

# JOINT STATEMENT

## CALL FOR THE CREATION OF THE GREAT FOREST NATIONAL PARK IN THIS TERM OF OFFICE



# Victoria's newest National Park

## A playground for Melbourne

More than 30 environment, conservation, recreation, scientific and citizen science groups representing hundreds of thousands of Victorians call on the Andrews State Government to declare the proposed Great Forest National Park in the Central Highlands and Gippsland in this term of office.

The new Great Forest National Park is a proposal to create a new national park and network of conservation reserves: a playground for recreation and respite and a reserve that protects threatened species and enhances important ecosystem functions including clean air and clean water.

Just 60 kilometres east of Melbourne (less than 90 minutes' drive from the CBD) grow some of the tallest trees on Earth. Their high canopies are home to many forest dependent threatened species and iconic wildlife such as gliders, owls and the tiny Leadbeater's Possum.

Stretching over an area from the eastern edge of Melbourne towards Kinglake and Lake Eildon in the north-east, south to the Baw Baw Range and across to the Alpine National Park, a new Great Forest National Park and network of conservation reserves would be created following an investigation by the independent Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC).

The VEAC investigation would be informed by extensive consultation with broader Victorian

community, forest users and detailed consultation with Traditional Owners – whose unique relationship to their land stretches back over thousands of years.

The Park network will host a range of activities such as bike riding, bushwalking, bird watching, four wheel driving, camping and eco-tourism. It will attract at least an additional 400,000 visitors to the region every year, supporting regional tourism in local communities such as Kinglake, Toolangi, Eildon, Taggerty, Buxton, Narbethong, Marysville, Alexandra, Warburton, Yarra Junction, Noojee, Yea and Powelltown.

With a little investment from the private sector, the Great Forest National Park would generate new, sustainable, long-term employment, with at least 760 new, full-time jobs created.

A commitment to create the Great Forest National Park is an investment in the future.

It is an opportunity for Victoria's Government to invest in the state's environmental future and show the world what first class parks management looks like.

The Great Forest National Park will secure Melbourne's domestic water supply catchments, and the carbon value of these forests, delivering a suite of new economic opportunities for the region. The Park will also protect and bring back the state's faunal emblem, the Leadbeater's Possum, from the brink of extinction.

## Supported by

- The Royal Society of Victoria
- The Wilderness Society
- Victorian National Parks Association
- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Friends of the Earth
- Humane Society International
- Birdlife Australia
- Environmental Justice Australia
- Environment Victoria
- National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
- My Environment
- GetUp!
- Warburton Environment
- Friends of Lead beaters Possum
- Healesville Environment Watch Inc (HEWI)
- Knitting Nannas of Toolangi
- Yarra Riverkeepers
- The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc
- Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association
- Bushwalking Victoria
- Bushwalking Australia
- Wildlife Victoria
- Lawyers for Forests
- Middle Yarra Landcare Network
  - Friends of Warrandyte State Park
  - Wonga Park Environment Group
  - Jumping Creek Catchment Landcare Group
  - Anderson's Creek Catchment Area Landcare Group
- Yarra Ranges Landcare Network
  - Monbulk Landcare Group
  - Upper Yarra Landcare Group
  - Thompsons Rd Area Fireguard and Landcare Group
- Southern Rangers Environment Alliance
  - Friends of Kirth Kiln
  - Friends of Gembrook Park
  - Say no to Ivy Group
  - Cardinia Hills & Ragwort Landcare Group
  - Cockatoo Creek Conservation Group
  - Puffing Billy Railway
  - Johns Hill Landcare Group
  - Southern Dandenongs Landcare Group
  - Cardinia Catchment Landcare Group

[www.greatforestnationalpark.com.au](http://www.greatforestnationalpark.com.au)



# THE GREAT FOREST NATIONAL PARK

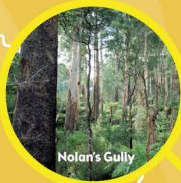
PROPOSED NEW PARKS  
EXISTING PARKS



Victoria, Australia.



Mt Donna Buang



Nolan's Gully



Big River



Cycle



Baw Baw



MELBOURNE

Indicative map of Victoria's proposed Great Forest National Park



Cement Creek



Leadbeater's Possum



Bird of Prey

- WALK
- SKI
- CYCLE
- FISH
- CAMP
- EAT
- REST
- 4WD
- TRAIL BIKE
- HUNT







Photos: Leadbeater's Possum, Emma Campbell: rocks, forest and tall trees, Sarah Rees.

