

Media Release



Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Suburban Development

Tuesday, 11 April, 2017

NEW INVESTIGATION INTO PUBLIC LAND IN THE CENTRAL WEST

A new investigation has been launched into the management and conservation of public land in and around central western Victorian forests.

Victorian Environment Assessment Council (VEAC) will conduct the Central West Investigation on public land in and around the Wombat, Wellsford, Mount Cole and Pyrenees Range state forests.

The two-year investigation includes an extensive public consultation process with councils, communities and traditional owners.

At the conclusion of the investigation VEAC will make a series of recommendations to the Andrews Labor Government on best use and appropriate land management for the conservation of natural and cultural values in each area.

The review reflects significant interest from local communities and environment groups, and stakeholders are urged to get involved.

Wombat State Forest is an important sanctuary for more than 350 species of native plants and 290 different native animals, including 25 threatened plant species and 15 threatened fauna species.

It is also a key breeding habitat for Powerful Owls and Greater Gliders.

For more information on the Central West Investigation or to register your interest visit:
<http://www.veac.vic.gov.au/>

Quote attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

"We recognise the passion and care Victorians have for our forests, that's why their input is going to be so crucial to this investigation."

Quote attributable to Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards

"The central west region includes some of our natural treasures, which is why it's vital to determine how to best protect its wide array of native plants and animals."

Quote attributable to Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas

"I know the local community is passionate about these areas and will be keen to have their say about how they are managed in the future."