

This Management Plan for Wilsons Promontory National Park is approved for implementation. Its purpose is to direct all aspects of management in the park until the plan is reviewed. A Draft Management Plan for the park was published in December 2000. Forty-one submissions were received and have been considered in developing this approved Management Plan.

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Foster Office  
Parks Victoria  
PO Box 91  
FOSTER VIC 3960

Tidal River Office  
Wilsons Promontory National Park  
TIDAL RIVER via FOSTER VIC 3960

For further information on this plan, please contact:

Graeme Davis  
Chief Ranger  
Foster Office  
Parks Victoria  
PO Box 91  
FOSTER VIC 3960  
☎ 03 5682 2133

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This plan is prepared without prejudice to any negotiated or litigated outcome of any native title determination applications covering land or waters within the plan's area. It is acknowledged that any future outcomes of native title determination applications may necessitate amendment of this plan; and the implementation of this plan may require further notifications under the procedures in Division 3 of Part 2 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth).

The plan is also prepared without prejudice to any future negotiated outcomes between the Government/s and Victorian Aboriginal communities. It is acknowledged that such negotiated outcomes may necessitate amendment of this plan.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this report is accurate. Parks Victoria does not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from your reliance on any information in the publication.

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**WILSONS PROMONTORY NATIONAL PARK  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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Cover: Wilson's Promontory National Park, looking south towards Rodondo Island  
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## FOREWORD

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Wilsons Promontory National Park is one of the most significant national parks in Victoria. Indeed, the Prom is the best-loved national park for many Victorians. It has outstanding conservation, recreation and wilderness values, and has been designated by UNESCO as a Biosphere Reserve.

The diverse and essentially unspoilt character of the park and its outstanding scenery attract those wanting to experience a unique part of Victoria, particularly through camping, bushwalking and nature study.

The long-term management framework established in the plan will protect the outstanding natural and cultural values of the park today and for future generations.

Publication of the plan honours the Bracks Government's election commitment to develop a new integrated management plan for Wilsons Promontory National Park. The

plan implements the Government's commitments to prevent further commercial development in the park and ensure that the focus of management is on nature conservation.

The planning area includes Wilsons Promontory Lightstation Reserve area, in accordance with the Government's commitment to add the reserve to the park, and the Citadel Island Lightstation area, which is also proposed to be added. The plan also incorporates a proposal for a Remote and Natural Area to protect the largely undisturbed and significant southern section of the park.

I thank those individuals and organisations who made submissions on the draft plan, and I look forward to the community's ongoing support for the management of this very special national park.

**Sherryl Garbutt MP**  
**Minister for Environment**  
**and Conservation**

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## APPROVED MANAGEMENT PLAN

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This Approved Management Plan prepared under section 17 of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.) is approved for implementation.

The Plan provides the basis and direction for the future management of Wilsons Promontory National Park.

It was finalised following careful consideration of the forty-one submissions received on the draft plan released in December 2000.

Chloe Munro  
**Secretary to the  
Department of Natural Resources  
and Environment**

Mark Stone  
**Chief Executive  
Parks Victoria**

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## SUMMARY

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Wilson's Promontory National Park (50 460 ha)<sup>1</sup> is the oldest existing national park in Victoria. Mostly temporarily reserved in 1898 and permanently reserved since 1905, it is today a significant component of the State's park system.

The park has outstanding natural values. It is important for its range of plants and animals, including many threatened species. It is renowned for its spectacular coastal scenery and the opportunity to enjoy its splendid natural setting in a variety of ways, including walking, camping, sightseeing, viewing wildlife, fishing, boating and other activities. There are outstanding opportunities for both day and overnight walks. A large campground, a range of serviced accommodation and other facilities are available at Tidal River<sup>2</sup>, which has long been a favourite holiday destination, particularly for family groups.

The park receives about 380 000 visit-days<sup>3</sup> per year comprising 120 000 visits and over 260 000 overnight stays.

Major management directions are summarised below.

- Adoption of a more systematic approach to ecological management through management of fire, programs for the protection of threatened species, and restoration of the park's heathlands and grassy woodlands.

- Incorporation of the Wilson's Promontory and Citadel Island Lightstation Reserves into the Wilson's Promontory National Park.
- Development of new nature trails and basic visitor facilities, and upgrading standards of existing tracks.
- Improvement of visitor services and facilities including upgrading the quality and arrangement of facilities at Tidal River, while applying high standards of environmental management.
- Establishment of a 'Centre of Excellence for Park Management' program for research, monitoring and the teaching of park management.
- Continued implementation of a major information, interpretation and education program.
- Investigate world heritage listing for Wilson's Promontory National Park.
- Designation of a new Southern Wilson's Promontory Remote and Natural Area and incorporation of Citadel Island Lightstation Reserve area into the Wilson's Promontory Islands Remote and Natural Area.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes area between mean high and low water mark; excludes area of Citadel Island and Wilson's Promontory Lightstation Reserves.

<sup>2</sup> In this document the term 'Tidal River' means the Tidal River campground comprising campground, cabins, lodges and other visitor facilities. The term 'Tidal River stream' is used to indicate the waterway of Tidal River.

<sup>3</sup> A 'visit-day' is defined as the number of day visitors (people entering the Park for the first time on any given day and staying one day or less) plus the number of overnight stays.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 Location and planning area

Wilsons Promontory National Park is in South Gippsland, about 200 km southeast of Melbourne (figure 1).

This planning area covers the Wilsons Promontory National Park (50 460 ha) and Wilsons Promontory Lightstation Reserve (33.6 ha) and Citadel Island Lightstation Reserve (18.7 ha).

The existing park includes:

- Wilsons Promontory Wilderness Zone (21 800 ha);
- Reference Areas at Anser Island (80 ha), Entrance Point (750 ha) and Vereker Creek (2650 ha);
- Mount Vereker Creek Natural Catchment Area (2560 ha);
- Wilsons Promontory Islands Remote and Natural Area (470 ha)—eleven of the offshore islands included in Wilsons Promontory National Park.

The Wilsons Promontory and Citadel Island Lightstation Reserves are included in the planning area, consistent with the intention to add the reserve areas to the park.

## 1.2 Creation of the park

On 8 July 1898, an area of 36 826 ha at Wilsons Promontory was temporarily reserved under the *Land Act 1890* (Vic.) as a site for a national park. This was followed by the

permanent reservation of 30 351 ha in 1905 (which excluded the half-mile coastal strip, most of which was added in 1908). Further areas were reserved in 1909—eight islands (295 ha), 1918 and 1928—areas at Seaforth township (2 ha and 58 ha respectively), 1965—area between high and low water marks, and 1969—Yanakie Isthmus, several islands and a small area at Refuge Cove (7485 ha). Since 1975 the park has been included on Schedule Two of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.).

On 1 December 1995, the Commonwealth's Lightstations on South East Point and Citadel Island passed to the State Government and were temporarily reserved under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* (Vic.). Parks Victoria manages the reserves as a Committee of Management. It is intended to incorporate these areas into the national park.

## 1.3 Developing the management plan

In accordance with Government policy, this Management Plan has been prepared through a process of review and integration of the Wilsons Promontory National Park Management Plan (Parks Victoria 1997) and the Tidal River Master Plan (Parks Victoria 1997). Forty-one submissions received on the Draft Management Plan, which was published in December 2000 for public comment, have been considered in developing this Management Plan.

### 2.1 Regional context

A range of natural attractions in the region complements Wilsons Promontory National Park. The Corner Inlet and Shallow Inlet Marine and Coastal Parks, Cape Liptrap Coastal Park, and the camping areas and accommodation facilities at Walkerville and Sandy Point provide complementary coastal settings.

The marine and coastal parks that almost surround the national park (figure 1) are popular areas for recreational and commercial boating. A number of boats also visit the national park.

The coastal attractions contrast with the popular rainforests and Mountain Ash of Tarra-Bulga National Park in the Strzelecki Ranges north of Yarram.

Wilsons Promontory National Park is in the Phillip Island and Gippsland Discovery Tourism Region. The Victoria Regional Travel and Tourism Survey 1995 (Tourism Victoria 1996) indicates that the region receives 5 per cent of all tourist nights in Victoria, comprising Victorian (91%), interstate (7%) and international visitors (2%). The Regional Tourism Development Plan for the Phillip Island and Gippsland Discovery Tourism Region (Tourism Victoria 1997a) examines regional visit trends and development directions in detail.

### 2.2 Park values and significance

Wilsons Promontory National Park makes a valuable contribution to Victoria's park system, which aims to protect viable, representative samples of the State's natural environments. Parks also enable visitors to enjoy and appreciate natural and cultural values, and many parks make important contributions to tourism.

The park is assigned the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Category II (National Parks) of the United Nations' List of National Parks and Protected Areas. Category II areas are managed primarily for ecosystem conservation and appropriate recreation.

In 1982 the park was designated a Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program.

There are 12 Biosphere Reserves in Australia, of which three are in Victoria.

Wilsons Promontory National Park, Wilsons Promontory Lightstation, Citadel Island, two indigenous places (at Tidal River and Yanakie) and three shipwrecks are listed on the Register of the National Estate in recognition of these features' outstanding values and their importance as a part of our heritage. The Wilsons Promontory Lightstation buildings are included on the Victorian Heritage Register and classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

The area of park between high water and low water in Corner Inlet, and the islands of Corner Inlet, are also covered by the Ramsar 'Convention on Wetlands of International Importance'. The Convention is an inter-governmental treaty that provides for international cooperation in the conservation of wetlands. A draft strategic management plan for the Corner Inlet Ramsar site was released for public comment in February 2001 (Parks Victoria 2001).

The park is the oldest existing national park in Victoria. Much of it was temporarily reserved in 1898 and permanently reserved in 1905.

The park is South Gippsland's major tourist destination and Victoria's most popular national park for camping. Many visitors choose to stay at Tidal River, where accommodation, a large campground, an information centre and other facilities are available. A network of walking tracks leading from Tidal River caters for both day walks and overnight hikes.

The park is a major employer in the region and, with the seasonal influx of visitors, contributes significantly to the local economy.

Significant features of the park and reserves include:

#### Natural values

- Entire promontory of national geological and geomorphological significance,

containing a number of sites of State and regional significance.

- Diverse vegetation communities, including warm temperate and cool temperate rainforest, tall open forests, woodlands, heathlands, and swamp and coastal communities.
- The occurrence of 21 per cent of Victoria's known vascular flora.
- Several biogeographically significant species, including a number of plant species and communities which have associations with other parts of Australia or are threatened or at the limits of their distribution.
- Unmodified rivers and streams with no introduced fish species.
- Several threatened fauna species, including the New Holland Mouse, Long-nosed Potoroo, Ground Parrot, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Swamp Skink, and the Damselfly *Hemiphysalis mirabilis*.
- Half of Victoria's bird species.
- Intertidal mudflats, which are an internationally important habitat for migratory wading birds.
- The largest coastal wilderness area in Victoria.

#### **Cultural values**

- Numerous middens and other significant Aboriginal sites.
- Remains of sites of several small European settlements and past uses including timber milling, mining and grazing.
- A number of shipwrecks in the waters around Wilsons Promontory which demonstrate the hazards of coastal shipping.
- The heritage buildings of Wilsons Promontory Lightstation.

#### **Tourism and recreational values**

- Outstanding natural landscapes including spectacular and diverse coastal scenery.
- The attraction of being the southernmost part of the Australian mainland.

- Excellent opportunities for sightseeing, viewing wildlife, camping and other forms of recreation in natural settings.
- Outstanding opportunities for day and overnight walks.
- Opportunities for other activities including rock climbing, diving, fishing, sea kayaking and surfing.
- Campsites for boat-based campers at Tin Mine Cove and Refuge Cove.
- Opportunities for those outside the park to enjoy the unspoilt natural landscapes from the sea by boat or from nearby coastal vantage points.
- A large campground, a range of serviced accommodation in huts, cabins and lodges, a general store, other commercial services and an Information and Visitor Centre at Tidal River.
- Visitor accommodation at the southernmost residence on mainland Australia, in a spectacular setting at the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation.

### **2.3 Past land use**

Wilsons Promontory National Park has an early history of Aboriginal occupation dating back at least 6500 years.

The park has a long history of resource use and commerce dating back to the early 19th century, including sealing and whaling, timber harvesting, grazing, tin and gold mining, pilot station, a post office, hotel and the Darby Chalet.

A lightstation constructed from locally quarried granite was established at South East Point in 1853 to provide a safe passage for ships through Bass Strait.

In 1941 the park was closed to the public and the No. 7 Infantry Training Centre, Australia's first Commando Training centre, was stationed in and around Darby River and Tidal River.

Cattle were grazed in parts of the park from the 1850s until 1992. Lime was quarried on the Yanakie Isthmus for road-making until 1995. The park is still used for honey production.

## 2.4 The park visitor

Wilson's Promontory National Park has been the prime destination for visitors to national parks in Victoria since the Second World War. This has been due in part to the establishment of the most popular national park campground in Victoria at Tidal River, and to the past relatively undeveloped condition of many other parks in the State.

Tidal River, located some 30 km from the park entrance, is the main destination for most day and overnight visitors, and has traditionally provided a base from which visitors explore and enjoy the surrounding park.

With the declaration and development of new parks in the region and in other parts of the State, it is appropriate that the park's role in the statewide system of parks and reserves should be reassessed.

The park is one of Victoria's most important tourist destinations and South Gippsland's biggest tourist drawcard. It makes a major contribution to the regional economy.

The park will continue to be a major destination for visitors. However, there is much scope for people visiting the region to include Phillip Island, Tarra-Bulga National Park, Cape Liptrap Coastal Park and other nearby marine and coastal parks in their itineraries. It is practical for visitors to stay outside Wilson's Promontory National Park in commercial accommodation and make day visits.

The park will continue to be integrated into regional tourism information services in accordance with the Regional Tourism Development Plan (Tourism Victoria 1997a).

### Park visits

Wilson's Promontory National Park attracts large numbers of both day and overnight visitors. The majority of visitors are from Melbourne, and from other parts of Gippsland.

Visitors represent a highly variable factor in relation to providing services and managing impacts. Visit peaks have the potential to overload the capacity of facilities and services in the park, particularly at Tidal River. A maximum of 800 visitor vehicles is permitted into the park on any one day.

In 2000–2001, the park attracted about 120 000 visits and 260 000 overnight stays, a total of 380 000 visit-days. Over the past decade, annual visitor numbers have fluctuated substantially, but there has not been any long-term trend.

### Lodging

The demand for roofed accommodation in Tidal River is high throughout the year. The annual occupancy rate for Tidal River's roofed accommodation is 85 per cent, a very high rate for tourist accommodation anywhere in Australia. The summer occupancy rate is in the order of 95 per cent.

The demand for campsites at Tidal River is high in summer and during the Easter holiday period but much lower from May to October. In the peak Christmas–January period, demand for campsites still greatly exceeds supply, although for a much shorter period than was the case in the 1980s due to changes in the Victorian school terms.

Demand for campsites away from Tidal River is also high, particularly on weekends, and often exceeds the capacity set during summer months and long weekends.

### Communication with visitors

The document 'Exploring Wilson's Promontory: a Guide to Visitor Services, Interpretation and Education' (CNR 1995a) will guide staff in developing, maintaining and evaluating visitor services, interpretation and education in the park.

## 2.5 Legislation, LCC recommendations and guidelines

Wilson's Promontory National Park is reserved and managed under the provisions of the National Parks Act. The Act requires the Secretary to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment to preserve and protect the natural condition of the park and its natural and other features, and subject to this to provide for the use of the park by the public for enjoyment, recreation and education. The Act also provides for appropriate research.

Parks Victoria, as the Committee of Management, manages Wilson's Promontory and Citadel Island Lightstation Reserves under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act. Control of

the lightstations passed from the Commonwealth to the State Government on 1 December 1995. It is proposed to incorporate the Lightstations into the National Park.

The objects and provisions of the National Parks Act and the Crown Land (Reserves) Act set the overall framework for the management of Wilsons Promontory National Park and the Lightstation Reserves respectively. Specific legislation and LCC recommendations govern the management of particular areas of the park, as described below.

In 1982 the Land Conservation Council (LCC) recommended that a Sealers Creek Reference Area be declared. Subsequent investigations identified a more appropriate location to be the Vereker Creek catchment to the north.

Reference Areas at Anser Island (80 ha), Entrance Point (750 ha), and Vereker Creek (approximately 2650 ha) have been proclaimed under the *Reference Areas Act 1978* (Vic.). These will be managed in accordance with ministerial directives. Within these areas, natural processes will be allowed to continue undisturbed to form a reference for comparative study purposes.

As a result of the LCC Wilderness Special Investigation (LCC 1991a) and the *National Parks (Wilderness) Act 1992* (Vic.), the Wilsons Promontory Wilderness Zone was proclaimed on 30 June 1992 and included in Schedule Five of the National Parks Act. The Act requires the Secretary to protect and enhance the area as a wilderness and provide opportunities for solitude and appropriate self-reliant recreation. The Act prohibits certain developments and activities except in specified circumstances.

The LCC (1991a), in addition to its general recommendations, made specific recommendations in relation to the Wilsons Promontory Wilderness Zone. The LCC recommended that the undisturbed coastline be protected from the impacts of coastal engineering works elsewhere; that no new walking tracks be constructed; that attention be given to the visual impact of the Five Mile Road; and that the navigation beacon at Lighthouse Point be retained while required. The LCC noted that there was scope to reduce the number of vehicle tracks, and that there may be a need to control visitor numbers at the more popular campsites.

At the same time, and through the same LCC and legislative processes, 11 of the islands around Wilsons Promontory were proclaimed as a Remote and Natural Area under Schedule Six of the National Parks Act (Shellback, Norman, Great Glennie, Dannevig, McHugh, Anser, Kanowna, Cleft, Wattle and Rabbit Islands, and Rabbit Rock). The Remote and Natural Area is managed according to the provisions of the National Parks Act and LCC Final Recommendations (LCC 1991a) to protect its remote and natural attributes.

The LCC (1991a) also noted that the southern and south-eastern sectors of Wilsons Promontory, while not within the recommended Wilderness Zone, were also little disturbed with few vehicle tracks or structures, and that it was important that these attributes be recognised and protected by park management. To give appropriate long-term protection and recognition to these values, a Remote and Natural Area covering 14 420 ha is proposed in the southern section of the park (figure 3). Pending its inclusion on Schedule Six to the National Parks Act, the area will be managed in accordance with the management principles applying to remote and natural areas.

Following recommendations from the LCC Rivers and Streams Special Investigation (LCC 1991b), the Mount Vereker Creek Natural Catchment Area of 2720 ha is now protected and managed under the provisions of the *Heritage Rivers Act 1992* (Vic.). This Act provides for the protection of particular parts of rivers that have significant values and undisturbed catchment areas. Draft management plans for all Heritage Rivers and Natural Catchments have been prepared (NRE 1997) and are currently being finalised. Key management issues affecting Wilsons Promontory have been included in this Plan.

The management of Wilsons Promontory National Park will take into consideration the provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) with respect to actions that have, will have or are likely to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance.

Issues relating to native title will be dealt with in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth).

Consistent with the legislation and LCC recommendations, the aims for the park are as follows.

Conservation:

- Preserve and protect the natural environment.
- Maintain, and where possible, enhance wilderness values.
- Allow natural environmental processes to continue with the minimum of interference, except where habitat manipulation is shown to be desirable.
- Maintain biodiversity.
- Conserve features of archaeological, historical and cultural significance.
- Protect water catchments and streams.
- Ensure that appropriate and sufficient measures are taken to protect the park from injury by fire.
- Eradicate, or otherwise control, introduced plants, animals and diseases.

The park and reserves visit:

- Provide opportunities for appropriate recreation and tourism.
- Promote and encourage an appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the park's natural and cultural values and its recreational opportunities.
- Encourage appropriate park use and visitor behaviour, and foster a conservation ethic in visitors.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of visitors.

Other:

- Provide for and encourage scientific research, surveys and monitoring that will contribute to a better understanding and management of the park.
- Co-operate with local, state and interstate government authorities, the community and other interested organisations to assist in the management of the park.

The park and reserves are also managed in accordance with Parks Victoria operational policies, and other plans including:

- Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land (CNR 1995b);
- Gippsland Fire Protection Plan (NRE 1999);
- Conservation Plan for the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation 1993 and the addendum to the Plan adopted by Heritage Victoria in 1999 (Australia Construction Services 1993).

In August 2000, the Environment Conservation Council (ECC) released the 'Marine Coastal and Estuarine Investigation Final Report' recommending the establishment of a representative system of marine national parks in Victoria. The Government has responded to the recommendations, and two marine national parks are proposed to be established adjacent to Wilsons Promontory National Park (Govt Vic. 2001). These proposals would change existing use (in particular, fishing) of parts of the existing national park and marine parks and reserves.

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## 3 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

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### 3.1 Park vision

A future visitor to Wilsons Promontory National Park finds an outstanding national park of international status. It is renowned for its conservation significance and natural landscapes and for the opportunities for recreation in a superb natural setting. It is also highly regarded for its high standard of environmental management and visitor services.

The ecological values of the park are carefully conserved, and Aboriginal and post-settlement cultural values are preserved and protected. Intrusions into the magnificent landscape of the park are minimised by the sensitive siting and construction of visitor facilities.

The park retains its remote and largely undeveloped nature. The Wilderness Zone has few intrusions to detract from its substantially natural condition. Twelve islands including Citadel Island, and the southern section of the park, are managed as Remote and Natural Areas.

The park is a much-loved holiday destination for day visitors and for visitors either camping or staying in accommodation. It is recognised that the amenity of visitors and protection of the park require that visitor numbers must not exceed carrying capacity, and that on occasion visitor numbers will be limited in an equitable manner.

The experience of staying in the park is enhanced by a first-class information service. Outstanding opportunities for vibrant interpretive and educational experiences are provided, based on the range of habitats within the park and adjacent marine and coastal parks and reserves. Comprehensive programs in environmental and cultural interpretation, and tours of the national park and nearby marine parks, are popular.

There are opportunities to enjoy and appreciate the park, particularly day walks and overnight walks, with minimal impact. These activities remain among the most popular for visitors. A range of walking experiences is available, and the Wilderness Zone offers a more challenging experience for the more self-reliant walker.

Visitors to Tidal River enjoy its unique relaxed atmosphere and use it as a base to explore the remainder of the park. Its well-designed campground and other facilities blend with the natural environment. Modest accommodation is provided at the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation.

