

# Protecting East Gippsland's old growth and iconic forests



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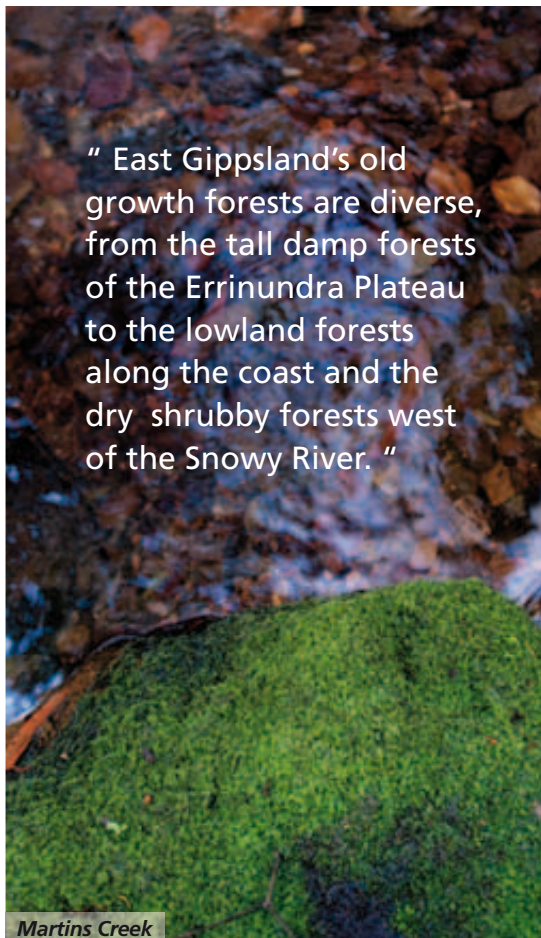
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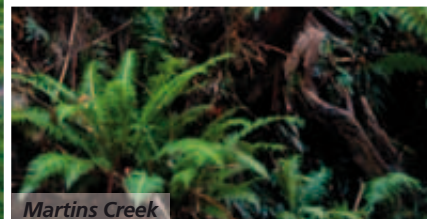


*Martins Creek*

“ East Gippsland’s old  
growth forests are diverse,  
from the tall damp forests  
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*Martins Creek*



*Martins Creek*

# PROTECTING EAST GIPPSLAND'S OLD GROWTH AND ICONIC FORESTS

## SAVING ICONIC VICTORIAN FORESTS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



East Gippsland's old growth forests are diverse, from the tall damp forests of the Errinundra Plateau to the lowland forests along the coast and the dry shrubby forests west of the Snowy River. Each of the old growth forests is environmentally significant and the national park and conservation reserve system in East Gippsland represents this diversity.

Already, more than a third of East Gippsland - over 400,000 hectares - is protected in national parks and conservation reserves including the iconic Snowy River, Errinundra and Croajingolong National Parks. Parks and reserves protect many of Victoria's unique natural assets including old growth forests, rainforest sites of significance and threatened plants and animals.



In 2006, the Victorian Government made a commitment to:

- further protect Victoria's natural environment by adding 41,000 hectares of State forest to the national park and conservation reserve system in East Gippsland; and
- continue supporting local communities by ensuring no loss of resources or jobs for the timber industry.

The Victorian Government has worked with key stakeholders to make sure that expanding Victoria's national parks and conservation reserve system enhances protection of the natural environment without impacting on employment in local communities.

The result is that more than 45,000 hectares, 4,000 hectares more than originally proposed, will now be added to East Gippsland's national park and conservation reserve system. This will provide greater protection, more diversity of forests and habitat types and enhanced connectivity between parks and reserves.

The additions include:

- 16,000 hectares to the Snowy River National Park, including the Yalmy and a link to the Errinundra National Park that incorporates the summit of Brown Mountain.
- 11,000 hectares to the Errinundra National Park, including the iconic Goolengook forest.
- 850 hectares to the Croajingolong National Park, including rare lowland old growth forest.
- 300 hectares to the Martins Creek Nature Conservation Reserve, which links to the expanded Snowy River National Park.
- A new 7,500 hectare Tara Range Park, linked to the expanded Snowy River National Park.
- More than 9,500 hectares of new and expanded nature conservation reserves across East Gippsland, representing the diversity of old growth forest and habitat in the region.

Consolidation of some existing parks and reserves in East Gippsland will also occur.

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## PROTECTING OLD GROWTH FORESTS

Victoria's old growth forests are visually spectacular and are home to a wide variety of plants and animals. Large, significant areas of State forest are being added to East Gippsland's national park and conservation reserve system to protect old growth forest values and provide for future old growth forests.

## PROTECTING RAINFORESTS AND THREATENED SPECIES

East Gippsland is home to magnificent warm and cool temperate rainforests, which contain some of Victoria's most unique plants and animals, including the Errinundra Pepper and Kanooka.

National, state and regional rainforest sites of significance will be protected within the new and expanded national park and conservation reserves, including the iconic Dingo Creek, Sassafras Basin, Martins Creek and 32 Mile.

East Gippsland's new and expanded national park and conservation reserve will enhance protection of many rare and threatened plants and animals including the Long-footed Potoroo, Spot-tailed Quoll, Powerful Owl, Large Brown Tree Frog, Slender Tree Fern, River Hook Sedge and Trailing Guinea Flower.

Important areas of Victoria's native grasslands will also receive greater protection in the new and expanded national parks and conservation reserve system in East Gippsland.

