



## **MEDIA RELEASE, August 29th**

### **Save our Strathbogie Forest applauds Andrews Government for commitment to permanent protection of forests**

Save our Strathbogie Forest (SOSF) group applauds the Victorian Government's announcement last weekend about the planned process to complete the formal protection of Strathbogie and other forests promised by Minister d'Ambrosio in November 2019. Shirley Saywell from the group said "The proposed process, using the independent Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) and a community panel, builds on the strong bipartisan support provided for similar investigations previously undertaken by VEAC (and its predecessors). Our group therefore takes confidence from this proposal".

Said spokesperson, Bertram Lobert, "This announcement about the proposed government process to finalise protection of our forests is very welcome. Since we met with the Minister in late 2019 when she made the announcement to protect our local forests, there has been no clear indication of the next steps, despite many letters, phone calls and meetings with Government staff and advisors. In the meantime, we have had the devastating Black Summer bushfires which burnt much of eastern Victoria and killed millions of native wildlife, including many Greater Gliders and Koalas which are so special here. The importance of protecting Strathbogie Forest as refuge habitat for these native animals has consequently increased significantly and we are delighted by the Government's announcement. Our one remaining concern is that the process be completed well before the next election to give us certainty that the forests are protected forever".

For more background information go to:

[protectingthestrathbogieforest\\_web\\_2.pdf \(wordpress.com\)](#)

#### **Media Contacts**

Bertram Lobert 0409 433 276

Shirley Saywell 0427 246 900