

Recreational hunting in the Central West area

The Victorian Government is creating over

75,000 hectares

of new parks and reserves in central west Victoria, including three new national parks.



Victorians will continue to be able to hunt in parts of Central West Victoria.

Support for recreational hunting

The government recognises the social, environmental and economic value that recreational hunting provides to Victoria. A key focus of this government is to ensure that hunting in Victoria continues to be a safe, responsible and sustainable activity for future generations.

There are currently over 50,000 game licence holders in Victoria who contribute millions of dollars to the state's economy, particularly in rural and regional Victoria.

The government has already invested \$5.3 million in its Sustainable Hunting Action Plan 2016-2020 to support and guide the game hunting industry's long-term growth.

An additional \$5.3 million will be invested over the next four years to deliver a second Sustainable Hunting Action Plan. This Plan is currently under development and will be released later this year. The second plan will build on the great work started under the first Plan and will develop a new set of actions to support sustainable and responsible hunting.

Recreational hunting in the Central West

- There will be changes to where recreational hunting can take place. However, these changes will not be implemented until the new national and regional parks are established.
- There also continue to be many opportunities for recreational hunting in nearby areas.
- All hunters must have a licence and adhere to seasonal restrictions where they apply.

The Victorian government is providing \$686,000 in grant funding to the Australian Deer Association to support its volunteer program which trains and accredits recreational hunters so that they can participate in deer control programs. In addition, \$1million is being invested over four years for the planning, coordination and delivery of pest animal control programs by volunteer shooters on public land. This will be delivered as a partnership between Parks Victoria and the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia

Victorians will be able to hunt in state forests in Central West Victoria. Particular arrangements will apply in the following areas:

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Wellsford Block

- The expansion of Bendigo Regional Park means that recreational hunting will no longer be allowed in that area. All other recreational activities presently allowed in this area will still be permitted.

Wombat-Macedon Block

- Seasonal recreational deer hunting (by stalking) will be allowed in the new Wombat-Lerderderg National Park, in areas where it is currently permitted. The season will be limited to the period between May and the start of the spring school holidays.

Mount Cole-Pyrenees Block

- Hunting will continue to be permitted in the significant areas of retained state forest in this block. The existing Mount Cole Game Sanctuary will be revoked to allow deer hunting in this area of state forest.
- Seasonal recreational deer hunting (by stalking) will be allowed in the new Pyrenees National Park in the areas where it is currently permitted.

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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