

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, the Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Solar Homes



Wednesday, 11 November 2020

GETTING READY FOR CAMPING TRIPS NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE

Some of the state's favourite camping destinations are now open for bookings over the peak summer season with visitors set to enjoy new and improved facilities thanks to the Victorian Government's *Great Outdoors* program.

Between now and 2023, 30 new campgrounds are being built and 30 existing sites are being upgraded with some sites now ready to welcome visitors.

Campers can traverse a new suspension bridge into the Neds Gully campground in the Cathedral Ranges or view the night sky at Big Billy Bore campground on a new stargazing platform in Big Desert State Forest.

In addition to four revitalised campgrounds in the Otways, some fire-affected camping favourites in Victoria's south-east including Cape Conran and two sites in the Thowgla Valley are again welcoming campers.

Further upgrades are planned for the iconic Tidal River campsite at Wilsons Promontory, as well as sites in Lower Glenelg, Bunyip State Park, Lake Elizabeth, Peachtree Creek and several other iconic High-Country campsites.

Parks Victoria are now taking peak season bookings for sites including Mount Buffalo National Park, Corringale Foreshore Reserve and Croajingolong National Park along with other summertime favourites.

State forest campgrounds are free of charge but not available for pre-booking. Before travelling it's best to check with your campsite's operator to ensure you are prepared for your camping experience.

The Government has halved camping fees in the state's parks and forests and continues to support camping and outdoor experiences through the \$105.6 million *Victoria's Great Outdoors* program.

Visitors to parks and state forests are reminded to follow all health and safety directions in place including bringing hand sanitiser, wearing masks and practicing physical distancing.

To learn more about peak season campsite booking visit: parks.vic.gov.au/where-to-stay/ballots-and-peak-season-bookings

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

"The pandemic has given us a renewed appreciation for the great outdoors and with restrictions easing it's great Victorians will be able to get back into nature and enjoy upgraded and new camping facilities across the state."

"Camping is a wonderful affordable holiday and our campground upgrades will make the experience even more enjoyable for Victorian families."

"Our camping upgrades will help bring visitors and tourists back to regional Victorian communities – creating jobs and boosting local economies."