



Department of Environment,
Land, Water and Planning

PO Box 500, East Melbourne,
Victoria 8002 Australia
delwp.vic.gov.au

Ref: MIN048225



Dear [REDACTED]

VEAC'S CENTRAL WEST INVESTIGATION

Thank you for your email of 5 September 2018 to the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change about the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's (VEAC's) Central West Investigation. As this matter is in my area of responsibility, the Minister has asked that I respond on her behalf.

I note your concerns about future access to public land. The Victorian Government recognises that public land is valued by, and an asset for all Victorians, for a variety of recreational and commercial uses, social and cultural purposes and environmental values.

As you are aware, VEAC recently released the draft proposals paper for the Central West Investigation for public comment. I encourage you to provide a submission as part of this process and outline any specific concerns you have about VEAC's draft recommendations. VEAC will consider all public submissions received during this time and in developing its final report on the investigation. Further information about the public comment period is available on VEAC's website: <http://www.veac.vic.gov.au/investigation/central-west-investigation>.

VEAC's draft proposals paper recognises stakeholder concerns about access to public land. In response, VEAC clarifies that four-wheel driving, trail bike riding, mountain biking, horse riding, car rallies, camping, bee keeping, and dog walking in specific designated sites, can all be accommodated in national parks. However, some recreational activities are limited to some areas or to specific times of the year, to preserve Victoria's natural assets, protect values and ensure public safety. The government will ensure that recreational prospectors continue to have a place on public land.

VEAC's final report on the Central West Investigation is due to the Victorian Government in March 2019. The government will then consider VEAC's findings and recommendations. In accordance with the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001*, the government will have six months to respond to VEAC's final report.

If you would like more information about this matter, please call Joan Phillips, Executive Officer, VEAC on (03) 9637 8446 or email Joan.Phillips@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely

Peter Beaumont
Executive Director Land Management Policy

20 / 9 / 18