

Forests and National Parks

Labor's plan to ensure Victoria's forests are here to stay

**Bracks.
Listens.
Acts.** 

PROTECTING VICTORIA'S NATIONAL PARKS - BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE TIMBER INDUSTRY

The Bracks Government has created more national parks in its first term than any Government in Victoria's history and protected an additional 540,000 hectares of forest under the National Parks Act and in the forest reserve system.

Labor has also worked hard to protect the future of our forests. New research demonstrated that the current level of timber harvesting was unsustainable, so in February this year the Bracks Government announced an \$80 million package to reduce logging in our native forests by a third.

Importantly, we have not left behind those communities dependent on the timber industry and have invested in timber towns to create alternative industries for the future. The offer to buy back timber licences as part of this package has been very successful with a significant number of companies volunteering to surrender licences in areas where current logging rates are unsustainable.

The success of the buyback process means that in the east of Victoria timber production from native forests will continue at sustainable levels (using environmentally sound forestry practices) in accordance with Regional Forest Agreements (RFA). In the west of Victoria the objectives of the RFA can best be met by a transition to plantation timber. This is in recognition of the unique circumstances in western Victoria:

- dramatic and unforeseen reductions in timber yields;
- the economic and jobs growth potential of the tourism industry around the Great Ocean Road; and
- the large area of plantation timber in western Victoria that will become available over the next ten years.

Labor is determined to achieve its twin goals of protecting our forests for future generations to enjoy, and ensuring the timber industry is sustainable to provide jobs and investment in regional Victoria and timber and paper products for all Victorians.

1. A new future for the Otways

Building on the success of this buy-back of licenses, the Bracks Government will provide \$14 million over the next four years to:

- ✓ Immediately, reduce wood chipping and logging in the Otways by 25 per cent, following the surrender of a major timber licence.
- ✓ Create a single National Park, extending from Anglesea to Cape Otway following the Great Ocean Road on the eastern side of the range. This will protect key areas of the Otways including some of Victoria's most striking waterfalls and rainforest areas.
- ✓ Renew the offer to buy-back native forest timber licences and provide financial assistance for new plantations in western Victoria.
- ✓ As further licences are surrendered or expire, provide further protection to other native forest areas in the Otway Ranges and complete the exit from native forests in the Otways by 2008.
- ✓ Invest in tourism developments and create new jobs in parks management for former timber industry workers.
- ✓ Invest \$9 million over 4 years in a Victorian Plantation Incentive Strategy to build a sustainable timber industry.

2. A new future for the Wombat Forest

The timber licence buyback will reduce timber production to close to a sustainable level in the Wombat Forest. As a consequence Labor will:

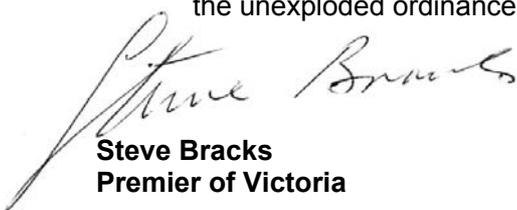
- ✓ Negotiate to end all wood chipping in the Wombat Forest by 31 December 2002.
- ✓ Negotiate with remaining sawlog licence holders to further reduce harvesting to achieve a sustainable level by 31 December 2002, by supplying timber from an alternative source in the short term and buying back further licenses.
- ✓ Establish a trial of community forest management, which will involve all stakeholders in the local community in making decisions about future management of the forest. The community management process will recommend the future level of selective logging, firewood production and other forest uses. One option is to cease all commercial logging when remaining licences expire or license holders take up the buy back option.
- ✓ Provide a reference to the Victorian Environment Assessment Council to recommend boundaries and requirements for the future management of the Wombat forest as a mixture of State Park and Community Forest Reserve.

