

# Land and People

## Landscape history

European settlement has resulted in major changes to Victoria's landscape and to the land uses upon it. Cropping and grazing have expanded and much land has been cleared. Major changes occurred in the 20th century as farming became more capital intensive. Sown pastures replaced native pastures and cropping expanded.

## Land health

Land health may be analysed in terms of individual aspects of the landscape such as soils or vegetation. More recent assessments of landscape health have presented indicators which are inherently linked, for example, levels of land clearing relate to biodiversity or soil health.

## Land value

Land value may be economic, spiritual, environmental, cultural or aesthetic. Land may have value to those owning or managing it, but it may also have value to the community at large. Differing values may create tension about how land should be managed.

## An integrated picture of Land and People

## Population and land management

Population change can have implications for land management practices. Population growth may bring pressure to alter land management practices. Population decline may place pressure on land management in terms of weed or pest control as there are fewer people to undertake such tasks.

## Land remediation

With recognition of land health issues increasing, a variety of remediation measures have been introduced. Tree planting, for example, can assist in addressing salinity, water quality, soil health and biodiversity loss.

## Alternative land uses

Over the period of European settlement, there has often been a tension between the type of farming introduced, and the capacity of Australia's environment to withstand it over the long term. Many farmers are seeking ways to better match agricultural industries with landscape capacities.