

**A p p e n d i x 8 : A h i s t o r y o f t h e g r o w t h
i n V i c t o r i a ' s n a t i o n a l p a r k e s t a t e a n d
o t h e r p r o t e c t e d a r e a s**

Following is some information about the expansion of Victoria's national parks and other parks and reserves on the schedules to the National Parks Act. It was compiled for Victoria's 2014 nature conservation review and is summarised in chapter 1 of the review. The first focus is the history since the first National Parks Act in 1956. The second is the history of the growth of national parks and other protected areas in the periods between each of VNPA's nature conservation reviews, from 1971 to 2014.

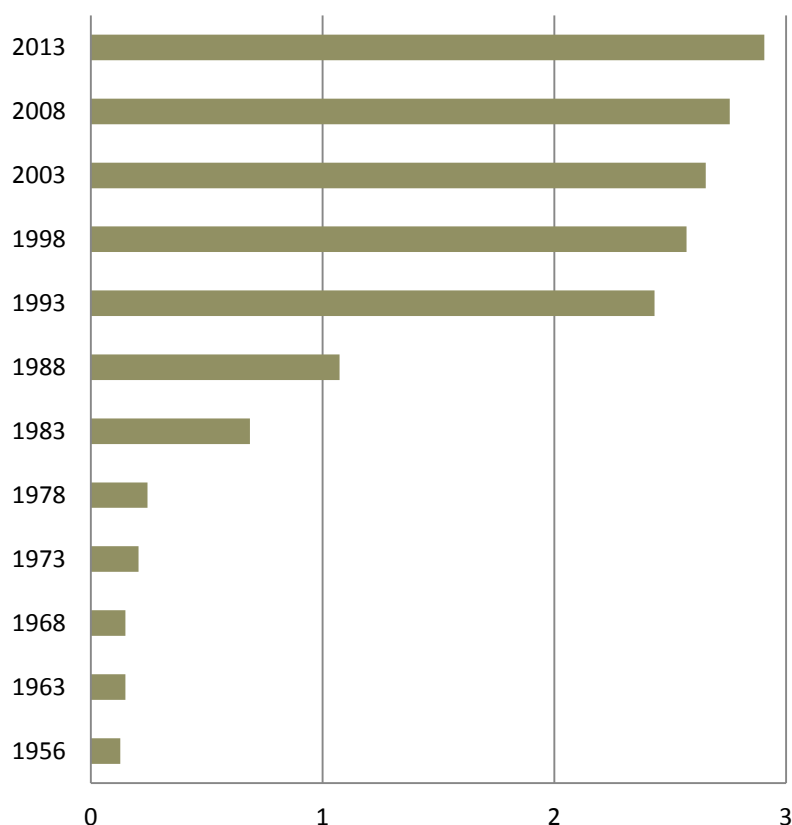
1. The growth in national parks and other protected areas since 1956

The area and number of national parks and all parks and reserves on the schedules to Victoria's National Parks Acts (1956, 1975)

Year (30 June)	Area of national parks (hectares)	Number of national parks	Area of all parks and reserves (hectares)	Number of all parks and reserves
1956	126,734	13	126,734	13
1963	149,008	17	149,008	17
1968	149,551	20	149,551	20
1973	205,276	24	205,276	24
1978	244,219	26	260,104	35
1983	685,808	30	983,509	57
1988	1,073,567	30	1,578,266	82
1993	2,432,881	32	2,938,172	89
1998	2,570,396	35	3,070,638	92
2003	2,653,924	39	3,212,637	118
2008	2,756,365	40	3,296,983	116
2013	2,906,162	45	3,450,755	124

Notes: The schedules to the National Parks Act comprise the schedules (as existing from time) which list national parks, wilderness parks, state parks, other parks, Schedule Four parks and reserves, marine national parks and marine sanctuaries. 'All parks and reserves' refers to all the parks and reserves on the schedules to the Act existing from time to time. It excludes any areas managed under various provisions of the National Parks Act but not listed on the schedules.

