



# Anglesea Heath

## Visitor Facilities Position Paper

Parks Victoria plans to improve the visitor experience in the Great Otway National Park (Anglesea Heath) by developing better visitor facilities. Community feedback is invited on the facilities proposed and their ideal location, so they can provide the maximum benefit to visitors and the least impact on park values.

### Summary

There are currently few facilities for visitors in the Anglesea Heath. Parks Victoria proposes to create facilities which will encourage visitors to enjoy the area, appreciate the heathlands and undertake their favourite recreational activities. This infrastructure will support the activities on offer within the Anglesea Heath, have minimal impact and be economically viable.

This paper outlines the requirements and future opportunities for visitor use facilities in the Anglesea Heath.

### Objectives

Parks Victoria's strategy, **Shaping Our Future**, recognises that new opportunities for enjoying and understanding Victoria's natural beauty and cultural heritage can be created by sensitively designed visitor facilities. This strategy promotes developing contemporary park facilities in the locations that are most important to visitor experiences.

The **Great Otway National Park Management Plan** supports designated visitor sites for sustainable recreation, education and enjoyment of the park. These sites can also act as places from which visitors can access park features and other recreation areas. Visitor facilities should support a range of parks users (i.e. people undertaking different recreational activities) and they must have a low impact on park values.

### Objectives for visitor use facilities

The **Anglesea Futures Land Use Framework** was informed by extensive community consultation. The direction determined for the Great Otway National Park area (incorporating the Anglesea Heath) was that recreation infrastructure and facilities should be sensitively designed and located to avoid and minimise impacts on native vegetation. This includes using existing tracks and other disturbed areas, an idea which 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. Develop suitable visitor sites (e.g. day use or camping areas, picnic facilities, viewing platforms) that support appropriate, sustainable and safe visitor use with minimal impact on park values
2. Establish a day visitor area or campground within the five hectare cleared site on Gum Flats Rd (old Geelong Rifle Range)
3. Establish a viewing platform, near Bald Hills Track, that provides visitors sweeping views of the heathland and access to the proposed Heathland Bushwalking Trail.

## What we are seeing

Community members frequently look for opportunities to enjoy the Anglesea Heath for a range of activities including nature appreciation, bushwalking, bike riding, mountain biking and camping. The current lack of facilities to support these uses means that many people do not visit the area and miss out on experiencing this special place.

## What is proposed and why

The old Geelong Rifle Range (pictured below) is located on Gum Flats Road, Anglesea. Parks Victoria is seeking feedback on how this five hectare site could be used in the future. The location has great potential for community benefit and options include a day use area with toilets and picnic tables, a campground or a place to set off for a bushwalk.



Parks Victoria is proposing to provide bushwalking access to three management vehicle tracks and a 3km section of existing trail on the western side of Bald Hills Road (formerly Salt Creek Track). Together this will form the proposed Heathland Bushwalking Trail. The concept includes developing a viewing platform on the bushwalking trail (Alcoa Boundary Track), for views across the heathlands. A viewing area is also proposed on an existing cleared area at the corner of Forest Road and Powerline Track. This site is currently within Alcoa's lease hold and is subject to planning considerations.

Visitor infrastructure will be sensitively designed and, where possible, located on land that is already cleared or disturbed. Refer to the attached map for more detail.

## What do you think?

- What type of visitor facilities would you like to see developed?
- How will these facilities complement uses and activities identified for the Anglesea Heath e.g. recreation or conservation?
- What do you think of the proposed facilities shown on the map?
- What do you think of the proposal to establish a day visitor area and/or a campground at the old rifle range site?
- Are there other areas where facilities may be suitable?

## 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](https://engage.vic.gov.au) or
- Emailing your comments to [Angleseaheath@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:Angleseaheath@parks.vic.gov.au)

For more information go to [www.engage.vic.gov.au](https://www.engage.vic.gov.au)

