

Submission received for The future of Victoria's state forests

January 2025

Your Form submission [Survey](#) for the consultation [The future of Victoria's state forests](#) has been received by Engage Victoria.

Your submission ID is: 1293250. Below is a copy of your submission.

Thinking about managing state forests in the future, which of the following aspects are most important to you?

- Conservation and biodiversity
- Protecting and preserving Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Education and learning about nature

Which of these recreation activities do you do most often in state forests?

- Appreciation, observation or study of plants, birds or animals
- Camping
- Scenic driving
- Sightseeing / experiencing nature
- Walking / hiking / bushwalking
- Canoeing / kayaking / rafting etc.
- Appreciation or study of historical or cultural features

What other recreation activities do you do in state forests?

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Which of the following would improve your recreation experiences in state forests?

- Maintenance of forest roads and tracks

What else would improve your recreational experiences in state forests?

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What can be done to help State forest visitors to use the land in a way that protects animals and plants?

- More signs and information boards about how to protect wildlife and plants
- Enforce stricter rules and penalties for littering, disturbing wildlife, and damaging plants

What else could be done?

- This survey ignores conservation and is, therefore, useless. It appears to value recreation above all else. Many areas that are State Forests should be incorporated into National Parks. A ban on camp fires needed in fire season.

Thinking about conservation of state forests, what is most important to you?

- Conservation of the forest ecosystem, including native vegetation, animal, bird, insect species and their habitat
- Reducing pest animal populations
- Reducing invasive plant species
- Managing impacts from bushfires and other natural disasters

Please tell us what else could be done.

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Reflecting on your answers above, what opportunities or ideas do you have on how best to manage our State forests for conservation?

- Ban all camp fires on public land in Vic during the fire season. Have open season on deer and have them all declared feral pests. Have much better early aerial suppression of bush fires - clearly that is the only way to reduce the carnage now that our climate has changed.

What types of forest activities and uses can co-exist with conservation management? How do you think these complementary objectives can be planned and managed for?

- Forestry, as practiced now (clear-felling) cannot be used for conservation areas as it leaves young, single-aged trees with very few hollows. Recreational 4WD, trail bikes, mountain bikes are not compatible with high value conservation areas.

What forest uses or activities create challenges at the same location? How do you think these 'opposing' uses can be better managed at these locations?

- Areas of State Forest that have established high conservation value should be added to adjacent National Park (or otherwise set aside as Nature Reserves. A good example in the Yellow Box-Yellow Gum-Grey box woodland between the Grampians and the western Black Range. That woodland should have been included in the park system decades ago.

Recognising we all want to see our state forests thriving, how can we better plan and manage our state forests for shared uses and benefits?

- Excise the high value conservation areas and give them long-term security/management in National Parks.

Noting the Victorian Government's decision to end timber harvesting in state forests, what future employment and economic opportunities do you think are possible in these state forest areas?

- The State should be concentrating on establishing forestry on cleared farmlands throughout Victoria. There is enormous scope for that and it is a great pity that nothing has been done over the last 30 years, when the information was there.

What could collaboration between land managers, Traditional Owner groups and community look like in the future? How would you or your group want to be involved in forest management planning and implementation in the future?

- It is pointless to discuss this, unless the high conservation parts of State Forests are first protected by legislation and put into Nature Reserves or National Parks..

If you filled this form out on behalf of a group or organisation, please identify which one:

- Hamilton Field Naturalists Club

If you are a member of a state forest stakeholder or user interest group, please list them here:

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What is your postcode?

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