**Forests worthy of protection**

**Pyrenees Ranges Forest**
The Pyrenees Ranges features 240 species of native plants including the endemic Pyrenees gum. A range of threatened wildlife have been recorded including brush-tailed phascogale and the endangered swift parrot (pictured back cover).

**Mount Cole Forest**
Mount Cole features one of Victoria’s most popular walking tracks, the Beeripmo Walk. Its forest harbours more than 130 native bird species including the powerful owl (pictured page 8). The Mount Cole grevillea is only found here (page 9).

**Wellsford Forest**
Wellsford Forest is dominated by eucalypts, wattles and wildflowers, and a place to enjoy Victoria’s box-iron bark forests as they recover from a long history of logging.

**Wombat Forest**
Only 60–90 minutes drive for Melbourne growing western suburbs. An important habitat for threatened greater gliders which require very extensive areas of forest to provide an adequate food source. Important headwaters of major rivers – the Loddon, Campaspe, Coliban, Maribyrnong, Moomba and Wimmera-Lerderderg rivers – which provide water supply for large areas of western Victoria to the north and south.

**Final Recommendations**

**Pyrenees Regional Park**
New 2016 hectare regional park incorporating areas of most intensive recreation.

**Pyrenees State Forest**
Retention of 3099 hectares of existing state forest for timber harvesting, domestic firewood and additional recreational uses.

**Pyrenees National Park**
Large new national park of 15,126 hectares including 4443 hectares of existing nature reserve.

**Ben Nevis Nature Reserve**
New nature reserve of 1088 hectares on the rocky flanks and peaks of the Mount Cole range.

**Mount Bucanger National Park**
Additions to existing 2498 hectare Mount Bucanger State Park to create new national park of 3282 hectares.

**Wimmera River Heritage Area**
Addition of 276 hectares to the existing Wimmera River Heritage Area (outside the investigation area) to protect cultural and ecological values of the Wimmera River’s headwaters.

**Greater Bendigo National Park**
Protection of 3152 hectares of important habitat for many threatened species such as brush-tailed phascogale and swift parrot, and the few remaining large trees in this block. Addition of one of the largest and best condition box-ironbark forests in Victoria outside of existing parks.

**Mount Buangor National Park**
Additions of 2947 hectares important for recreation. Some domestic firewood collection would be allowed over a ten year phase-out period.

**Hepburn Conservation Park**
New park of 2714 hectares containing high natural values and important habitat for rare and threatened species.

**Hepburn Regional Park**
Additions of 2947 hectares mostly in a popular area for recreation.

**Wombat–Lerderderg National Park**
Large new national park of 49,553 hectares (including the existing Lerderderg State Park) to protect water catchments and headwaters, and high value habitat for rare and threatened species.

**Penola Conservation Park**
New park protecting 2532 hectares important for landscape connectivity and habitat for many rare and threatened species.

**Sumeck Regional Park**
New regional park of 535 hectares in a popular recreational area.

For more detailed map, visit www.wac.vic.gov.au/investigations/central-west-investigation/reports

**Public land use category**
National park, State park
Conservation park
Regional park
Nature reserve
Bushland reserve
Historic reserve
State forest
Water production reserve
Community use reserve
Other public land

**Public land use overlay**
Heritage River
Investigation area boundary
Recommended change in public land use

**Locality map**

**WELLSFORD**

**WOMBAT – MACEDON**