Growth of Victoria's terrestrial national parks, 1956-2013 (millions of hectares)



Sources: Annual reports for the National Parks Act.

2. Park expansion under the National Parks Act between VNPA's nature conservation reviews, 1971-2014

The following summary is not intended to be a comprehensive history of the development of the parks system in Victoria over the relevant periods.

1971 – 1987

In terms of the *National Parks Act 1975*, between 1971 and 1987 the area of national and other parks on the schedules to that Act expanded from 0.205 million hectares in 1971 to more than 1.4 million hectares by the end of 1987. In 1971 there were 23 national parks; by the end of 1987 there were 30 national parks, 2 wilderness parks, 25 state parks and 19 other parks and reserves on the schedules to the Act.

Most of this increase was due to successive governments implementing recommendations of the former Land Conservation Council's regional studies. The increase also included the creation of Organ Pipes National Park (65 ha) in 1972 and Brisbane Ranges National Park (1132 ha) in 1975 (initially reserved in 1973 under the *Land Act 1958*).

In 1975 the first 'other parks', with broader objectives than national parks, came under the National Parks Act: Cape Schanck Coastal Park (900 ha) (later part of Point Nepean National Park, then Mornington Peninsula National Park) and Warrandyte State Park (135 ha).

New national parks created during this period arising from the Land Conservation Council process included:

- 1978 – north-eastern Victoria – Burrowa-Pine Mountain (17 300 ha);
- 1979 – eastern Victoria – Baw Baw (13 300 ha); Croajingolong (86 000 ha) (including Captain James Cook, Mallacoota Inlet and Wingan Inlet national parks), Snowy River (26 000 ha) and Tingaringy (18 000 ha) (included in Cobberas-Tingaringy National Park in 1986 and the Alpine National Park in 1989);
- 1980 – Mallee – Hattah-Kulkyne (48 000 ha), including Hattah Lakes National Park (17 800 ha);
- 1981 – Otways – Otway (12 750 ha), included in the Great Otway National Park in 2005;
- 1981 and 1982 – Victorian Alps – Bogong (81 000 ha) and Wonnangatta (107 000 ha), both included in the Alpine National Park in 1989;
- 1984 – south-western Victoria – Grampians (167 000 ha);
- 1986 – South Gippsland – Tarra-Bulga National Park (1230 ha), linking Bulga and Tarra Valley national parks;
- 1986 – Gippsland – Mitchell River (11 900 ha), including Glenaladale National Park.

Two wilderness parks were also created: in 1979 Big Desert (113 500 ha) in the Mallee and in 1987 Avon (40 000 ha) in the Victorian Alps.

There were also quite a number of state parks created, complementing the national parks. Several of these were later included in national parks, including:

- 1978 – Otways – Melba Gully (48 ha), included in the Great Otway National Park in 2005;
- 1978 – north-eastern Victoria – Warby Range (2775 ha), expanded in 2002 and included in Warby-Ovens National Park in 2010;
- 1979 – Mallee – Pink Lakes (50 700 ha), included in Murray-Sunset National Park in 1991;
- 1979 – East Gippsland – Coopracambra (14 500 ha), included in Coopracambra National Park in 1988;
- 1980 – north-eastern Victoria – Chiltern (4250 ha), upgraded to Chiltern Box-Ironbark National Park in 1997 and included in Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park in 2002;
- 1986 – north central Victoria – Kamarooka (6300 ha) and Whipstick (2300 ha), included in Greater Bendigo National Park in 2002; and
- 1987 – Murray Valley – Barmah (7900 ha), included in Barmah National Park in 2010.

In 1986, 3 marine and coastal parks, a marine reserve and a marine park were created in South Gippsland, and in 1987 Dandenong Ranges National Park (1920 ha) was created (including Fern Tree Gully National Park).

1988 – 2001

The area of parks on the schedules to the National Parks Act more than doubled in this period, to nearly 3.1 million hectares. By the end of 2001 there were 36 national parks, 3 wilderness parks, 31 state parks and 22 other parks and reserves on the schedules to the Act.

