



FORESTS OF THE CENTRAL WEST

WOMBAT FOREST (45,100 HECTARES) & MACEDON REGION

WHERE:

Located between Daylesford, Woodend and Ballan.

VALUES

Large, beautiful forest with huge diversity including over 360 indigenous plant and 180 native animal species. The Wombat bossiaea and Wombat bush-pea occur nowhere else but Wombats forest. There are also twenty-five rare, vulnerable or threatened plants, and fifteen threatened fauna species such as the spot tail quall, growling grass frog, powerful owls, and brush-tail phascogale.

VNPA has assessed the area for being suitable for protection under the *National Parks Act 1975* (VNPA's 2010 report, *Better Protection for Special Places*)

THREATS

Logging operations with 50 logging areas scheduled; gold mining/prospecting; feral animals; weeds; poorly maintained tracks and signage; and poorly-planned prescribed burning.

VEAC DRAFT PROPOSALS

Wombat Forest to have significant additions, with an increase in size of 28,692 hectares making a new Wombat-Lerderderg National Park. Also a new regional park located in two parts, totalling 9,149 hectares. There is also a new Cobaw Conservation Park (2,453 hectares); Hepburn Conservation Park (2,714 hectares) and Long Forest Nature Reserve.

KEY MESSAGES AND TALKING POINTS

- Strongly support the creation the Wombat-Lerderderg National Park and new regional parks protecting seven rivers; Loddon, Coliban and Campaspe, Moorabool, Werribee, Lederderg and Maribyrnong.

- Forest regrowth in the surrounding areas and some re-establishment of the natural ecology of the area has made the Wombat-Macedon block valuable as habitat for many species.

Protection of the Wombat forest fill gaps in the representation of a number of ecological vegetation classes in the formal reserve system.

- Wombat-Macedon block provides habitat for a high diversity of flora and fauna with:

- 99 rare or threatened species recorded here, and a further eight species that form part of the threatened woodland bird community;
 - many recent records of the threatened brush-tailed phascogale in the heathy dry forest northwest of Daylesford;
 - good numbers of greater glider recorded in the wetter forests of the central Wombat ranges (the only population of this threatened species west of the Hume Highway. This species requires very extensive areas of forest to provide an adequate food source of possums and gliders);
 - small sickle greenhood orchid found near Trentham, Brooker's gum and the endemic Wombat bossiaea (a leafless pea bush) which appears to be a colonial species;
 - the Wombat range is a stronghold for rare species including the Wombat bush-pea, wiry bossiaea, dwarf silver wattle and creeping grevillea.
- Support the protection of Cobaw Conservation Park, Hepburn Conservation Park, and Long Forest Nature Reserve.
 - Cobaw is a highly significant habitat for threatened fauna such as eastern pygmy-possum, powerful owl, brush-tailed phascogale and brown tree creeper. It also provides an important landscape link.