



Anglesea Heath

Bushwalking Position Paper

Parks Victoria would like to provide opportunities for bushwalking in the Great Otway National Park (Anglesea Heath). Three trails have been identified for bushwalkers to enjoy the heathlands – an experience that is currently not offered. Community feedback on the options will help to inform where trails are located in the future.

Summary

Bushwalking is an important visitor experience in the Great Otway National Park. With no designated trails at present in the Anglesea Heath, finding ways for bushwalkers to appreciate the heathlands is a priority.

Parks Victoria has reviewed the current network of formal and informal tracks in the Anglesea Heath to understand how sustainable bushwalking opportunities can be created. Trails should allow visitors to experience the park's unique values without impacting on these values. Where possible, trails should also be complemented by suitable facilities for visitors to use.

This paper outlines requirements and options to support bushwalking in the Anglesea Heath.

Context

Parks Victoria recognises the importance of connecting people to parks by providing opportunities to enjoy and understand Victoria's natural beauty and cultural heritage. The organisation's strategy, **Shaping Our Future**, says this can be achieved through the improved access provided by environmentally sensitive bushwalking trails and associated visitor facilities.

The **Great Otway National Park Management Plan** identifies the need to provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy a diverse range of bushwalking experiences. Trails and bushwalking activities should have minimal impact on park values and on other park users.

Bushwalking objectives

The community identified their support for bushwalking opportunities and sensitively designed recreation infrastructure as part of the **Anglesea Futures Land Use Framework** consultation process. This has informed Parks Victoria's approach.

The following objectives have been developed to manage the integration of the Anglesea Heath into the Great Otway National Park:

1. To create opportunities for bushwalkers to enjoy the park by establishing formal bushwalking trails or shared use trails, as well as facilities which complement bushwalking e.g. day visitor areas, picnic areas or scenic lookouts
2. To design trails that are low impact, allow bushwalkers to experience the heathland, and are easily accessible both now and in the future e.g. trails that link to recreation and community areas in the former coal mine and surrounding areas
3. To develop the Heathland Bushwalking Trail in the Bald Hills area, with an associated viewing platform so visitors can look across the heathland.

What we are seeing

Visitors regularly wish to bushwalk in the Anglesea Heath however there are no trails officially identified or set aside for this use. This means bushwalkers must currently use the road network or informal tracks, which deters them, and creates risks with motor vehicles, and limits opportunities to experience the heathlands.

What is proposed and why

Parks Victoria is proposing three sites for bushwalking. The main proposal is the **Heathland Bushwalking Trail**. The majority of this trail will be accessed only by bushwalkers, with a small section to be shared with mountain bikers on the Alcoa Boundary Track. As well as providing access to the management vehicle track, it will include a remote section of existing trail on the western side of Bald Hills Road (formerly Salt Creek Track).

This 5 km circuit walk will be easily accessed from the Anglesea township and features a viewing platform on the Alcoa Boundary Track, providing bushwalkers with sweeping views of the heathlands. A longer bushwalk of 8 km is also proposed, connecting to future visitor sites and tracks identified in the Anglesea Futures Land Use Framework and Alcoa's Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan.

Two other bushwalking opportunities are also proposed. **Harrisons Track South Shared Use Trail** will be shared with mountain bikers while **Haggarts Bushwalking Circuit** will be in part shared with mountain bikers and will connect to the former rifle range (a potential site for visitor facilities, as discussed in the Visitor Facilities Position Paper).

It is important that bushwalking trails in the Anglesea Heath readily connect to areas accessed by the community – both now and in the future. The proposed trails will use existing tracks and be serviced by infrastructure designed to minimise environmental and visual impacts. The location of all proposed trails and associated facilities are shown on the attached map.

How these changes may affect you

Proposed changes to the track network will reduce public vehicle access to three tracks in order to provide a safe and appropriate area for bushwalking and other active recreation, such as mountain biking. The Mountain Biking Position Paper and the Trail Biking and Four Wheel Driving Position Paper provide information on how these activities will be affected by the proposed changes.

What do you think?

- What aspects of Anglesea Heath are attractive to bushwalkers?
- What do you think of the Heathland Bushwalking Trail and viewing platform proposal shown on the map?
- What do you think of the other bushwalking concepts identified e.g. Harrisons Track South Shared Use Trail and Haggarts Bushwalking Trail?
- Are there additional areas where bushwalking activities should be considered? If so, where is most appropriate?
- What type of visitor facilities would you like to see developed to complement bushwalking? Where should they be located?

Have your say on the Great Otway National Park (Anglesea Heath)

Parks Victoria is interested in your thoughts. You can contribute by:

- Visiting the Parks Victoria stand at Anglesea Riverbank Market on Saturday 12 January (5:30-8pm)
- Attending a drop-in session on Wednesday 16 January (5-7:30pm) or Saturday 2 February (11-1:30pm) at Anglesea Hall - 1A McMillan Street, Anglesea
- Completing a survey at engage.vic.gov.au or
- Emailing your comments to Angleseaheath@parks.vic.gov.au

For more information go to www.engage.vic.gov.au

Anglesea Heath Proposed Walking Tracks

-  Great Otway National Park (Anglesea Heath)
 -  National Parks, Reserves, & Forest Park
 -  Former Mining Area
 -  Private Property
- ### Walking Tracks
-  Heathland Bushwalking Trail Proposal - Short Walk (5km)
 -  Heathland Bushwalking Trail Proposal - Long Walk (8km)
 -  Haggarts Bushwalking Circuit (10km)
 -  Harrisons Track South Bushwalking and Mountain Bike Trail Concept (5km)
 -  Proposed Parking
 -  Proposed Viewing Platform
 -  Gum Flats (Rifle Range) Future Use Area
 -  Area 9 Set aside for active recreation (mountain biking) in the Anglesea Futures Land Use Framework