Again, the increase during this period was mostly through the implementation of recommendations of the former Land Conservation Council and included, for example:

- 1988 – western Victoria – the expansion of the Little Desert National Park from 35 300 ha to 132 000 ha;
- 1988 – northern plains – Terrick Terrick State Park (2493 ha), included in Terrick Terrick National Park in 1998;
- 1988 – East Gippsland – a major expansion of the park system in East Gippsland, including the creation of Coopracambra (35 100 ha) and Errinundra (25 100 ha) national parks and additions to Snowy River (54 100 ha) and other national parks;
- 1989 – Victorian Alps – the creation of the Alpine National Park (initially 626 700 ha);

- 1991 – Mallee – a major expansion of the parks system in the Mallee, including the creation of Murray-Sunset National Park (633 000 ha) (including Pink Lakes State Park) and a 223 700 ha addition to Wyperfeld National Park (including part of Lake Albacutya Park);
- 1992 – wilderness – additional protection given to wilderness areas in wilderness parks (an additional 48 900 ha) and wilderness zones (640 000 ha) in existing national parks and an addition to Wyperfeld National Park (33 100 ha);
- 1995 – Central Highlands – the creation of the Yarra Ranges National Park (76 000 ha);
- 1997 – coast – the creation under the National Parks Act of three coastal parks (Bay of Islands (950 ha), Cape Conran (11 700 ha) and Cape Liptrap (4175 ha)); and
- 1999 – northern plains – the creation of Terrick Terrick National Park (3700 ha), including Terrick Terrick State Park and an area of acquired native grasslands.

Chiltern Box-Ironbark (4320 ha), French Island (10 925 ha) and Lake Eildon (27 750 ha) national parks were also created in 1997 based on existing parks (Fraser National Park and Chiltern, French Island (and additions) and Eildon state parks).

In 1988 the first Point Nepean National Park (2200 ha) was created, including Cape Schanck Coastal Park and parts of Nepean State Park as well as land at Point Nepean transferred from the Commonwealth.

2001 – 2014

The increase in the area of parks on the schedules to the National Parks Act during this period – to more than 3.45 million hectares (31 March 2014) – flowed mostly from government decisions on recommendations of the former Environment Conservation Council and the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council, and some election commitments.

In 2014 there are 45 national parks, 3 wilderness parks, 26 state parks, 13 marine national parks, 11 marine sanctuaries and 26 other parks and reserves on the schedules to the National Parks Act.

New park areas during this period included:

- 2002 – box-ironbark forests and woodlands – four new national parks (Chiltern-Mt Pilot, Greater Bendigo, Heathcote-Graytown, St Arnaud Range (later renamed Kara Kara) national parks) (65 149 ha in total) (including one national park, three state parks and part of Beechworth Historic Park); Broken-Boosey and Reef Hills state parks (3050 ha in total) (including Reef Hills Park); Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park (7500 ha); and additions to existing national and state parks (12 062 ha); other reserves were to be created under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*.
- 2002 – marine – a world-first representative system of 13 marine national parks (52 900 ha) and 11 marine sanctuaries (876 ha).
- 2005 – Otways – Great Otway National Park (103 000 ha) (including Otway National Park and Angahook-Lorne, Carlisle and Melba Gully state parks).
- 2008 – south-western Victoria – Cobboboonee National Park (18 510 ha).
- 2010 – river red gum forests – four new national parks (Barmah, Gunbower, Lower Goulburn and Warby-Ovens) (61 800 ha in total) (including Barmah and Warby Range state parks), the new Gadsens Bend, Kings Billabong and Nyah-Vinifera parks (5185 ha in total) and additions to six national, state and other parks (35 702 ha in total) (other reserves were to be created under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*).
- 2010 – East Gippsland (old growth forest) – additions to Croajingolong, Errinundra and Snowy River national parks (29 200 ha in total) and the new Tara Range Park (7620 ha) (there were also new nature conservation reserve areas created under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act (9820 ha in total)).
- 2012 – East Gippsland – Lake Tyers State Park (8645 ha) (the last of the Land Conservation Council recommended state parks to be created).