

# Victorian Crown Land Area Statement

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## Crown land in Victoria

Crown land broadly refers to all land that has not been 'alienated' from the Crown (typically by way of a land title). Victorian Crown land can be either unreserved or reserved and is managed to provide environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits to the people of Victoria. Reserved Crown land is that land set aside for specific public purposes, while unreserved Crown land has not been set aside for a particular public purpose. In this Area Statement, the term "Crown land" is used to describe the terrestrial component only.

As of August 2013, the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) is responsible for managing 7.9 million hectares of Crown land (approximately 35% of Victoria) and a further 136,000 hectares of other marine public parks and reserves. Table 1 shows the areas of different Crown land categories (tenure) in Victoria.

Table 1. Victorian Crown land area by tenure (August 2013)

Land Category	Area (hectares)*
Parks and conservation reserves	3,982,000
State forest	3,138,000
Other Crown land	796,000
<b>Total Crown land</b>	<b>7,916,000</b>

\* rounded to nearest 1,000 hectares

A description of each tenure category follows below. Figure 1 maps the distribution of Crown land throughout Victoria.

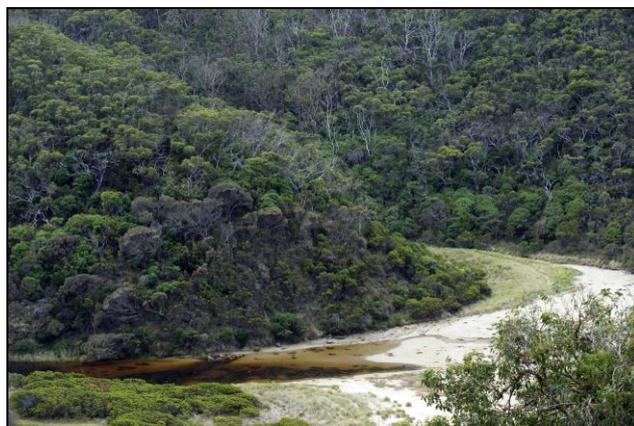
### Parks and Conservation reserves

Parks and conservation reserves make up 3.982 million hectares (approximately 50% of all Crown land, covering 18% of Victoria). This category is managed primarily for ecosystem and biodiversity protection, as well as tourism and recreation and the protection of cultural and historic values. Parks and conservation reserves comprise a variety of land use categories, including National, State, Wilderness and Regional Parks; nature conservation reserves; and Historic and Natural Features Reserves. Approximately 90% of Victorian parks and conservation reserves (by area) are assigned protected area status category I or II, under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)<sup>1</sup>.

### State forest

Comprising 3.138 million hectares (approximately 40% of Crown land, covering 14% of Victoria), State forest is managed to balance a variety of purposes.

These include the conservation of flora and fauna, protection of water catchments and water supply, the provision of timber through sustainable forestry, as well as the protection of landscape, archaeological and historic values, and the provision of recreational and educational opportunities. Forest management zones are used to determine which types of activities can take place in State forests.



Lower Parker River © Alison Pouliot

### Other Crown land

Other Crown land makes up 796,000 hectares (10% of all Crown land) and comprises all remaining Crown land outside of State forest and parks and conservation reserves. Other Crown land categories include Commonwealth Government managed land, reserves managed by committees of management or local government, metropolitan parks and Heritage River areas, together with land held under lease or licence from the Crown.

## Calculating the Crown land area

Crown land areas are calculated in a Geographic Information System by combining multiple DEPI corporate digital maps. These maps include Forest Management Zones (FMZ100) and Public Land Management (PLM25), which can be found at <http://www.data.vic.gov.au/>. Changes in the classification of Crown land (such as the transfer of State forest to a national park), as well as improvements in the accuracy and precision of Crown land maps, will be reflected in annual updates to the Victorian Crown land Area Statement.

This Area Statement has been produced by the Knowledge and Governance Branch, Land Management Policy Division, DEPI. For further information, contact Peter Chronopoulos [peter.chronopoulos@depi.vic.gov.au](mailto:peter.chronopoulos@depi.vic.gov.au), (03) 9637 8856.

