

# Dog-walking in the Central West

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



We're committed to ensuring that dog owners right across the region have plenty of places to take their pets for walks in the outdoors.

*We have introduced major reforms to end puppy farming, and we have invested in building dog-friendly parks around the state so that dog owners have plenty of places close to home to take their furry friends for a walk.*

## Places for dog walking in the Central West

- Dogs and their owners can enjoy the great outdoors in state forests, regional parks, and historic reserves.
- You'll generally be able to walk your dog in bushland reserves, where specified by the land manager.
- Although you'll generally not be able to have a dog in national parks or conservation parks, you may be able to in specified visitor areas and along a limited number of specified tracks, in accordance with management plans.
- Dogs are not permitted in nature reserves.
- Where dogs are allowed, dog owners must respect other land users, keep their pets under control on public land and dispose of dog waste appropriately.
- New regional parks and additions to regional parks have been located close to regional towns, often in places where dog walking and other activities are already occurring, to be accessible and cater to increasing demand.
- While there will be changes to where Victorians can walk their dogs, these changes will not come into effect until the establishment of the new parks and reserves.

## Wellsford Block

- An area of more than 7,000 hectares has been added to the Bendigo Regional Park to support a broad range of recreational activities, including dog-walking.

## Wombat-Macedon Block

- There are six new and expanded regional parks in this block, totalling almost 24,000 hectares, that provide opportunities for dog walking. These are the new Barkstead, Blackwood, Spargo Creek and Fingerpost Regional Parks, and the existing Hepburn and Macedon Regional Parks.
- You'll be able to walk your dog in numerous bushland reserves across the block.
- In the new Wombat-Lerderderg National Park, and in the Cobaw and Hepburn Conservation Parks, you may be able to walk a dog on lead in specified visitor areas and along a limited number of specified tracks, in accordance with management plans.
- You'll continue to be able to walk a dog on-lead in Bacchus Marsh Trench Nature Reserve, in accordance with a management plan.

## Mount Cole-Pyrenees Block

- Victorians will be able to walk their dogs in the new Pyrenees Regional Park, the Percydale Historic Reserve, and in numerous bushland reserves across the block.
- Dog walking will continue in the significant areas of retained state forest, including the Pyrenees (3,099 hectares) and Mount Cole (5,037 hectares) State Forests.
- In the new Pyrenees and Buangor National Parks, you may be able to walk a dog on lead in specified visitor areas and along a limited number of specified tracks, in accordance with management plans.

### 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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