



## PRESS RELEASE

PMAV supports the ETU and its Members.

Last week over 800 Electrical Trades Union walked off the *Metro Tunnel* construction project to defend their members rights to enjoy outdoor activities such as camping, fishing, prospecting, hunting etc..

The Prospectors' & Miners' Association of Victoria (PMAV) congratulates the ETU and supports the stand taken by their members.

Jason Cornish, President of the PMAV -

"Our members are united with the ETU on their stand against over governance and restrictions on our recreational activities. The PMAV has been fighting since 1980 for the rights of prospectors, small scale miners and fossickers to enjoy the bush. It's our heritage and culture and its time the government took notice of this important fact when making decisions which prevent this."

Australians enjoy a unique lifestyle and enjoying the outdoors in many ways is an integral part of our heritage and culture. Many communities, in regional Victoria rely on the economic and socio- benefits outdoor recreation brings to their region.

An independent report completed in 2021 by *BDO Services Pty Ltd* 'ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF RECREATIONAL PROSPECTING in Australia' showcased prospecting as adding over \$890 Million GDP into the Australian economy. In Victoria alone, this figure was almost \$150 Million/year.

Today that figure would be more with the 70,000 Miners Rights now registered with the Dept. Of Resource Victoria.

The extreme green minority in our community want to ban or restrict all activities in public forests and lobby for the creation of locked-up national parks.

National parks are underfunded and mismanaged, with noxious weeds, feral animals, locked tracks, poor to no fire management. They are not environmentally, socially nor economically viable.

Now new proposed government regulations will make it hard to enjoy not only prospecting, camping, fishing, but the basic rights of hunting (food) and firewood collection (comfort).

We will not let our heritage and culture be swept aside by legislation based on city-centric ideology.

The PMAV will continue to fight for our freedoms and that of all responsible bush users and stand with the ETU.

Regards,

Jason Cornish

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