

# LEGISLATE the promised Wombat-Lerderderg National Park NOW

Nearly four years ago, the Victorian government committed to creating three new national parks: the Wombat-Lerderderg, Mount Buangor and Pyrenees National Parks as well as a range of other parks.

This was the result of a two year investigation by the Victorian Environment Assessment Council (VEAC) into public land in the central west of Victoria. VEAC is a well-respected, independent organisation that makes recommendations to the government on public land use. VEAC scientifically assessed the environmental, social and economic issues relating to the protection and ecological management of the Wombat and other state forest in the central west of Victoria.

At present the Wombat State Forest is managed for its resources, and despite the end of native forest logging, it is being plundered for sawlogs and firewood from the 2021 storm damage.

## Why the Wombat Forest needs to be a National Park

- Help Victoria meet its climate targets, reduce emissions. Mature, established forests keep large amounts of carbon in the ground, and are more far more effective than planting new trees.
- Protect the headwaters of the Moorabool, Werribee, Lerderderg, Maribyrnong and Wimmera rivers. Victoria's regional water supply depends on healthy forests that reduce erosion and keep drinking water clean.
- Improved enjoyment of the natural environment for visitors to the promised national park by providing walking tracks and signage. Creation of many opportunities for recreation, such as bush walking and bird watching.
- Time spent in nature lowers stress and increases happiness. Visits to protected areas and green spaces contribute to community health, enhance wellbeing and reduce the burden on public health systems.
- Fulfil state, national and international nature conservation commitments.
- Designated as a 'Climate Change' refuge for flora, fauna and fungi.
- Safeguard flora and fauna listed as threatened with extinction:
  - Wombat Leafless Bossiaea Critically Endangered
  - Barking Owl Critically Endangered
  - Eastern Bentwing Bat Critically Endangered
  - Mountain Skink Endangered
  - Powerful Owl Vulnerable
  - Brush-tailed Phascogale Vulnerable
- The Wombat is a fungi hot spot with some rare and important species and a remarkable fungal diversity
- Protect areas of high quality conservation value



## What you can do:

### Write to your local MP

Write to **The Hon. Steve Dimopoulos, Minister for the Environment** [Reception.Dimopoulos@deeca.vic.gov.au](mailto:Reception.Dimopoulos@deeca.vic.gov.au)  
and **c.c. The Hon. Jacinta Allan, Premier of Victoria** [jacinta.allan@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:jacinta.allan@parliament.vic.gov.au)

**Ask why the promised legislation to create the new Wombat-Lerderderg National Park has not been presented to the Victorian Parliament and tell the minister why you think it is urgent.**