

SUBMISSION

Investigation into Additional Prospecting Areas in Parks

15th February 2013

EEG considers this proposal by the Baillieu government to be totally uncalled for and unjustifiable. We see it as a purely political move to garner favour with the small 'bush-users' groups, which might help secure a minimal number of votes for the coalition. This needs to be exposed as the main reason for such an absurd plan.

The cost of this anti-environment plan will be huge for our parks. Parks and reserves are declared primarily as nature areas, they are not declared to provide leisure activity for prospectors, trail riders, shooters and so forth. This seemingly small 'foot in the door' of our Parks is a dangerous precedent. It is also at odds with them being set aside for the conservation of nature and maintaining environmental integrity in a state fast being done-over in every other area.

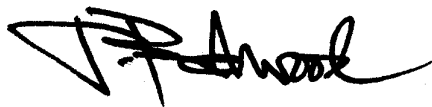
The Parks planned for prospectors are inappropriate, no matter where they are in the landscape. VEAC should not have to find areas within these parks where prospecting can occur. NO areas should be available. To ask the public to comment on this is akin to asking public to comment on which room of paintings in the National Gallery of Victoria can be opened up for pilfering.

We are fast losing any faith in the system of public consultation. We have in fact lost all faith in the way this government is abusing processes that were once respected. It is clearly a means to justify the Baillieu government's exploitative agenda of our natural environments.

Due to this, we are only submitting one page on this topic as we suspect the government has already made a decision and this consultation process is merely a formality to attempt to legitimise the decision.

We have no grievance against VEAC, only with this current government which is shameless in its obvious governing for those who wish to exploit public lands.

In all sincerity,



Jill Redwood
Coordinator