Increasingly, park visitors enjoy spending time exploring the South Gippsland Region as well as the park. Peak season use of the park remains relatively constant, but more people visit the park during the cooler months.

Comprehensive programs are in place for ecological research, monitoring and training of natural-area managers. Links with other Biosphere Reserves worldwide allow for an interchange of information and experience.

Close consultation on management of the park is maintained with the Aboriginal community and other community groups for whom the park has special significance or interest.

The park retains its place as one of Victoria's special and arguably best-loved national parks.

### 3.2 Zoning

A park management zoning scheme has been developed to:

- provide a geographic framework with which to manage the park;
- indicate which management directions have priority in different parts of the park;
- indicate the types and levels of use appropriate throughout the park;
- assist in minimising existing and potential conflicts between uses and activities, or between those and the protection of park values;
- provide a basis for assessing the suitability of future activities and development proposals.

Six management zones apply to the park — Recreation, Conservation and Recreation, Conservation, Education, Wilderness, and Reference Area.

Three overlays are used to summarise requirements additional to those of the



underlying primary management zones. One Land Use Designation–Natural Catchment and two Land Use Designation–Remote and Natural Area overlays apply (one of which covers the Remote and Natural Area proposed for the southern section of the park). Until the legislative amendments are made, the management of this proposed Remote and Natural Area will be managed with the LCC’s objectives and management principles relating to Remote and Natural Areas on Schedule Six of the National Parks Act.

Zone and overlay characteristics are given in table 1. Boundaries of the Recreation Zone are given in figure 4.

For the Tidal River Recreation Zone, a schema of precincts has been prepared to provide a basic framework for guiding the resolution of management issues relating to the large concentration of interrelated visitor and management activities. Existing arrangements are shown in figure 5A and the proposed schema of precincts is shown in table 2 and figure 5B. The schema of precincts is based on a geographic separation of functions and responds to the various natural, cultural, functional and operational imperatives for management.

### 3.3 Management directions

Major management directions for the park are outlined below.

#### Resource conservation

- A detailed Environmental Action Plan (EAP) for the park will be completed to address management of the park as a total ecological system.
- The EAP will include a program for the protection and enhancement of the park’s natural values through the management of current and potential risks, including fire and pest plants and animals.
- The EAP will include the use of ecological principles in the management of fire in the park for both resource conservation and park protection purposes.
- The viability of the park’s heathland and diversity of the grassy woodlands will be restored.

- A comprehensive program of pest plant and animal control will continue to be implemented to minimise impacts on native flora and fauna.
- Sites of significance to the Aboriginal community will be identified and mapped to assist in minimising disturbance to these sites.
- Significant historic places such as the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation will be conserved and interpreted to help visitors appreciate and protect the cultural significance of the park.
- Apiculture will be phased out in the park.
- Unnecessary vehicle tracks will be rehabilitated to minimise soil erosion and visual impacts.
- Wilsons Promontory National Park is being investigated for possible World Heritage listing.
- All visitors will be encouraged to adopt minimal impact behaviour and to adhere to codes of conduct appropriate to their activities.

#### The park visit

- The park will be promoted as one of a number of the Phillip Island and Gippsland Discovery Tourism Region’s places to visit and stay, and managed to ensure a quality visitor experience in a national park.
- Opportunities will be provided for visitors to experience the park’s special qualities at the same time as its remote and largely undeveloped nature are retained.
- Facilities at the entrance to the park will be redesigned and upgraded to provide an appropriate Park Entrance and an enhanced ‘sense of arrival’ and improved visitor orientation.
- The amenity of the Tidal River Recreation Zone will be improved and the Zone managed consistent with its profile as the key visitor destination within the park.
- Passive recreation activities will be encouraged around the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation, consistent with its remote setting.

- Long-distance walking opportunities will be provided on the existing trail network. Enhanced management of the Wilderness Zone, including rehabilitation of unnecessary vehicle tracks, removal of some facilities and sensitive fire management, will provide a more remote and challenging experience for visitors.
- Recreation activities will be permitted as shown in table 3.
- Licensed tour operators will continue to be encouraged to offer a range of minimal-impact recreational activities consistent with aims for the park.

#### **Community awareness and involvement**

- An Interpretation and Education strategy will be implemented in the park.
- A cultural heritage program for the park will be developed in conjunction with the Aboriginal community including the traditional owners.
- Input to regional tourism strategies will be provided to encourage additional products, services and accommodation in the region, to lessen the pressure on park facilities and

give visitors to the region a wider range of experiences.

- Current market surveys on visitor profiles, patterns of behaviour, expectations and preferences will be applied to assist in park management.

#### **Other**

- A Centre of Excellence for Park Management program for research, monitoring and teaching park management will be established, building on the park's designation as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and focusing on the park and its surrounding marine and coastal parks and reserves.
- The Centre of Excellence for Park Management program will be based on the existing Education Centre, Botany Laboratory and Yanakie Research Station.
- Support services and infrastructure for managing the park will be concentrated within the Tidal River Recreation Zone.
- A study of the social and economic benefits of the park to the State and region will be undertaken.

**TABLE 1 MANAGEMENT ZONES AND OVERLAYS**

<b>ZONE</b>	<b>AREA/LOCATION</b>	<b>VALUES</b>	<b>GENERAL MANAGEMENT AIM</b>
WILDERNESS	21 800 ha, 43% of park. Wilson's Promontory Wilderness Zone*.	Large, essentially undisturbed areas.	Protect or enhance the essentially unmodified natural condition of the area and, subject to that protection and minimal interference to natural processes, provide opportunities for solitude, inspiration and appropriate self-reliant recreation.
CONSERVATION	27 962 ha, 55% of park. North west section of park including the Yanakie Isthmus.	Broad areas containing sensitive natural environments or ecosystems.	Protect sensitive natural environments and provide for minimal impact recreation activities and simple visitor facilities, subject to ensuring minimal interference to natural processes.
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION	521 ha, 1% of park. The more heavily used areas accessible by public road.	Broad natural areas which can sustain significant levels of recreation.	Protect less sensitive natural environments and provide for sustainable dispersed recreation activities and small-scale recreation facilities without significant impact on natural processes.
RECREATION	121 ha, <1% of park. Tidal River, Park Entrance and Wilsons Promontory Lightstation Reserve.	High-use visit nodes with park management facilities.	Provide primarily for high visitor use with a concentration of recreation, interpretation and park management facilities.
EDUCATION	28 ha, <1% of park. A small area adjacent to the eastern side of Tidal River (see section 5.1).	A readily accessible area with a range of environments.	Provide primarily for environmental education in a relatively undisturbed area.
REFERENCE AREA	Anser Island, Entrance Point and Vereker Creek Reference Areas*.	Relatively undisturbed land types and associated vegetation.	Protect viable samples of one or more land types that are relatively undisturbed for comparative study with similar land types elsewhere, by keeping all human interference to the essential minimum and ensuring as far as practicable that the only long-term change results from natural processes.
<b>OVERLAY</b>			
LAND USE DESIGNATION– NATURAL CATCHMENT	2720 ha, Mount Vereker Creek catchment.	High ecological value and important areas for nature conservation and scientific study.	Maintain or enhance the area's essentially natural condition and preclude certain activities, including the making of roads.
LAND USE DESIGNATION– WILSONS PROMONTORY ISLANDS REMOTE AND NATURAL AREA	Approx. 489 ha, 12 offshore islands including the Citadel Island Lightstation Reserve which is proposed to be incorporated into the park.	Significant remote and natural areas.	Protect the islands' remote and natural attributes; prevent new and incremental developments, including the construction of new structures.
LAND USE DESIGNATION– SOUTHERN WILSONS PROMONTORY REMOTE AND NATURAL AREA	14 420 ha. Covers most of the park south of Wilson's Promontory Wilderness Zone.	Significant remote and natural areas.	Protect the area's remote and natural attributes; prevent new and incremental developments, including the construction of vehicular tracks and new structures.

\* Entrance Point and Vereker Creek Reference Areas are included in both Reference Area Zone and Wilderness Zone.

**TABLE 2 TIDAL RIVER PRECINCTS**

PRECINCT	AIMS
VISITOR SERVICES	Provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• visitor services including orientation, information, interpretation and education services</li> <li>• Police and other emergency services</li> <li>• café/general store and cinema</li> <li>• staff office accommodation</li> <li>• day visitor and playground facilities.</li> </ul>
NORMAN BAY VISITOR	Provide and maintain day visitor areas including open space, carparking, and facilities and amenities such as picnic tables, shelters, barbecues and seating in a setting appropriate to a national park.
CAMPING	Provide tent and caravan sites, and suitable amenities including wet weather shelters and camper kitchens, in a setting appropriate to a national park.
CABIN ACCOMMODATION	Provide and maintain cabin accommodation in a setting appropriate to a national park.
GROUP LODGE ACCOMMODATION	Provide and maintain group lodge accommodation in a setting appropriate to a national park.
SUPPORT SERVICES	Provide and maintain a works depot, water and sewage treatment facilities, and an overflow day visitor vehicular parking area in a setting appropriate to a national park.
STAFF ACCOMMODATION	Maintain suitable accommodation for staff in a setting appropriate to a national park.
NATURAL VEGETATION	Maintain or restore native vegetation.

**TABLE 3 SUMMARY OF RECREATION ACTIVITIES**

ACTIVITY*	ZONE						OVERLAY	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	A	B
Bicycle riding	YC	YC	No	No	No	No	No	No
Boat access	Yes	Yes	Yes	YC	No	N/A	YC	YC
Boat launching	YC	No	No	No	No	N/A	No	No
Picnicking	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Campfires in fireplaces (seasonal restrict.)	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Camping – car-based (facilities)	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Camping – boat-based (limited facilities)	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	No	Yes
Camping – designated (limited facilities)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Camping – dispersed (no facilities)	No	No	YC	YC	No	No	No	Yes
Feeding wildlife	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Firewood collecting	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Fishing (freshwater)	YC	YC	No	No	No	No	No	No
Fishing (saltwater)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	YC
Hang gliding & paragliding	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Horse riding	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Hunting	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Intertidal collecting	No	No	No	No	No	N/A	No	No
Kayaking & canoeing	YC	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	Yes
Land yachting	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Orienteering & rogaining	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Pets	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Power skis (Personal Water Craft)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Rock climbing & abseiling	No	YC	YC	YC	No	No	No	YC
Sailboards, surfboards and surfskis	YC	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	No	No
Walking – formed tracks	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	No	Yes
Walking – off-track	N/A	N/A	YC	YC	No	Yes	No	YC

## KEY:

Zone 1 – Recreation Zone	Yes	Appropriate
Zone 2 – Conservation and Recreation Zone	No	Not appropriate
Zone 3 – Conservation Zone	YC	Conditional – see relevant section in the Plan
Zone 4 – Wilderness Zone	N/A	Not applicable
Zone 5 – Reference Area Zone		
Zone 6 – Education Zone		
Overlay A – Wilsons Promontory Islands Remote and Natural Area Zone		
Overlay B – Southern Wilsons Promontory Remote and Natural Area Zone		

\* Zone prescriptions are conditioned by overlay prescriptions and, where indicated in the table, by conditions in the relevant section of the plan.

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## 4 STRATEGIES FOR CONSERVATION

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### 4.1 Geological and landform features

Wilson's Promontory has a variety of geological and landform features of national geological and geomorphological significance. There are nine individual sites within the park of State or regional significance, including Darby, Squeaky and Five Mile Beaches, Great Glennie and Cleft Islands, and Chinaman Creek Delta (Buckley n.d.).

The promontory represents the northern end of a large granite mass which extends to northeastern Tasmania (Wallis 1980). Erosion of the granitic massif has produced the spectacularly rugged landscape seen today. The Yanakie Isthmus, connecting the granitic promontory to the mainland, consists of marine and non-marine sediments and dune deposits (LCC 1980).

Coastal features include expansive intertidal mudflats, sandy beaches and sheltered coves interrupted by prominent headlands and plunging granite cliffs in the south, backed by coastal dunes and swamps.

The dune system at Entrance Point is a significant and undisturbed example of dune succession and has been proclaimed a Reference Area (LCC 1982). Access to this area is prohibited except in accordance with Ministerial directives for the management of reference areas.

In the intertidal zone adjoining Corner Inlet, large areas of highly productive tidal mudflat are exposed at low tide. Corner Inlet contains internationally important habitat for migratory wading birds (NRE 1996a).

The soils of Wilson's Promontory have high erosion potential. This must be considered in day-to-day management and planning of future developments (section 4.8).

#### Aims

- Provide for the preservation, protection and study of features of geological and geomorphological interest.
- Provide for the maintenance of natural systems and processes in their undisturbed state where possible, and minimise impacts

by management and visitors on significant geological and landform features.

- Educate visitors about geological and landform features, and interpret the physical environment to improve visitors' appreciation.

#### Management strategies

- *Manage the Reference Areas in accordance with Ministerial directives for the management of reference areas.*
- *Maintain and update records of sites of geological and landform significance as new information becomes available.*
- *Provide interpretive and educational materials which promote the appreciation by visitors of significant geological and landform features and which foster their protection.*
- *Monitor the condition of, and manage, sites of geological and landform significance so that human-induced impacts are minimised.*

### 4.2 Rivers and catchments

Wilson's Promontory is significant because it is one of the few areas in Victoria where the rivers and streams are largely unmodified by drainage and engineering works and free of introduced fish and aquatic weed species. The rivers and streams are of high scientific importance. About half of the 40 known species of native freshwater fish in Victoria occur at Wilson's Promontory (Jackson & Davies 1983).

Located within the Wilderness Zone is the Mount Vereker Creek Natural Catchment Area. The provisions of the Heritage Rivers Act prohibit certain resource uses, and most of the catchment is also protected in the Vereker Creek Reference Area Zone.

Tidal River stream provides all the water for the settlement at Tidal River. Water is extracted from a weir upstream of the Promontory Road bridge. The aquatic habitat values of the Tidal River stream are very high due to minimal disturbance of the catchment and stream environment.

A fish ladder installed in the water supply weir on Tidal River stream facilitates the movement of fish along the river.

Part of the water supply to the Lightstation and the campsites away from Tidal River is taken directly from nearby streams. It is vital that the water quality of these sources is maintained.

The effluent pond at Tidal River is located in an area of permeable soils and seepage has been detected. Recent groundwater investigations around the effluent ponds indicate that the seepage generally travels southwest toward Norman Bay. The quality of groundwater sampled at this location is consistent with contamination of groundwater by wastewater (Golder 1998).

Recreational fishing is addressed in section 5.9.

#### **Aims**

- Maintain the integrity and good condition of the park's catchments, rivers and streams, including the absence of introduced fish and aquatic flora species.
- Maintain the entire Mount Vereker Creek Natural Catchment Area in an essentially natural condition.
- Minimise the effects of developments, management and visitors' activities on water quality.
- Protect and maintain the quality of the park's rivers, streams and catchments used for water supply.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Design, construct and maintain roads, tracks, structures or facilities with consideration of the potential effects on catchment and habitat quality such as increased siltation and turbidity, and to avoid compromising sites of special conservation significance.*
- *Monitor the quality and condition of rivers and streams within the park. Ensure that the rivers and streams of the park remain free from introduced fish and aquatic flora species.*

Mt Vereker Creek Natural Catchment:

- *Manage the Mount Vereker Creek Natural Catchment Area in accordance with a management plan prepared under the Heritage Rivers Act.*
- *Prepare and implement baseline data collection and monitoring programs for the Mount Vereker Creek Natural Catchment Area. Monitor stream ecology and water quality.*
- *Include the Mount Vereker Creek Natural Catchment Area in flora and fauna monitoring programs within the park.*
- *Use least-disturbance fire suppression strategies such as fireline construction using hand crews, and air attack, wherever practicable in the Mount Vereker Creek Natural Catchment.*
- *Assess introduced plant and animal problems in the Mount Vereker Creek Natural Catchment and undertake control in the context of broader park management. Ensure control methods do not impact on the catchment.*
- *Monitor for the presence of Myrtle Wilt in the Mount Vereker Creek Natural Catchment and take appropriate action.*
- *Ensure strict hygiene requirements are implemented for anyone entering the Mount Vereker Creek Natural Catchment to prevent the transport of non-indigenous plant propagules or pathogens.*

Tidal River catchment:

- *Manage the Tidal River catchment to ensure that environmental and essential water supply values are not compromised.*
- *Maintain existing flow regime and water quality in the Tidal River stream and provide for fish movement both upstream and downstream.*
- *Install stream gauges and investigate the requirement for the provision of environmental flows in the Tidal River stream.*
- *Finalise and implement the wastewater management strategy developed in consultation with the EPA, including construction of appropriate waste-water treatment and discharge facilities.*

### 4.3 Vegetation

Wilsons Promontory National Park has a diverse range of vegetation and is extremely rich in terrestrial flora, with more than 740 native vascular plant species present (LCC 1980). More than 100 threatened species have been recorded in the park. A list of threatened flora species recorded for the park and their status is shown in appendix 1.

Significant vegetation communities include:

- southernmost examples of warm temperate rainforests of Lilly Pilly and Blackwood at low altitude, and Sassafras replacing Lilly Pilly above 300 m;
- cool temperate rainforest dominated by Myrtle Beech with ferny understorey in moist sheltered gullies;
- open forest containing stands of Mountain Ash, Messmate, Brown and Yellow Stringybarks and Shining Peppermint, which frequently hybridise, producing interesting variations in growth characteristics;
- stands of White Mangrove, which are the southernmost occurrence of mangroves in the world;
- an example of coastal succession showing successional stages from bare dunes to woodland in the Entrance Point Reference Area;
- heathlands that are floristically rich and provide habitat for a variety of fauna, including threatened species;
- occurrence of coastal grassy woodlands on the Yanakie Isthmus and Entrance Point, and at Oberon Bay.

Extensive areas of heath occur to the north of the Five Mile Road, at Darby Swamp and on the lower slopes of Mt Leonard. The composition and structure of these communities are influenced to a large degree by the frequency and intensity of fire. European practices of fire prevention and suppression have significantly altered the fire regimes with which heath species have evolved and to which they have adapted. Fire-sensitive species such as White Kunzea and Coast Tea-tree have invaded heath communities at a range of locations, including Whisky and Squeaky Beaches, as a result of

the altered fire regimes. Extensive areas of heath within the park are long unburnt and overmature.

Research indicates that implementation of appropriate fire regimes can improve the vigour and viability of these communities and their associated fauna, and reduce the incidence of woody weed invasion.

Coastal grassy woodlands occur within the park at Oberon Bay, Entrance Point and on the Yanakie Isthmus. Significant changes have occurred to the floristics, structure and health of these communities due to changes to the grazing and burning regimes, in particular a progressive increase in grazing pressure since 1850 and the exclusion of fire from the early 1970s after a history of regular burning. Today, large areas of this community at Oberon Bay, Entrance Point and on the Yanakie Isthmus are characterised by dense stands of Coast Tea-tree shrubs. On the Yanakie Isthmus only the slashed interdune corridors and some of the higher dunes retain the floristics and/or structure of the community (University of Ballarat 1999).

Grazing pressure from rabbits, kangaroos, and wombats has had an impact on the condition of grassy woodlands on the Yanakie Isthmus. This has resulted in a decline in the cover and abundance of some native grass species and reduced flowering and seeding. Some control of the numbers of grazing animals may be required.

An area around the airstrip has been maintained as an artificial grassland by grazing and browsing rather than being allowed to return to the grassy woodland which existed before clearing for the airstrip in 1938. Cattle agistment ceased in 1992 and this has allowed the regeneration of shrubs, particularly Coast Wattle. The closed scrub that will develop without intervention will reduce the habitat available for the resident population of Eastern Grey Kangaroos.

It is desirable to maintain an area for the public to view wildlife in the airstrip area and to re-establish the grassy woodland before the emerging shrubland makes achievement of these objectives too difficult.

Other threats to the vegetation communities of the park include weed invasion, over-grazing by native and non-native herbivores,



inappropriate fire regimes and the spread of pathogens.

An Environmental Action Plan is being developed for the park. Much of the background information for this plan comes from the draft Conservation Strategy (Chesterfield & Whelan 1995a; 1995b). This was developed to introduce ecological principles to be used in the management of fire, and to set out prescriptions for the conservation of native flora and fauna and the management of pest plants and animals.

#### Aims

- Manage ecosystems to ensure the preservation and protection of indigenous flora and vegetation communities, particularly significant species and communities.
- Provide for scientific investigation that relates to the conservation of, and involves minimal disturbance to, the natural environment.
- Interpret the natural environment and its management to increase visitors' appreciation and support for these programs.

#### Management strategies

- *Complete and implement a comprehensive Environmental Action Plan for the park.*
- *Maintain or restore the structure and diversity of vegetation communities and species in accordance with the proposed Environmental Action Plan.*
- *Prepare and implement a prescribed burning plan based on appropriate fire regimes for maintaining the vigour and diversity of the park's biota, and consistent with Parks Victoria operational policies.*
- *Investigate management options for the restoration of the grassy woodlands on the Yanakie Isthmus.*
- *Encourage surveys of, and research into, significant flora (including threatened species) and vegetation communities in the park to improve knowledge of their management requirements.*
- *Manage species listed in the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic.) listed*

*flora species and vegetation communities in accordance with approved action statements (appendix 1).*

- *Use indigenous species of local provenance in all rehabilitation works.*
- *Revegetate disturbed areas within the Tidal River Recreation Zone with indigenous plant species, and regenerate campground vegetation in line with fire protection requirements.*

#### 4.4 Fauna

The park contains a wide range of habitat types which support more than 296 species of fauna, including over 40 threatened species. There are several sites of zoological significance. A list of threatened fauna species recorded for the park and their status is shown in appendix 2.

Significant features include:

- one of the most significant sites for the New Holland Mouse in Victoria;
- the presence of populations of the Long-nosed Potoroo, Swamp Antechinus, White-footed Dunnart, Broad-toothed Rat, New Holland Mouse, Feathertail Glider and Eastern Pygmy-possum;
- about half of the known Victorian species of native freshwater fish (section 4.2);
- records of over 30 species of native mammals — one-third of all Victorian species.

A number of species of whale are regularly sighted in waters adjoining the park or found washed up on beaches.

The avifauna recorded for Wilsons Promontory includes around half of all Victorian bird species. Significant species of migratory wading birds feed on the tidal mudflats of Corner Inlet within and adjoining the park. The offshore islands have breeding and roosting sites for sea birds, including a large number of Short-tailed Shearwaters.

