



Letters to the Editor

Lake Mountain and Mt Bullfight

IN 2014 local Rubicon residents entreated VicForests to protect the views of the escarpment of the Rubicon State Forest by reserving a small area of alpine ash forest on the top of the Royston Range from logging, in keeping with longstanding Government policy. No luck. Now the local community and tourists can see the devastating despoliation that extends across the once magnificent alpine ash forest on the Royston Range.

In 2016, we entreated VicForests to protect the views and ecology of the western flank of the range by not logging the mountain ash forests of the Rubicon Historic Area and adjoining Royston valley. No luck. The unlawful logging of the historic area proceeded unchanged.

Now the visit to it passes through clearfelled forest and 'retained habitat' killed by post-logging burns and exposing another vast logged vista on the Royston Range. This could soon double in size if VicForests' long-term plans get the go-ahead.

Yet again, over the past few weeks, Rubicon Forest Protection Group entreated VicForests

to protect the ecology of Mt Bullfight and its rainforest-rich environs by abandoning its plans to log a huge area close to Lake Mountain. In fact we have been pleading for these forests to be protected since our inception. No luck. Views from Panorama Lookout and the Boundary Hut ruin on Lake Mountain are about to be ruined, blackberries will extend their obliterating tentacles across Mt Bullfight's precious habitats and prospects for an amazing walk from Healesville to Eildon, as has been promised if the Coalition wins the State election, would end up being a very risky bet.

The Rubicon Forest Protection Group is grateful that VicForests has recently started talking to us about its logging plans, but so far these talks have brought few concessions.

As if the destruction of Black Saturday weren't enough, the State Government seems determined to allow VicForests to decimate what remains of the once majestic surviving forests that should have been the backbone of a vibrant eco-tourism future for our shire.

*Nick Legge,
Rubicon Forest Protection Group*