

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Suburban Development



Getting Things Done.
Making Things Fair.

Thursday, 20 September, 2018

MAJOR INVESTMENT IN GREAT OTWAY NATIONAL PARK

The Andrews Labor Government has announced \$2.5 million to improve visitor facilities at three popular sites within the Great Otway National Park.

Minister for Environment Lily D'Ambrosio today announced that Maits Rest, Melba Gully and the Cape Otway Lightstation will benefit from upgrades that will be delivered by Parks Victoria in 2019.

The investment comes as regional Victoria continues to experience an increase in nature-based tourism.

Maits Rest, a rainforest area that receives 150,000 visitors each year, will have its popular 800-metre boardwalk upgraded with a contemporary design that will conserve its unique environment.

There will also be improvements to the site's walking tracks, pedestrian bridges, viewing platforms, carpark and visitor interpretation signage.

Melba Gully, known as the Jewel of the Otways, will undergo general improvement works and be a key destination for visitors during the works at Maits Rest.

Cape Otway Lightstation, which includes mainland Australia's oldest surviving lighthouse, will receive upgrades to its carpark and toilet facilities.

Stretching from Anglesea to Princetown and up through the Otways hinterland, the 100,000-hectare Great Otway National Park is one of Victoria's largest and most important environmental and tourism locations.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

"This investment supports one of the region's great drawcards – the Great Otway National Park."

"The national park is one of the state's most important – both in terms of its biodiversity, but also for many communities and local businesses."

Quote attributable to Minister for Tourism and Major Events John Eren

"All over Victoria we're seeing nature tourism growing in popularity, which is great for our regions. It's creating jobs, supporting local businesses and bringing money into regional economies."

Quote attributable to Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney

"These works will ensure the Great Otway National Park remains an enjoyable tourist destination for the years to come."

Quote attributable to Parks Victoria CEO Matthew Jackson

"Projects like these are essential to providing a visitor experience that encourages more people to appreciate and care for our amazing outdoor places."

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