3. Achieving a sustainable timber industry

- ✓ Implement the remainder of Labor's *Our Forests, Our Future* package of environmental, economic and social reforms to manage timber harvesting on a publicly accountable, sustainable basis.
- ✓ Prohibit the burning of native forest wood for power generation and charcoal production.

4. Better management of national parks and public land

- ✓ Employ 50 new park rangers throughout regional Victoria to better manage and improve the experience of visitors to our magnificent national parks and conservation reserves
- ✓ Provide \$14m over 4 years to begin a major weed and pest control program in National Parks, State Forests and other public land through local job creation schemes and co-operative programs with community groups, "Friends of Parks" groups and other volunteers
- ✓ Provide additional resources to the Victorian Environment Assessment Council for it to carry out investigations into the options for future national parks.
- ✓ Establish a study in establishing a chain of multi-use parks on Crown Land to protect Murray River Red Gums.
- ✓ Protect Point Nepean and include it in the Mornington Peninsula National Park and require the Commonwealth to fix the site contamination and accept liability for clearing the unexploded ordinance.



Steve Bracks
Premier of Victoria



Sherryl Garbutt
Minister for Environment and Conservation

UNDOING THE DAMAGE

The previous Liberal-National Government neglected the environment for seven years and ignored concerns about over-logging in our forests. Forests in the Midlands were being massively over-logged at the same time as the previous Government signed up new export woodchip contracts for over 200,000 cubic metres from the region. Its failure to listen or act, left both our timber industry and our forests perilously close to collapse.

The previous Liberal-National Government also tried to exploit our national parks for commercial gain, with plans for a 500-bed hotel at Wilson's Promontory and a commercial development in the Port Campbell National Park.

It was the only government in Victoria's history to legislate land out of a National Park for commercial gain when an area was excised from the Alpine National Park; and it stalled efforts to protect our marine environments and Box Ironbark forests.

Labor put a stop to this abuse of our natural assets.

We have delivered a world-class system of 13 marine national parks and 11 sanctuaries along the coast; protected fragile Box-Ironbark forests in national parks; stopped over-logging in native forests and protected our parks and coastline – particularly Wilson's Promontory - from commercial exploitation.

The Bracks Government has ensured the backlog of endangered species that the former Liberal Government failed to protect have been listed for protection under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act*.

Labor has put the environment back on the agenda in Victoria. In just three years the Bracks Government has:

- Introduced the world's first comprehensive, representative system of marine national parks and sanctuaries along the Victorian coast.
- Created four new national parks to protect threatened Box Ironbark forests.
- Provided \$80 million to buy back one-third of native forest timber under license, to put forestry operations back on a sustainable footing and help affected workers to find new jobs.
- Protected Wilson's Promontory and the Port Campbell National Park from commercial exploitation and added the Wilson's Promontory Lighthouse to the national park.
- Returned to the Alpine National Park the 285 hectares of Mt McKay excised by the previous Government and added 12,000 hectares of the Wongangarra Wilderness to the Park.
- Stopped the damming of the Mitchell River and added the proposed dam site to the Mitchell River National Park.
- Put a moratorium on logging old growth forest in the Goolengook block pending the result of an inquiry by the Victorian Environment Assessment Council into logging in old growth forests.

The Bracks Government has acted to protect our magnificent natural assets for present and future generations of Victorians to enjoy.

BUILDING FOR TOMORROW

The Bracks Government has laid the foundation for sustainable use of our natural resources and greatly enhanced the management and protection of our parks and reserves.

In a second term, the Bracks Government will build on this proud record with greater protection and better management of our resources and our environment.

Our national parks and reserves, beaches, parks, gardens and open spaces will remain accessible to all and be managed and protected in keeping with the community's expectations. Labor recognises that the sustainable management of our natural assets is critical to the social and economic wellbeing of our community as well as the environment. We have achieved a world first in protecting our marine environment and have taken difficult but necessary action to protect our native forests, including our fragmented and under represented Box-Ironbark forests.

