



Submission to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council regarding the Central West Investigation

flissjul

to:

veac

16/08/2017 07:37 PM

Hide Details

From: "flissjul"

To: <veac@delwp.vic.gov.au>,

This is a submission for the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council regarding the Central West Investigation.

I am very concerned about the state of the Victorian forests and am happy to know an investigation is taking place.

The central west forests contain unique and important natural areas outside the current national park and reserve system. Many of the habitat types fall under national and international benchmarks for protection in the national parks estate, and would be fantastic new attractions for tourists and residents alike seeking rest, recreation and respite from our busy lives.

#### **Wombat State Forest (45,100 hectares )**

Located between Daylesford, Woodend and Ballan, the Wombat forest is a large and beautiful forest with over 360 indigenous plant and 180 native animal species.

The forest is threatened by over-logging, gold mining/prospecting, infestations of feral animals, and poorly maintained tracks and signage. It needs better protection under the *National Parks Act*.

#### **Wellsford Forest (7,122 hectares)**

Just 15 kilometres north-east of Bendigo is the Wellsford State Forest. Dominated by eucalypts, wattles and wildflowers, it's a place to explore and enjoy Victoria's box-ironbark forests as they recover from a long history of logging. The forest provides important habitat for threatened wildlife.

The forest is threatened by logging, gold mining/prospecting, poorly maintained and illegal tracks causing erosion and rubbish dumping. It needs better protection under the *National Parks Act*.

#### **Pyrenees State Forest (15,790 hectares)**

About 70 kilometres north-west of Ballarat contains some high-conservation value forest, 240 species of native plants, over 100 bird, 15 mammals and 16 reptile species including legless lizards, bearded dragons and tree goannas.

The forest is threatened by logging gold mining/prospecting, poorly maintained and illegal tracks causing erosion, and stock grazing. It needs better protection under the *National Parks Act*.

#### **Mt Cole /Beeripmo State Forest (8,926 hectares)**

Mt Cole is near the town of Beaufort about 160 kilometres west of Melbourne, and contains the popular two day Beeripmo Walk. It has many important and high-conservation value habitats. The area is rich in bird life with over a 130 species, including threatened regent oneyeaters and powerful owls.

The forest is threatened by logging, poorly maintained and illegal tracks causing erosion, pest plants and animals

and unmanaged fire wood collection. It needs better protection under the *National Parks Act*.

Thank you.

Julius Timmerman