

What's changing for the Mt Cole-Pyrenees area

The Victorian Government is creating over **75,000 hectares** of new parks and reserves in central west Victoria, including three new national parks.

In the Mt Cole Pyrenees area, we're creating two new national parks, a new regional park and two new nature reserves.

We're providing for the long-term protection of the environment and ensuring Victorians can continue to enjoy our beautiful open spaces.

We're also committed to partnering with Traditional Owners to support connection to country and name new parks and reserves.

In the new national parks you'll be able to go:	In the new regional parks you'll be able to go:
 Bushwalking, nature observation and picnicking	 Bushwalking, nature observation and picnicking
 Driving and four-wheel driving	 Driving and four-wheel driving
 Camping	 Camping
 Trail bike riding	 Trail bike riding
 Mountain biking and cycling	 Mountain biking and cycling
 Dog walking in some areas	 Horse riding on roads
 Horse riding on roads	 Dog walking
	 Recreational prospecting

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Creating great outdoor experiences

Through the \$105.6m Victoria's Great Outdoors package, campgrounds in the Mount Cole and Mount Buangor area will be upgraded, including toilet, shelter and signage upgrades, which will enhance the visitor experience in these areas. In the Mt Cole and Buangor area these include The Glut and Mugwamp campgrounds as well as Ditchfield Camp and the Firth Park Loop.

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We're creating:

- a new **Pyrenees National Park** (15,126 hectares including 4,443 hectares of existing nature reserve)
- **Mount Buangor National Park** (5,282 hectares including 2,498 hectares of existing State Park),
- **Pyrenees Regional Park** (2,016 hectares)
- **Waterloo Nature Reserve** (1,696 hectares)
- **Ben Nevis Nature Reserve** (1,088 hectares).

Many of the new parks and reserves will be named in partnership with Traditional Owners

We're also:

- retaining **significant areas of state forest**, including parts of the Pyrenees (3,099 hectares) and Mount Cole (5,037 hectares) State Forests, where Victorians can continue to enjoy a wide range of recreational activities
- extending the **Wimmera Heritage River** to include an additional 276-hectares along the upper 7 km of this culturally and ecologically significant river
- expanding the **Ben Major Nature Reserve** (by an additional 2409 hectares).
- revoking the **Mount Cole Game Sanctuary** to provide increased opportunities for deer hunting in the state forest.
- allowing **seasonal deer hunting** (by stalking) in the new Pyrenees National Park when it is established in the areas where it's currently allowed but with some restrictions.
- staging the creation of the Pyrenees and Mount Buangor national parks to allow some **timber harvesting** until 2030 at the latest. An 80-metre buffer zone will be established along the Beeripmo Walk to minimise any impacts from timber harvesting activity.

About these changes:

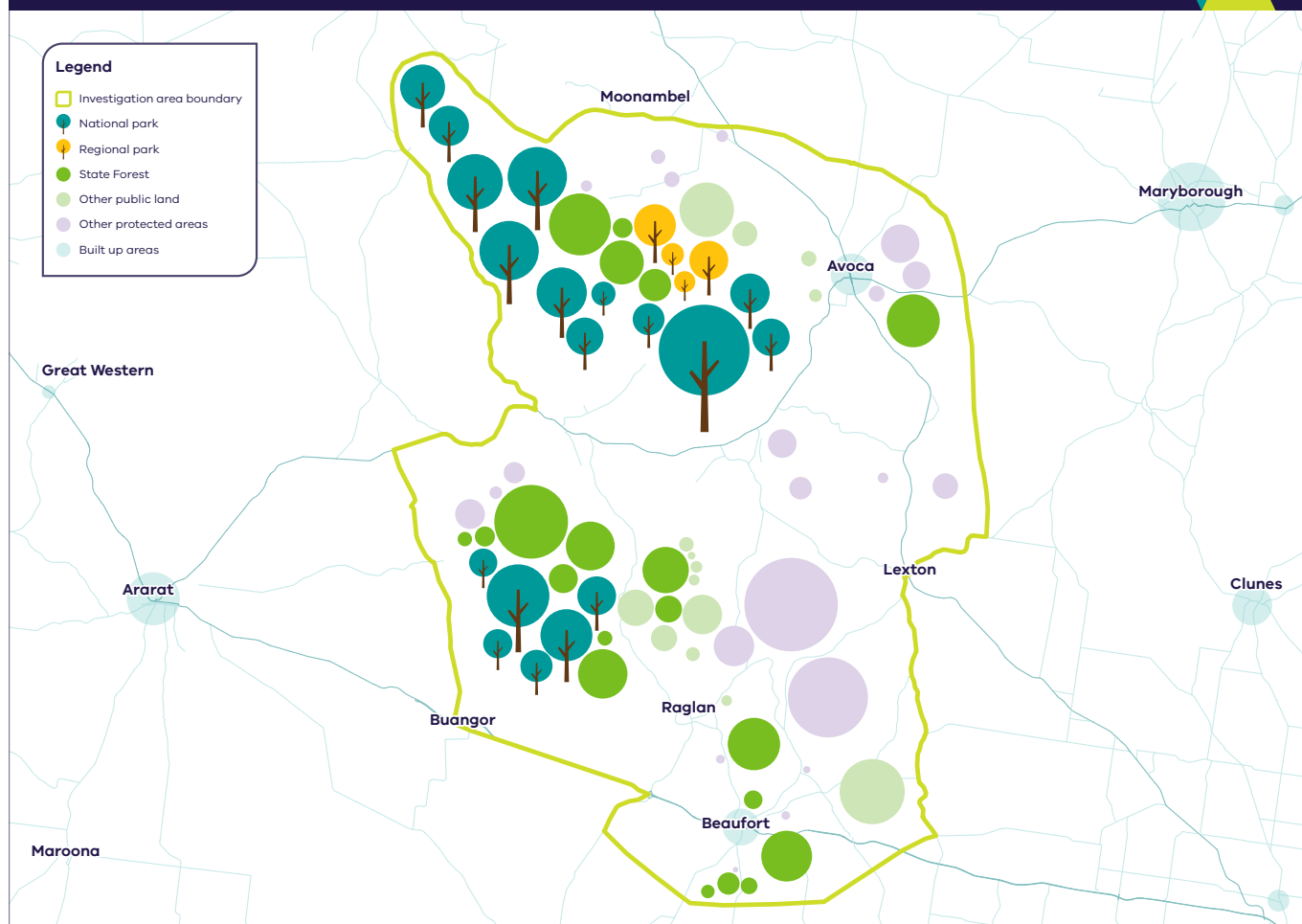
These changes reflect the Victorian Government's response to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's (VEAC's) Central West Investigation Final Report and its recommendations.

These changes preserve our precious environmental and biodiversity assets and strike a sustainable balance that aims to meet the needs of all land users, now and into the future.

You can find the government response on [our website](#).

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Central West Investigation – Mount Cole-Pyrenees



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