Only Labor has the vision and leadership to confront the difficult natural resource management issues so that all Victorians enjoy a sustainable future.

A sustainable future for our forests

The Bracks Government is in the process of systematically reforming the way we manage timber harvesting in our native forests. We inherited a secretive, backward looking, unsustainable management culture from the previous Liberal-National Government.

In our first term we have made the tough decisions to put our forests back on a sustainable basis. We acted on our election commitment to address the concerns of conservationists, unions and the industry that our forests were being over-logged by commissioning Professor Jerry Vanclay to conduct a landmark independent review of the figures.

Professor Vanclay's report recommended new sawlog sustainable yield figures that required a 31% cut in the volume of timber licensed each year.

The previous Liberal –National Government had ignored over-logging and exacerbated the problem by issuing new export woodchip licences while covering up mismanagement for seven years. In contrast, the Bracks Government listened then acted.

In February this year we announced an \$80 million *Our Forests, Our Future* program to buy back licenses to put native forest timber harvesting on a sustainable basis.

The voluntary buy-back closed on October 31 and has been over-subscribed.

As a result, a second term Bracks Government will reduce logging levels by a third and undertake some additional reforms to create a sustainable future for the timber industry and provide additional protection for areas of the Otways and the Wombat Forest.

This is the first instalment of Labor's policy on the environment. Policies including greenhouse, sustainability, water and coastal issues will be addressed in future announcements.

1. A NEW FUTURE FOR THE OTWAYS

During the first term of Government we have listened to the community's view of timber harvesting in the Otways – an area highly valued by both Victorians and visitors to our State.

The Great Ocean Road is one of Australia's premier tourist attractions. It is the main gateway to the Otways and attracts over 2.7 million domestic overnight visitors, which represents a 16% share of all visitors to regional Victoria, contributing \$525 million to the regional economy.

As with other difficult forestry issues, there is on the one hand concern about the future of the industry and the security of jobs, and on the other a strong desire to see wood chipping and logging move away from the Otway native forests and into timber plantations. The Geelong Otway Tourism Board, the City of Greater Geelong, Surf Coast Shire, Warrnambool City Council and Moyne Shire have all expressed concerns about wood chipping and logging in the Otways

The Bracks Government has closely examined the issues to find a constructive way forward. In the west of the State, there is a considerable area of hardwood plantation that will become available for harvesting over the next decade. This resource has the potential to provide a viable long-term alternative supply to native forests in the Otways. (See *Plantations* below)

Economic growth from native forest harvesting cannot compete with the economic growth in the Otways region from tourism. The long-term future for the timber industry in the Otways lies in plantations and the long-term value of the forests lies with tourism.

In order to protect the Otways, a second term Bracks Government will:

Reduce woodchipping and logging by more than 25%

The voluntary buy-back of a major timber licence for wood from the Otways makes it possible to now cut the level of sawlog and woodchipping in the forest by around 8,000 cubic metres or about 25%. This means that the area of the Otways used for timber production can be significantly reduced.

Labor will immediately reduce wood chipping and logging in the Otways by 25 per cent, following the surrender of a major timber licence.

An expanded Otway National Park

Currently, parts of the Otway Ranges are protected by the existing national park at Cape Otway, the Lorne-Angahook State Park between Lorne and Anglesea and various small reserves.

A greatly expanded Otway National Park – extending from Anglesea to Cape Otway along the Great Ocean Road – can be created by including the land between these parks and upgrading the Lorne-Angahook State Park to National Park Status. This new park will become possible by the completion of the buy-back process, opening up new tourist opportunities in the Otways.

To determine the new boundaries for the Otway National Park Labor will expand the reference for the current VEAC Inquiry into upgrading the Lorne-Angahook State Park to include all other public land on the eastern side of the Otways.

Labor will create a single national park, extending from Anglesea to Cape Otway following the Great Ocean Road on the eastern side of the range. This will protect key areas of the Otways including some of Victoria's most striking waterfalls and rainforest areas.