Reptiles and amphibians so far recorded in the park comprise 13 lizard, 3 snake and 10 frog species. Of these, the most significant are the Swamp Skink, Spencer's Skink and Lace Monitor.

Populations of the vulnerable Damsselfly *Hemiphysalia mirabilis*, a 'living fossil', are

found around freshwater swamps and lagoons within the park.

In certain areas, populations of common grazing species such as Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Common Wombats are very high, leading to severe grazing pressures. Populations will need to be monitored and some control may be required.

The airstrip area is popular for viewing wildlife, particularly Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Common Wombats and Emus.

The draft Conservation Strategy (Chesterfield & Whelan 1995a; 1995b) makes a number of recommendations on fauna management which will be incorporated into the Environmental Action Plan currently under development for the park.

Fauna surveys have failed to establish the existence of a number of animals that historical records indicate were originally part of the park's ecosystems. These include the Spot-tailed Quoll, Eastern Quoll, Tasmanian Pademelon, Dingo and Platypus.

Their demise may be the result of habitat changes, inappropriate fire regimes, displacement by feral animals or hunting. If these conditions can be corrected, re-introduction may be possible.

Offshore islands protect important habitat, including breeding sites for a number of seabird species and fur seals. Public access to all islands, except for beach areas on Doughboy, Bennison, Rabbit and Great Glennie Islands, is prohibited for this reason.

Artificial feeding of native wildlife has an adverse effect on the animals and can be dangerous to visitors.

A considerable number of animals are killed by motor vehicles on the Wilsons Promontory Road. In addition to the loss and suffering of wildlife, the level of road kill detracts significantly from visitors' experience in transit through the park. The ability to easily view wildlife should be promoted as a major value of the park, and management measures should be investigated to establish a balance between protecting animals and facilitating access for their viewing.

Recreational fishing and monitoring of fish populations are addressed in section 5.9.

## Aims

- Ensure the preservation and protection of indigenous fauna, including intertidal organisms and native fish.
- Manage ecosystems to provide for the long-term protection and preservation of significant communities, habitats, and species.
- Provide for scientific investigation relating to the conservation of fauna and their habitat.
- Educate visitors and the general public and interpret the natural environment to improve people's appreciation of it and its conservation.

## Management strategies

- *Implement biological management actions and relevant results of research for the protection and preservation of fauna, particularly significant species and their habitats.*
- *Manage Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act listed fauna species in accordance with approved action statements (appendix 2).*
- *Assess the impact of grazing by native and introduced herbivores (particularly Eastern Grey Kangaroos) on park values. Manage the population where required to meet environmental management objectives for the park.*
- *Investigate the accuracy of historic fauna records and consider the desirability / feasibility of re-introducing any locally extinct indigenous species.*
- *Continue to prohibit public access to all islands, except for beach areas on Doughboy, Bennison, Rabbit and Great Glennie Islands.*
- *Discourage the feeding of wildlife by education of visitors.*
- *Consider the introduction of further speed restrictions in specific areas, or at specific times, when animals are most vulnerable and road kill rates are high.*
- *Manage a portion of the airstrip area as habitat for Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Common Wombats and Emus specifically to allow viewing opportunities for visitors.*

*Provide safe observation areas with education and interpretation information to manage visitors' access and encourage appropriate behaviour.*

- *Manage bird habitat in the sewerage area of the Tidal River Recreation Zone to provide viewing opportunities.*

#### 4.5 Landscape

The natural splendour of the Wilsons Promontory landscape is a major attraction for visitors both to the park and to South Gippsland. Spectacular views of a range of land and seascapes are available from many vantage points within the park, and also from land and sea outside the park. The natural setting of Tidal River is a major part of its appeal to visitors.

Visual intrusions into the naturalness of the park's landscape include the Five Mile Road (section 7.3) and the navigational beacon at Lighthouse Point in the Wilderness Zone (section 7.4), the airstrip area (sections 4.3 and 4.4), disused gravel extraction pits (section 4.8) and the telecommunications tower on Mount Oberon (section 7.4).

The existing developments within the Tidal River Recreation Zone are visible from key viewing points such as Mt Oberon and Tidal Overlook but negative impacts have generally been minimised by retaining and planting vegetation. Several specific elements, such as streetlight stanchions and some individual buildings, are visually intrusive.

Intensive summer camping has impacted on the quality of vegetation in the camping area. The development of appropriate and consistent landscape styles and materials will assist in creating a unified character for the site.

#### Aims

- Protect the natural landscapes of the park.
- Minimise visual impacts on the natural landscape, especially from major viewing points.
- Where possible rehabilitate, remove or ameliorate undesirable visual intrusions.
- Minimise the visual intrusion of infrastructure at Tidal River.

#### Management strategies

- *Formalise and maintain the existing scenic viewing points along the Wilsons Promontory Road.*
- *Rehabilitate disused gravel extraction pits along the Wilsons Promontory Road, and complete work on rehabilitation of the Mount Oberon Road quarry site. Subject to resolution of fire management issues, reduce visual impact of the Five Mile Road.*

Tidal River Recreation Zone:

- *Redesign Norman Bay carpark to soften the visual impact from Mt Oberon and enhance landscape elements. The new design should include linkages with pedestrian open space, and improved visitor amenities such as picnic tables, shelters, barbecues and seating.*
- *Prepare detailed planting schemes for the various precincts within Tidal River which reinforce naturally occurring species, in line with activities and uses of the site.*
- *With the exception of lawn areas, utilise locally collected seed and cuttings for revegetation works within Tidal River.*
- *Improve natural drainage patterns of the site through creation of drainage swales.*
- *Regrade campsites where appropriate, and establish lawn grasses that do not have the potential to become environmental weeds.*
- *Supplement existing tree growth in campgrounds to improve definition of sites and visual amenity.*
- *Ensure that all hard landscape elements are designed to comply with contemporary design standards including Australian standards and codes regarding access, safety, design, durability and environmental impact as outlined in Parks Victoria's Facility Design Manual.*
- *Ensure that design of hard landscape elements is simple and that the natural character of vegetation and site is preserved.*
- *Progressively remove existing streetlighting and replace with less obtrusive lighting.*

- *Treat existing buildings and infrastructure where possible to reduce the visual impact from the Lilly Pilly Link Track, Mt Bishop, Mt Oberon and Tidal Overlook.*
- *Restrict infrastructure works to existing cleared and disturbed areas where possible.*
- *Prevent pedestrian traffic access through remnant vegetation.*

#### 4.6 Fire management

The frequency and intensity of fires influence the composition and structure of vegetation communities to a large degree. Appropriate fire regimes can promote the long-term viability of vegetation communities and their associated fauna, and reduce the incidence of invasive species. There is an increasing body of research on flora and fauna responses to fire and appropriate ecological fire regimes to sustain natural ecosystems.

The fire history of the park indicates a more extensive and intense fire regime since European settlement. There were major fires in 1908, 1913, 1939 and 1951. Frequent fires in the open forests, grassy woodlands and heaths of the northern part of the park were a feature of cattle agistment up to 1969. After the fire of 1951, which burnt 75% of the park, burning on the isthmus was discouraged. Fire was largely absent from the park between 1951 and 1972, when a program of fuel reduction burning based around the Five Mile Road commenced. Burning for ecological purposes commenced on the Yanakie Isthmus in 1987 and has since been extended to the heathlands of the park.

The aggressive wildfire suppression operations and infrequent fuel reduction burning from 1951 to 1987 have significantly altered the natural fire regimes of the park, leading to a fuel build-up and vegetation community changes which are of concern. The next large wildfire is likely to be intense and difficult to control.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment is required to undertake proper and sufficient fire prevention and suppression works in national parks under the *Forests Act 1958* (Vic.) and prevent injury by fire to the park under the National Parks Act.

Parks Victoria's operational policy for fire management in parks and reserves requires that fire be managed in accordance with the Gippsland Fire Protection Plan (NRE 1999), the Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land (CNR 1995b) and local fire plans.

The Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land requires that fire management activities follow a balanced approach to ensure that assets and values are protected and environmental values, including the vigour and diversity of the State's indigenous flora, are protected, as far as is practicable, from the deleterious effects of wildfire and inappropriate fire regimes.

The Gippsland Region Fire Protection Plan classifies the majority of the park as Fuel Management Zone (FMZ) 4 – Flora and Fauna Management. There are also smaller areas classified FMZ 3 — Broad Area Fuel Reduced Mosaic and FMZ 5 – Not Planned to be burnt (which includes two reference areas). As a consequence of the fuel management zoning, most of the prescribed burning in the park is conducted primarily for ecological reasons rather than for fuel reduction purposes.

The challenge in managing fire lies in achieving a balance between protection of ecological values and biodiversity, and protection of people and built assets. To achieve objectives for natural values, it is essential to match fire regimes to the vital attributes of the key species in each Ecological Vegetation Class, in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies and the Interim Guidelines and Procedures for Ecological Burning on Public Land in Victoria (NRE 1999). Burning for ecological purposes can also provide some asset protection.

General operational procedures for responding to wildfire are outlined in the Gippsland Readiness and Response Plan, updated each year, and more specific information is contained in the Yarram District Fire Suppression Plan (NRE 2000). Operational procedures for responding to wildfire in the park are detailed in the Gippsland Fire Protection Plan (NRE 1999) and the Draft Wilsons Promontory National Park Fire Suppression Plan (CNR 1996).

Fire management in the Wilderness Zone requires balancing suppression objectives with maintaining wilderness values.

There are large areas of the park where it is not feasible to construct mineral earth fire control lines mechanically because of the steep terrain, or not appropriate because of the damage caused to natural values.

Because of generally low fuel levels, the facilities at Tidal River are unlikely to sustain an intense wildfire originating from within the accommodation area. However, visitors travelling to and from the campground could be at risk from wildfire.

Helipads are used for fire control and search and rescue operations. These helipads will be maintained as necessary for fire protection and visitor safety.

### **Aims**

- Protect life and property and park values from injury by fire.
- Suppress wildfires in a manner appropriate to seasonal conditions, with the objective of minimising impacts on park values.
- Lessen the possibility of an extensive and intense fire in the park.
- Sustain the vigour, diversity and successional development of the park's plant and animal communities by ecological burning on the basis of current and future research findings.

### **Management strategies**

- *Ensure that ecological burning and burning for fire protection reflect appropriate fire regimes and meet ecological objectives.*
- *Reduce fuel levels in areas of the park to the north of Tidal River, north of Mt Wilson and south of Five Mile Road, based on sound ecological principles.*
- *Undertake prescribed burning of heathland communities in the park to maintain ecological diversity.*
- *Reduce slashing programs for fire protection as the prescribed burning program increases.*
- *Allow wildfires to burn out to natural fire boundaries where this meets ecological objectives and where the fire-controller deems the forecast weather conditions to be suitable.*

- *Monitor naturally occurring fires on islands, and where appropriate permit them to run their natural course.*
- *Maintain low fuel levels through slashing and burning in and around Tidal River as protection against severe wildfire.*
- *Ensure that park staff and fire crews are adequately trained in coastal wilderness fire management and suppression.*
- *Evaluate the effectiveness of the response and the impact on park values following fire incidents.*
- *Prepare and implement rehabilitation plans as appropriate following suppression activities.*

### **4.7 Pest plants and animals, and diseases**

Control strategies for pest plants and animals and diseases identified in the Environmental Action Plan currently under development will inform management of pest species and plant diseases in the park. Control methods that have minimal impact on park values will be used in the control of pest species. Priority will be given to controlling pest species that pose significant threats to native flora and fauna.

Ragwort, Fleabane, Sea Spurge and thistles are the weeds in the park of most concern. Efforts will be directed at containing and controlling these widespread species where suitable control methods are available. Other significant introduced weeds that are present within the park include Twiggly Mullein, Oxeye Daisy, Hemlock, Arum Lily, Blackberry and Dolichos Pea. Efforts will be directed at eliminating these species from the park.

The Keith Turnbull Research Institute has made trial releases of the Plume Moth, Crown Boring Moth, Cinnabar Moth and Flea Beetles in the park to attempt biological control of Ragwort. Biological control agents generally do not eradicate weeds but can reduce the spread and density of infestations, perhaps in some cases to levels where no additional control is necessary.

Weed infestations are mainly in areas disturbed by past grazing or soil disturbance associated with road and track construction.

Infrastructure development at Tidal River has resulted in the establishment of a substantial number of environmental weeds.

Foxes are present throughout the park, although they occur in low numbers due to the intensive baiting program undertaken since 1993.

The distribution and number of rabbits within the park varies over time. Currently, rabbit numbers are highest along the park boundary with freehold land. Rabbit numbers on the Yanakie Isthmus appear to be trending downwards. The decline in numbers is the result of an integrated program involving warren ripping, baiting and trapping as well as recurring outbreaks of myxomatosis. Rabbits are also present in low numbers at Tidal River, Waterloo Bay and the Wilsons Promontory Lighthouse. Introduction of the Rabbit Calicivirus has had little impact on rabbit populations in the park, and continued application of conventional control methods will be necessary.

Detailed programs have been developed and implemented for the control of foxes (Keenan, Hoskins & Thomas 2000) and rabbits (Keenan 2001). These programs have been successful, although there is considerable movement of animals across the park boundaries with adjacent freehold land.

The introduced Hog Deer is a protected wildlife species under the provisions of the *Wildlife Act 1975* (Vic.), but its presence is incompatible with management principles, given that it is a non-indigenous species. Under Section 17 (2)(a)(iii) of the National Parks Act the Secretary to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment is required, insofar as is practicable and appropriate, to (among other things) eradicate or control non-indigenous fauna.

Colonies of feral European Honey Bees and European Wasps are present in the park. They pose a threat to visitors' safety and may have an adverse impact on the ecology of the park. Apiculture is addressed in section 7.4.

Other introduced fauna known to occur in the park include the Feral Cat, Feral Dog, Black Rat, House Mouse, Blackbird, House Sparrow, Spotted Turtle-dove, Starling, Garden Snail and Sand Dune Snail. The extent of their

effects on the flora and fauna of Wilsons Promontory has not been quantified.

Cinnamon Fungus has been recorded at a number of sites within the park. This pathogen can greatly reduce the viability of a range of native species and cause the death of susceptible species. The disease spreads naturally downhill with the movement of water and soil. Spread of the disease has been accelerated by transportation of infected soil and gravel in track construction and inadvertently by bushwalkers and animals.

No practical and effective means are currently available to control the disease itself. Research has been undertaken into the use of phosphonate to control spread of the disease. Current management aims to reduce the spread of the pathogen by human activities.

A widespread decline of Coast Banksia on the Yanakie Isthmus first became apparent in early 1980; It progressed throughout the 1980s to affect 1250 ha of the species area on the Isthmus by 1992 (Bennett 1993). Research into the cause of significant Coast Banksia dieback on the Yanakie Isthmus has been inconclusive to date.

### Aims

- Eradicate or control pest plant and animal species using methods which minimise disturbance to natural systems and effects on park values.
- Restore native vegetation to areas where weeds have been removed.
- Prevent the movement of pest plants and animals across the park boundary.

### Management strategies

- *Prepare and implement an integrated program of monitoring and control for pest plant and animal species and pathogens. The priority will be to control pest species that pose significant threats to native flora and fauna.*
- *Continue to implement and monitor the success of the rabbit and fox control plans.*
- *Consider construction of a vermin-proof fence along the park's boundary with freehold land.*

- *Eliminate concentrations of European Wasps and feral Honey Bees.*
- *Evaluate the impact of Hog Deer on the park. Implement appropriate control strategies to reduce or eliminate any detrimental impacts.*
- *Assess the cultural significance of domestic plants within the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation area. Allow any culturally significant plants to remain only where there is no practical risk to environmental values.*
- *Rehabilitate areas that have been disturbed by pest control and other activities, and minimise factors that facilitate invasion by pest species.*
- *Establish and implement quarantine and hygiene procedures for Cinnammon Fungus. Control off-track walking to reduce artificial spread of the pathogen.*
- *Map the current distribution of Cinnammon Fungus within the park. Monitor all known infestations to determine the spread of the disease.*
- *Monitor Coast Banksia dieback, and support research into its cause.*
- *Continue to work with researchers on long-term pest plant and animal control measures.*
- *Control the invasion of weeds into the remnant vegetation and revegetation areas within the Tidal River Recreation Zone.*

#### 4.8 Soil conservation

Significant soil erosion and soil compaction have occurred within areas of the park. The most vulnerable areas tend to be along roads and tracks, walking tracks, camping areas, coastal dunes and abandoned quarries.

These processes may occur in these areas for any of the following reasons: inadequate design, siting or construction of roads, tracks, and camping areas to cope with use; inappropriate visitor activities; lack of suitable rehabilitation (e.g. for gravel extraction areas); or natural causes (e.g. along the coastline).

Erosion can have long-term deleterious effects on stream quality through increased sedimentation, and associated adverse impacts

on flora and fauna. Soil compaction can retard plant growth and cause increased runoff and erosion. Earthworks can facilitate the spread of weeds and disease.

#### Aims

- Prevent and control soil degradation caused by visitor and management activities.
- Rehabilitate sites where soil degradation has occurred.

#### Management strategies

- *Complete rehabilitation of the Mount Oberon Road quarry site.*
- *Manage public access to beaches to prevent degradation of sand dunes, and rehabilitate sites where degradation has occurred. Give priority to the unstable areas where human impacts are most severe.*
- *Design and manage camping areas and access roads and tracks to prevent or reduce soil degradation.*
- *Consider potential environmental impacts during planning for development, construction and maintenance works, and day-to-day management.*
- *Liaise with VicRoads on options for maintenance of roads and roadsides, and stabilisation and rehabilitation of land slips along the Wilsons Promontory Road.*
- *Monitor soil degradation and rehabilitation works to determine the success of control measures.*
- *Investigate the likely pre-European condition of vegetation within the disturbed area at the park boundary shared with the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation Reserve, and where appropriate, revegetate.*

#### 4.9 Aboriginal cultural heritage

Wilsons Promontory National Park has an early history of Aboriginal occupation dating back at least 6500 years. The area is highly significant to the Gunai–Kurnai and the Boonerwung Clans and has strong spiritual connections to both groups, who called it Yiruk and Wamoon respectively. Descendants of both groups have a strong affinity with the

place and are active in cultural heritage surveys and site protection works.

There is significant evidence of Aboriginal occupation along Cotters and Darby Beaches, in Picnic, Norman, Oberon and Miranda Bays, in the area between Johnny Souey Cove and Three Mile Beach, along the coastline between Chinaman Long Beach and Entrance Point, and on offshore islands. The most common sites are shell middens and artefact scatters.

Degradation by erosion and pillaging of artefacts are major threats to the integrity of cultural sites. Some sites will require active management to ensure their protection. Many other sites are rarely visited and, because of their location, site protection is not likely to become an issue.

All Aboriginal sites are protected under the *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972* (Vic.) and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Cwlth). Issues relating to the protection of such sites and the involvement of local Aboriginal communities are approached in accordance with the legislation.

The Central Gippsland Aboriginal Health and Housing Co-operative Ltd has a key role in the protection of Wilsons Promontory, in accordance with Part 11A of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act*.

Issues relating to Native Title are dealt with in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth). An application for a Native Title determination, covering Wilsons Promontory National Park and the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation Reserves among other areas, was registered with the Native Title Tribunal on 17 March 1997. Implementation of this management plan will take into account the existence of this and any subsequent native title applications.

#### **Aims**

- Protect, conserve and promote the park's cultural heritage. Protect features and places of archaeological significance, and Aboriginal cultural or spiritual significance in consultation with the Aboriginal community.

- Provide opportunities for people to learn about and understand the cultural and spiritual significance of the park to the Aboriginal community and traditional owners.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Manage and protect Aboriginal cultural sites in accordance with the provisions of the Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act.*
- *Ensure that all management actions are in accordance with the Native Title Act.*
- *Develop a cultural heritage program for the park jointly with the Aboriginal community and the traditional owners.*
- *Formalise a consultative process with the Aboriginal community and the traditional owners.*
- *Involve Aboriginal people in the delivery of interpretive and education programs, particularly those involving Aboriginal culture, customs and history.*
- *Continue to support Aboriginal cultural activities in the park.*
- *Identify and map features and places of archaeological significance to minimise disturbance to these sites.*
- *Liaise with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and co-operate with the Aboriginal community and the traditional owners in the identification, management and care of sites of significance to their community.*
- *Protect recorded shell midden sites from development and visitors' impact, and manage them in consultation with the Aboriginal community and the traditional owners.*
- *Discuss with various interest groups options for relocating existing huts and campsites from the midden site in the Tidal River Recreation Zone.*
- *Record details of all Aboriginal cultural sites and, in consultation with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, remove evidence of non-Aboriginal modifications to sites which are having an adverse impact on the natural*



*environment and are not significant.  
Rehabilitate sites as necessary.*

- *Increase visitors' awareness and understanding of the Aboriginal cultural and spiritual significance of the park through appropriate signage and interpretive material developed in consultation with the Aboriginal community.*

#### **4.10 Post-settlement cultural heritage**

Wilson's Promontory has a long history of commercial resource and recreational use dating back to the early 1800s. As a result, many historic and cultural features of significance to the non-Aboriginal community are present in the park and adjoining waters.

The first recorded European sighting of Wilson's Promontory was by George Bass in 1798, who named the area 'Wilson's Promontory' in honour of Thomas Wilson, a London friend of Matthew Flinders.

Commencing in 1803, sealers and whalers worked along the coast, exterminating two seal populations in the surrounding waters within 30 years. Timber milling occurred at Sealers Cove during the 1850s and 1860s, and gold was mined at Mount Singapore for a brief period during the 1860s.

The Wilson's Promontory Lightstation, located at South East Point, was established to provide a safe passage for ships through Bass Strait. Built between 1853–1859, it is one of the earliest lightstations constructed on the Victorian coast. The Lightstation comprises of a granite light tower, four keepers' residences and a series of outbuildings. A telegraph line was constructed in 1873 to allow communication between the lighthouse and Port Albert. It fell into disrepair in the early 1970s.

Much of the park was held under grazing licence (sheep and cattle) from the 1850s, with the Yanakie Isthmus being the most productive area. The stockyards associated with the mustering of cattle, and several graves which date from the 1870s, are of historical significance.

