

# Central West INVESTIGATION



## WOMBAT-MACEDON BLOCK

The public land in the Wombat–Macedon block includes the largest and most varied of the forests scattered between the Grampians and eastern highlands. It includes the headwaters of several of western Victoria’s most significant rivers. The native vegetation in the main Wombat range is largely intact, despite heavy logging in many areas in the past, and the variety of habitats in the block support a large number of rare or threatened species.

### Final recommendations

VEAC has changed its recommendations as a result of community feedback. Some of the area previously recommended as a national park is now recommended as regional park where additional recreational activities including dog walking, prospecting and camping with horses would be allowed. VEAC also recommends that domestic firewood collection be allowed in the three new regional parks or addition over a ten year phase-out period. The main recommendations for public land in the Wombat–Macedon block are shown on the map overleaf. The table on this page provides a summary of allowed activities in parks and reserves in the block.

The areas listed in the table below include existing parks and reserves that have not been subject to any changes as part of the final VEAC recommendations.

Activity	Wombat–Lerderderg National Park	Hepburn, Cobaw conservation parks	Hepburn Regional Park <sup>1</sup>	Spargo Creek, Blackwood, Fingerpost regional parks	Macedon Regional Park	Nature reserves	Bushland reserves
Apiculture <sup>2</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bushwalking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Camping <sup>3</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ <sup>4</sup>	○ <sup>5</sup>	○ <sup>5</sup>
Nature observation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Four-wheel driving <sup>6</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Trail bike riding <sup>7</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bicycle riding (including mountain biking) <sup>8</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Horse riding <sup>9</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Car rallies <sup>10</sup>	○	○	✓	✓	✓	○	✓
Prospecting	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Dogs	○ <sup>11</sup>	○ <sup>11</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✗ <sup>12</sup>	✓
Domestic firewood collection	✗	✗	○ <sup>13</sup>	○ <sup>13</sup>	✗	✗	✗
Recreational hunting <sup>14</sup>	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Timber harvesting	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

✓ Allowed    ○ Allowed with conditions (see notes)    ✗ Not allowed

For more information on the investigation, visit [www.veac.vic.gov.au](http://www.veac.vic.gov.au) or phone 1800 134 803 (toll free from landline)

#### Notes:

- This column summarises the allowed activities for the recommended additions to Hepburn Regional Park. The existing Hepburn Regional Park (over which Aboriginal title has been granted) is managed according to the *Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks*.
- Apiculture at licensed sites, subject to the 2013 *Apiculture (beekeeping) on public land policy* and operating procedure.
- Camping in designated areas where provided and in other areas (i.e. dispersed forest camping) as specified through management planning.
- Camping not currently provided in Macedon Regional Park.
- Camping may not be provided in smaller reserves, where there is high day visitor use or where there are ample camping opportunities on adjacent land.
- Four wheel driving in registered vehicles on formed roads that are open to the public and on other formed roads and tracks as specified through management planning; off road driving is illegal on public land.
- Trail bike riding by licensed riders on registered vehicles on formed roads that are open to the public and on other formed roads and tracks as specified through management planning; off road riding is illegal on public land. The Cobaw trail bike visitor area will be retained.
- Bicycle riding (including mountain biking) on formed roads that are open to the public and on other roads, tracks and trails as specified through management planning.
- Horse riding on specified formed roads that are open to the public and on other roads and tracks as specified through management planning; overnight camping with horses not allowed in national and conservation parks, allowed in regional parks as specified through management planning.
- Competitive sections of car rallies generally not allowed in national parks, conservation parks and nature reserves; transport sections through these areas allowed subject to events policy and procedures.
- Dogs may be allowed on lead in visitor areas or along a limited number of tracks as specified through management planning; no overnight camping with dogs.
- Dogs on lead will continue to be allowed at the Bacchus Marsh Trench Nature Reserve.
- Domestic firewood collection will be phased out over ten years and should be in areas where it will promote the growth of large trees and improve ecological condition, and be targeted to local communities most reliant on the resource.
- Recreational hunting for pest animals will be allowed on public land if part of an authorised control program at the discretion of the land manager.

# FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

## RECOMMENDED

### B1 Hepburn Conservation Park

New park protecting 2714 hectares containing high natural values and important habitat for rare and threatened species.

## RECOMMENDED

### C3 Hepburn Regional Park

Additions of 2947 hectares to the existing park, mostly in a popular area for recreation.

## RECOMMENDED

### C4 Spargo Creek Regional Park

New regional park of 1693 hectares along the Werribee River provides for additional recreational activities. Domestic firewood collection recommended to continue with ten year phase-out.

## RECOMMENDED

### A4 Wombat-Lerderderg National Park

Large new national park (includes the existing Lerderderg State Park) covering 49,553 hectares. Protection of water catchments and headwaters, and high value habitat for rare and threatened species.

## RECOMMENDED

### C5 Blackwood Regional Park

New regional park of 3707 hectares providing recreational opportunities close to Blackwood and Trentham, and domestic firewood collection (ten year phase-out).

## RECOMMENDED

### C6 Fingerpost Regional Park

New regional park of 5442 hectares providing for recreational activities and domestic firewood collection (ten year phase-out).

## RECOMMENDED

### B2 Cobaw Conservation Park

New park protecting 2532 hectares important for landscape connectivity and habitat for many woodland birds and threatened species.

## RECOMMENDED

### C7 Macedon Regional Park

Additions of 153 hectares to the existing regional park. Removal of 177 hectares to create the new Black Creek and Slaty Creek nature reserves.