Future reductions in wood chipping and logging

Labor will extend the current transitional process being managed by the Industry Transition Taskforce to ensure all stakeholders are involved in these further changes in the Otways.

The success of the timber license buy-back highlights the benefits from constructively working with the timber industry and local communities. We will continue to work with communities to expand timber plantations and protect the Otways. Labor will ask the Industry Transition Task Force to continue the transition process by:

Negotiating with remaining licence holders to voluntarily surrender further licences through an Otway specific extension of the existing licence buy-back program

Create forest management and other jobs for former timber industry workers; and

Explore all issues to make a successful transition to alternative plantation sources of timber.

Labor will renew the offer to buy-back native forest timber licences and provide financial assistance for new plantations in western Victoria so that the Otways has a sustainable, plantation based timber industry.

As further licences are surrendered or expire, provide further protection to other native forest areas in the Otway Ranges and complete the exit from native forests in the Otways by 2008.

Investing in tourism

Tourism offers substantial long-term economic benefits for the Otways region. The Bracks Government will support the region to make the most of its tourism potential and develop new job opportunities.

Labor will provide resources for the proper management of the new national park and upgraded car parks and visitor facilities. In addition it will develop key features such as the proposed tree canopy walk at Triplet falls, the Trans Otway walk and overnight lodges for walkers in the forest. These will all help attract local, interstate and overseas visitors to this magnificent region.

Labor will invest in tourism developments and create new jobs in parks management for former timber industry workers.

Labor will allocate \$14 million over four years towards a new future for the Otways. This will enable the development of a new National Park and tourism opportunities, an immediate reduction in wood-chipping and logging and start the transition of the timber industry to a plantation basis.

Plantations

“It is now possible that forest plantations could be providing 75 per cent of domestic industrial wood supplies by 2010, compared with expectations of only around 62 per cent several years ago.”

ABARE Current Issues August 2002

The Bracks Governments recognises the potential for jobs and economic growth in regional Victoria as a result of the expanding the plantation timber sector.

There are substantial plantation areas in the Otways and surrounding areas, which have good soil and rainfall for growing trees. However more plantations will be required to replace the remaining timber licences for native forest if they are to be sufficient to continue current employment and supply Victoria's needs for timber and paper.

There are already over 350,000 hectares of privately owned hardwood and softwood plantations in Victoria and substantial areas have been identified which would be suitable for expansion of plantations. Over the next 4 years Labor will:

- Work in partnership with plantation timber growers on practical ways to increase tree plantings, particularly in western Victoria;
- Continue research and development to increase the range of timber to be used by the forest and forest products industry;
- Establish significant demonstration hardwood plantations at the back of the Otways and elsewhere in western Victoria.
- Maximise opportunities in the emerging Greenhouse carbon credit market and maximise the benefits for salinity control programs; and
- Promote value-adding technologies to increase processing opportunities for timber products in plantation products across regional Victoria.

Labor will allocate \$9 million over 4 years to a Plantation Incentives Strategy

2. A NEW FUTURE FOR THE WOMBAT FOREST

End wood-chipping by December 2002

The results of the independent review commissioned by the Bracks Government of sustainable yield figures in the Midlands area were worse than anyone expected. The review found that sawlog resource levels in the Midlands needed to be reduced from 40,000 cubic metres to 8,600 cubic metres per year.

The success of our timber licence buy-back process has already seen a 70% reduction in licensed volumes – which will be down to around 12,000 cubic metres (m³) by the end of this year.

Because the voluntary buy-back was oversubscribed across Victoria, we are able to supply the major mill near Woodend with similar species and grades of saw logs from other forest management areas within the new sustainable yield for those areas.

