



West Victoria

Tourism and recreation

The West region's forests, coasts, rivers, lakes and ranges provide a wealth of tourist attractions. The tourism and recreation industries make a major contribution to regional economies, contributing \$4.2 billion to Victoria's gross state product in 1995-96. Cultural, recreational, personal and other services in the region employed over 21,148 people or 7.6 per cent of the region's total employment, excluding their contribution to the retail and wholesale industries.

Areas of public land within the region such as the Grampians and Port Campbell National Parks and the Great Ocean Road are some of the most popular natural attractions in Victoria.

The RFA provides certainty for the tourism and recreation industries to plan ahead. It adds to the region's system of national parks and reserves, and includes a number of initiatives to promote regional development and jobs-growth.

The RFA highlights the need to protect such scenic landscape values – such as the Wild Dog Ridge in the Otway State Forest and views from the Great Ocean Road - in the development or update of Forest Management Plans and timber harvesting plans.

Significant additions to national parks and reserves include:

- Addition to the Mount Eccles National Park;
- Addition to the Arapiles-Tooan State Park; and
- Addition to the Lerderderg State Park

Regional initiatives by Victoria to support tourism under the RFA include;

- Regional Tourism Development strategies for the Otways and Daylesford; and
- Timber Heritage Studies and development of Timber Heritage Trails.

Recreation

Under the RFA, native forests will continue to be available for recreation ranging from ecotourism and bushwalking to four-wheel driving, horseriding and shooting.

Initiatives by Victoria to enhance recreation include:

- Establishment of new reserves;
- Recreation facilities in the Great Ocean Road hinterland; and
- The Six Peaks Walking Track at Mount Cole.

