



Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area

Project snapshot, April 2021

A vision for the future

- The Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area (YLCA) will be a stronghold for biodiversity conservation with improved landscapes, healthy rivers, passive recreation opportunities, and an engaged and inspired community.
- When it is released in mid-2021, the *Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area 10 Year Plan* will guide the strategic development, management intent, and planning for the area.
- This plan builds on a draft that was developed and released for public comment in August 2018. Each submission was carefully considered in preparing the final version of the plan.
- The YLCA will create and protect habitat for Victoria's two critically endangered faunal emblems: the Helmeted Honeyeater and the Leadbeater's Possum. Other species will also benefit.
- The implementation of the YLCA will generate economic benefits for local communities through the construction of infrastructure; land management activities, such as weed control; and increased visitation.

Enjoying the reserve

- The YLCA is being primarily established for conservation, however passive recreation activities will be permitted in specific locations. These activities will be covered in the YLCA 10 Year Plan and will include activities such as:
 - Dog walking
 - Horse-riding
 - Fishing
- Members of the public are currently permitted to access licensed Crown land water frontages for recreational activities such as hiking, fishing, and bird-watching. Camping is not currently permitted on licensed Crown land water frontages.
- DELWP is currently consulting on proposed state-wide changes that will allow camping on designated Crown land river frontages with grazing licences. In the long term, these changes are unlikely affect the YLCA as, once land is reserved

under the National Parks Act, camping will not be permitted. In the interim, there may be some areas within the YLCA where camping may legally occur, although this is yet to be determined.

Realising the YLCA

- As a 'landscape conservation area', the YLCA is a new category of park established under the National Parks Act 1975, although it is not a national park. The YLCA is made up of just under 3,000 hectares of existing public land reserves and Crown land water frontages extending from Healesville in the north to Millgrove and Hoddles Creek in the east, Emerald and Cockatoo in the south, and the southern Dandenong Ranges in the south-west.
- In November 2020, more than half of the YLCA was reserved under a new Schedule Nine of the National Parks Act. The remaining areas - mostly stream frontages - will be considered for inclusion in the YLCA once boundary surveys are completed. Due to the complexity of the reservation process, the YLCA will be reserved in stages over a number of years.
- Investing in the YLCA as part of the 2020-2021 State Budget, the Victorian Government committed \$10.06 million over four years for continued implementation of the YLCA.

Managing bushfire risk

- The implementation of the YLCA will be based on the *Yellingbo Conservation Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan (2018)*. This plan was developed in consultation with leading independent experts and informs a risk-based approach to revegetation and reserve planning. This will ensure there is no increased risk of bushfire risk to the local and broader communities.

** The Yellingbo Conservation Area has been renamed Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area (YLCA), to reflect the formalisation the 'landscape conservation area' category within the National Parks Act 1975.*