Despite the initial reservation of Wilson's Promontory as a National Park in 1898, commercial utilisation of its resources continued. Timber milling recommenced at

Sealers Cove in 1903 and continued until 1906. Tin was mined in the Mount Hunter area between 1920 and 1925. Quarrying of calcareous dunes for road-making occurred on the Yanakie Isthmus from 1960s until 1993. Seasonal grazing of the area north of the Darby River continued until 1992.

During World War II the park was closed to the public and the No.7 Infantry Training Centre for army commandos was established at Tidal River. Section 29 of the National Parks Act requires that the cairn at Tidal River commemorating wartime commando training be maintained.

The Darby River Ranger's House, which dates from 1915, is important as it is one of the few early structures still surviving from the park's early history. It has been home to a number of rangers and their families at Darby River and in its current location at Tidal River. Although its external appearance has changed, the house is significant due to its association with park management history in Victoria.

Many relics or sites illustrating the history of past land use in the park remain, including the foundations of the post office, Darby Chalet, pilot station and hotel, the sites of former tin and gold mining operations, various hut sites, piers of the Sealers Cove jetty, whaling station remains and a number of shipwrecks in adjacent waters. These features and sites have been identified and recorded in conjunction with the Heritage Victoria Division of the Department of Infrastructure.

Historic and cultural places will be managed in accordance with the *Heritage Act 1995* (Vic.) and the ICOMOS Charter for Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter) (ICOMOS 1999), and shipwrecks in accordance with the provisions of the Heritage Act and the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976* (Cwlth).

The Wilson's Promontory Lightstation is listed on the Register of the National Estate and the Victorian Heritage Register (HR No.1843), and is classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

The Wilson's Promontory Lightstation Conservation Plan (Australia Construction Services 1993) recognises the historical and cultural values of the site and provides the basis for managing the Lightstation. An

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addendum to the plan was prepared in 1999 to provide sufficient detail to allow its acceptance by Heritage Victoria and to clarify the conditions for maintenance and refurbishment of facilities at the Lightstation.

### **Aims**

- Preserve and protect features of post-settlement cultural heritage.
- Provide opportunities for people to learn about and understand the significance of the historical and cultural values of the park.

### **Management strategies**

- *Manage sites of cultural significance in accordance with the Burra Charter and the provisions of the Heritage Act.*
- *Maintain the historic graveyards near the park entrance.*

- *Maintain the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation in accordance with the Conservation Plan.*
- *Maintain the Commando Cairn in accordance with Section 29 of the National Parks Act.*
- *Collect and record information relating to sites of cultural and historical significance.*
- *Liaise with Heritage Victoria to identify and assess historical sites, and prepare a plan for the management of all significant cultural and historical sites within the park.*
- *Prepare a Heritage Action Statement for the Darby River Ranger's House. Evaluate reinstating the building's original external appearance and possible future uses for the house.*

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## 5 STRATEGIES FOR VISITORS

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### 5.1 Information, interpretation and education

The services developed for visitors to Wilsons Promontory National Park must take account of the management direction to provide opportunities for visitors to experience the park's special qualities while retaining its remote and largely undeveloped nature.

#### Pre-visit information

Development of a comprehensive regional tourism strategy will be of benefit to both the park and the region. Such a strategy should promote other parks and locations in the region as places to visit and encourage a wider range of accommodation as an alternative to staying at Tidal River. This would present a wider range of experiences and recreational opportunities for visitors to the region, and help limit visitor pressure on the park.

A successful regional approach to tourism will require liaison with local, regional and statewide tourism authorities, local government bodies, commercial tour operators and the local community. The principles and recommendations outlined in the Strategic Business Plan 1997–2001 (Tourism Victoria 1997b) and Nature Based Tourism Strategy (Tourism Victoria 2000) are relevant.

#### Orientation

The provision of high-quality information facilitates visitors' orientation and assists them to appreciate and enjoy the park.

The visitor orientation and park information services provided at the Entrance Station are basic. There is scope to expand and improve these services and establish an enhanced sense of arrival to the park.

The major facility for contact between staff and visitors, and the main site for distribution of orientation and park information, is the Visitor Centre at Tidal River.

The promotion of minimal impact techniques and safe practices is important in ensuring the long-term sustainability of recreational use of the park, as well as the enjoyment of visitors. Education programs directed at encouraging

conservation awareness and behaviour amongst visitors are necessary.

#### Interpretation

The park's range of natural, cultural and historical values presents excellent opportunities for interpreting the natural environment, and educating and informing the public about conservation, park values, park management and the role of Parks Victoria.

Interpretive displays, audiovisual presentations and interpretive literature are provided at the Visitor Centre at Tidal River together with information services and sales. The Visitor Centre and displays have been refurbished although the display is regarded as a temporary one. There is scope for development of additional appropriate publications to support interpretive and educational programs for the park.

Interpretation programs are provided from Tidal River. A variety of ranger-led activities are run during peak visitor periods. These activities are very popular. There are opportunities for additional services to be provided by private operators (section 5.11).

The setting, history and location of the lightstation at the southern limit of the Australian continent provide broad scope for interpretation and education about the historical, cultural and natural values of the site and surrounding marine areas.

The park's coastal location, together with the existing marine parks and reserves around Wilsons Promontory and the proposed creation of marine national parks there (Government of Victoria 2000), highlight the area's potential as a site for interpretation of the marine environment.

The document 'Exploring Wilsons Promontory: a Guide to Visitor Services, Interpretation and Education' (CNR 1995a) recommends key themes for incorporation into the interpretive services. This document should be revised in line with developments over the past six years.

### Schools education

Since 1990 a Schools Education Officer has been appointed to the park to develop and present programs to school students. The Schools Education Officer also liaises with environmental education groups to promote conservation outside the park. A professional development program for teachers is also provided.

An area adjacent to Tidal River Recreation Zone is proposed for declaration as an Education Zone to be managed in accordance with the relevant park regulations applying to education zones. The Zone will facilitate interpretation and environmental education programs, highlighting management issues and practices in a diverse range of habitats, particularly for specialist groups, within a relatively small area readily accessible from Tidal River. The Zone will provide for certain activities such as supervised sampling and marking of plots that would not otherwise be allowed without a permit.

### Aims

- Provide appropriate motivational and tour planning information to visitors before they undertake their park visit.
- Establish the Park Entrance<sup>4</sup> as a key location for visitor orientation and information.
- Orient visitors in relation to park features.
- Inform visitors of appropriate behaviour during their park visit.
- Provide high-quality interpretation and education opportunities to promote understanding and appreciation of the values and proper use and conservation of the park.
- Operate a high-quality education service to meet the needs of schools visiting the park.

### Management strategies

Pre-visit information:

- *Promote Wilsons Promontory as only one of a range of places to visit and stay in the Philip Island and Gippsland Discovery Tourism Region.*
- *Encourage the development of an overall tourism strategy for the Region that recognises the need to retain the remote and largely undeveloped nature of the park.*

Orientation:

- *Implement the key thrusts of 'Exploring Wilsons Promontory: a Guide to Visitor Services, Interpretation and Education' (CNR 1995a) relating to orientation and the delivery of park information to visitors including:*
  - *improvement of information and orientation services at the Park Entrance, Wilsons Promontory Lightstation and Darby River;*
  - *increased liaison and information services to visitors entering the park by boat;*
  - *improvement of information boards and interpretive signs throughout the park (except in the Wilderness Zone) to promote visitor opportunities and convey management messages;*
  - *provision of comprehensive staff training to ensure accurate pre-visit information and delivery of visitor services.*
- *Prepare a detailed plan for the establishment of visitor orientation facilities at the Park Entrance (section 5.3).*
- *Redesign and upgrade the entrance facilities to provide improved orientation and park information services that complement the Tidal River Visitor Centre (section 5.3).*
- *Provide high-quality visitor orientation, for both Wilsons Promontory National Park and other parks in South Gippsland, at the Park Entrance and Tidal River Visitor Centre.*

<sup>4</sup> In this document the term 'Park Entrance' means the locality comprising the Recreation Zone at the northern boundary of the park identified in table 1 and figure 3, including the entrance station, staff housing, works area, and Stockyard campground.

- *Provide information on the park at local boat ramps to advise recreational boating visitors to the park of appropriate behaviour.*
- *Promote a ‘reduce-reuse-recycle’ education program for visitors to reduce waste disposal requirements.*
- *Continue to implement a comprehensive visitor information/education program, highlighting the sensitive nature of the immediate environment and the need for water conservation, waste minimisation and appropriate waste disposal.*

Interpretation:

- *Implement the key thrusts of ‘Exploring Wilsons Promontory: a Guide to Visitor Services, Interpretation and Education’ (CNR 1995a) relating to interpretation, including incorporation and focus on the following key themes:*
- *the park’s Aboriginal and post-settlement history;*
- *landforms, flora and fauna, zoology and botany;*
- *links with the park’s role as a Biosphere Reserve;*
- *working with the Aboriginal community to manage and conserve the park;*
- *providing recreational opportunities for the public; and*
- *the management of the park’s natural and cultural values and issues related to these.*
- *Continue and extend the principle of ‘enjoyment with understanding’ through interpretive signage and literature informing visitors about sustainable practices and park values in the immediate area of Tidal River.*
- *Develop an interpretation/education plan for the lightstation precinct that includes displays and interpretation relating to the lightstation and its relationship to the park and adjacent marine reserves.*
- *Incorporate the findings of research and monitoring of the marine environment into interpretive displays at the lightstation and the Tidal River Visitor Centre.*

- *Provide interpretive and educational materials that improve visitors’ appreciation of cultural and historical sites of significance.*
- *Encourage and support the development of publications to support interpretive programs and communicate management and conservation strategies.*
- *Provide interpretation on pest plant and animal, fire, and flora and fauna management programs within the park to increase visitor’s understanding and support for these activities.*
- *Provide appropriate interpretation of historic graveyards near the Park Entrance.*
- *Establish and implement monitoring and maintenance schedules for all interpretive facilities.*
- *Undertake regular evaluation of information and interpretation programs related to the park.*

Schools education:

- *Continue to provide a high-standard education program from Tidal River.*
- *Seek declaration of the Education Zone near Tidal River under Section 22 of the National Parks Act and manage it in accordance with the park regulations applying to education zones.*
- *Encourage students to take part in data collection and observation.*
- *Continue to develop close liaison between park management and the Aboriginal community with respect to cultural education.*

## 5.2 Access

Most visitors travel to the park by private vehicle or as part of a commercial tour.

The Meeniyan–Promontory Road, which leads from Fish Creek to the Park Entrance, is the only road access to the park. Pedestrian access is also permitted via Hourigans Camp Lane.

Within the park, Wilsons Promontory Road allows vehicular access to carparks at Five Mile Road, Cotters Lake, Darby River, Whisky Bay, Picnic Bay, Squeaky Beach, Lilly Pilly

Gully, Telegraph Saddle (Mt Oberon) and Norman Bay, and to the gate on Cotters Lake South Track (table 4).

Within the Tidal River Recreation Zone, there is a network of public roads, most of which are heavily used by motor vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. Cyclists are also permitted on Norman Bay Beach.

A clear access and circulation strategy is needed to mediate between the needs of cars, pedestrians and cyclists. Management issues requiring resolution, particularly during peak periods, relate to traffic circulation and congestion, car and bus parking at beaches and day walks, pedestrian safety and access for visitors with disabilities.

Public transport services to and from the park are poorly developed. An external provider operates an 'on demand' public transport service between Foster and Tidal River.

A shuttle bus service is provided between Tidal River and the Telegraph Saddle at peak periods when congestion at the Telegraph Saddle carpark and the Mount Oberon Road is likely. When the shuttle bus is operating, the road to Telegraph Saddle is usually closed to public vehicle access.

Visitor access to the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation is on foot through the park, or by boat (section 5.8).

The shoreline of the park is commonly accessed from the ports and boat ramps in Corner Inlet or across the beach at Norman Bay (section 5.8).

### **Aims**

- Encourage improved public transport to the park.
- Reduce traffic congestion in the park while maintaining appropriate public access.
- Maintain public access to the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation.

### **Management strategies**

- *Encourage the establishment of public road transport services to the park.*
- *Manage roads and tracks in accordance with table 4, figure 7 and Parks Victoria's operational policies.*

- *Continue to permit use of Wilsons Promontory Road; spur roads or tracks leading to carparks at Five Mile Road, Cotters Lake, Darby River, Whisky Bay, Picnic Bay, Squeaky Beach, Telegraph Saddle and Norman Bay; and other public roads within the Tidal River Recreation Zone.*
- *Redesign the facilities at the Park Entrance to improve traffic flow (sections 5.2 and 7.2).*
- *Prepare a traffic management strategy for the park, with particular attention to Tidal River.*
- *Consider establishing a shuttle bus system to service Tidal River, the Park Entrance and carparks to reduce traffic congestion.*
- *Monitor vehicle congestion, and if necessary restrict private vehicle access to particular carparks in peak periods.*
- *Only allow access for cyclists to roads open to public vehicles and the Norman Bay Beach.*

### **Tidal River Recreation Zone:**

- *Re-align the main vehicular access within Tidal River based on a two-way traffic ring road around the area giving access to facilities, camping areas, accommodation and recreation areas.*
- *Provide opportunities to redirect or terminate the traffic flow to cater for fluctuating visit numbers and management requirements during the year.*
- *Ensure that new road and path alignments alleviate existing conflict points between pedestrians and cars.*
- *Provide clearer and safer vehicular and pedestrian access points to campsites through the creation of the proposed ring road and rationalisation of internal roads.*
- *Create a path network to link the various precincts and amenities, separate from vehicular traffic.*
- *Improve bus access where required.*
- *Increase carpark capacity by developing overflow carparking in the proposed new works area to reduce vehicular congestion during the peak season.*

**TABLE 4 MANAGEMENT OF ROADS AND WALKING TRACKS**

ROAD OR TRACK	CLASS OR GRADE	CURRENT CONDITION	PROPOSED ACTION
<b>Road:</b>			
Wilsons Promontory Road	4A	Good	Managed by VicRoads as a tourist road. Consider speed restrictions in specific sections to reduce number of road kills.
Five Mile Road to carpark	5C	Good	Maintain road at current standard. Reduce speed limit to 40 km/h.
Cotters Lake Track to carpark	5C	Fair	Maintain track at current standard. Reduce speed limit to 40 km/h.
Cotters South Track	5D	Poor	Reduce speed limit to 40 km/h. Formalise track to gate.
Whisky Bay carpark Road	5B	Good	Maintain road at current standard. Reduce speed limit to 40 km/h.
Picnic Bay carpark Road	5B	Good	Maintain road at current standard. Reduce speed limit to 40 km/h.
Squeaky Beach carpark Road	5B	Good	Maintain road at current standard. Reduce speed limit to 40 km/h.
Mount Oberon Road	4A	Good	Maintain road at current standard. Reduce speed limit to 40 km/h. Install No Parking signs to manage overflow from the carpark. Close the road and carpark during peak periods to ease congestion.
<b>Walking Tracks:</b>			
Hourigans Lane	4	Good	Maintain as low-key and low-capacity access to the park and Shallow Inlet.
Hellisons Track	3 (MVO)	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Drift Walking Track	3 (MVO)	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Springs Track	3 (MVO)	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Back Drift Track	3 (MVO)	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Gumflat Track	3 (MVO)	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Middle Yards Track	3 (MVO)	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Scoop Hole Track	3 (MVO)	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
South West Corner Track	3 (MVO)	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Old Burn Track	3 (MVO)	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Soup Track	3 (MVO)	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Limestone Track	3 (MVO)	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Darby River carpark to beach	3	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Five Mile Road beyond carpark	3 (MVO)	Good	Reduce to a grade 3 walking track subject to resolution of fire management issues.
Millers Landing Nature Walk	2 (MVO)	Poor	Upgrade to class 2 walking track.
Vereker Track	3 (MVO)	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Vereker Outlook Track	3	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Five Mile Road to Tin Mine Cove via Lower Barry Creek/Chinaman Long Beach	5	Good	Maintain track at current standard.

Table 4 (cont.)

ROAD OR TRACK	CLASS OR GRADE	CURRENT CONDITION	PROPOSED ACTION
Chinamans Long Beach to Lighthouse Point (Tin Mine Track)	5	Good	Currently a MVO track. Reduce maintenance to allow track to become a class 5 walking track.
Old Mount Margaret Track, from St Kilda Junction, North	3 (MVO)	Fair	Close and allow to naturally revegetate.
Lighthouse Point to Johnny Souey Cove	5	Good	Retain as marked route only.
Johnny Souey Cove to Five Mile Beach	5	Good	Retain as marked route only.
Cotters Lake Track to beach	3 (MVO)	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Airstrip Track	3 (MVO)	Fair	Maintain track at current standard.
Airstrip Nature Walk	3	Proposed	Assess possible routes for the nature walk and develop.
Kangaroo Valley Track	3 (MVO)	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Red Hill Track	3 (MVO)	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Darby Beach Track	2	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Tongue Point Track	3	Fair	Maintain track to Class 3 standard.
Fairy Cove	3	Fair	Maintain track to Class 3 standard.
Sparkes Lookout	3	Fair	Maintain track to Class 3 standard. Realign at western end to provide better gradient.
Darby River to Whisky Bay	3	Proposed	Assess and construct, utilising part of Tongue Point and Sparkes Lookout tracks.
Whisky Bay Track	2	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Whisky Bay to Picnic Bay Track	3	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Picnic Bay Track	3	Fair	Maintain track to Class 3 standard.
Picnic Bay to Squeaky Beach Track	3	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Squeaky Beach Track	2	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Squeaky Beach to Tidal River Track Nature Walk	2	Fair	Maintain track to Class 2 standard.
Squeaky Beach carpark to Lilly Pilly carpark	2	Proposed	Assess possible routes and impacts on environmental and cultural values prior to construction.
Lilly Pilly Gully Nature Walk	2	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Mount Bishop Track	3	Fair	Maintain track to Class 3 standard.
Tidal Overlook Track	3	Fair	Maintain track to Class 3 standard.
Pillar Point Track	3	Poor	Maintain track to Class 3 standard.
Tidal River/Lilly Pilly Gully Link Track	2	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Whale Rock Track	2	Poor	Upgrade and maintain track to Class 2 standard.
Loo-Ern Track	1	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
South Norman Beach Track (Biddie's)	2	Fair	Upgrade track and maintain to class 2 standard. Requires minor realignment of some steep sections of the track.



Table 4 (cont.)

ROAD OR TRACK	CLASS OR GRADE	CURRENT CONDITION	PROPOSED ACTION
Norman Beach Access Ramps	2–3	Fair	Restore access tracks and ramps to Class 2 and 3 standard.
Tidal River to Telegraph Saddle	3	Proposed	Assess possible routes and impacts on environmental and cultural values prior to construction.
Norman Beach to Oberon Bay Track	3	Fair	Maintain to class 3 standard.
Mount Oberon Nature Walk	2 (MVO)	Good	Maintain track at current standard (Telstra responsibility).
Telegraph Saddle to Sealers Cove	3	Fair	Maintain to Class 3 standard.
Sealers Cove to Refuge Cove	3	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Refuge Cove to North Waterloo Bay	3	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
North Waterloo to Little Waterloo	3	Poor	Maintain to class 3 standard. Realign some sections of the track.
Kersops Peak Spur Track	3	Good	Maintain track to class 3 standard.
Little Waterloo Bay to Telegraph Track	3	Poor	Maintain track to class 3 standard.
Telegraph Track	3 (MVO)	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Oberon Bay to Telegraph Track	3 (MVO)	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
Martins Hill to Roaring Meg Walking Track	3	Poor	Restore track condition to create alternative route to lightstation.
Roaring Meg to Lighthouse Walking Track	3	Poor	Restore track condition to create alternative route to lightstation.
South Point Track	4	Good	Maintain track at current standard.
South East Track	4	Good	Maintain track at current standard.

**KEY:****Parks Victoria Classification – roads:**

## Function:

Class 4 roads provide for park access, and additional functions such as commercial uses, through access to other location (outside the Park), or access to private property or utilities.

Class 5 roads exclusively provide access for visitors into parks for recreational activities, or exclusive use for Park Management.

## Development:

A Primary Road – all weather, two lanes, mainly sealed road.

B Secondary Road – all weather, two lanes formed and gravelled, or single lane sealed with gravel shoulders.

C Minor Road – Single lane unsealed, formed road usually lightly gravelled.

D Access Track – Single lane, dry weather formed from natural materials.

E Rough Track – Single lane, unformed earth track at or near the natural surface.

## Status:

MVO Management vehicles only.

**Australian Standards Classification – tracks:**

Grade 1 Large number of visitors with high level of interpretation facilities.

Grade 2 Opportunity for a large number of visitors to walk easily in a natural environment with a moderate level of interpretation and facilities.

Grade 3 Opportunity to walk in relatively undisturbed natural environments, requiring moderate levels of fitness and care. Low levels of interpretation and facilities.

## KEY (cont.)

- Grade 4 Opportunity for visitors to explore and discover natural environments along distinct tracks with minimal if any facilities.
- Grade 5 Opportunity for those with advanced outdoor knowledge and skills to find their own way along often-indistinct trails to more remote locations.
- Grade 6 Opportunity for highly experienced walkers to explore remote and potentially hazardous natural areas without reliance on managed tracks.

Note: MVO (Management Vehicle Only) tracks are available to walkers and park management vehicles.

- *Ensure that day-visitor carparking is flexible as to size and type of vehicle accommodated, i.e. buses, cars with trailers, caravans and campervans and motorcycles.*
- *Provide for a maximum of two carspaces on each campsite, with the exception of any designated 'walk in' campsites for overnight hikers.*
- *Provide bike racks at the café/general store, Visitor Centre and beach access points.*
- *Develop and maintain facilities in accordance with table 4 and figure 7.*

## Lightstation Recreation Zone:

- *Investigate the provision of infrastructure to support enhanced boat-based access to the lightstation.*

### 5.3 Amenity

A major challenge for management is to provide opportunities for visitors to experience the park's special qualities while retaining its remote and largely undeveloped nature.

Development proposals for the park, particularly in the Recreation Zones at Tidal River and the lightstation, must take account of the inherent ecological constraints. The protection and enhancement of visitor amenity is critically dependent both on protection of park values and on sustainable provision of services such as water, energy and waste management.

The peak levels of demand for visits, and for lodgings throughout the year, remain high.

