



An open letter to Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan

Congratulations on your recent appointment to Premier.

We celebrated the Victorian Government's 2021 public commitment to create new protected areas. We applauded the decision to end native forest logging in the east of Victoria by 1 January 2024. In doing so your government acknowledged the incredible natural diversity and cultural importance of these areas.

Yet VicForests has plans to log over 60,000 hectares in the fragmented and cleared landscape of the west. If your agencies continue to log this habitat, plants and animals like the Powerful Owl, Brush-tailed Phascogale and Mt Cole Grevillea risk becoming locally extinct.

It's now time to demonstrate leadership by permanently protecting the surviving wildlife, forests and woodlands of western Victoria. **It's time to look after the complex web of natural life in these forests and restore what we have left.** We call on you to immediately:

- Halt the taxpayer-funded destruction of our natural heritage and end native forest logging statewide.
- Legislate the promised Wombat-Lerderderg, Mount Buangor and Pyrenees national parks.
- Cease all firewood harvesting in Wellsford Forest and include it in the Greater Bendigo National Park.
- Enact formal protections promised for the nature-rich Cobaw Conservation Park, and other regional parks and conservation reserves.

This is a rare opportunity to create a profound legacy for future generations and:

- Provide vital habitat for over 370 rare and threatened animals and plants.
- Support First Nations joint management of new parks.
- Help reduce the impacts of climate disruption by trapping millions of tonnes of stored carbon.
- Support rural and regional livelihoods through visitation and nature-based tourism.
- Protect river headwaters that flow from these forests to create water security for farms and communities.
- Help forestry workers to transfer their skills to nature-positive jobs.

Creating new national parks and phasing out destructive native forest logging isn't only about protecting wildlife and beautiful places. It's about clean air and water, a liveable climate and people's livelihoods.

We, the undersigned, representing hundreds of thousands of Victorians, call on you to formally protect these natural areas and act immediately to halt logging our native forests and woodlands.

ACF Community Bendigo District
 Australian Conservation Foundation
 Australian Plants Society
 Bacchus Marsh Platypus Alliance
 Ballarat Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation
 BEAM Mitchell Environment Group
 Bendigo and District Environment Council
 Bendigo Climate Alliance
 Bendigo Family Nature Club
 Bendigo Field Naturalists Club
 Bendigo Sustainability Group
 Biolinks Alliance Inc
 BirdLife Castlemaine District Branch
 Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club
 Clarkefield and District Farm/Landcare
 Professor David Lindenmayer
 Doctors for the Environment Australia
 Entomological Society

Environment Victoria
 Environmental Justice Australia
 Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat
 Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
 Friends of Kooyoora
 Friends of Native Forests Enfield
 Friends of Nyah Vinifera Forest
 Friends of Steele Creek
 Friends of the Box-Iron Bark Forests
 Friends of the Brisbane Ranges
 Friends of the Earth
 Friends of the Whipstick
 Friends of Werribee Gorge and Long Forest
 Mallee
 Greening of Riddell
 Hepburn Wind
 Lighter Footprints
 Macedon and Mount Macedon Landcare Group
 Macedon Ranges Field Naturalists Club
 Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group
 Malmsbury District Landcare
 Melbourne Bushwalkers Club
 Monique Ryan MP
 Moonee Valley Sustainability

Moorabool Environment Group
 Mount Cole and Pyrenees Nature Group
 The National Trust Australia (Victoria)
 Nature Network
 Newham and District Landcare Group
 Newlands Friends of the Forest
 Rob Gell AM, President, The Royal Society of Victoria
 Riddells Creek Landcare
 Save our Strathbogie Forest
 Southern Otway Landcare Network
 Trentham Sustainability Group
 Victorian Forest Alliance
 Victorian Mountain Tramping Club
 Victorian National Parks Association
 The Waterways Network
 Wellsford Forest Friends and Landcare Group
 Werribee River Association
 Western Highway Conservation Group
 White Gums Australia
 The Wilderness Society (Victoria)
 Wildlife Carers for Protection of Habitat
 Wombat Forestcare
 WWF Australia



Add your name