As a result of the success of the licence buy-back program the Bracks Government will:

- ✓ Negotiate to end supplying woodchip licence commitments from the Wombat Forest by 31 December 2002.
- ✓ Negotiate with remaining licence holders to find an alternative source of supply for the 3400 m³ needed to reach the agreed sustainable yield level (8600m³) by 31 December 2002.
- ✓ Pilot the first community forest model project in Victoria to oversee sustainable management of the Wombat Forest and determine the level of ongoing selective logging to support local businesses until all commercial logging ceases in 2009.

The longer-term issue is how best to manage the Wombat Forest once the level of forestry is reduced (or forestry ceases altogether). Labor believes this issue should be determined with input from all interested parties.

Labor will ask the Victorian Environment Assessment Council to recommend to Government the boundaries and requirements for the future management of the Wombat Forest as a mixture of State Park and Community Forest reserve.

3. CONTINUING FOREST REFORM

In our first term the Bracks Government made the tough decisions to put our forests back on a sustainable basis. We acted on our election commitment to address the concerns of conservationists, the union and industry that our native forests were being over-logged, with our \$80 million *Our Forests, Our Future* reform package.

Labor recognises that hardwood and softwood plantations will play an increasingly important role in the future of the Victorian timber manufacturing industry. Part of the challenge now is to manage our native forest resource sustainably, with transparent market based pricing and licensing arrangements, so as to not unfairly disadvantage the plantation sector and protect long term jobs in regional Victoria.

Labor will continue the implementation of the Our Forests, Our Future package of environmental, economic and social reforms to manage timber harvesting on a publicly accountable, sustainable basis.

Support for timber communities

The Bracks Government's decision to put the timber industry back on a sustainable footing by reducing harvesting by one third will involve mill closures and significant job losses in regional Victoria. This is why we have targeted the \$80 million *Our Forest, Our Future* program to provide support for mill workers and harvesters and haulers.

We are working with industry, unions and local communities to make the transition to a sustainable future while ensuring nobody is left behind. This has been a very tough decision but the reality is that if we hadn't acted the industry would have collapsed within 10 years. Already we have generated 600 jobs and \$70 million in leveraged investments in new economic activity for regions with an unsustainable dependence on timber.

Labor will continue the work of Timber Towns and the Ministerial Task Force to assist and support affected regional timber towns to generate local jobs.

Wood chips

The Bracks Government's vision for the Victorian native forest industry is based on the production of sawlogs and value-adding. We do not support a wood-chip driven industry.

Labor will:

- Examine pricing arrangements to ensure the woodchip component of forest industries is on a competitive footing and not driven by export pressures.
- Better monitor the grading process of sawlogs so that only genuine sawlog off-cuts and rejects are used for wood-chipping and increase penalties for breaches.
- Negotiate to end supplying woodchip licence commitments from the Wombat Forest by 31 December 2002.
- Immediately reduce wood-chipping and logging in the Otways by 28 per cent.

Burning of wood for electricity generation or charcoal

The Federal Howard Liberal Government's Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET) scheme allows the generation of electricity from wood waste from native forest to qualify for renewable energy certificates. In contrast, the "Green Power" accreditation scheme operated by the Bracks Government precludes the generation of energy from native forest material.

Labor will continue to lobby the Commonwealth to reform the MRET scheme to exclude wood waste. It will also prohibit the burning of native forest wood for power generation in Victoria or for the production of charcoal.

Overhaul Forest Act 1958

In *Our Forests, Our Future*, the Bracks Government identified major problems with the *Forest Act 1958*. For example there is a requirement to licence timber resources to within plus or minus two per cent of sustainable yield rates in each forest management area that does not take account of variations in yield rates or licence commitments.

The Forests Act is out-dated and has clearly failed as a mechanism for sustainable forest management and resource security, and will be overhauled. Key issues include the need to:

- Establish VicForests as an independent body to manage Victoria's public forests in a sustainable way that balances economic, environmental and social goals.
- Include community service obligations in VicForests' objectives.
- Require VicForests to provide resource security to the timber industry via new transparent pricing and licensing arrangements.
- Remove the plus or minus two per cent clause.
- Include a mechanism for regular revision and independent auditing of sustainable yield estimates.
- Give the Environment Protection Authority responsibility for auditing compliance with the Forest Code of Practice and other environmental requirements.

