

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

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



Saturday, 26 February 2022

CREATING VICTORIA'S LARGEST CONSERVATION SANCTUARY

A state-of-the-art predator proof exclusion fence on Wilsons Promontory that will span 10 kilometres from coast-to-coast and protect precious native wildlife is a step closer today.

Tenders opened today for the \$6 million project – part of a \$23 million investment from the Andrews Labor Government – which will create a 50,000-hectare biodiversity conservation sanctuary.

The Prom is connected to the Australian continent by a narrow peninsula known as Yanakie Isthmus – which makes it a perfect site for a world leading sanctuary – protecting native species like the Southern Brown Bandicoot, Long-nosed Potoroo, Ground Parrot, New Holland Mouse, Eastern Pygmy Possum and Hooded Plover.

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio announced the project milestone today while visiting the site of the fence, which will keep out animals like foxes, deer and feral cats.

On the southernmost point of mainland Australia, Wilsons Prom is sheltered from the impacts of climate change. The added protection of the fence, combined with enhanced conservation programs, will ensure the area becomes the perfect place for threatened species.

As threats are removed from Wilsons Prom and it becomes a safer place for vulnerable native animals and plants, specially chosen rare and threatened native species will be able to be translocated there to keep them safe.

The Wilsons Prom Revitalisation project will also see park facilities upgraded to sustainably manage visitors. The project – which will deliver new and upgraded walks, more accommodation options, amenities and accessibility improvements – is expected to generate 54 jobs and add approximately \$11.22 million to the regional economy.

Traditional Owners and specialist consultants will be consulted to ensure Aboriginal cultural heritage and environmental values are protected. For more information visit: parks.vic.gov.au/projects

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

"This predator proof fence will create one of the largest biodiversity sanctuaries in Australia for our precious native species."

"The Government is helping to stop the decline of native plants and animals and improve the state's natural environment, through its Biodiversity 2037 plan and has invested nearly \$500 million towards protecting biodiversity and the natural environment since coming to government in 2014."

Quote attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula

"The Prom welcomes thousands of visitors annually, boosting the local economy and creating lifelong memories for those that experience its natural beauty – that's why we're investing in its protection."

Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Jane Garrett

"The Wilsons Prom Revitalisation project will do so much for the local region, creating jobs and drawing in visitors to enjoy the amazing beauty of the area."

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