

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Request for extension of time by Parks Victoria to make a submission on the Merrimu PSP
Date: Thursday, 9 April 2026 1:30:13 PM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)

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Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for the invitation to today's discussion about the Merrimu PSP interface with the Long Forest Flora and Fauna Reserve, touching on matters of: community access to the reserve, consideration of lot density of housing adjacent to the PSP conservation areas, and the potential for inclusion of PSP conservation areas to be incorporated into the Parks Victoria estate.

Noting today is the last day of submissions under the community consultation process, and in light of our discussion today, I am writing to flag that Parks Victoria is likely to make a submission, however we would appreciate an extension of time to do so of two weeks (by the 24th April 2026).

Can you please reply and confirm whether this extension may be granted.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Senior Land Use and Statutory Planning Officer
Southwest Regional Operations

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Southwest land use planning email: [REDACTED]

Parks Victoria

www.parks.vic.gov.au

☐ *Parks Victoria respectfully acknowledges Traditional Owners, their cultures, knowledge and their continuing connection to and cultural obligations to care for their Country.*

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22 April 2026

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Department of Transport and Planning
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Dear [REDACTED]

PARKS VICTORIA SUBMISSION – MERRIMU PRECINCT STRUCTURE PLAN (PSP)

This submission to the public consultation phase for the Merrimu PSP is made by Parks Victoria in its relevance as the land manager for the Long Forest Flora and Fauna Reserve (FFR) which neighbours the precinct. Parks Victoria was overlooked during the agency consultation phase (since concluded), which would have been the more suitable opportunity for our comments as the adjoining land manager – nonetheless, we take this opportunity to open the conversation on matters of interest for Parks Victoria with the Department of Transport and Planning.

The proposed Merrimu PSP represents a significant change of land use, directly abutting a section of the Long Forest FFR, from undeveloped land zoned for rural conservation to residential use, with over 8,000 new dwellings projected for the precinct.

The Long Forest FFR is reserved under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* for the primary purpose of conservation of native plants and animals. Its rocky woodland slopes are unique in geology and landform; the landscape supports a Bull Mallee woodland – this is the only occurrence of this species south of the Great Dividing Range. Long Forest FFR lists over 400 native plants and 160 bird species making it popular with bird watchers), and many other native animals. Dogs are not permitted in this reserve to protect this important conservation area.

Parks Victoria last had engagement with the planning of the Merrimu PSP back in 2023, however, since this time, the only engagement has been with Melbourne Water regarding drainage planning for the residential precinct. We understand the scheduling for the planning process has been recently prioritised and is moving ahead rapidly. Parks Victoria met with DTP and local government on the last official day of the Public Consultation phase (9 April 2026) to discuss a few matters, namely:

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- The planning for the interface of the PSP conservation area and Long Forest FFR – primarily regarding existing and potential access points and walking tracks through the PSP Conservation Area leading into the Parks Victoria Reserve to benefit the population within the Merrimu PSP;
- The density of housing abutting the conservation area;
- The possibility of PV taking on management of the abutting PSP conservation area.

We appreciate DTP providing a two week extension for this submission which highlights these matters, and others that Parks Victoria is interested to discuss, including:

- Provision of dog-walking areas in the PSP area to reduce likelihood of nearby residents walking dogs in Long Forest FFR;
- Design principles for the housing lots that abut the PSP conservation area of interest;
- Survey of the boundary between public and private land and the fencing treatment;
- New Parks Victoria signage required by the influx of population

Melbourne Water drainage discussions

Please note, discussions with Melbourne Water are still in progress to resolve the location of a drainage pipeline corridor; an option for a small section of pipeline was proposed by Melbourne Water to run through PV land at the southern extent of the Long Forest FFR. Melbourne Water has been advised that the Parks Victoria-managed land should be avoided and other alternatives sought, if alternatives are not viable, then the case for infrastructure within the Long Forest FFR needs to be demonstrated through a robust options assessment.

Next steps

Parks Victoria is raising these matters as needing further discussion as well as others as discussions continue. We propose a meeting with DTP to work through these issues in more detail.

Should you require further advice on this matter please contact [REDACTED], Senior Land Use and Statutory Planner, Parks Victoria Southwest Region at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Planning and Coordination Manager, Southwest
Parks Victoria