The limit of 800 day-visitor vehicles (2500 to 3000 visitors) was exceeded in the late 1980s and has approached this level on a number of days over the past two summers. Visit numbers exceeding these levels have a potential to degrade environmental values and

to threaten the visitors' experience by overloading visitor services and facilities. For these reasons, day visitor vehicle numbers have been limited to 800. It is considered neither desirable nor feasible to increase the limit.

#### Recreation Zone

Almost all visitors pass through the Entrance Station. However, the presentation of the buildings, setting, services and facilities does not create an appropriate sense of entry to this outstanding park.

Tidal River Recreation Zone is the main destination for almost all visitors and the largest accommodation centre in any Victorian national park.

Within Tidal River Recreation Zone the landscape has been substantially modified and degraded. Ecological values vary from low in the highly disturbed areas to very high in the undisturbed river and dune areas.

The extensive range of visitor facilities and services includes a Visitor Centre providing orientation, park information and interpretation services. A café and general store, open air cinema, playground, Education Centre, Medical Centre and ablution blocks are located nearby. Emergency, medical and police services are available during peak season.

At present the facilities are disconnected, creating parking, circulation and pedestrian access issues, and require refurbishment to upgrade the level and type of service offered to visitors.

During peak periods, the concentration of visitor activities results in high use of existing facilities.

Intensive use of campsites over many years has caused widespread degradation of soils and vegetation and substantially reduced the amenity of many campsites.

Any increase in the capacity of built accommodation at Tidal River would unacceptably impact on the ecological values, both directly and through development of additional capacity of the infrastructure, and also on the amenity of the area.

Careful and consistent site planning will be required to develop the appropriate level of amenity for visitors to the Recreation Zone of a park of international standing, and at the same time protect natural values and enhance the natural environment.

The Lightstation Recreation Zone is relatively difficult to access (section 5.2). Most visitors walk 19 km from the Telegraph Saddle carpark. There are currently 24 beds available for visitors.

Vegetation in the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation Reserve has been considerably disturbed by past uses, and protection and restoration works are proposed (section 4.3).

Infrastructure for waste management does not comply with current standards (section 7.2) and alternative measures are being considered.

Any developments must take account of heritage constraints detailed in the Lightstation Conservation Plan.

### Aims

- Manage the Recreation Zones in an effective, resource-efficient and environmentally sustainable manner in harmony with the national park setting.
- Enhance the visitor's 'sense of arrival' to the park.
- Base the visitor experience on exploration, enjoyment and appreciation of the natural values of the park.
- Design and develop unified and efficient visitor facilities and amenities within Tidal River Recreation Zone, in harmony with the natural setting and environment.
- Provide a level of service and quality of visitor facilities consistent with Tidal River's profile as the major overnight visitor destination in the Victorian national parks system.
- Keep operational support facilities in the Tidal River Recreation Zone to a minimum.

- Retain and reuse existing infrastructure in the Tidal River Recreation Zone, wherever possible.

### Management strategies

- *Maintain the 800 day-visitor vehicle per day limit for the park.*
- *Liaise with the local tourism industry in the development of a 'park full' strategy to encourage use of other destinations.*
- *Support the 'park full' strategy with public information services such as pre-visit information/booking service, tourist radio and traffic signs to advise visitors en route.*
- *Monitor the impact of visitor and operational activities on the Recreation Zone at Tidal River.*

### Park Entrance Recreation Zone:

- *Redesign and upgrade the entrance facilities to provide an enhanced 'sense of arrival' (sections 5.1 and 7.2).*
- *Ensure that the physical layout and design of the Park Entrance is unified and is sympathetic with the natural setting and environment.*
- *Protect and maintain the natural setting of the Park Entrance.*

### Tidal River Recreation Zone:

- *Progressively manage Tidal River consistent with the functional schema given in table 2 and figure 5B.*
- *Prepare detailed designs and drawings encompassing architectural style, materials, signs, furniture, paving and lighting appropriate to particular precincts before undertaking major construction works.*
- *Investigate the development of a continuous, open space, landscaped, pedestrian precinct, free of vehicular traffic, to link visitor facilities in the General Services and Norman Bay Visitor precincts.*
- *Ensure that facilities are provided only as necessary to service visitors and support functions.*
- *As part of stage 2 of the refurbishment of the Tidal River Visitor Centre, extend the*

*building to accommodate a new interpretive display and resource centre. (section 7.2).*

- *Enhance the integration of the precinct containing the Visitor Centre and café/general store buildings, and improve its amenity and orientation for visitors, by improving access, signage and landscaping around the buildings.*
- *Provide for enhanced food services and outdoor dining.*
- *Include new public toilet facilities within the extended Visitor Centre building to replace toilets to be removed with the demolition of the Terrace ablution block (section 4.2).*
- *Retain the open air cinema in its current location and provide path links to landscaped open space.*
- *Design and construct an appropriately themed playground facility. Include the facility within any new open space pedestrian precinct.*
- *Retain and refurbish the Education Centre and Botany Laboratory building to create flexibility in education and research program delivery.*
- *Limit the overall capacity of camping and accommodation facilities to 4000 visitors (as outlined in table 5), maintaining the relative proportions of camping and roofed accommodation.*

Lightstation Recreation Zone:

- *Prepare a Design and Landscape Plan for the lightstation. Ensure that the overall vision is consistent with the Conservation Plan and takes account of the various natural, cultural, recreational, functional and operational factors.*
- *Continue to provide accommodation services within the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation for walkers and boat visitors.*

#### **5.4 Day visitor activities**

Almost all day visitors spend much of their time in and about the Tidal River Recreation Zone.

Tidal River provides for numerous recreational activities, including opportunities within the

campground itself, along the adjacent stream and Norman Bay beach, and in nearby areas and beaches linked by walking tracks.

Tidal River is a staging point for many walkers undertaking the major overnight walking circuit, which takes in Sealers Cove, Refuge Cove, Waterloo Bay, Wilsons Promontory Lightstation and Oberon Bay.

Most of the day visitor facilities are located at Tidal River. Picnic and barbecue facilities are available for day and overnight visitors, including tour groups.

Visitor surveys have identified that the number and type of day visitor facilities, particularly those at Tidal River, are inadequate. On days when visit numbers reach 2500, existing day visitor facilities throughout the park are fully utilised. Additional facilities such as increased access for those with limited mobility, tour bus parking, shelters and barbecues are needed. There is scope to substantially improve the existing facilities.

Provision of additional facilities at locations outside the Tidal River Recreation Zone, particularly in the northwestern part of the park, would enhance visitors' park experience, and ease congestion in Tidal River.

The Lightstation area has capacity for low-key nature-based recreational activities. It is an important fire refuge area for visitors and staff in this area of the park.

#### **Aim**

- Provide day visitor facilities that enhance visitors' enjoyment of the park and are consistent with protecting park values.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Provide low-key additional day visitor facilities in the north-western part of the park between Darby River and the Park Entrance, including nature trails, day walks and interpretation of the park's features (table 5 and figure 7).*
- *Develop a nature walk in the airstrip locality.*
- *Incorporate quality day visitor facilities into the redesign of visitor service areas in Tidal River Recreation Zone.*

- *Provide improved visitor amenities such as picnic tables, shelters, barbecues and seating in the Norman Bay Visitor Precinct, and pedestrian links between the facilities and any new pedestrian precinct (sections 4.5 and 5.3).*
- *Develop a link track between Tidal River and Telegraph Saddle (figure 7).*
- *Provide for passive land and water-based recreational activities and opportunities at the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation.*

## **5.5 Overnight accommodation**

Tidal River currently provides a strong sense of place and community for a maximum of 4000 overnight visitors. During peak periods, the high concentrations of visitors result in a high demand and competition for the use of services and facilities.

Table 5 provides a summary of existing overnight accommodation within the Tidal River and the Lightstation recreation zones.

A total of 484 campsites provides approximately 94 per cent of the overnight visit capacity. Camping is the most popular activity at Tidal River during the peak summer period, with maximum campsite occupancy from Christmas to the end of January. Outside this period, occupancy levels are much lower.

Restoring and regenerating the campsites is essential to support environmental and visitor service objectives.

A range of cabins, huts, units and lodges provides about 4 per cent of overnight visit capacity. These buildings contain 236 beds and can accommodate groups of up to 30.

The standard of roofed accommodation needs to be improved to meet requirements under the *Health Act 1958* (Vic.) and to minimise the impacts on environmental and cultural values within the site. Any increase in the capacity of built accommodation would place pressures on infrastructure and environmental amenity.

Accommodation is currently available at the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation for up to 24 visitors and two staff in former keepers' residences.

A small overnight camping ground is maintained for walkers and volunteers at the Park Entrance (Stockyard Camp).

Section 7.2 covers the management and support services infrastructure issues associated with Tidal River.

### **Aims**

- Provide a range of accommodation for visitors to the park.
- Manage Tidal River Recreation Zone primarily as a day visitor destination, and as an overnight accommodation destination, principally for camping. Maintain current area of, and access to, campsites at Tidal River and ensure they are managed in an environmentally sensitive manner.

### **Management strategies**

- *Maintain current number and apportioning of campsites subject to sound environmental management, with availability throughout the year subject to regeneration works and seasonal weather conditions.*
- *Within this capacity, develop campsites on 32nd Avenue as smaller, car-free 'walk in' sites as a means of reducing pressure on vegetation and soils.*
- *Decommission the 11 campsites located on or near Aboriginal midden sites and provide alternative sites in the Camping Precinct.*
- *Rest and regenerate sites on a cyclical basis to support long-term environmental management objectives of minimising erosion, soil compaction and drainage problems.*

**TABLE 5 OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION AT TIDAL RIVER AND THE WILSONS PROMONTORY LIGHTSTATION**

SITE	UNITS/SITES	CAPACITY (VISITORS PER NIGHT)	MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND COMMENT
<b>Tidal River roofed accommodation (total)</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>236</b>	
Motor Huts	8	36	Remove the 8 motor huts located on the Aboriginal midden and replace within the Cabin Accommodation Precinct.
Group Lodges	4	78	Maintain group lodges in their current location.
Cabins	17	102	Maintain cabins in their current location.
Flats	5	20	Replace or upgrade the flats with similar mid range accommodation.
<b>Tidal River campsites</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>3840</b>	Maintain current number of campsites within Tidal River Camping precinct. Rest sites on a cyclical basis. Decommission 11 campsites from the Aboriginal midden and relocate to alternative sites in the camping precinct.
<b>Wilson's Promontory Lightstation – former keepers' residences</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>	Provide basic self-contained accommodation within the existing keepers residences.

- *Minimise short-term reduction in campsite availability while campsites are under renovation.*
- *Provide wet-weather shelters, and camper kitchens comprising cooking, wash-up areas and communal table and seating, to improve visitors' amenity in adverse weather and the use of campsites in off-peak season.*
- *Maintain the campground within the park Entrance Recreation Zone as a base for walkers in the north of the park and for use by volunteers.*
- *Prohibit camping within the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation Recreation Zone to minimise visitor impacts on the environment.*
- *Where replacement or relocation of existing accommodation capacity is required, consolidate into the proposed Cabin Accommodation Precinct (the existing depot area).*
- *Remove the eight huts located on the archaeologically sensitive Aboriginal midden site and relocate within the Cabin Accommodation Precinct.*
- *Prepare a site master plan for the Cabin Accommodation Precinct.*
- *Replace or refurbish existing accommodation and facilities as required to ensure best practice in environmental management, safety standards, protection of archaeological sites of significance and the provision of appropriately designed facilities.*
- *Ensure that all replaced accommodation is designed and built using energy efficiently principles and environmentally sympathetic materials.*
- *Replace or upgrade the older urban-style Lorikeet flats and provide similar mid-range accommodation.*
- *Maintain the four group lodges in their current location south of 20th Avenue.*
- *Provide basic self-contained accommodation at the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation.*
- *Ensure that all accommodation complies with the Prescribed Accommodation Regulations under the Health Act.*

## 5.6 Bushwalking

The park has one of the best networks of walking tracks in the State. It has various grades of track for day walks, easy overnight walks and more challenging bushwalking (table 4).

Although a permit system limits the numbers of overnight walkers, high use levels of the more popular walking routes and campsites in the southern part of the park have necessitated continual maintenance work on the tracks. Some campsites in particular are subject to high use. Periodic resting of campsites may be needed to limit environmental deterioration (section 5.7).

A popular short walk has developed between Tidal River and Squeaky Beach and along the main tourist road to the Lilly Pilly Link Track. The walk along the road can be hazardous because there is no provision for pedestrian use.

Visitors leaving walking tracks have developed other tracks which need to be formalised and managed, or closed and revegetated.

New walking tracks linking Tongue Point with Whisky Bay networks and Tidal River to the main overnight walking departure point at Telegraph Saddle will improve round trip options for day and overnight hikers.

The routes of all new tracks will be determined on a basis of detailed investigations of the environmental and cultural impacts and likely maintenance requirements.

A popular long-distance walking circuit exists in the southern section of the park. The track network links popular destinations including Oberon Bay, South Point, Wilsons Promontory Lightstation, Waterloo Bay, Refuge Cove and Sealers Cove. Sections of the walk can be undertaken either as long day walks or overnight in sections, taking up to 5 days. Camping areas are provided for hikers at Oberon Bay, Waterloo Bay, Refuge Cove, Sealers Cove, Roaring Meg and Halfway Hut.

The Wilderness Zone provides opportunities for self-reliant bushwalking. Informal camping areas are situated at Barry Creek, Lower Barry Creek, Tin Mine Cove, Johnny Souey Cove and Five Mile Beach. As some tracks are maintained as marked routes only, hikers need to be experienced and well

equipped before attempting a walk in the wilderness zone.

Off-track walking can impact on soils and vegetation through the development of unofficial tracks. This activity is currently managed through a permit system.

Visitors to all areas of the park are encouraged to practise minimal impact camping and bushwalking techniques during their stay.

### Aims

- Provide a variety of bushwalking experiences on tracks maintained to appropriate standards depending on the setting, at the same time minimising impacts on park values.
- Provide a variety of long-distance walking experiences for independent and guided walkers.

### Management strategies

- *Manage and permit use of tracks in accordance with table 4 and Parks Victoria's operational policies.*
- *Maintain and restore existing walking tracks in accordance with table 4.*
- *Develop new walking tracks from Tongue Point to Whisky Bay, and Tidal River to Telegraph Saddle. Re-align some sections of the walking track between Little Waterloo Bay and Refuge Cove.*
- *Assess unofficial tracks near Tongue Point, and off the Squeaky Beach to Picnic Bay track, for closure or formalising.*
- *Develop a class 2 walking track along the shoulder of the road between Squeaky Beach carpark and Lilly Pilly carpark.*
- *Create a common intersection for the Oberon Bay Track, Telegraph Track and Waterloo Bay Track by sensitive realignment of 200 metres of the existing Waterloo Bay Track.*
- *Continue to manage overnight walking through the camping permit system (section 5.7).*
- *Manage off-track walking through a permit system, taking into account measures to prevent the spread of Cinnammon Fungus (section 4.7).*

**TABLE 6 EXISTING AND PROPOSED VISITOR FACILITIES**

SITE	PARK INFO	TOILET	FIRE PLACE	CAMP SITES	PICNIC TABLES	SHELTER	LOOK OUT	MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND COMMENT
Entrance	P	P						Significantly improve visitor orientation and sense of entry. Provide toilet and carparking facilities and staff accommodation.
Stockyard Camp		E	E	E		E		Maintain current capacity of 20 campsites. Replace toilet and supplement water supply.
Five Mile carpark	E							Maintain current facilities consistent with Parks Victoria standards.
Barry Creek				E				Maintain current capacity of 12 campers.
Five Mile Beach				E				Maintain current capacity of 12 campers.
Johnny Souey Cove				E				Maintain current capacity of 12 campers.
Tin Mine Cove		E		E				Maintain current capacity of 12 campers and 18 boat based campers.
Lower Barry Creek				E				Maintain current capacity of 12 campers.
The Gums					P			Develop picnic area.
Airstrip grasslands	P							Establish formal carparking and wildlife viewing area.
Darby River	P	E			P		E	Redevelop Darby River carpark for day visitors.
Darby Saddle								Maintain carparking facilities only.
Whisky Bay		E						Maintain current facilities consistent with Parks Victoria standards.
Picnic Bay		E			E		E	Maintain current facilities consistent with Parks Victoria standards.
Squeaky Bay		E						Maintain current facilities consistent with Parks Victoria standards.
Lilly Pilly Gully	E	E			E			Maintain current facilities consistent with Parks Victoria standards.
Mt Oberon carpark	E	E			E		E	Maintain existing facilities consistent with Parks Victoria standards. Improve toilet facilities.
Sealers Cove	E	E		E				Maintain current capacity of 60 campers. Improve toilet facilities.
Refuge Cove	E	E		E				Maintain current capacity of 60 campers. Improve toilet facilities.
Refuge Cove boat users camp		E		E				Maintain current capacity of 30 campers. Improve amenity of area. Replace boat users board with trip register.



Table 6 (cont.)

SITE	PARK INFO	TOILET	FIRE PLACE	CAMP SITES	PICNIC TABLES	SHELTER	LOOK OUT	MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND COMMENT
Waterloo Bay		E		E				Maintain current capacity of 60 campers. Improve toilet facilities.
Halfway Hut		E		E		E		Maintain current capacity of 30 campers. Maintain current facilities consistent with Parks Victoria standards.
Roaring Meg		E		E				Maintain current capacity of 40 campers. Improve toilet facilities.
Oberon Bay		E		E				Maintain current capacity of 40 campers. Investigate alternative location for the campsite.
Tidal River	E	E	E	E	E	E		Maintain the current character of the campground. Upgrade facilities consistent with Parks Victoria's Parks Victoria standards (refer to sections 5.3, 5.4, 5.5 and 7.2).
Wilsons Promontory Lighthouse	E	E				E	E	Maintain current self-contained visitor accommodation. Improve utility and waste management (refer to sections 5.3, 5.5 and 7.2)

## KEY:

E existing facilities

P proposed facilities

## 5.7 Camping outside the Recreation Zone

There are excellent opportunities for camping in a variety of spectacular natural settings at the remote outstations in the park, and this activity has become increasingly popular. A permit system has been used since the late 1960s. This sets maximum group sizes and lengths of stay to safeguard visitors and their experience, and minimise visitor impacts. The continuing increase in outstation camping, particularly over the summer months, is likely to increase impacts on the camping sites. Periodic resting of campsites may be needed to limit environmental degradation. A study of existing environmental conditions is required, combined with ongoing monitoring of campsites.

Campfires are prohibited throughout the park.

In the south of the park, well-formed walking tracks give access to campsites at Oberon Bay, Little Waterloo Bay, Halfway Hut, Roaring Meg, Refuge Cove and Sealers Cove from either Tidal River or Telegraph Saddle.

Many out-station campsites are degraded from overuse, and site hardening may be required to sustain current levels of use. Alternatively, levels of use may need to be reduced. Sealers Cove has a significant number of large and ageing eucalypts that may pose a future danger to campers. Relocation of the campground to an alternative site nearby may be necessary.

The water supply at the Oberon Bay campsite is of poor quality and should be upgraded.

The Wilderness Zone allows for self-reliant recreation, inspiration in a largely undisturbed natural setting, and enjoyment of solitude, peace and quiet. The five existing campsites in the Wilderness Zone are located at Barry Creek, Lower Barry Creek, Tin Mine Cove, Johnny Souey Cove and Five Mile Beach. These are reached along Five Mile Road from the carpark. Group sizes and lengths of stay are limited.

Management huts at Refuge and Sealers Coves accommodate staff undertaking maintenance and visitor supervision in these areas.

Stockyard Camp, a twenty-site campground adjacent to the Entrance Station, currently

provides for camping by overnight walkers using tracks in the northern part of the park, researchers and volunteers, and for emergency accommodation. The ablution facilities are in poor condition.

Boat-based camping is popular at Tin Mine Cove and Refuge Cove. Boat-based users tend to seek a different park experience from hikers, and separate camping areas are provided. At Tin Mine Cove a campsite has been constructed, allowing 18 boat-based campers to stay two nights with a maximum group size of six, and at Refuge Cove 30 boat-based campers are permitted to stay two nights with a maximum group size of 12.

Although permits are required, records of the actual number of boat-based campers using the park are not accurate. The permit system needs to be more flexible so that boat operators can obtain a permit at short notice.

Increasing use is being made of sea kayaks to explore the park's coastline. Because of the distances involved, the rugged nature of most of the coast and often severe weather conditions, parties sometimes need to take shelter and camp in places other than the established outstation camps.

Boating is further addressed in section 5.8.

### Aims

- Provide opportunities for a range of outstation camping experiences to enhance visitor freedom, at the same time minimising impacts on park values.

### Management strategies

- *Develop and maintain facilities in accordance with table 6 and figure 7.*
- *Maintain a permit system controlling the use of established campsites, incorporating an appropriate system for regulation of boat-based campers and off-track hikers using other locations.*
- *Conduct a study of the existing environmental condition of the outstation campsites, continue to monitor their condition and rehabilitate where required.*
- *Site-harden all outstation campsites where required to protect the environment whilst maintaining existing site capacity.*

- *Close campsites for rehabilitation if visitor impact causes unacceptable levels of environmental damage.*
- *Investigate relocation of the Sealers Cove campsite to the former site on the north side of the river mouth.*
- *In the Wilderness Zone, undertake campsite maintenance and monitoring by boat or helicopter, or on foot.*
- *Replace existing outstation toilets with more environmentally sensitive facilities e.g. composting toilets.*
- *Ameliorate soil degradation at Johnny Souey and Tin Mine coves, and revegetate destabilised dunes.*
- *Permit camping by sea kayak parties at designated locations using the 'off-track' hiker-permit system.*
- *Seasonally permit campfires only at designated fireplaces at Tidal River and Stockyard Camp (where firewood is supplied). Prohibit firewood collection throughout the park.*
- *Maintain Stockyard Camp as a low-key camper accommodation for use by walkers and volunteers, and in emergency situations (section 5.6).*
- *Replace ablution facilities at Stockyard Camp.*
- *Encourage and promote the use of low-impact bushwalking and camping techniques.*

## 5.8 Boating

Boating is a popular activity at Wilsons Promontory. The major associated activities are fishing, diving, sightseeing, picnicking and camping. Sites most often visited include Tidal River, Refuge Cove, Tin Mine Cove, and beaches in Corner Inlet and on the islands. Refuge Cove in particular is a popular stopover point for yachts, and is a recognised safe haven in bad weather.