Similarly, the management of timber operations in native forests will be removed from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment so that the Government's commercial forest operations are open and accountable and the harvesting industry is managed more efficiently and competitively.

Labor will reform the Forest Act 1958.

A more accountable forest industry

The Bracks Government has acted on community concerns about secrecy and misinformation in the way government departments have run forestry operations. We have appointed the Environment Protection Authority to oversee the Auditing of the *Code of Forest Practice* and are making information available to the community in more accessible ways. We have accelerated the Sustainable Forest Resource Inventory (SFRI) and released the most reliable sustainable yield figures on the Internet. This will support transparent forest management arrangements that require properly researched sustainable yield information capable of being scrutinised.

In addition, Labor will release the first ever State of Our Forests Report that will be the benchmark for regular five-yearly reporting.

4. A NEW FUTURE FOR OUR NATIONAL PARKS

Additional park rangers

The previous Liberal-National Government abolished the National Parks Service and slashed staff numbers across Victoria as a part of their savage cuts in public service positions.

The Bracks Government believes that it is important to ensure that the visitor experience to our National Parks is an enjoyable and informative one and that this is greatly helped by having ranger staff to provide help and information. It is also important to ensure that park staff have the resources to properly manage the parks and protect our environment.

Labor will create 50 new National Park Ranger positions across regional Victoria. This expansion of park ranger positions throughout Victoria will ensure that Victoria's National Parks are managed in line with the needs and expectations of the community.

These new positions are in addition to the 20 new ranger positions recently created to manage Box Ironbark National Parks and Marine National Parks – making it the biggest increase in ranger positions in Victoria's history.

Labor will allocate \$20.8 million over 4 years to employ 50 new park rangers throughout regional Victoria to better maintain our magnificent national parks and conservation reserves, to tackle pests and weeds, and to give visitors an even better experience in our national parks.

Weeds and pests on public land including National Parks

As a result of the previous Liberal-National Government's massive budget cuts, weeds and pests have been a major problem in national parks and reserves. Pest and weeds represent a major threat to the productivity of Victoria's agricultural sector and Victoria's unique flora and fauna.

Labor has listened to the concerns of regional and rural communities and will spearhead innovative weed and pest reduction programs across Victoria.

During its first term, the Bracks Government has developed the Victorian Pest Management - A Framework for Action (VPMF). This strategy is the first of its kind in Victoria and it provides a strategic direction to combat not only declared weeds and pests but to fight potential pests over the long term.

In particular, the pest management framework outlines specific management strategies to address weeds, rabbits, wild dogs, foxes, feral pigs and feral goats and to improve public land management.

Labor has also introduced a fox bounty which has proven to be an effective and popular method of controlling fox numbers, boosted funding and resources for wild dog management and given local communities a real say on the management of the wild dog problem.

Labor will underpin its pest management framework by boosting resources for control weeds and pests on public land across the State, particularly in our parks and reserves system and in State forests.

This will be achieved through an expansion of the Good Neighbour Program.

While Labor is committed to making an unprecedented boost to weed and pest control on public land, Labor will also foster strong relationships between Government agencies, land holders and local government to manage weeds and pests right across Victoria.

Labor will allocate \$14 million over 4 years to begin a major weed and pest control program in national parks, State Forests and other public land through local job creation schemes and cooperative programs with volunteer and Friends groups.

Biodiversity protection

The Bracks Government has introduced Australia's most comprehensive framework for managing and restoring native vegetation, Victoria's *Native Vegetation Management Strategy - A Framework for Action*. This is delivering a new approach to protecting and restoring native vegetation to improve water quality, reduce salinity and decrease the impact of climate change.