1. Refer: Dudley, N. (Editor) (2008). *Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. x + 86pp.

# Victorian Crown land

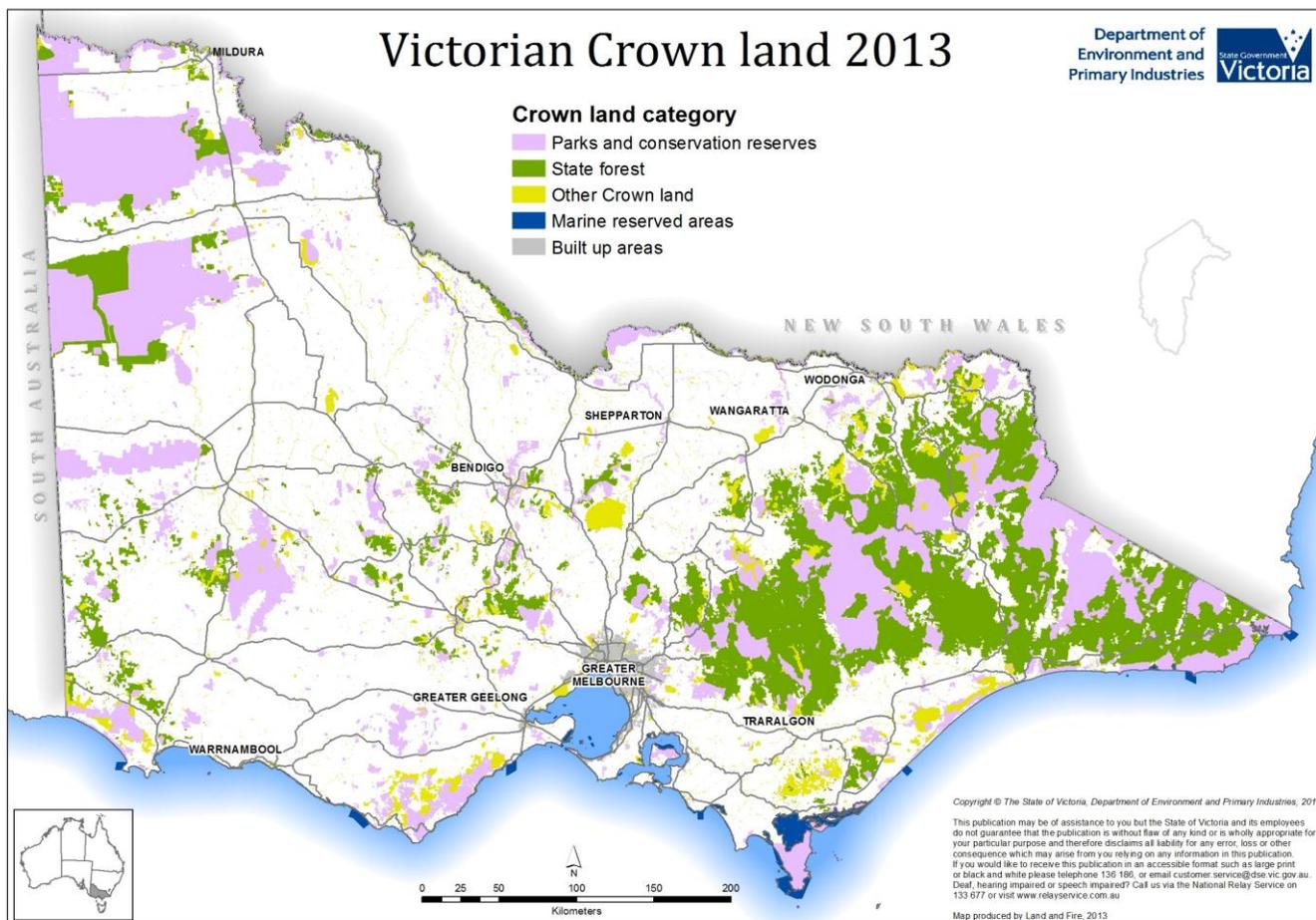


Figure 1. Map of Victoria's Crown land, 2013

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