

TAKE A LAST LOOK OR DO SOMETHING NOW

OVERVIEW

The VEAC is a body appointed by government to investigate the Murray River system, public land use, and to make recommendation to government on any change required.

The draft report on recommendations was tabled in late July and **it is a shocker**.

Effective consultation with communities and user groups has been non existent, with the exception of indigenous groups.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The draft report recommends establishment of 5 new parks along the Murray, the extension of many others and the establishment of a plethora of reserves. About 90% of existing State Forest is to become National Park (this is an increase of over 100,000 hectares).

Cattle grazing will end, timber harvesting will be reduced by 60% and a massive flood is to be sent down the river every 5 years (apparently regardless of practicality or consequences). Water alone (if available) will cost above \$5 billion.

CONSEQUENCES

All should be shocked and astounded at the extent of these recommendations and the outrageous arrogance with which the local communities and user groups have been treated by the consultation process and how they will be treated if these proposals are in fact implemented.

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Murray River Community Destruction Have Your Say Be Heard and Say NO!



What you can do!

It is important that you do two things:

- Write a submission to VEAC by the 8th October, 2007
- Communicate your concerns widely and contact your local member of Parliament

Your local politician and councillors may not be the only members of the community unaware of the impact of this VEAC ambush. Talk to them!

The facts and your action can still stop this pending disaster!

HOW TO MAKE A SUBMISSION

In your own words write to VEAC and outline your concerns simply by saying how it will affect you and your family. You should address your letter or email to

VEAC at:
8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne VIC 3002 OR
by email: veac@dse.vic.gov.au

The closing date is 8th October, 2007. If you would like to help our efforts with **funding, donations or other activities** please contact us at:

riversforuse@ssaavic.com.au or at:
Unit 3, 26 Ellingowrth Parade, Box Hill VIC 3128
Ph: (03) 8892 2777

VEAC proposes to convert 100,000+ ha of the Murray River system into National Parks. There will be major impact on all users.

COMMUNITIES

A quote from VEAC: "At an individual level there are also a range of potential impacts of the 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."

VEAC River Red Gum Forests Investigation, p85

- Income to the region will be cut reducing local opportunity and forcing people back into the major cities - against current government policy.
- Despite the best efforts of local communities to bridge gaps with local aborigines, VEAC would push discrimination to the forefront.

INDUSTRIES

- Timber harvesting, cattle grazing and apiary substantially reduced.
- Tour groups, local accommodation, businesses, and tourism generally will directly suffer a downturn.

RECREATIONS

- Fishing and open fires, camping, 4 wheel driving, motorbike, horse riding and dog walking will be severely restricted.
- Many tracks will be closed and river access reduced.
- The loss of some 23 game reserves.

COST TO THE COMMUNITIES

Estimates are that the loss to the local community (employment, camping, tourism, grazing, etc) could be in the vicinity of \$100 million plus per annum.

Denials of the above from VEAC are meaningless and misleading. They choose not to communicate that the mere act of declaring a National Park has automatic consequences to all users.

