

River Red Gum Forests Investigation

INFORMATION SHEET

Recreational hunting

- VEAC has recommended the following areas be available for recreational hunting:
 - 23 wildlife areas (state game reserves) comprising approx 6000 hectares, including high value hunting sites such as Hird Swamp, Lake Murphy, Cullens Lake, Mansfield Swamp, Gaynor Swamp and Reedy Swamp (Shepparton).
 - State forests areas including Gunbower State Forest
 - popular creeklines recommended as public land water frontage reserves (including parts of the Gunbower Creek, Lower Loddon & Little Murray Rivers, and Pyramid and Bannagher Creeks)
 - water distribution and drainage areas – including Lakes Kelly, Tutchewop, Racecourse, Charm and William.
- Adequate environmental water will significantly enhance recreational hunting opportunities on wetlands in the Kerang Lakes and Corop lakes system which are currently dry.
- Although recreational hunting is not permitted in national parks, managed hunting may be authorised as part of a pest animal control program. VEAC acknowledges the partnerships formed between hunting bodies and park managers in other parts of the state to allow controlled shooting of pest animals. Similar partnerships could be considered in River Red Gum parks.
- VEAC acknowledges the role of hunting groups in contributing to the conservation and management of wetlands, and assistance in the acquisition of some wetland areas.
- Twelve existing state game reserves, that are currently available for hunting, are recommended to be added to conservation land use categories such as national parks, which exclude hunting. The aim has been to secure examples of wetlands that are currently under-represented in protected areas in the investigation area. VEAC used a 'paired approach', so that for each state game reserve where hunting is recommended to be excluded, a state game reserve available for hunting is retained nearby.
- As a result of VEAC's recommendations, a potential reduction in duck hunters visiting the investigation area is estimated to lead to a net economic cost of up to \$0.49 million and 6 (equivalent) jobs in the region, particularly in the Kerang area. This would be largely due to reduced spending on fuel, accommodation and other retail services by visiting duck hunters.
- Recommended improvements to environmental water regimes will enhance many wetlands and therefore improve hunting opportunities for available areas, potentially reducing the estimated economic effects.
- VEAC's economic consultants estimate a net economic gain of about \$0.66 million for increased wetland protection.
- VEAC notes that ten out of the last 13 seasons have been modified in response to environmental conditions, including cancellations of duck hunting seasons in 1995, 2003 and 2007.

A table is provided overleaf listing the state game reserves that remain available for hunting and those that become unavailable for hunting in VEAC's recommendations.

Existing State Game Reserves to remain available for hunting

Heywood Lake
Lake Mannaor
Tutchewop
Cullens Lake
Duck Lake North
Little Lake Charm
Stevenson Swamp
Lake Murphy
Lake Lyndger
Two Mile Swamp
Westblades Swamp
*Harts Swamp
McDonald Swamp
Hird Swamp
Baillieu Lagoon
Murphy Swamp
Corop
Gaynor Swamp
Mansfield Swamp
Murchison Lagoon
Reedy Swamp
Big Reedy Lagoon
Great Spectacle Lake Complex
[including Little Spectacle, Round, Tobacco & Little Lakes]

* Recommended as new State Game Reserve

Notes:

1. Some wetland areas currently within state forests or public land water frontages will become unavailable if recommended to become part of a park or conservation reserve.
2. Areas where no change to public land status is recommended will remain generally available for hunting – including public land water frontages, state forests and many water storage areas around Kerang.

Existing State Game Reserves recommended to become unavailable for hunting

Woolshed Swamp
Johnson Swamp
Koorangie (The Marshes & Avoca Floodway)
Lake Elizabeth
Lake Wandella
Lake Yando
Tang Tang Swamp
Thunder Swamp
The Meadows (Turrumberry North)
Wallenjoe Swamp
Cemetery Forest/Lake (Kerang)
Kanyapella

Other popular wetlands currently hunted to become unavailable for hunting*

Lake Leaghur
Town, Back and Fosters Swamps
Loch Garry
Lake Boort
Lake Meran