

New parks in the Wombat Macedon 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 Wombat Macedon area we're creating a new national park, four new regional parks, and two new conservation parks.

We're protecting our natural environment and our treasured species, including Greater Gliders, Powerful Owls and Swift Parrots, 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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What's changing for the Wombat-Macedon area

We're creating:

- **the Wombat-Lerderderg National Park** (approximately 44,700 hectares including 20,470 hectares of existing State Park)
- **Hepburn Conservation Park** (2,714 hectares)
- **Cobaw Conservation Park** (2,532 hectares), and
- **four new regional parks** near Barkstead, Blackwood, Spargo Creek and west of Macedon (totalling over 15,000 hectares) and adding almost 3000 hectares to the Hepburn Regional Park.

The benefits of expanded parks and conservation areas

- **The Wombat-Lerderderg National Park** will protect habitat for many threatened species, including the Greater Glider, and will be a tourism drawcard with opportunities to enjoy its spectacular landscapes.
- **The Hepburn and Cobaw Conservation Parks** will provide further opportunities for Victorians to connect with nature.
- The new and expanded regional parks are conveniently located close to regional towns and provide for a broad range of recreation activities including **horse-riding, dog-walking and recreational prospecting**.
- Many of the new parks and reserves will be given **Aboriginal place names** as they are established.

Enhancing our public spaces, walking trails and facilities

- Through the **\$105.6m Victoria's Great Outdoors package** the Victorian Government will progress several initiatives in this area including upgrading campgrounds and developing new and upgraded walking trails and walking trail facilities.
- In the Wombat Macedon block these include: Carrolls Springs, Western Wombat Campground, Wombat 4WD Tour - 4WD tracks, Wombat Walking Trails walking tracks.
- The Victorian Government has already invested **\$10.5m into four-wheel drive tracks** across the state and **\$280,000 into the Central West**, with more to come.

What will be allowed to continue

- Seasonal recreational deer hunting (by stalking) will be permitted in the national park in the areas where it is currently permitted
- Commercial timber harvesting (thinning and selective harvesting operations) in the new regional parks and Hepburn Regional Park addition, and a small area of the future national park, will be permitted until 2030 at the latest.
- Commercial timber harvesting in the new Wombat-Lerderderg National Park.
- Domestic firewood collection will also be possible in new regional park areas, from designated sites selected to benefit local communities, until June 2029.
- There will be no loss of frontline firefighting capacity in Forest Fire Management Victoria because of the government response and associated change in tenure.

About these changes:

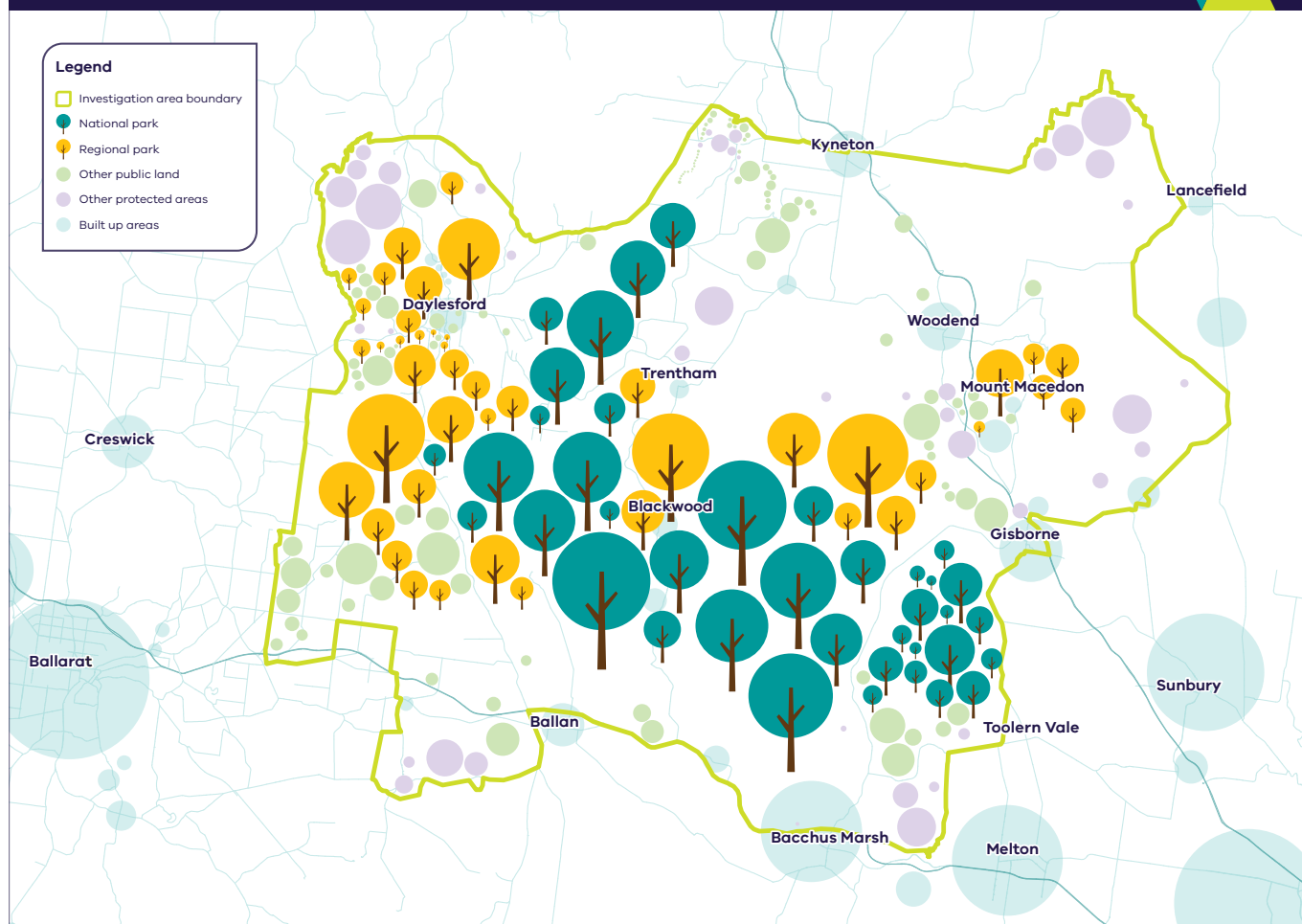
These changes reflect the Victorian Government's response to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's (VEAC's) Central West Investigation Final Report and its recommendations.

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 – Wombat-Macedon



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ISBN 978-1-76015-577-5 (pdf)

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