



NATIONAL PARKS — THE FACTS

Manage what we have

We do not need any more national parks.

Already Parks Victoria have about 42,000km² under management (17.65% of the total area of the State).

Parks Victoria does not have the capability to manage effectively the areas for which it is already responsible

Many of them are uncontrolled havens for vermin (e.g. foxes, wild pigs, wild dogs and weeds).

Both create havoc and have financial implications for private property owners.

Even Melbourne residents are not immune from the consequences as the presence of foxes and the resultant loss of urban biodiversity and increased risk of disease in domestic pets in the suburbs attests.

National Parks have a significant effect on recreational hunters and game management and a profound effect on the viability of the timber industry which has serious financial implications for Victoria, and especially regional Victoria. In the Timber Industry Action Plan produced by the Victorian Government in December 2011 it was stated that Victoria's timber industry employs over 25,000 people and puts back around \$1.5 billion annually in to the Victorian economy.

National Parks

There are presently forty five National Parks in Victoria covering a total area of 28,023km² (11.32% of the total area of the State).

The largest by far are the Alpine in the East of the state covering 6460km² (we have seasonal access for deer stalking to a large proportion of this area from the 15th of February to the 15th of December) and the Murray Sunset Park in the West covering 6330km²

The three new National Parks in the North East of the State are the Warby-Ovens National Park (146.5 km²) which was declared in 2009 and the Barmah (285km²) and Gunbower (93km²) which were both declared in 2010.

Other parks and protected areas

There are twenty five State Parks including places like Arthurs Seat, Warrandyte and Werribee Gorge but also some forest areas such as Bunyip (166km²) and Moondarra (70km²).

There are three Wilderness Parks, Avon in the Southern Alps (396.5km²), Big Desert on the Western Border (1,130km²) and Warby in the Nariel Valley in the North East (201km²)

There are also 328 Nature Conservation Reserves. Most of these are relatively small (e.g. Yellingbo is 4.6km², Mt Elizabeth near Tambo Crossing in East Gippsland is 52km²)

There are twenty eight Metropolitan Parks and 1522 natural feature reserves.

Impact of locking up land

Controlling and prohibiting access to almost a fifth of the state and maintaining much of it ineffectively has major consequences not only for farmers and people living in regional Victoria and on the outskirts of Melbourne.

It not only increases the risk of bushfires but also the ability to control fires because tracks are disused or not maintained and equipment provided by logging contractors as disappeared with the winding back of the timber industry.

Recreational hunting

There has been a significant increase in the deer population in recent years which requires effective management.

However, while parks in The Grampians (1680km²), The Snowy (987km²), Croajingolong (875km²), Yarra Ranges (760km²) and Mount Buffalo (310km²) have viable deer populations, deer hunting is prohibited.

Deer hunting is restricted to stalking in all national parks.

In Baw Baw National Park stalking is permitted from May to October to the area east of the Thompson Valley Road (70 per cent of the park).

In Lake Eildon, which is open from the first Saturday after Easter to the end of November, hunting is restricted to under 50 per cent of the park.

Approx 50km² of various small conservation, reference and flora and fauna reserves outside of National Parks are closed for hunting.

Timber Industry

The locking up of much of Victoria's land has significant economic implications and particularly for regional Victoria because of the decimation of the timber industry.