

Recreational activities 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.

With more area conserving our natural environment and species, there is still a broad range of recreational activities to enjoy right across Central West Victoria, for residents and visitors alike.

Driving and riding on public land

- You'll be able to enjoy car touring including four-wheel driving, trail bike riding, mountain biking and cycling on all formed roads and tracks open to the public.
- In national parks, conservation parks, regional parks and state forests, you'll be able to enjoy mountain bike riding and cycling on other tracks and paths as specified by the land manager.
- Drivers and riders must stick to designated roads and tracks at all times and respect other road and trail users.

Bushwalking, picnicking, nature observation and heritage appreciation

- You'll be able to enjoy bushwalking, picnicking, nature observation and heritage appreciation on nearly all public land.

Places for **recreation** in the Central West

The changes we are making will allow Victorians to continue to enjoy the great outdoors, connect with nature, and do the activities they love across Central West Victoria in:

- three new national parks
- five new regional parks, and significant additions to existing regional parks
- new conservation parks and nature reserves, and
- retained areas of state forest and other public land



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Camping on public land

- You'll be able to camp in areas of retained state forest.
- You'll generally be able to camp in national parks, conservation parks, and regional parks, in designated campgrounds and other areas specified by the land manager.
- There will be opportunities for dispersed camping in the new national parks.
- More parks and reserves will encourage increasing numbers of visitors and bring economic benefits to local communities. This will be supported by improving amenities for users through the Victoria's Great Outdoors program.

Wellsford Block

More than 7,000 hectares has been added to the Bendigo Regional Park to support a broad range of recreational activities. These include:

- Bushwalking, nature observation and picnicking
 - Camping
 - Car touring, including four-wheel driving
 - Trail bike riding
 - Mountain biking and cycling
 - Horse riding on formed roads and tracks
 - Dog walking (including dog sledding), and
 - Recreational prospecting.
- Some domestic firewood collection will be permitted from designated sites until June 2029.
 - Recreational hunting and commercial timber harvesting will not be permitted.

Wombat-Macedon Block

- In the Wombat-Lerderderg National Park, Cobaw Conservation Park, and Hepburn Conservation Park, you'll be able to camp in designated campgrounds and in other areas as specified by the land manager.
- In the new Barkstead, Spargo Creek, Blackwood and Fingerpost Regional Parks, and additions to the Hepburn Regional Park, you'll be able to camp in designated campgrounds and other areas as specified by the land manager.
- The Victorian Government will upgrade various campgrounds and develop new and upgraded walking trails and walking trail facilities among a series of projects in this area with funding from the Victoria's Great Outdoors program.

Recreational activities in the Central West

Mount Cole-Pyrenees Block

- Significant areas of state forest have been retained in this area, including parts of the Pyrenees (3,099 hectares) and Mount Cole (5,037 hectares) state forest, where Victorians can enjoy a wide range of recreational activities including camping.
- In the Mount Buangor and Pyrenees National Parks, and the Pyrenees Regional Park, you'll be able to camp in designated campgrounds and in other areas as specified by the land manager.
- The Victorian Government will upgrade various campgrounds in the Mount Cole and Mount Buangor areas including toilets, shelters and signage to enhance visitors' enjoyment. This will be funded under the Victoria's Great Outdoors program.

Enhancing our public spaces, trails and facilities

Victoria's Great Outdoors is boosting regional tourism and making it easier for Victorians to enjoy nature by investing \$105.6 million in better walking trails, campgrounds, four-wheel drive tracks and visitor facilities.

Victoria's Great Outdoors is building better walking trails, campgrounds, four-wheel drive tracks and visitor facilities to make it easier for all Victorians to explore our parks and forests, experience nature and support regional tourism.

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.

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

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.

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