



Media release

The Hon Ryan Smith MP

Minister for Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Youth Affairs

Thursday 24 November 2011

Coalition Government responds to VEAC report on remnant native vegetation

The Victorian Coalition Government has released its response to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's (VEAC) report on remnant native vegetation today.

Minister for Environment and Climate Change Ryan Smith tabled the document in Parliament today, responding to VEAC's investigation of remnant native vegetation throughout Victoria.

"VEAC's final report examined the condition of remnant vegetation throughout the state and initiatives that could improve its management," Mr Smith said.

"VEAC has completed a thorough investigation of this important issue which has highlighted the increasingly important role remnant vegetation is playing in biodiversity conservation.

"The Government has accepted, or accepted in principle, 19 of the 20 recommendations made by VEAC, and will work with the relevant agencies to ensure they are implemented and incorporated into current programs and processes.

"The Government is well placed to implement these recommendations, particularly as many of the policies and programs are already in place under current governance frameworks.

"The only recommendation that was not picked up was a call for investigations of public land use in three areas in Wimmera, Gippsland and the Central Victorian Uplands.

"The Victorian Government needs to consider its existing programs and priorities in order to make decisions about any further assessments of public land use that are required and ensure that our parks and reserves are managed sustainably.

"The Government will continue to make biodiversity enhancement and ecological connectivity in our landscape a priority," Mr Smith said.

VEAC is currently undertaking two investigations at the request of the government: an investigation into the outcomes of the establishment of Victoria's existing marine protected areas; and an investigation into public land in the vicinity of the Yellingbo Conservation Reserve.

To view the full report – including VEAC's recommendations and the Government's response – visit www.dse.vic.gov.au under 'Latest News'.

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