

Key Advocacy Priority:

Mt Cole & Mt Buangon Parks

Bushfire Recovery Works



Pyrenees
Shire Council

THE PRIORITY

Reinstatement of campgrounds, walking trails and visitor infrastructure damaged by the February 2024 Bayindeen–Rocky Road fire, which burned approximately 22,000 hectares across farmland, residential areas and state forest.

THE ASK

Completion of Victorian Government works including the reopening of the Ferntree, Bails, and Middle Creek campgrounds.

THE BENEFITS

- Restoration of key nature-based tourism assets
- Support for the regional visitor economy
- Ongoing community recovery

"We know how important these parks are to local communities – both for the economic benefits they bring and the outdoor opportunities they offer. We're focused on rebuilding and reopening to support long term recovery."

Parks Victoria CEO Lee Miezis

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2024, the Bayindeen–Rocky Road fire tore through the Mount Buangor and Mount Cole State Parks.

The Middle Creek, Ferntree and Bails camping areas were destroyed; and severe damage caused to all walking tracks and roads, signs, shelters, toilets, picnic tables, bridges and stairs.

In April 2024, a severe storm compounded the damage, with heavy rains eroding the landscape and pushing thick layers of ash and sediment across vegetation, roads and walking tracks.

The extensive damage caused by the bushfire and storm forced the park to be closed, with the camping areas still not open and some park infrastructure still not built.

Nature based tourism is a key driver for visitation to the Shire. It is vital for the Shire's tourism economy, the environment and for ongoing community recovery that the Ferntree, Middle Creek and Bails campgrounds are reopened as soon as possible.

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