruction within these forests . Many of the tracks which may be claimed to be damaged by horses or bike riders or walkers were originally made by the local wildlife , and their continued use by the wildlife . 95% of the people who wish to see a change in status are NOT the 95% of users of these forests . I am happy to discuss any issue further , and hope that common

sense prevails , and there is no change in status , but a recommendation for more field staff and better funding . Yours with sensibility [Rod Allen](#)

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