

## **ADVICE ON ASPECTS OF PUBLIC LAND USE INFORMATION**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

---

Pursuant to section 26B of the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001*, the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change hereby requests the Council to provide advice on:

- a) data on recreational activities on Victoria's public land and any significant knowledge gaps relating to those activities
- b) improvements to the VEACRECs25 dataset.

This request is for technical advice on aspects of public land use information and does not extend to recommending changes to public land use.

#### **a) data on recreational activities on Victoria's public land and any significant knowledge gaps relating to those activities**

A range of data on different recreational activities on Victoria's public land is required to support government planning and evidence-based decision-making.

The advice sought is to compile an inventory of statewide data on the broad range of recreational activities on Victoria's public land and identify any significant knowledge gaps. VEAC is requested to provide advice on:

- data coverage and availability (both geographically and by recreational activity)
- data quality, including any inconsistencies
- data custodianship
- age of the data
- suitability of the data for Victorian Government planning, reporting and decision-making
- knowledge gaps.

#### **b) Improving the VEACRECs25 dataset**

VEACRECs25 is a dataset maintained by VEAC that provides a spatial representation at 1:25,000 scale of the public land use decisions of the Victorian Government or Parliament, including the government-accepted recommendations of VEAC and its predecessors (the Environment Conservation Council and the Land Conservation Council). VEACRECs25 is a key tool to help land managers and the community understand the purpose for which public land is to be managed.

VEAC is requested to provide advice on issues and gaps in the VEACRECs25 dataset and how this important tool could be improved, including:

- any issues that need to be resolved to ensure Victoria has an accurate record of agreed public land use;
- any aspects of the current data that need clarification;

- the broad types and extent of uncategorised public land<sup>1</sup>
- any improvements to the functionality of VEACRECs25 to assist public land managers and support future legislative reforms; and
- establishing an online accessible repository of relevant information sources for the government decisions represented in VEACRECs25.

The government has committed to modernise Victoria's public land legislation in the *Victorian Government Response to VEAC's Statewide Assessment of Public Land Final Report*. The improved VEACRECs25 dataset will assist in the transition to the new legislative framework.

### **Reporting**

VEAC must provide reports containing its advice within 12 months from the date of the request, with separate reports for topics (a) and (b). VEAC must also provide a progress update on its work within 6 months of the request and make this information publicly available.

---

<sup>1</sup> Uncategorised public land is a broad category for which no specific public land use has been recommended by VEAC or its predecessors. Victoria is estimated to have less than 65,000 hectares of uncategorised public land.