

Recreational prospecting in the Central West area

Victorians can go
prospecting across
most of the state's

**3.1 million
hectares**

of state forest as well as
other public land.



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

For prospectors, this means there will continue to be opportunities for recreational prospecting on more than 49,000 hectares of public land in central west Victoria

Recreational prospecting spots include state forests, regional parks, bushland reserves and historic reserves, subject to management planning.

By expanding Bendigo Regional Park in the Wellsford area, prospectors will continue to be able to enjoy this activity in this area.

Prospecting in the Central West

- The Victorian Government recognises that prospecting is a significant part of our history and remains an important recreational activity across the Central West Investigation area.
- There will continue to be opportunities for recreational prospecting within state forests, regional parks, bushland reserves and historic reserves across the investigation area.
- New and expanded regional parks provide for a broad range of recreation activities, including prospecting. They are close to regional towns, and places where recreational prospecting and other activities already occur.
- While there will be some changes to where Victorians can go prospecting, these will not come into effect until the new national parks have been established.
- Earth Resources Regulation has developed a Recreational Prospecting Guide to provide handy tips to newcomers as well as being a reference guide for the more experienced explaining where prospecting can take place, what equipment can be used and how to do the right things. The Guide can be found [here](#).

Recreational prospecting in the Central West area

Wellsford Block

- Visitors will be able to continue to enjoy many activities, including recreational prospecting, in the approximately 7,000-hectare addition to the Bendigo Regional Park.

Wombat-Macedon Block

- There are six new and expanded regional parks in this block, totalling almost 24,000 hectares, that will continue to provide opportunities for recreational prospecting. These are the new Barkstead, Blackwood, Spargo Creek and Fingerpost Regional Parks, and additions to the existing Hepburn and Macedon regional parks.
- There will continue to be opportunities for recreational prospecting in the numerous bushland reserves and historic reserves across the block.

Mount Cole-Pyrenees Block

- The retention of significant areas of state forest in this block, including parts of the Pyrenees (3,099 hectares) and Mount Cole (5,037 hectares) state forests, allows for a range of recreational pursuits to continue including recreational prospecting.
- There will continue to be opportunities for recreational prospecting in the Pyrenees Regional Park, Percycdale Historic Reserve, and the numerous bushland reserves across the block.

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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