Sea kayaking is an increasingly popular activity, parties leaving from Port Welshpool, Tidal River and Darby River. The long distances involved and frequent bad weather may require parties to camp at remote sites around the coastline (section 5.7).

The launching area at Tidal River is used by boat owners mainly to gain access to the adjacent marine park and reserve and to waters beyond their boundaries.

Launching boats at the northern end of Norman Bay depends on weather, sea conditions and the tide, and is not always possible. In the interests of public safety, and as a means of monitoring use and impacts, boat launching is controlled by a permit system. Boat launching and car and boat-trailer parking take up a desirable portion of the riverbank, detract from the special nature of the area and can come into conflict with other beach users.

Many of the Wilsons Promontory islands are breeding sites for seabirds and Fur Seals, which require special protection. Public access to all islands, except for beach areas on Doughboy, Bennison, Rabbit and Great Glennie Islands, will be by permit for scientific purposes only (section 4.4).

In the interests of public safety, power skiing, water skiing and sand yachting will continue to be prohibited in the park, and motorised craft will not be permitted in freshwater or estuaries. Surfboards, surfskis, sailboards, kayaks and canoes are permitted at all beaches except for the area north of Fifth Ramp on Norman Bay during peak season.

The waters surrounding the promontory provide for spectacular diving, although the nearest facility for filling SCUBA tanks is at Inverloch.

#### **Aim**

- Provide opportunities for boating, at the same time minimising the environmental impact of the activity on park values and conflict with other visitors.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Educate boat-based visitors in the appreciation and appropriate use of the park, including the Wilderness Zone, and the adjoining marine and coastal parks and reserves, by providing information and interpretive materials at key locations.*
- *Continue to prohibit power skiing and water skiing in the park, and the use of motorised craft in freshwater or estuaries.*

- *Permit the use of surfboards, surfskis, sailboards, kayaks and canoes at all beaches, except for the area north of Fifth Ramp at Norman Bay during peak season.*
- *Continue to allow boat launching in a section of the north end of Norman Beach at Tidal River, subject to beach conditions requiring the slow travel of vehicles. Maintain a staff presence during busy launching periods, and if necessary limit the hours of launching to reduce conflicts with other beach users.*
- *Continue to restrict boat access to Wilsons Promontory islands to beach areas on Bennison, Doughboy, Rabbit and Great Glennie Islands only.*
- *Investigate provision of a SCUBA tank filling facility at Tidal River.*

#### **5.9 Fishing**

Recreational fishing is a popular activity at some locations in the park and the existing, adjoining marine parks. Visitors fish in the estuarine reaches of Darby River and Tidal River stream and in the sea from the rocks and beaches.

In order to protect the national park's native freshwater fish, no fishing is permitted in freshwater streams or estuaries other than the estuarine reaches of Darby River and Tidal River stream. Regular surveys of fish populations in these rivers have shown no evidence of over-exploitation of fish stocks. However, anglers using the banks of Tidal River stream are contributing significantly to compaction, erosion and slumping of the banks.

Since July 1999, a Recreational Fishing Licence has been required for all forms of recreational fishing in all Victorian marine, estuarine and fresh waters.

Recreational line fishing is currently permitted between high and low water marks in the national park except for the area between south Norman Bay around the southern coastline to Refuge Cove and around the southern islands (Glennie and Anser groups and Wattle Island). Recreational fishing in the adjoining marine parks and reserves is controlled separately.

Implementation of the Government's response to the ECC's Marine, Coastal and Estuarine

Investigation Final Report (Govt Vic. 2001) will result in some changes to these arrangements.

#### **Aim**

- Provide opportunity for recreational fishing, at the same time minimising impacts on native fish populations and habitats.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Permit recreational fishing in Darby River downstream of the road bridge.*
- *Permit recreational fishing in Tidal River stream downstream of the road bridge. Restrict fishing along the shore of Tidal River stream to the Loo-Errn boardwalk and sandy banks.*
- *Continue to prohibit bait collection in fresh and estuarine waters and in the intertidal zone.*
- *Permit recreational line fishing on the coast between high and low water marks, except between south Norman Bay around the southern coastline to Refuge Cove and around the southern islands.*
- *Provide information at key locations about the regulations and opportunities applicable to the adjoining marine parks.*
- *Continue to monitor fish populations in the park.*

### **5.10 Rock climbing and abseiling**

Rock climbing is a minor activity in the park but use is increasing at the few sites where climbs are accessible. An informal log of climbing activity is kept.

A permit system monitors levels of use and impact, and is also intended to enhance climbers' safety. Additional sites for climbing may be permitted under the permit system. To reduce site impact, only 'clean climbing' (those techniques which do not damage or deface the rock) will be permitted. There may be a need to define access tracks to prevent the formation of multiple tracks to the top and base of climbs.

#### **Aim**

- Provide opportunities for recreational uses while minimising the impacts on park values.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Permit rock climbing using 'clean climbing' techniques at Little Oberon, Mount Bishop, Mount Oberon, Squeaky Beach Boulders, Turtle Rock and other appropriate sites. Define access tracks as necessary.*
- *Delineate the limit of developed climbing sites and prohibit the development of new climbing areas in the park.*
- *Monitor the effect of rock climbing and abseiling activities on the environment and the experience of other park users.*

### **5.11 Commercial services**

There are currently two leases and 34 concessions licensed to operate in the park, offering visitor services and recreational opportunities. These include a store/café, cinema, and tour operators offering charter boat tours, surf education, sea kayaking, rock climbing and guided walking tours (section 7.4). There is potential for the provision of additional services such as specialist guided tours, interpretation and education by private operators. The aim is to improve the quality and range of services available to the public.

#### **Aims**

- Encourage the provision of appropriate visitor services to improve the quality and range of recreational experiences in the park.
- Establish an appropriate balance between general public and commercial operator use of the park.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Provide for, and extend the range of, guided activities available to visitors, e.g. boat tours and guided walks.*
- *Ensure that all private tourism operators are licensed in accordance with the National Parks Act, and that they provide high-quality services that do not impact*

*adversely on the park's environmental values.*

- *Require commercial permit holders to record and present sufficient information about their operations to allow monitoring of the activity.*
- *Ensure that independent visitors retain the majority of opportunities to access walking tracks and camping areas and sites, and that licensed tour operators do not have exclusive use of such facilities.*
- *Encourage tour operators to use nearby natural attractions and private facilities outside the park, as well as the park itself.*

### **5.12 Public safety**

There are inherent dangers associated with some activities in the park such as off-track walking and exploring remote areas of the park.

The exposed coastal areas pose significant hazards in strong sea conditions.

During the Fire Danger Period there are high risks of bushfire, with some danger to visitors, particularly walkers on remote tracks. Visitor access to the park or parts of the park during periods of extreme fire danger may be prohibited.

There is an extensive network of vehicle tracks and helipads in the park used for search and rescue as well as other management activities (section 7.3).

European Wasps and feral European Honey Bees occur within the park and pose a threat to visitor safety (section 4.7).

An emergency management plan was prepared for Wilsons Promontory National Park and Tidal River in 1997. The plan outlines response and operating procedures and management arrangements for emergency situations.

#### **Aim**

- Provide infrastructure to ensure adequate visitor safety consistent with the setting. Use operational techniques in emergency situations giving due weight to the protection and maintenance of park values.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Liaise with relevant authorities to develop appropriate Visitor Safety Plans for the park, giving due consideration to the protection and maintenance of park and wilderness values*
- *Maintain a Visitor Evacuation Plan for Tidal River, the outstations and key visitor areas for implementation in an emergency.*
- *Continue to provide first response and a support role in search and rescue operations.*
- *Undertake regular ranger patrols to monitor public safety and enjoyment.*
- *Ensure that park staff have adequate levels of training in first aid, search and rescue, and firefighting techniques.*
- *Inform visitors of potential dangers, and the roles and responsibilities of individuals and group leaders in maintaining public safety.*

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## 6 COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

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### 6.1 Community partnerships

Volunteers such as the Friends of the Prom make a significant contribution to maintenance, conservation, protection and other management activities in the park. Volunteer groups have helped complete projects that otherwise may not have progressed. Valuable projects have been undertaken by Friends of the Prom, Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, Birds Australia, the Conservation Volunteers of Australia, Operation Raleigh, tertiary students and work experience students.

Encouragement will be given to a broader range of community participation and the development of a number of opportunities for volunteer groups that seek involvement in park management activities.

Parks Victoria's Research Partners Program brings scientists and students together with park managers to conduct research to address emerging issues in park management. Through this program, Parks Victoria provides support to research institutions to fill some of the gaps in our knowledge including a better understanding of how flora and fauna are distributed, the ecological processes influencing these distributions, factors affecting their survival and their response to active management. The program provides opportunities to involve tertiary students in a variety of studies that are mutually beneficial (sections 4.4 and 7.1).

Established in 2000, the Wilsons Promontory National Park Advisory Group (WPAG) provides an opportunity for direct community input into the park's management.

#### Aim

- Encourage, assist and support volunteer groups in undertaking appropriate management tasks within the park.

#### Management strategies

- *Continue to encourage and support the Friends of the Prom.*
- *Develop and evaluate a long-term volunteer strategy that incorporates the skills and interests of volunteer groups in park management activities.*
- *Assist volunteer groups to pursue sources of funding for park projects.*
- *Maintain liaison with the co-ordinators of volunteer groups.*
- *Apply, and encourage the application of, the Good Neighbour Policy to management issues on or near the boundary of the park.*

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## 7 OTHER ISSUES

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### 7.1 Centre of Excellence for Park Management program

It is proposed to stimulate the application of the highest practicable standards of management in the park by establishing a 'Centre of Excellence for Park Management' program.

The 'Centre of Excellence for Park Management' program incorporates three key elements – environmental management (research and monitoring), interpretation and education, and staff development and training.

The major new program will ensure coordination, support and direction for research and monitoring programs, training programs, and a sophisticated information database for the park and its surrounds.

Research and monitoring plays a fundamental role in enhancing the understanding of ecological processes. This in turn leads to more effective park management.

An important component of the Centre of Excellence for Park Management is the establishment of a Scientific Liaison Committee, made up of scientists with an intimate knowledge of the park, to provide advice on the most appropriate research and monitoring techniques. This will, among others things, promote and focus a more comprehensive program of ecological research and environmental monitoring, help establish links to major research institutions, and allow access to resources and expertise not normally available for park management.

Another important element is the development of co-operative programs with other conservation reserves, both nationally and internationally.

A substantial body of research work on the park by tertiary and scientific institutions has been completed.

The proposed establishment of marine national parks (Govt Vic. 2001) highlights the area's potential to increase its role as a research and monitoring base for the marine environment.

Training programs for park managers will be an integral part of the program. Ongoing

research will be incorporated into interpretation programs for the public.

Monitoring may help to determine whether change results from natural processes or is induced by human activity. The information gained can be used in the review and improvement of management techniques. An efficient, effective and ongoing monitoring program is needed to provide baseline data, and for subsequent periodic assessments and evaluations.

The concept of the Centre of Excellence for Park Management will be further developed to determine detailed management objectives and the level of resources and infrastructure needed to achieve those objectives. Negotiations will be undertaken with research institutions, organisations and individuals to seek support for and involvement in the operation of the program.

#### Aims

- Establish the park as a model for park management.
- Establish the highest practicable standards of ecological management and environmental monitoring.
- Investigate opportunities to increase the research and monitoring role of the park and adjacent marine environment.

#### Management strategies

- *Establish the park as a Centre of Excellence for Park Management programs.*
- *Within the existing infrastructure footprints, establish modest facilities for researchers and for training park managers from Victoria, interstate and overseas.*
- *Establish a Scientific Liaison Committee to provide advice on appropriate research and monitoring techniques.*
- *Establish formal links with other Biosphere Reserves, both in Australia and overseas, and develop co-operative programs with other agencies. Through*

*the UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) program establish links with major research institutions and national and international programs.*

- *Design and implement an ongoing monitoring program to obtain adequate data on resource conservation, park protection, visitor use and other issues as appropriate, to direct future management.*
- *Develop and implement a GIS-based quality baseline data collection and environmental monitoring program.*
- *Investigate opportunities to increase research and monitoring of the marine environment.*

## **7.2 Management and support services infrastructure**

The Park Entrance Recreation Zone includes the Entrance Station building, a small works area, some staff accommodation and some visitor services and facilities.

Park administration has recently been relocated from the Entrance Station to Tidal River to maximise access for visitors to ranger assistance relating to the entire park.

Limited expansion of the existing services and facilities at the Park Entrance without unacceptable impact on the ecological and recreational values of the area is possible, although upgrading of water supplies and sewerage would be necessary.

The management infrastructure at the Tidal River Recreation Zone is self-contained and occupies a significant part of the developed area within the Tidal River Recreation Zone (figure 4). The main works depot and some staff accommodation are located north of the access road. Most staff accommodation is located south of the access road.

The layout of the works depot is inefficient, does not meet contemporary workplace standards and poses an unacceptable environmental risk. Its location creates potential conflicts with visitor activities.

The support services infrastructure within the Tidal River Recreation Zone, being relatively remote from regional and state service networks, is self-contained. Much of the infrastructure has developed incrementally over several decades, is inefficient to operate,

has an adverse impact on the environment and in some respects fails to support essential services satisfactorily.

Despite recent upgrades of the potable water supply, waste disposal, sewerage systems, and fire protection services, further works are necessary. The main sewage pumping station at Tidal River will require modification to cope with full sewerage loading. The building housing the controls for the main pump station has deteriorated to a point where it requires demolition or refurbishment.

Following construction of the waste water treatment plant and discharge facility, some 70 existing septic tanks can be removed.

Increased demand for power to supply the water treatment plant, additional sewerage pumps and proposed sewage treatment plant will lead to increased reliance on the back-up diesel power generator to support the more cost-efficient LPG generator.

During works at Tidal River Recreation Zone, a number of sites were identified as having possible contamination with hydrocarbons, indicating fuel leakage or spillage.

Investigation is required to determine the extent of contamination and any required remedial actions.

The Wilsons Promontory Lightstation waste management infrastructure reflects historical attitudes to waste disposal in remote locations and does not comply with accepted standards. Upgrading will be essential.

### **Aims**

- Maintain the main management and support services infrastructure for the park in Tidal River.
- Establish and maintain suitable accommodation for staff at Tidal River and the Park Entrance.
- Operate and service the management and support services infrastructure in an effective, resource-efficient and environmentally sustainable manner.
- Ensure that all infrastructure management is consistent with strategies to protect park values and enhance visitors' access, amenity and recreation opportunities.



- Ensure that infrastructure management in the Lightstation Recreation Zone is in accordance with the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation Conservation Plan.

### Management strategies

#### Park Entrance Recreation Zone:

- *Upgrade water supply and sewerage to adequately service public facilities, domestic use and fire fighting purposes within the Park Entrance Recreation Zone.*
- *Replace toilet facilities in the Stockyard campground (section 5.5).*

#### Tidal River Recreation Zone:

- *Complete Stage 2 of the Tidal River Visitor Centre to consolidate emergency services.*
- *Design and build a new, efficient works centre for the park to contemporary workplace safety standards on an existing cleared location within the proposed Support Services Precinct.*
- *Consolidate all park works depot activities within the new works centre.*
- *Remove the existing depot from the proposed Cabin Accommodation and Camping Precinct.*
- *Maintain accommodation for staff required to stay at Tidal River, including staff relocated from the proposed Cabin Accommodation Precinct.*
- *Remove staff accommodation north of the Tidal River road.*
- *Demolish Blackwood lodge and revegetate the site.*
- *Remove Terrace ablution block (section 5.3) and replace Tidal and Beach ablution blocks with new facilities.*
- *Upgrade remaining ablution blocks to improve standards and introduce water conservation measures.*
- *Completely upgrade and renew the sewerage system and install a sewage treatment plant.*
- *Demolish the existing building housing the main sewage pump and construct a new below-ground pump station consolidating valves and control mechanisms.*

- *Remove decommissioned septic tanks and rehabilitate the sites.*
- *Review the energy audit to determine the economic benefits of replacing another diesel generator with an LPG unit.*

- *Improve fire detection and alarm systems throughout the site to ensure compliance with the current Building Code of Australia (BCA) provisions.*

- *Prepare and implement a solid waste management and recycling strategy. Establish rubbish collection/recycling stations in the campgrounds.*

- *Introduce energy and water saving measures in all new buildings, and upgrade existing buildings where possible.*

- *Investigate a new location for the supply of bowser fuel to the public.*

- *Undertake investigations to determine the extent of soil contamination by hydrocarbons, and undertake remedial works.*

- *Use best practice technology to prevent contaminants entering the wetland and estuary.*

- *Record and monitor maintenance on all infrastructure and develop a schedule of ongoing cyclic maintenance and replacement.*

- *Implement and continually review the recommendations of the energy audit (Ecopower 1996) to minimise the use and cost of providing energy to Tidal River.*

#### Lightstation Recreation Zone:

- *Service the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation by air or sea whenever practicable.*

- *Remove hazardous materials (asbestos), improve waste management and utilities infrastructure, and refurbish the lightstation residences.*

- *Ensure that any refurbishment of buildings and infrastructure at the lightstation includes best-practice technology in the provision and management of utilities and waste management.*

- *Ensure continuous caretaking presence at the lightstation to manage visitor access,*

*impacts, and protection of buildings, structures, natural and cultural values.*

- *Construct a new waste water treatment system at the lightstation to meet EPA requirements.*

### 7.3 Management access

There is a substantial network of management vehicle tracks and helipads in the park, which are used to support management activities. Some tracks are no longer required for management.

The Telegraph Track provides 2WD dry weather vehicular access for park management purposes, including servicing the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation several times per month. The Lighthouse Walking Track links the end of this road to the lightstation. The Track is also a popular route for walkers travelling to the lightstation (section 5.6). Management use of this track impacts on the remote and natural attributes of the area and the experience of walkers.

The Five Mile Road within the Wilderness Zone is currently maintained as a fire control line and for other management purposes such as search and rescue. This road and its associated firebreaks have a major impact on the wilderness values of the area. Retention of the Five Mile Road in its current form is inconsistent with wilderness management principles.

A number of other management-only vehicle tracks exist within the Wilsons Promontory Wilderness Zone. The goal for the Wilderness Zone is that all vehicle tracks within the zone will be closed and rehabilitated.

A helipad is maintained at Tidal River for emergency and park management purposes, including servicing the lightstation. Other helipads for fire management purposes are situated throughout the park. An emergency airstrip is maintained near Darby River for fire management and search and rescue.

#### Aims

- Rationalise the vehicular track and helipad networks.
- Minimise the intrusion of management vehicles.

### Management strategies

- *Retain only those Management Vehicle Only tracks (refer to table 4) and helipads that are essential for management, and rehabilitate those that are not required.*
- *Investigate the further rehabilitation of the Five Mile Road and firebreaks east of the carpark to Management Vehicle Only and walking track status, maintained preferably by slashing rather than mineral earth. This would require resolution of fire management issues (section 4.6). In the interim, continue to restrict access to vehicles for essential management purposes only.*
- *Allow the Mt Margaret and Tin Mine tracks to grow over, but retain as an identified route for emergency access.*
- *Remove all other vehicle tracks in the Wilderness Zone, subject to resolution of issues relating to fire management.*
- *Restrict vehicular use of the Telegraph Track to essential management purposes only.*
- *Investigate the provision of infrastructure to support enhanced boat-based access to the lightstation for servicing and for visitor access (sections 5.8 and 7.2).*
- *Maintain the airstrip and helipads for emergency or park management use only.*

### 7.4 Authorised uses

Commercial services provided at Tidal River include the store and café, cinema, medical centre and public telephones.

Several privately operated licensed tour businesses operate within the park (section 5.10).

There are radio telecommunications sites at Mount Oberon and Tidal River.

The lightstation continues to function as a functional navigational aid and a Bureau of Meteorology Automatic weather station. It is also a designated climate change monitoring station.

The National Parks Act provides for certain structures in the Wilderness Zone. These include the navigational beacon at Lighthouse Point and two first-order triangulation stations

located on Mount Latrobe and Mount Hunter, which are currently considered essential for geodetic survey purposes. These will be retained unless advances in technology make them obsolete.

Navigational beacons are also located at Refuge Cove, Sealers Cove and Waterloo Point.

Minor geodetic survey markers in the park are mostly overgrown by vegetation and unnoticeable, and do not require management.

Apiculture is currently restricted to five sites in the northern part of the park. Colonies of feral European Honey Bees are a widespread problem.

#### **Aims**

- Manage authorised uses in accordance with the National Parks Act, and minimise their impact on park values.
- Maintain caretaking role and fulfil obligations under existing leases relating to navigation and meteorological operations.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Continue to permit authorised uses and services through leases and other arrangements. Impose appropriate conditions and liaise with lessees, licensees and other occupants to ensure that maintenance of services and activities has minimal impact on park values.*
- *Phase out apiculture in the park.*
- *Remove telecommunications facilities on Mount Oberon and trigonometric stations throughout the park as they become obsolete, and rehabilitate the sites.*
- *Construct a short track from the boat landing to the navigation beacon at Lighthouse Point to allow boat access to replace vehicle access for maintenance. If the light becomes obsolete, remove it and rehabilitate the site.*

- *Provide appropriate access to the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation for the lessees (Australian Maritime Safety Authority and the Bureau of Meteorology).*

#### **7.5 Boundaries and adjacent uses**

The park on its seaward boundary (low water mark) adjoins Corner Inlet and Shallow Inlet Marine and Coastal Parks, Wilsons Promontory Marine Park and Wilsons Promontory Marine Reserve. Parts of these areas and the national park are proposed for inclusion in two marine national parks (Govt Vic. 2001).

The coastal boundary of the park at low water mark is difficult to define, particularly at Corner Inlet. This presents some management difficulties.

Private land adjoining the park is mostly cleared for grazing and dairy production. There is potential for conflicts between maintenance of park values and surrounding land uses.

Any significant increase in the frequency of low-flying aircraft may be an intrusion and detract from visitors' enjoyment of the park. No controls are in place at present.

#### **Aim**

- Minimise conflicts between maintenance of park values and surrounding land uses.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Prepare large-scale maps showing the precise location of the park boundary abutting Corner Inlet.*
- *Liaise with the managers of land abutting the park, and the South Gippsland Shire Council, with the aim of minimising adverse effects of private land developments on park values.*
- *Should aircraft intrusion become a problem, negotiate a 'Fly Neighbourly' agreement through Air Services Australia with local operators.*

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## 8 IMPLEMENTATION

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This plan provides the strategic framework that governs the development and delivery of all management programs and actions affecting the Wilsons Promontory National Park and the Wilsons Promontory and Citadel Island Lightstation Reserves.

