

Wombat Forestcare Inc
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Media Release

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Wombat Forestcare welcomes the announcement of the proposed Victorian Environment Assessment Council (VEAC) investigation into western Victorian forests, including the Wombat State Forest.

To ensure greater recognition and protection of the conservation values of the Wombat Forest, a campaign to make the forest a State Park was launched by Wombat Forestcare in 2010.

As part of the campaign Wombat Forestcare requested that the State government undertake a formal investigation of the conservation values of the forest and adjoining areas public land.

On Saturday, Wombat Forestcare achieve that goal with the State government announcing that the Victorian Environment Assessment Council (VEAC) will conduct an investigation into the Wombat Forest and adjoining areas.

In response to the decision the convenor of Wombat Forestcare, Gayle Osborne stated that *'We are delighted by the decision, which has come after a lot of hard work by a wide range of people'*.

Over 350 species of native plants and 290 species of native animals occur in the forest, including 25 threatened plant species and 15 threatened fauna species. The Wombat Forest is also an important breeding habitat for many migratory birds and home to Powerful Owls and Greater Gliders.

Many of the vegetation types that occur in the forest are also listed as threatened and are currently under-represented in the conservation reserve system.

The Wombat Forest is also a critical water catchment, with the headwaters of six major river systems originating in the forest, and acts as an important carbon sink.

Gayle Osborne said that *'Wombat Forestcare would like to thank the State Labor government and the Environment Minister, the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, for their decision. VEAC has undertaken many of these reviews and the process is very thorough. We also wish to thank our local member Mary-Anne Thomas for advocating for this process.'*

For further information:

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