

Central West INVESTIGATION



WELLSFORD BLOCK

The Wellsford block sits between the existing Bendigo Regional Park immediately east of suburban Bendigo and Mount Sugarloaf Nature Reserve ten kilometres further east. It is one of the largest box-ironbark forests in Victoria and is notable for its relatively abundant medium sized trees that over the coming decades could become large old trees – an important and very rare habitat feature in present-day box-ironbark forests. The forest supports many threatened species and some endangered vegetation types, and is known for its stunning wildflower displays in spring. Generally, the forest is relatively flat and open, and it is popular for a range of recreational activities especially in the areas closer to Bendigo.

Activity	Addition to Bendigo Regional Park	Addition to Greater Bendigo National Park
Apiculture ¹	✓	✓
Bushwalking	✓	✓
Camping	✓	✓
Nature observation	✓	✓
Four-wheel driving ²	✓	✓
Trail bike riding ³	✓	✓
Bicycle riding (including mountain biking) ⁴	✓	✓
Horse riding ⁵	✓	✓
Car rallies	✓	○ ⁶
Prospecting	✓	✗
Dogs	✓	○ ⁷
Domestic firewood collection	○ ⁸	✗
Recreational hunting ⁹	✗	✗
Timber harvesting	✗	✗

✓ Allowed ○ Allowed with conditions (see notes) ✗ Not allowed

Notes:

1. Apiculture at licensed sites, subject to the 2013 Apiculture (beekeeping) on public land policy and operating procedure.
2. Four wheel driving in registered vehicles on formed roads that are open to the public and on other formed roads and tracks as specified through management planning; off road driving is illegal on public land.
3. Trail bike riding by licensed riders on registered vehicles on formed roads that are open to the public and on other formed roads and tracks as specified through management planning; off road riding is illegal on public land.

4. Bicycle riding (including mountain biking) on formed roads that are open to the public and on other roads, tracks and trails as specified through management planning.
5. Horse riding on specified formed roads that are open to the public and on other roads and tracks as specified through management planning.
6. Competitive sections of car rallies generally not allowed in national parks; transport sections through these areas allowed subject to event policy and procedure.
7. Dogs may be allowed on lead in visitor areas or along a limited number of tracks as specified through management

planning.

8. Domestic firewood collection will be phased out over ten years and should be in areas where it will promote the growth of large trees and improve ecological condition, and be targeted to local communities most reliant on the resource.
9. Recreational hunting for pest animals will be allowed if part of an authorised control program at the discretion of the land manager.

Final recommendations

VEAC has changed its recommendations as a result of feedback from the local community. The area previously recommended as a nature reserve is now recommended as an addition to the existing Greater Bendigo National Park, and a wider range of recreational activities including horse riding are allowed. The recommendation for an addition to the Bendigo Regional Park is unchanged. Domestic firewood collection from the recommended addition is now proposed to be phased out over ten years.

The main recommendations for public land in the Wellsford block are shown on the map overleaf. The table on this page provides a summary of allowed activities in the recommended areas of public land in the block.



For more information on the investigation, visit www.veac.vic.gov.au or phone 1800 134 803 (toll free from landline)

