

# Key points for submissions to VEAC Central West investigation



The VEAC draft recommendations can be downloaded from:

<http://veac.vic.gov.au/investigation/central-west-investigation/reports>

*Submissions are due by 10 December 2018*

*It is very important that your submission is not a pro forma. Therefore this is only an indication of what can be included or how you may structure your submission.*

We know that many people will have no problems writing a submission, but for those who need some pointers, we suggest you start with why you are submitting, e.g. live nearby, visit frequently, walk in the forest regularly, concerned with conservation, avid birdwatcher, Landcare member etc.

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## Wombat-Macedon block

Support all the recommendations for the Wombat State Forest (combination of national, regional and conservation parks) and Cobaw State Forest (conservation park).

If you do not agree with the boundaries outlined in the draft feel free to make any suggestions.

Protection of very high biodiversity conservation values including:

- threatened fauna species such as Greater Gliders, Powerful Owls and Brushtailed Phascogales
- threatened flora species such as the Wombat Leafless Bossiaea
- a remarkable fungal diversity with over 400 fungus species
- habitat for migratory birds that come to the Wombat to breed in spring
- the Wombat Forest is and will be an important climate change refuge for many species

Protection of water production and supply - headwaters of six rivers (Loddon, Campaspe and Coliban Rivers flowing north and Lerderderg, Weribee and Maribynong Rivers flowing south)

Supervision of recreational activities that damage the environment. Recognising that increase in population and suburban growth in the west of Melbourne puts additional pressure on the Wombat Forest.

National Parks bring tourism.

Park status will protect the Wombat State Forest from commercial logging and, to a large extent, mining.

Macedon Regional Park - there is local support for a recommendation that this becomes a national park and you may also wish to recommend this.

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## Mt Cole - Pyrenees block

Support the proposed Pyrenees National and Regional Parks and Mount Buangor National Park, as well as Ben Major Nature Reserve and Waterloo Nature Reserve

Request that Mt Cole and Mt Lonarch State Forests be protected with a park structure. Possibly recommend a regional park to allow for domestic firewood and other activities.

There is a lack of protection for threatened species, threatened woodland birds and powerful owls if these forests remain State Forests.

According to modelling commissioned by VEAC, Mt Cole has the highest proportion of high-ranking habitat areas for threatened species and highest modelled native vegetation site condition in the entire Mt Cole/Pyrenees block.

VEAC also acknowledged the dominant vegetation types at Mt Cole are significantly under-represented in conservation areas.

Catchment for the Wimmera and Hopkins Rivers. VEAC notes the importance of the Wombat Forest as a water catchment, yet fails to protect Mt Cole.

At present Mt Cole and Mt Lonarch are being unsustainably logged, there is a history of unsustainable logging, problems with regeneration of logged coupes due to browsing by deer and wallabies. The logging is being subsidised by the Victorian government.

The importance of these forests in a heavily cleared landscape.

Request that Musical Gully/Camp Hill, Glenmona and Trawalla State Forests, which also have high conservation values be further protected. These areas should be made Bushland Reserves.

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## Wellsford block

Support the protection of the Wellsford State Forest, however, the local environment group considers that the proposed regional park should be a national park and the proposed nature reserve should be gazetted with no exemptions for firewood and mountain bike riding.

Contains valuable pre-European remnant vegetation.

The forest provides important habitat for threatened wildlife and is home to rare and threatened plants.

The easiest way to make a submission is to type it into a Word document and then go to the VEAC West Forests page. There is a 'Make a submission' button on the left. Fill in the details and attach your submission.

This document has been prepared by Biolinks Alliance board member, and convenor of Wombat Forestcare, Gayle Osborne.