The management program for the park and reserves is prepared annually, in accordance with Parks Victoria's Corporate Plan and as a part of statewide prioritised programs.

The performance of the plan's implementation will be measured by monitoring and recording the number of strategies implemented to June each year.

Amendments may be made to this Plan from time to time, consistent with an authorised approval process. A partial or complete review of the Plan will be considered in the period from five to ten years after its publication.

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## APPENDIX 1 THREATENED FLORA

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS
<i>Acacia retinodes</i> var. <i>uncifolia</i>	Coast Wirilda	r
<i>Acacia verticillata</i> var. <i>latifolia</i>	Broad-leaf Prickly Moses	r
<i>Acrobolbus cinerascens</i>	Liverwort	v
<i>Adriana quadripartita</i> s.s. (glabrous form)	Rare Bitter-bush	e L
<i>Adriana quadripartita</i> (pubescent form)	Coast Bitter-bush	v
<i>Agrostis rudis</i>	Ruddy Bent	r
<i>Apium insulare</i>	Island Celery	r
<i>Asplenium obtusatum</i> ssp. <i>northlandicum</i>	Shore Spleenwort	v
<i>Atriplex billardi</i>	Glistening Saltbush	v
<i>Australina pusilla</i> ssp. <i>pusilla</i>	Small Shade-nettle	r
<i>Austrofestuca littoralis</i>	Coast Fescue	v
<i>Avicennia marina</i> ssp. <i>australasica</i>	White Mangrove	r
<i>Baeckea ramosissima</i> ssp. <i>prostrata</i>	Rosy Baeckea	r
<i>Banksia saxicola</i>	Rock Banksia	r
<i>Baumea laxa</i>	Lax Twig-sedge	r
<i>Berula erecta</i>	Water Parsnip	k
<i>Bossiaea heterophylla</i>	Variable Bossiaea	r
<i>Bracteantha papillosa</i>	Island Everlasting	r
<i>Burnettia cuneata</i>	Lizard Orchid	R r
<i>Caladenia aurantiaca</i>	Orange-tip Caladenia	r
<i>Caladenia australis</i>	Southern Spider-orchid	k
<i>Caladenia fragrantissima</i> ssp. <i>orientalis</i>	Eastern Spider-orchid	E e L
<i>Caladenia tessellata</i>	Thick-lip Spider-orchid	K
<i>Calomnion complanatum</i>	Tree-fern Calomnion	E e N
<i>Calyptrochaeta brownii</i>	Moss	r
<i>Campyllum polygamum</i>	Moss	r
<i>Campylopus incrassatus</i>	Moss	k
<i>Cephalomanes caudatum</i>	Jungle Bristle-fern	r
<i>Corybas aconitiflorus</i>	Spurred Helmet-orchid	r
<i>Corybas fimbriatus</i>	Fringed Helmet-orchid	r
<i>Cuscuta tasmanica</i>	Golden Dodder	k
<i>Cyathea cunninghamii</i>	Slender Tree-fern	R v L
<i>Dicranoloma platycaulon</i>	Moss	r
<i>Diplophyllum obtusifolium</i>	Leafy Liverwort	k
<i>Distichophyllum microcarpum</i>	Moss	r
<i>Entolasia stricta</i>	Upright Panic	k
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> ssp. <i>globulus</i>	Southern Blue-gum	r
<i>Eucalyptus kitsoniana</i>	Bog Gum	R r
<i>Eucalyptus willisii</i> ssp. <i>willisii</i>	Promontory Peppermint	r

## Cont. Appendix 1

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS
<i>Exocarpos syrticola</i>	Coast Ballart	r
<i>Gahnia grandis</i>	Brickmakers' Saw-sedge	v
<i>Genoplesium nudum</i>	Tiny Midge-orchid	r
<i>Genoplesium pumilum</i>	Green Midge-orchid	r
<i>Glossodia minor</i>	Small Wax-lip Orchid	r
<i>Goodia lotifolia</i> var. <i>pubescens</i>	Silky Golden-tip	r
<i>Grammitis magellanica</i> ssp. <i>nothofagei</i>	Beech Finger-fern	v
<i>Hakea decurrens</i> ssp. <i>platytaenia</i>	Coast Needlewood	r
<i>Hibbertia diffusa</i>	Wedge Guinea-flower	r
<i>Hibbertia hirticalyx</i>	Bass Guinea-flower	r
<i>Huperzia varia</i>	Long Clubmoss	v
<i>Juncus revolutus</i>	Creeping Rush	r
<i>Lawrencia spicata</i>	Salt Lawrencia	r
<i>Lepidium desvauxii</i>	Bushy Pepper-cress	r
<i>Lepidium foliosum</i>	Leafy Peppercress	v
<i>Lepidium pseudohyssopifolium</i>	Native Pepper-cress	k
<i>Lepidosperma canescens</i>	Hoary Rapier-sedge	r
<i>Leptecophylla juniperina</i>	Crimson Berry	v
<i>Lepyrodon lagurus</i>	Moss	r
<i>Limonium australe</i>	Yellow Sea-lavender	r
<i>Lindsaea trichomanoides</i>	Oval Wedge-fern	R e
<i>Lomandra glauca</i> s.s.	Blue Mat-rush	k
<i>Melaleuca armillaris</i> ssp. <i>armillaris</i>	Giant Honey-myrtle	r
<i>Microtis orbicularis</i>	Dark Mignonette-orchid	v
<i>Monotoca glauca</i>	Currant-wood	r
<i>Olearia allenderae</i>	Promontory Daisy-bush	R v
<i>Olearia stellulata</i>	Starry Daisy-bush	k
<i>Ozothamnus argophyllus</i>	Spicy Everlasting	r
<i>Pimelea drupacea</i>	Cherry Rice-flower	v
<i>Pimelea linifolia</i> ssp. <i>linoides</i>	Slender Rice-flower	r
<i>Platysace ericoides</i>	Heath Platysace	r
<i>Poa</i> aff. <i>tenera</i> (Hairy)	Soft Slender Tussock-grass	r
<i>Poa poiformis</i> var. <i>ramifer</i>	Dune Poa	r
<i>Pomaderris apetala</i> ssp. <i>maritima</i>	Tasman Pomaderris	v
<i>Pomaderris oraria</i>	Bassian Pomaderris	R r
<i>Pomaderris oraria</i> ssp. <i>oraria</i>	Bassian Pomaderris	R r
<i>Potamogeton australiensis</i>	Thin Pondweed	k
<i>Prasophyllum frenchii</i>	Maroon Leek-orchid	E e N
<i>Prasophyllum lindleyanum</i>	Green Leek-orchid	v
<i>Prasophyllum patens</i>	Broad-lip Leek-orchid	r



## Appendices

### Cont. Appendix 1

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS
<i>Pterostylis alveata</i>	Gippsland Greenhood	v
<i>Pterostylis cucullata</i>	Leafy Greenhood	V v L
<i>Pterostylis pedoglossa</i>	Prawn Greenhood	v
<i>Pterostylis tenuissima</i>	Swamp Greenhood	V v
<i>Pterostylis tunstallii</i>	Granite Greenhood	v
<i>Schoenus carsei</i>	Wiry Bog-sedge	r
<i>Sowerbaea juncea</i>	Rush Lily	r
<i>Spiranthes sinensis</i>	Austral Ladies' Tresses	v
<i>Thelymitra benthamiana</i>	Blotched Sun-orchid	r
<i>Thelymitra mucida</i>	Plum Orchid	v
<i>Thomasia petalocalyx</i>	Paper Flower	r
<i>Tmesipteris elongata</i> ssp. <i>elongata</i>	Slender Fork-fern	v
<i>Tmesipteris ovata</i>	Oval Fork-fern	r
<i>Triglochin minutissimum</i>	Tiny Arrowgrass	r
<i>Uncinia nemoralis</i>	River Hook-sedge	r
<i>Xanthosia leiophylla</i>	Parsley Xanthosia	r
<i>Xanthosia tasmanica</i>	Southern Xanthosia	r

Source: NRE (database) 2001a

#### Conservation Status

E	endangered in Australia
V	vulnerable in Australia
R	rare in Australia
e	endangered in Victoria
v	vulnerable in Victoria
r	rare in Victoria
k	poor known in Victoria
L	listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic.)
N	nominated under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic.)

## APPENDIX 2 THREATENED FAUNA

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS
<b>Birds</b>		
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	Grey Goshawk	LR
<i>Anas rhynchos</i>	Australasian Shoveler	Vul
<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great Egret	End L
<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	Intermediate Egret	CEn L
<i>Biziura lobata</i>	Musk Duck	Vul
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern	End
<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i>	Cape Barren Goose	Vul
<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	Whiskered Tern	LR
<i>Coturnix australis</i>	Brown Quail	Ins
<i>Coturnix chinensis</i>	King Quail	CEn L
<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>	Grey-headed Albatross	V
<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Wandering Albatross	Cen
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	CEn L
<i>Falco subniger</i>	Black Falcon	End
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	End L
<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>	Blue Petrel	V
<i>Hylacola pyrrhopygia</i>	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	Ins
<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Kelp Gull	CEn
<i>Larus pacificus</i>	Pacific Gull	LR
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	V End L
<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Southern Giant-Petrel	End
<i>Morus serrator</i>	Australasian Gannet	Vul
<i>Neophema chrysogaster</i>	Orange-bellied Parrot	E CEn L
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl	End L
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew	LR
<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>	Nankeen Night Heron	Vul
<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	Fairy Prion	LR
<i>Pelagodroma marina</i>	White-faced Storm-Petrel	Vul
<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>	Common Diving-Petrel	LR
<i>Pezoporus wallicus</i>	Ground Parrot	Vul L
<i>Phalacrocorax fuscescens</i>	Black-faced Cormorant	Vul
<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Pied Cormorant	LR
<i>Platalea regia</i>	Royal Spoonbill	Vul
<i>Rallus pectoralis</i>	Lewin's Rail	End
<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Pomarine Jaeger	Ins
<i>Sterna bergii</i>	Crested Tern	LR
<i>Sterna caspia</i>	Caspian Tern	Vul L
<i>Sterna nereis</i>	Fairy Tern	Vul L

## Appendices

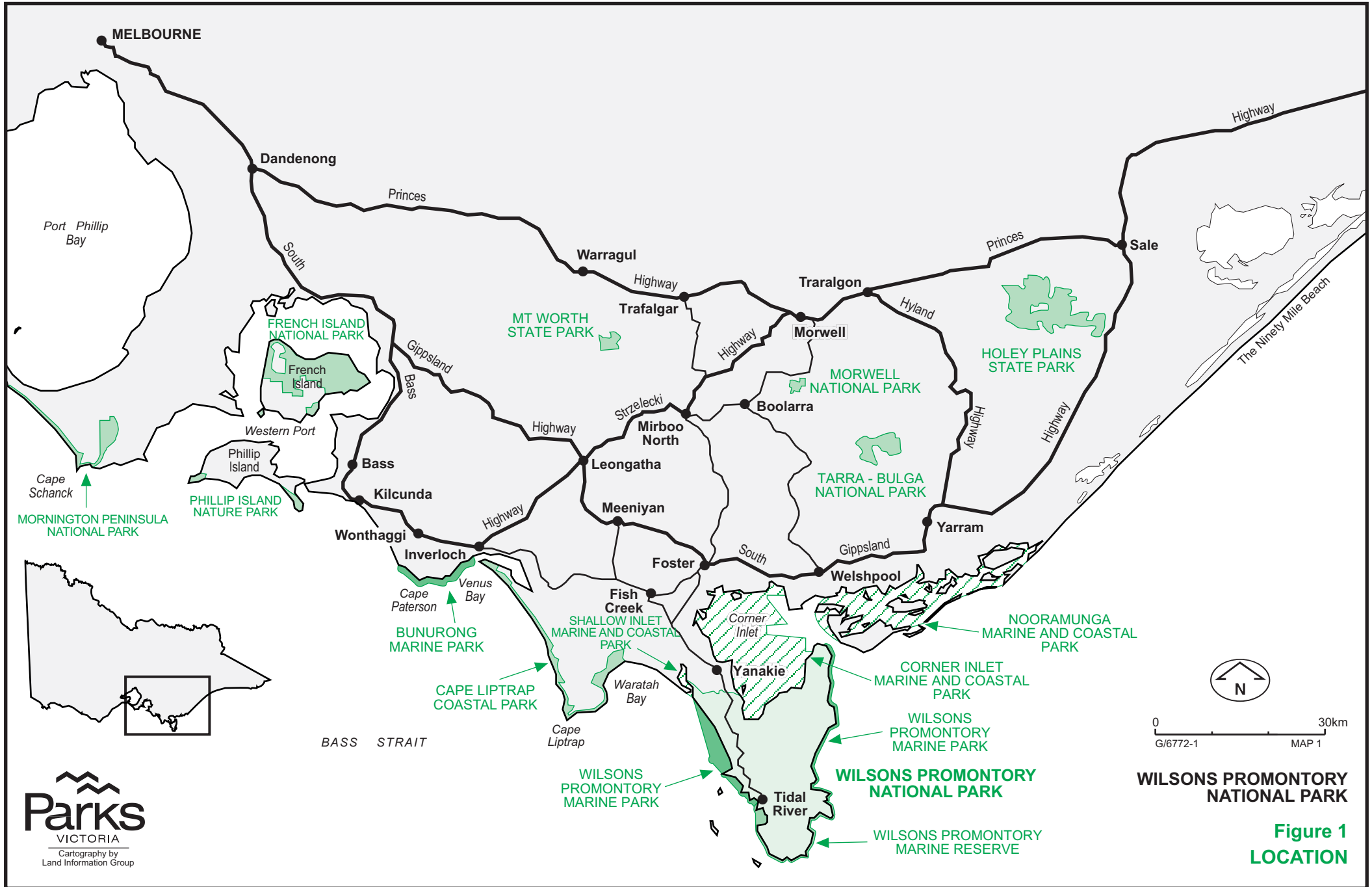
### Cont. Appendix 2

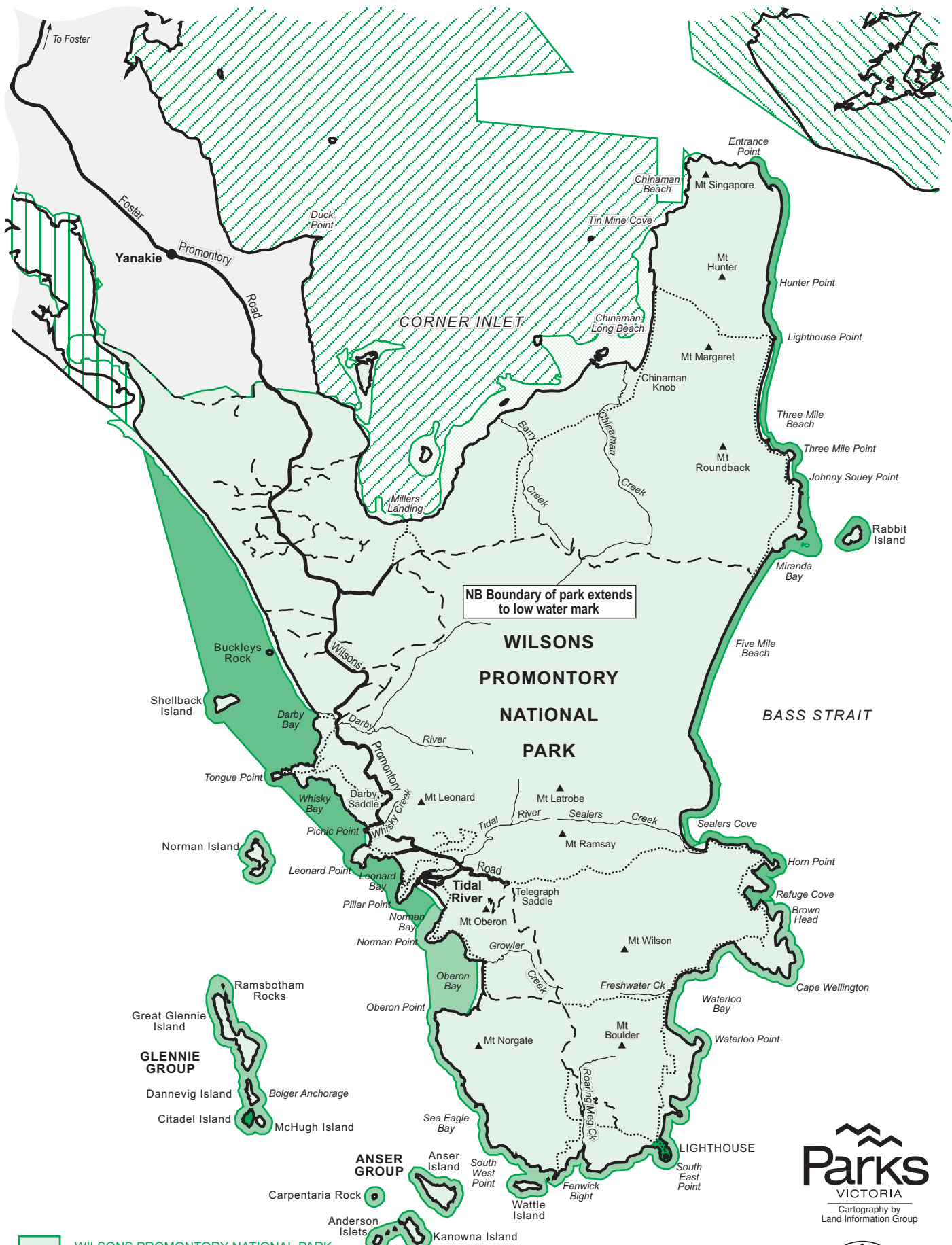
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS
<i>Thinornis rubricollis</i>	Hooded Plover	End L
<b>Mammals</b>		
<i>Antechinus minimus</i>	Swamp Antechinus	LR
<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>	Australian Fur Seal	Vul
<i>Mastacomys fuscus</i>	Broad-toothed Rat	LR
<i>Potorous tridactylus</i>	Long-nosed Potoroo	V LR
<i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i>	New Holland Mouse	CEn L
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	Vul
<i>Thylogale billardierii</i>	Tasmanian Pademelon	Ext L
<b>Reptiles and amphibians</b>		
<i>Dermodochelys coriacea</i>	Leathery Turtle	V End
<i>Egernia coventryi</i>	Swamp Skink	Vul
<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Warty Bell Frog	V Vul
<i>Varanus varius</i>	Tree Monitor	DD
<b>Fish</b>		
<i>Gadopsis marmoratus</i>	River Blackfish	DD
<i>Galaxias cleaveri</i>	Australian Mudfish	End L
<i>Galaxiella pusilla</i>	Dwarf Galaxias	LR L
<i>Prototroctes maraena</i>	Australian Grayling	V Vul L
<b>Insects</b>		
<i>Hemiphysalis mirabilis</i>	Damselfly	Vul L
<i>Plectrotarsus gravenhorstii</i>	Caddisfly	Ins
<b>Crustaceans</b>		
<i>Engaeus australis</i>	Lilly Pilly Burrowing Cray	R/R
<i>Engaeus phyllocercus</i>	Narracan Burrowing Cray	R/R L
<i>Euastacus neodiversus</i>	South Gippsland Spiny Cray	R/R

Source: NRE (database) 2001b

#### Conservation Status

E	endangered in Australia
V	vulnerable in Australia
T	presumed extinct
CEn	critically endangered in Victoria
End	endangered in Victoria
Vul	vulnerable in Victoria
R/R	rare in Victoria
LR	lower risk near threatened in Victoria
R/C	Restricted colonial, breeding or roosting
DD	data deficient
L	listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic.)
N	nominated for listing under the Act
R	recommended for listing under the Act
N/A	not applicable





NB Boundary of park extends to low water mark

**WILSONS PROMONTORY NATIONAL PARK**

BASS STRAIT

**GLENNIE GROUP**

**ANSER GROUP**



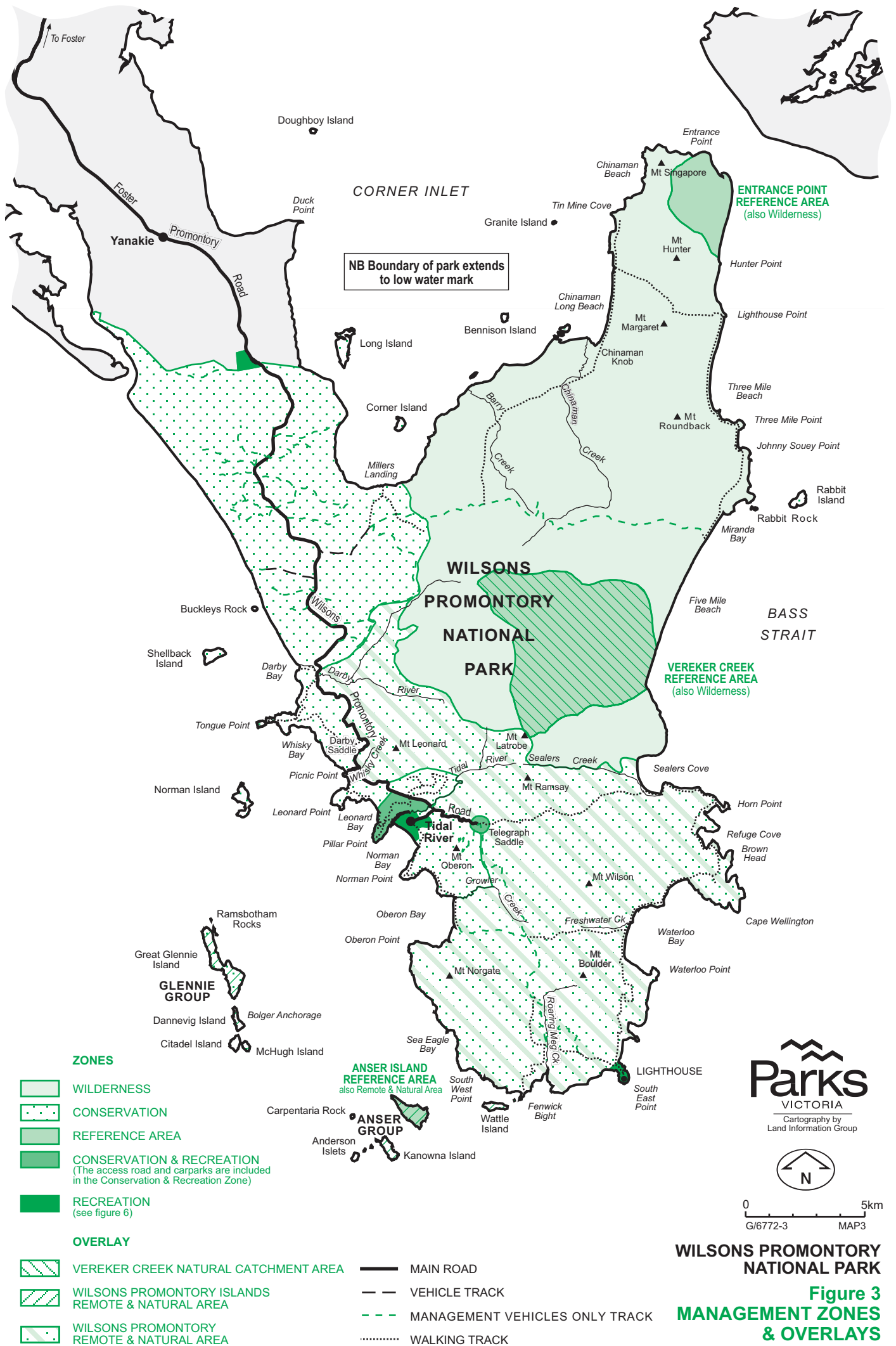
0 5km  
G/6772-2 Map 2

- WILSONS PROMONTORY NATIONAL PARK
- WILSONS PROMONTORY MARINE PARK
- WILSONS PROMONTORY MARINE RESERVE
- CORNER INLET MARINE AND COASTAL PARK
- LIGHTSTATION CROWN LAND RESERVE
- INTERTIDAL ZONE OF NATIONAL PARK
- NOORAMUNGA MARINE AND COASTAL PARK
- SHALLOW INLET MARINE AND COASTAL PARK