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32 Mile Rainforest



Combienbar River



Errinundra



Martins Creek



Errinundra

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## ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY ACROSS EAST GIPPSLAND

The additions to the new national park and conservation reserve system create important links, such as the new areas connecting the Errinundra National Park, Snowy River National Park and Martins Creek Flora and Fauna Reserve.

This is the most prominent example of the philosophy underpinning the design of the new and expanded national park and conservation reserve system, which will enhance connectivity across the East Gippsland landscape. Creating improved linkages between new and existing parks and reserves is critical for native birds and animals to move around, forage for food, breed and migrate.

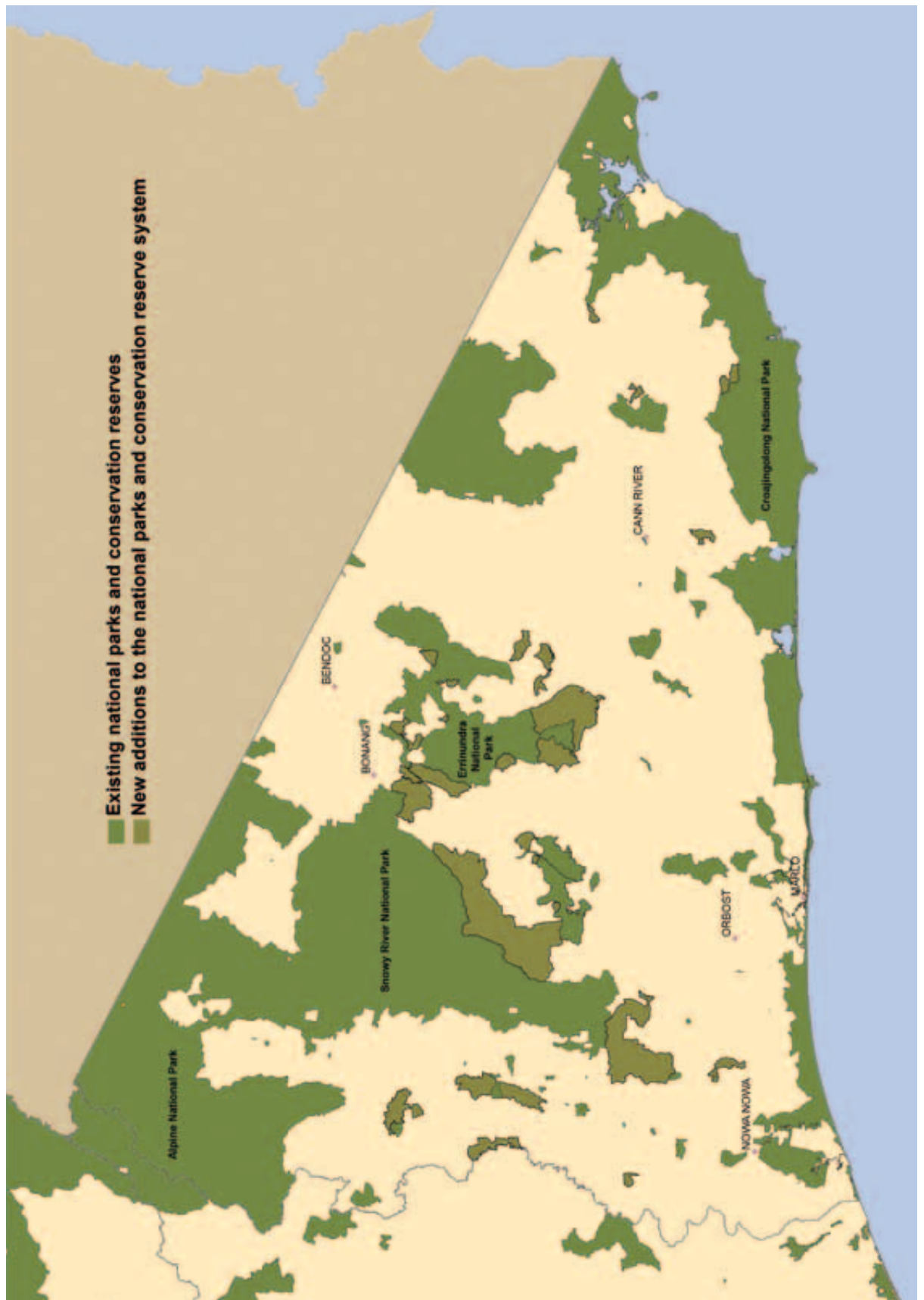
## MAINTAINING A SUSTAINABLE TIMBER INDUSTRY

Adding 45,000 hectares of State forest into East Gippsland's national park and conservation reserve system permanently protects around 50 percent of public land in the region from timber harvesting.

The new and expanded national park and conservation reserve system will see the Victorian Government fulfil its commitment to protect the last significant stands of old growth forest in East Gippsland. Some areas, however, will remain available for sustainable timber production. These areas are either small or fragmented, or contain a forest type that is already well represented within Victoria's parks and reserves.

East Gippsland's timber industry will continue to support many local communities in the region with no net loss of resources or jobs resulting from the new and expanded national park and conservation reserve system.

# PROTECTING EAST GIPPSLAND'S OLD GROWTH AND ICONIC FORESTS



## PROTECTING EAST GIPPSLAND'S OLD GROWTH AND ICONIC FORESTS

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Combienbar River



Combienbar River



Martins Creek



Combienbar River



Combienbar River



Errinundra



Alstergrens

East Gippsland's new and expanded national parks and conservation reserves will provide greater protection for Victoria's unique natural assets and boost tourism in the area.

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more images of the new and expanded national parks and conservation reserves and more information about Victoria's natural environment visit the Department of Sustainability and Environment at [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au) or call 136 186.

