

MEDIA RELEASE



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VEAC -- No forest No future

The innocence of youth. Running through the Redgum forests with their dog these kids don't realise what the future holds for them if VEAC draft proposals are accepted by Government unopposed.

Under a VEAC future kids can look forward to impacts such as '**loss of employment for individuals and their families including poverty and financial hardship, reduced future work opportunities, reduced participation in mainstream community life, strains in family relationships and intergenerational welfare dependency**'. (page 85 RRG Draft Proposals Paper)



"No community should have to suffer these sorts of impacts; no parent wants to have their kid faced with a life on the dole. No family should have to live in poverty. Why would anyone put forward such ludicrous proposals that have such damaging implications?" Asked Mr Scott Gentle, Victorian State Manager of the grassroots organisation Timber Communities Australia. "After 10 years of drought this is the last thing these communities need."

In their zest to satisfy the environmental movement VEAC have decided that the communities that live in and around the Redgum forests are a disposable commodity. The desire to preserve the environment will come at the expense of families and kids.

'Every Australian is entitled to have a healthy and prosperous lifestyle in harmony with the environment. Organisations such as VEAC should not have the right to put forward recommendations that will deprive people of this opportunity.' said Mr Gentle

"If VEAC had listened to the locals who understand the complexities of managing Redgum forest rather than consultants in Melbourne they would have delivered a report that could give hope to the region rather than tear its heart out" concluded Mr Gentle

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