- MAIN ROAD
- MANAGEMENT VEHICLE ONLY TRACK
- WALKING TRACK

**WILSONS PROMONTORY NATIONAL PARK**

**Figure 2**  
**LAND TENURE**



NB Boundary of park extends to low water mark

ENTRANCE POINT REFERENCE AREA (also Wilderness)

VEREKER CREEK REFERENCE AREA (also Wilderness)

ANSER ISLAND REFERENCE AREA (also Remote & Natural Area)



0 5km  
G1/6772-3 MAP3

**WILSONS PROMONTORY NATIONAL PARK**

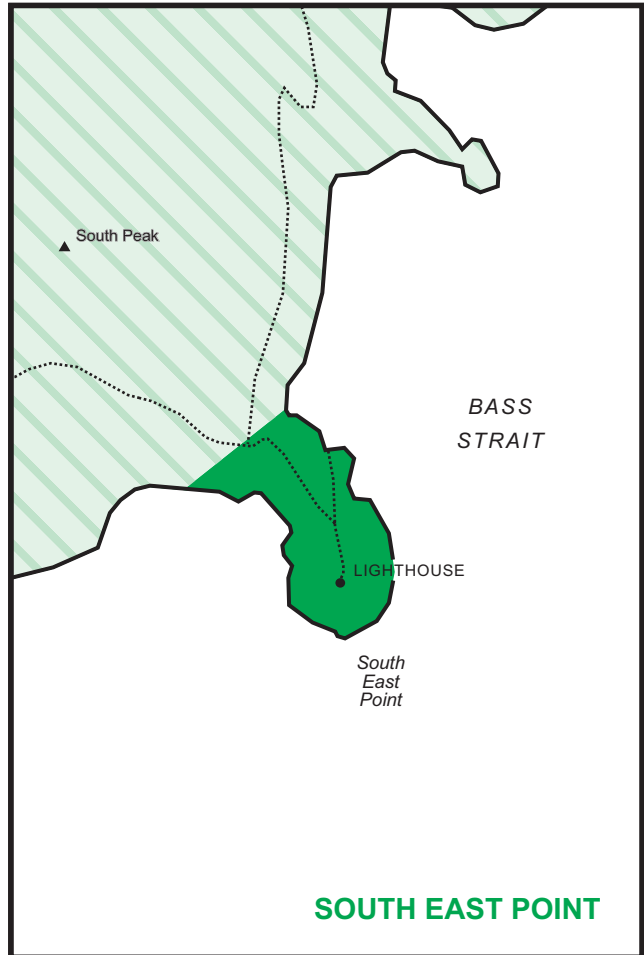
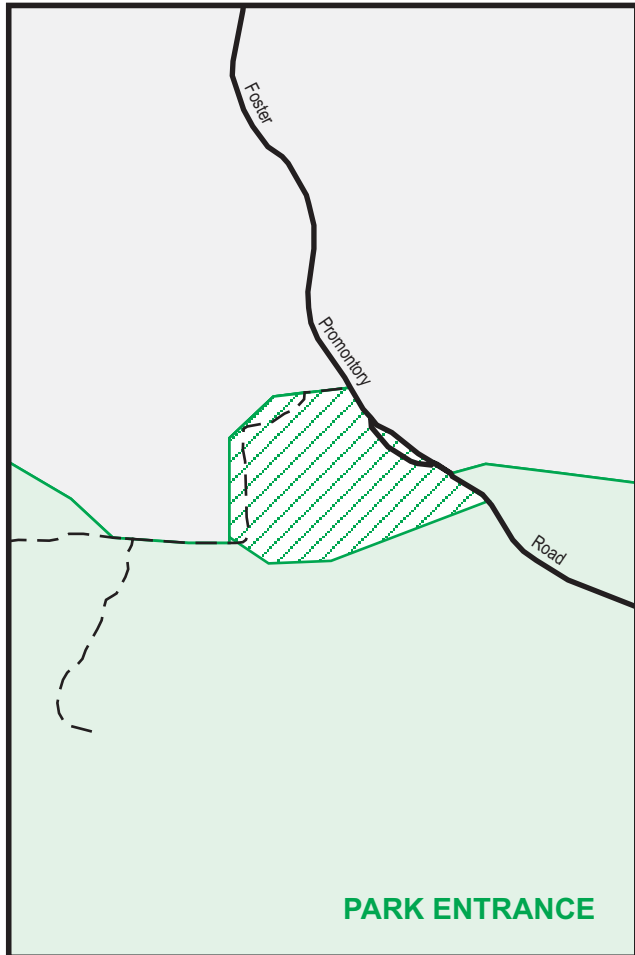
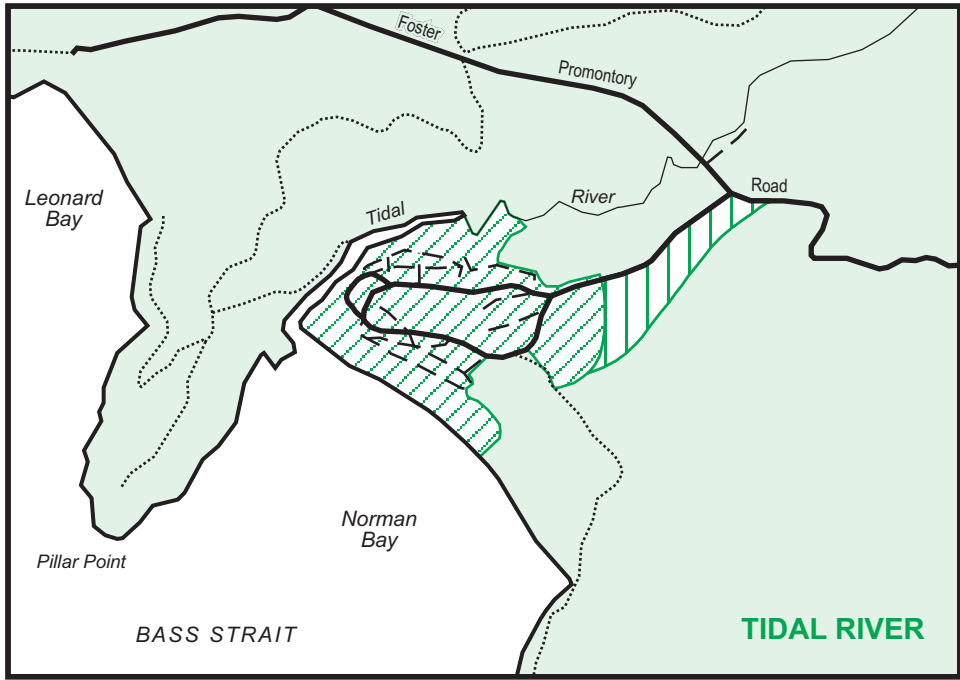
**Figure 3  
MANAGEMENT ZONES & OVERLAYS**

**ZONES**




- WILDERNESS
- CONSERVATION
- REFERENCE AREA
- CONSERVATION & RECREATION  
(The access road and carparks are included in the Conservation & Recreation Zone)
- RECREATION  
(see figure 6)

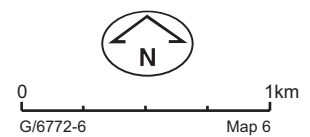
**OVERLAY**

- VEREKER CREEK NATURAL CATCHMENT AREA
- WILSONS PROMONTORY ISLANDS REMOTE & NATURAL AREA
- WILSONS PROMONTORY REMOTE & NATURAL AREA
- MAIN ROAD
- VEHICLE TRACK
- MANAGEMENT VEHICLES ONLY TRACK
- WALKING TRACK



-  REMOTE AND NATURAL AREA (Proposed)
-  RECREATION ZONE
-  EDUCATION ZONE
-  CONSERVATION ZONE
-  CURRENTLY CROWN LAND RESERVE  
(To be incorporated into Wilsons Promontory National Park as part of the Recreation Zone)

-  MAIN ROAD
-  VEHICLE TRACK
-  WALKING TRACK



**WILSONS PROMONTORY NATIONAL PARK**

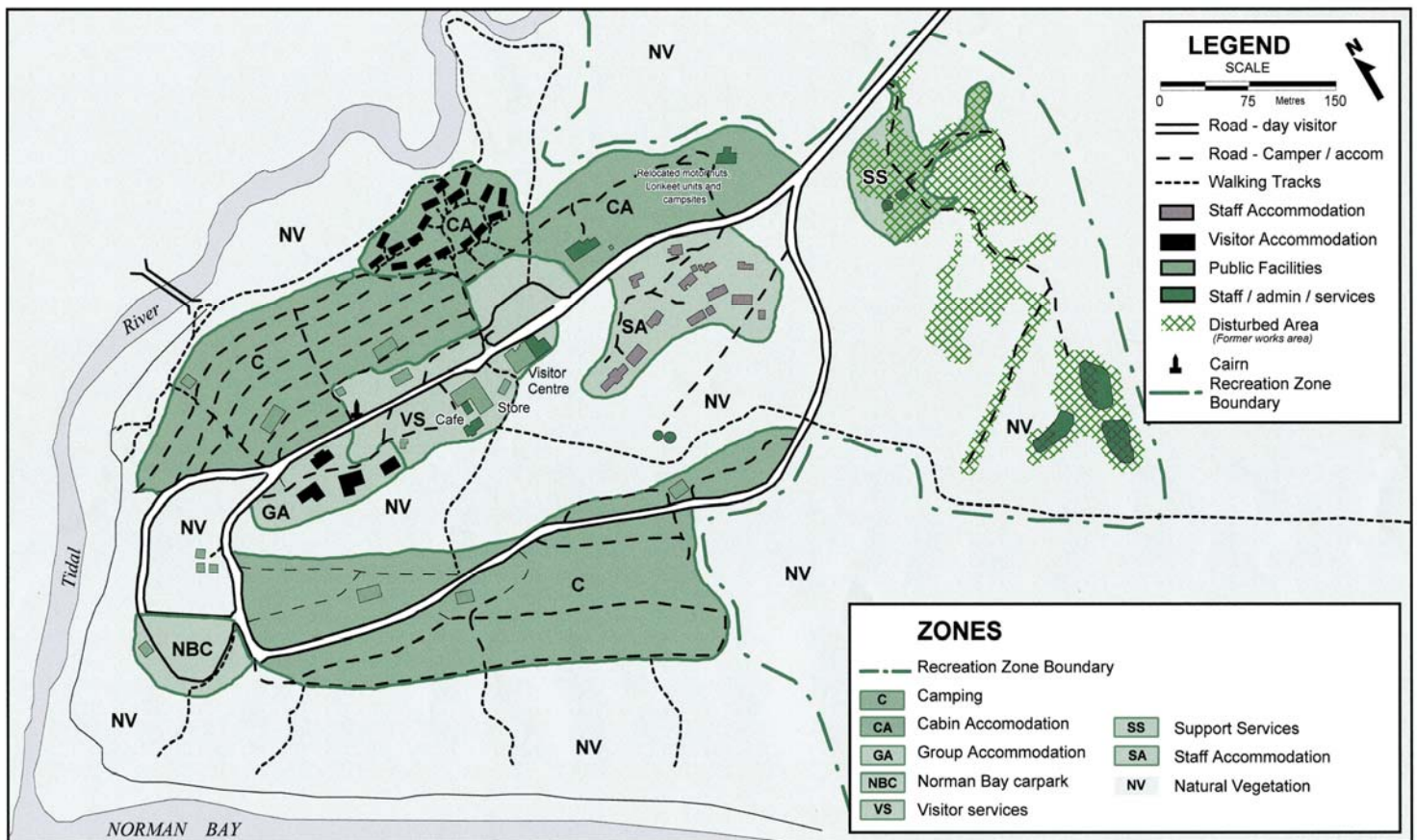
**Figure 4  
RECREATION ZONE  
BOUNDARIES**



DATA: VICMAP TOPOGRAPHY & ROADS USED  
 ORIGINALLY PRODUCED BY MAPPING SYSTEMS, PARKS VICTORIA  
 AMENDED AND COMPLETED BY LAND INFORMATION GROUP, 2002  
 February 2002

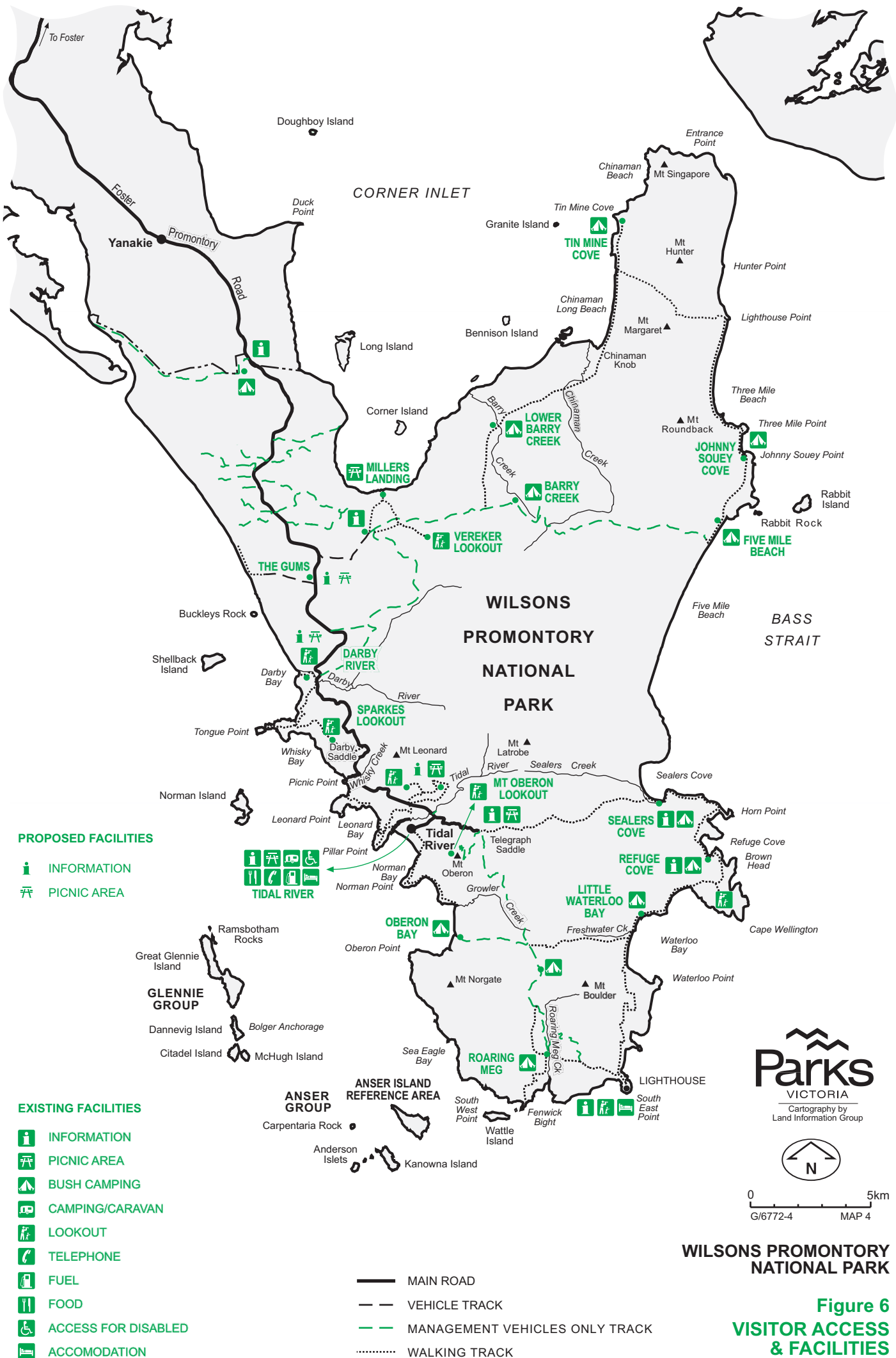
Figure 5A : Wilsons Promontory National Park  
 Tidal River Recreation Zone Existing Conditions





DATA: VICMAP TOPOGRAPHY & ROADS USED  
 ORIGINALLY PRODUCED BY MAPPING SYSTEMS, PARKS VICTORIA  
 AMENDED AND COMPLETED BY LAND INFORMATION GROUP, 2002  
 February 2002

Figure 5B : Wilsons Promontory National Park  
 Tidal River Recreation Zone Proposed Precincts



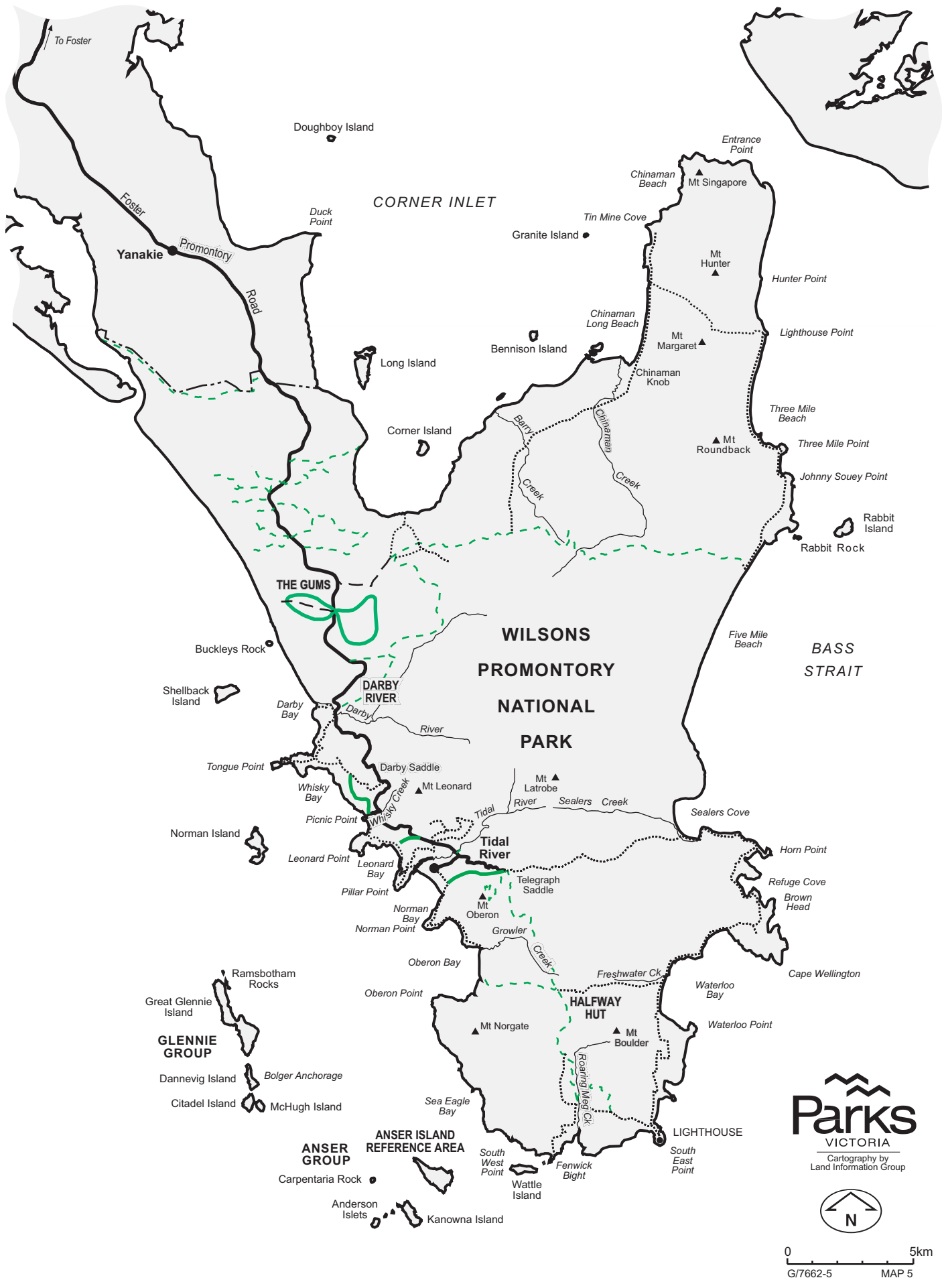
**Parks**  
 VICTORIA  
 Cartography by  
 Land Information Group



0 5km  
 G/6772-4 MAP 4

**WILSONS PROMONTORY NATIONAL PARK**

**Figure 6**  
**VISITOR ACCESS & FACILITIES**



**WILSONS PROMONTORY NATIONAL PARK**

**Figure 7**  
**PROPOSED WALKING TRACKS**

