

Melbourne's Protected Forested Water Catchments (Australia)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Australia

Quality score: 60/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Melbourne has kept the public and farming out of its mountain-ash forest catchments since 1879, so over 65% of its drinking water now needs only minimal treatment — a policy Melbourne Water calls cheaper than fully treating all supply, though bushfires remain a recurring risk.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	2/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[Melbourne Water](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[Melbourne Water — Water catchments](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[Melbourne Water — Bushfires and our water](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[The Conversation — Freak mud flows threaten our water supplies](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[Wikipedia — Melbourne Water](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

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