

# Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP  
Premier

Victorian  
Labor

**DELIVERING  
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Friday, 16 November 2018

## HISTORIC BOOST FOR CAMPING IN VICTORIA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

A re-elected Andrews Labor Government will make sure Victoria is the best place for exploring the great outdoors, by building new campgrounds, upgrading facilities and tracks, and making family holidays more affordable.

Camping and hiking isn't just a great way to spend time with family and friends and get outside, it contributes billions of dollars to our economy – and that means jobs for Victorians.

That's why we've already made it cheaper by removing camping fees at 500 basic sites over 70 campgrounds in 19 parks across regional Victoria – which the Liberals opposed.

Labor will now go even further, halving all remaining fees in State and National Parks, making family holidays, getaways with mates, and school camps much more affordable.

Labor will also invest \$105.6 million to create more camping grounds, better four-wheel-drive-tracks and new walking trails, to give people more opportunities to enjoy the beautiful scenery that regional Victoria has to offer.

As part of our investment, 30 existing campgrounds will be upgraded – and 30 will be built from scratch. We will also deliver new walking tracks, canoeing facilities, rock climbing experiences, and better toilets and shower blocks, for millions of people who enjoy outdoor activities in Victoria each year.

Victoria is a unique destination for four-wheel-driving enthusiasts due to its diversity of landscapes, from rugged mountainous areas, to lush bushland and forests, and breathtaking coastal views.

Labor will improve the four-wheel drive tracks that are so popular with locals and tourists alike, with \$10.5 million to upgrade Victoria's seven iconic 4WD Adventures tourist routes.

Labor will also establish a new Coastal Park on the Bass Coast, linking up the pristine parks and reserves dotted along the popular 40 kilometres of coastline from San Remo to Inverloch. Only Labor will open up the tourism hotspot to campers for the first time, providing a big boost to local businesses.

We will also provide \$1.5 million to undertake planning for an iconic Sea to Summit hiking trail in East Gippsland – creating a world-class multi-day walk modelled on the success of the Grampians Peak Trail.

In addition, Labor will ensure hard-working volunteers can keep caring for the land we love, with \$11.6 million for grants to councils, Committees of Management of Crown Land and conservation groups to maintain and revegetate land for campsites.

### Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

*"Cath and I love nothing more than taking the kids to regional Victoria and enjoying the great outdoors. It's one of Victoria's favourite pastimes, and we'll make sure even more families can spend quality time together."*

*"Camping is more than just a great hobby, it's big business for our regional and rural towns. It's more customers for our shops, cafes and tourist attractions – and that means more jobs for Victorians."*

**Media contact:** Georgia Brumby 0428 698 185 | [georgia.brumby@vic.alp.org.au](mailto:georgia.brumby@vic.alp.org.au)

**Quote attributable to Minister for Environment Lily D'Ambrosio**

*"The Liberals ripped millions out of Parks Victoria and jacked up camping fees, making it more expensive for people to simply pitch a tent. Only Labor will make camping more affordable for Victorians."*

**Quote attributable to Labor candidate for South Barwon Darren Cheeseman**

*"As a father, I love taking my kids camping and fishing. We're making it cheaper and easier for families to get away."*