

Macedon Viewscape Project

Community update | April 2026



Project update

Parks Victoria is proceeding with the plan to reinstate views at the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross, following community consultation in July 2023.

Parks Victoria understands that this project is of strong interest to the community and there are different viewpoints about how to manage the highly valued Mount Macedon landscape.

Background

The Mount Macedon Memorial Cross is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register for historic, social and aesthetic reasons.

Since the Ash Wednesday bushfires in 1983 considerable tree growth below the cross is now obscuring views. Despite recent works by Parks Victoria, regrowth has continued to obstruct views to and from the Cross.

This project to reinstate some views to Melbourne and from Mount Macedon was deemed by the Victorian Government to be a project of State significance, and Parks Victoria received funding as part of the Victorian Government's Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Program to restore some of these views.

Originally, the area around the Memorial Cross

provided views in many directions, however the reinstated views Parks Victoria has planned will not be as wide, balancing the expectation for a view, aesthetics and the environment.

What works are planned?

Vegetation removal to the minimum extent necessary will be undertaken to re-instate some of the views to and from the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross in accordance with the endorsed Site Environmental Management Plan.

Why are the works important?

The Macedon Ranges are classified as a Distinctive Area and Landscape under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and are subject to the Macedon Ranges Statement of Planning Policy 2019. The Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve has been listed on the Victorian Heritage Register since 1994. The area is recognised for its significant heritage values.

There is a heritage covenant over the Cross Reserve which outlines the expectation that views can be enjoyed from Melbourne and looking out from the cross. These works will reinstate these views, generally consistent, but to a lesser extent than is identified in Heritage Victoria – Statement of Significance – H1027 and the Heritage Impact Statement – Mount Macedon Memorial Cross (H1027)

How is Parks Victoria working with the Traditional Owners?

The Macedon Ranges are located on Wurundjeri Country, and Parks Victoria has engaged with the Wurundjeri People to provide them with an understanding of the Viewscape re-instatement project. Relevant Parks Victoria staff involved in the project received a Cultural Heritage Induction, delivered by the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

How has Parks Victoria engaged the wider public?

Parks Victoria recognises that the community has strong connections to the Macedon Ranges and has been engaging with key stakeholders and community groups to inform them of the planned works.

The Hon Sonya Kilkeny MP, Minister for Planning approved the permit including that the consultation requirements at Clause 52.30-5 of the Macedon Planning Scheme have been satisfied.

What is the plan for removing vegetation and how much will be removed?

The works will be undertaken using a range of techniques aimed at minimising ground disturbance, with no excavation planned in the works area. Locally indigenous shrubs and grasses will be retained wherever possible. Larger trees will be lopped at the base to prevent ground disturbance. The vegetation removed will be reused in the park as mulch, to reseed areas and as habitat for wildlife.

How are Snow Gums being managed through the works?

A minimal amount of re-growth Snow Gums will be removed in accordance with the approved permit and endorsed plans to allow views to and from the cross and to help protect the historical Mount Macedon Memorial Cross during a bushfire. A revegetation program is also being planned to plant snow gums in and near the park.

How will Parks Victoria minimise the impacts to wildlife?

All Parks Victoria operations are carefully planned and managed to meet the strict animal welfare guidelines. A suitably qualified Fauna Spotter Catcher will be employed to identify and manage any wildlife issues during tree maintenance works.

Will there be additional planting during the works?

A tree-less montane grassland is to develop naturally in the project area. Parks Victoria will monitor the site to see if additional plantings are beneficial.

When will the works be undertaken?

Works are expected to commence Monday 13 April 2026 and will be completed late April, subject to weather, contractor availability and other on-site conditions. Works will be occurring Monday to Friday and will not be scheduled over the weekend and Public Holidays.

What is the future maintenance plan to ensure the view is maintained?

With the way the works have been designed, it is expected that the views will require limited annual maintenance because of the vegetation types and the topography of the site.

What has been the approval process for these works?

The Mount Macedon Memorial Cross View Lines Project was deemed to be of state significance and is funded by the Victorian Government. As a result, Parks Victoria determined that the most appropriate course of action was to progress the development and delivery of the project under Clause 52.30 (State Projects), which provides an approvals pathway for projects undertaken by or on behalf of, jointly or in partnership with, or funded by the State of Victoria or a public authority, including works on Crown land.

Parks Victoria formally submitted an application and associated planning reports on 26 May 2025 for the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross View Lines Project. The proposal will remove the minimum extent of vegetation, including Snow Gums, necessary to restore view lines to and from the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross.

The Hon Sonya Kilkeny MP determined that the project met the criteria for a State Project under Clause 52.30-2 (State Project decision) and that the consultation requirements under Clause 52.30-5 (Consultation requirements) had been satisfied. Accordingly, a planning permit was endorsed, subject to Parks Victoria complying with the requirements of the endorsed Site Environmental Management Plan.

Other works on site

The Mount Macedon Cross Committee is currently undertaking works immediately around the cross to improve the visitor experience. This area is managed under a Committee of Management and not managed by Parks Victoria.

The Mount Macedon Tearooms are closed for renovations, however a coffee cart is available on site for visitors.

Further information

If you require additional information contact Parks Victoria on info@parks.vic.gov.au or call 13 1963.