Northern Plains Ecological Grazing Program

Frequently Asked Questions – 10 November 2026

Grazing opportunities in parks

The Parks Victoria ecological grazing program uses livestock grazing as a land management tool to maintain healthy grasslands and support conservation outcomes.

Why is Parks Victoria offering grazing agreements?

Grazing can be an effective, cost-efficient and sustainable management tool in certain locations. It complements other land management activities such as burning, weed control and revegetation.

Who can apply for a grazing agreement?

Applications are welcome from suitably qualified and experienced livestock producers who demonstrate their ability to meet agreement requirements, including animal welfare, environmental management and compliance obligations.

How do the agreements work?

Farmers are contracted to provide grazing services at designated sites. Parks Victoria determines the appropriate stocking rates, timing and duration of grazing for each site, considering seasonal conditions and conservation objectives.

Contracted farmers provide the livestock and are responsible for stock management activities, including animal husbandry, movements and transportation.

What types of livestock are permitted?

To date, sheep and cattle have been used as part of the grazing program. The type permitted depends on the site and agreement requirements. Information on preferred livestock is listed for each grazing area.

Where are the grazing areas located?

Grazing areas are located across the Patho Plains and Lower Avoca Plains of Northern Victoria. Site maps and property information is provided on the Parks Victoria webpage and as part of the agreement documentation.

How long are the grazing agreements for?

Agreement terms are for three years.

How are grazing opportunities advertised?

Opportunities are advertised and via Parks Victoria channels and other relevant industry networks to provide an open and transparent process.

Is there a cost to apply?

No. There is no cost to apply.

How will applications be assessed?

Applications are assessed against criteria including:

- Grazing management compatibility
- Experience grazing native pastures
- Communication and collaboration abilities
- Conservation knowledge and experience

Will local graziers receive preference?

Applications are open to suitably qualified farmers. Applicants will be evaluated against a range of factors, including biosecurity considerations and their capacity to regularly move or tend to livestock.

Assessment criteria are outlined in the grazing application to ensure a fair and equitable process.

What insurance will I need?

Successful applicants will be required to maintain a Public Liability Cover of $20 million.

Are water and fencing provided?

Available infrastructure varies between sites, but most sites will have water supplied. Details regarding fencing, water availability and access arrangements are provided for each grazing area.

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Is there access to stockyards and loading ramps?

Stockyards and loading ramps are available only at a limited number of grazing areas. Generally, this infrastructure is not provided.

Parks Victoria has some portable yards available for use where stock owners would be responsible for collection, use and return in clean working condition.

Parks Victoria are open to negotiating use of alternate infrastructure with stock owners with due attention to biosecurity and cultural heritage protections.

Who is responsible for weed control?

It will depend on the location, weed species and size of infestation.

In most instances, the contracted farmer will be responsible for controlling common agricultural weeds and Park Victoria will take responsibility for high threat or large-scale infestations like African Boxthorn and Gazania.

Weed control responsibilities for grazing areas will be listed in agreement conditions and differ from site to site. Ongoing communication between Parks Victoria and the Stock Owner will be essential for monitoring and controlling priority weeds as needed throughout the term of the grazing agreement.

Parks Victoria will also implement a process where the Stock Owner will be provided pre-approval for treating specific weeds by spot spraying disturbed weedy areas, for example within 10 metres of infrastructure such as fences and watering points.

Weed treatment plans for other locations will be specific to the individual grazing area and negotiated between Parks Victoria and the Stock Owner, based on the above principles and in alignment with the grazing agreement.

What biosecurity requirements apply?

Parks Victoria takes biosecurity very seriously. Stock owners will be expected to comply with all relevant livestock identification, animal health and biosecurity legislation.

In addition to the standard obligations, program specific requirements have been included in the Agreement. These conditions protect the environmental values and the health of stock and native fauna across the Grasslands.

How will seasonal conditions be managed?

Parks Victoria will adjust grazing requirements in response to changing seasonal conditions, environmental factors, animal welfare concerns, wildfire risk, flood risk or operational requirements.

How long are sites generally grazed for?

The duration of grazing varies significantly and is influenced by numerous factors such as seasonal conditions, ecological objectives, stock type, stock density and time of year.

In dry years, a site may be grazed for just a few weeks or sometimes not at all, whereas in very wet years several months of grazing may be required to achieve the same objective.

Can grazing agreements be terminated?

Yes. Agreements contain provisions allowing termination where conditions are not met or where operational, environmental or safety requirements require grazing to cease. Either party can also suspend or terminate the agreement with 14 days' notice.

Can I inspect grazing areas before applying?

Site inspections may be arranged by appointment. Applicants can also visit grazing areas independently.

How are the grazing agreements different to leases or licenses?

Unlike a grazing lease or license, these agreements do not provide any entitlement or exclusive access to the holder of the agreement.

Grazing of the site is at the discretion of Parks Victoria and is delivered in a way that prioritises ecological outcomes.

What if I'm unhappy with the outcome of my application?

Most concerns can be resolved through early, respectful conversations at a local level. If a concern cannot be resolved informally, Parks Victoria's grievance process provides a clear and confidential pathway for support and escalation.

Applications

Interested graziers are encouraged to apply to participate in the program.

Timelines

Program stages	Timing
Applications open	29 October 2026
Applications close	**18 November 2026**
Grazing questions close	4 November 2026
Updated FAQs published	11 November 2026
Assessment, shortlisting & arranging interviews	19 Nov- 2 December 2026
Interviews	3 – 8 December 2026
Successful applicants notified	16 December 2026
Agreements executed	January 2027
Unsuccessful applicants notified	February 2027
Graziers Inductions	January- March 2027
Commence grazing	March 2027