The Bracks Government has also ensured the backlog of endangered species that the previous Liberal-National Government failed to protect have been listed for protection under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act*.

Labor will continue the protection of endangered species and eco-systems by ensuring that the Department of Natural Resources and Environment completes the Action Statements to protect the species listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

Protection for River Red Gums

Labor recognises that the unique and threatened riverine eucalypt habitats of the Murray River, particularly the River Red Gums, are an iconic feature of the Australian landscape.

Poor land management practices and the extensive clearing of these forests since European settlement, has exacerbated the decline in land and water quality throughout the Murray Darling Basin, threatening the very sustainability of these regions. These riverine environments provide important habitat for rare and endangered species and their long-term protection is critical to the environmental health of the Murray River.

These forests also provide a range of recreational and tourist based activities and are of significant economic, social and environmental importance to communities along the Murray River.

Labor recognises that the protection of the Murray River, river red gums and riverine eucalypt forests is important and will pursue the development of a uniform management regime with NSW to ensure this important habitat corridor is protected.

Labor will provide a reference to the Victorian Environment Assessment Council to investigate the creation of a chain of multiple use parks on public land along the Murray River from Yarrowonga to Swan Hill and a uniform management regime for the Murray with NSW.

Boost for the Victorian Environment Assessment Council

The Victorian Environment Assessment Council was established by the Bracks Government to restore integrity to decisions about future land use and provide independent expert advice on major environmental issues.

The Council will have further important work to do as part of the Bracks Government's second term agenda including the three studies announced as part of this policy, namely:

- Determining the boundaries of the new Otways National Park

- The future uses of the Wombat Forest and the area to be set aside as a State Park; and,
- A reference to look at the future management of the river red gums.

To assist in its expanded role of the Council, the Government will appoint two additional members to VEAC and increase the Council's resources.

Labor will allocate \$1 million over 2 years to the Victorian Environment Assessment Council to enable it to undertake these important inquiries.

Point Nepean

Labor totally opposes the Federal Liberal Government's plans to sell surplus defence land at Point Nepean. The land should be made safe by the Howard Government, as was the case in relation to defence land on Sydney Harbour.

The Bracks Government has put the Commonwealth Government on notice that the site lies within a green wedge under our *Melbourne 2030* planning strategy and that sale of the land would be against state planning laws.

Labor will protect this highly valued peninsula for the public by including the vegetated areas of the surplus defence land at Point Nepean in the Mornington Peninsula National Park.

This will protect the land for future generations and we will require the Commonwealth Government to fix site contamination issues and accept liability for unexploded ordinance.

FUNDING COMMITMENTS

RECURRENT INITIATIVES	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	TOTAL
A New future for the Otways	\$8m	\$3m	\$3m		\$14m
Plantations Incentives Strategy		\$3m	\$3m	\$3m	\$9m
New Park Rangers	\$5.2m	\$5.2m	\$5.2m	\$5.2m	\$20.8m
Weeds and Pest Control on public land, including National Parks	\$3.5m	\$3.5m	\$3.5m	\$3.5m	\$14m
Boost to Victorian Environmental Assessment Council	\$0.5m	\$0.5m			\$1m
<i>Less funds from existing departmental resources</i>					
<i>New Park Rangers</i>	<i>-\$1.2m</i>	<i>-\$1.2m</i>	<i>-\$1.2m</i>	<i>-\$1.2m</i>	<i>-\$4.8m</i>
<i>Weeds and Pest Control on public land, including National Parks</i>	<i>-\$1m</i>	<i>-\$1m</i>	<i>-\$1m</i>	<i>-\$1m</i>	<i>-\$4m</i>
TOTAL IMPACT ON OPERATING SURPLUS	\$15m	\$13m	\$12.5m	\$9.5m	\$50m

For further details on Labor's policies and team, please contact
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