

# Dandenong Ranges National Park



Management Plan March 2006  
Amended September 2017

This Management Plan for Dandenong Ranges National Park is approved for implementation. Its purpose is to direct all aspects of management of the park until the plan is reviewed.

A Draft Management Plan for the park was published in November 2003. Thirty-four submissions were received and have been considered in preparing this approved Management Plan.

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### **Copies**

This plan may be downloaded from the Parks Victoria website [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au). Copies of the plan may be purchased for \$8.80 (including GST) from:

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre  
Level 10, 535 Bourke Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
Phone: 13 1963

Parks Victoria  
Alfred Nicholas Gardens  
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Sherbrooke VIC 3789

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**DANDENONG RANGES NATIONAL PARK**  
**MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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### Acknowledgement of *Country*

In their rich culture, Indigenous Australians are intrinsically connected to the continent — including the area now known as Victoria.

Parks Victoria recognises that the park is part of *Country* of the Traditional Owners.

### Disclaimers

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 Indigenous 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 plan 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 you relying on any information in the publication.

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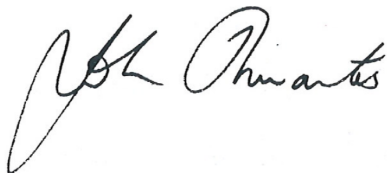
## FOREWORD

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The Dandenong Ranges have a special place in the affections of many people in both the local and broader communities. Wurundjeri people were the original custodians of the area now included in the park, according to Indigenous cultural lore and custom. The Traditional Owners have special interests in the area. Many contemporary Wurundjeri people reside in close proximity to the Dandenongs.

Forested areas of 'the Dandenongs' were among the earliest areas in Victoria set aside for recreation and conservation. Since the early 1900s, the forests have been a favourite place for the people of Melbourne to visit for a picnic and to enjoy the magnificent scenery, tall trees, ferny gullies and wildlife. The Mountain Ash forests of the park are the closest to Melbourne and the tall trees of the forests continue to be a major attraction for visitors.

The Dandenong Ranges National Park, which comprises the areas included in the early reserves and various other areas that have been reserved over the years, now protects a large part of the scenery and forests of the Dandenong Ranges, and forms an important link in the system of parks and reserves that stretches from Western Port to the Yarra Valley and the Yarra Ranges.



JOHN THWAITES MP  
Minister for Environment

The park protects many threatened plant species such as the Slender Tree-fern and Mountain Bird-orchid, and threatened large forest owls such as the Powerful Owl and Sooty Owl. The population of the Superb Lyrebird is now recovering thanks to habitat restoration and eradication of feral animals.

Community groups continue to make a major contribution to management of the park. The dedication of these people over many years in activities such as weed removal and wildlife surveys has resulted in substantial improvements in wildlife habitats that are widely appreciated.

This plan provides a framework for management of the park's flora and fauna, scenic, cultural and recreational values. It was completed following careful consideration of submissions received from the public on issue papers and on the Draft Plan. I thank those individuals and organisations who made submissions, and encourage everyone to explore the opportunities provided by the park, and become involved in supporting the park and implementing the Management Plan.

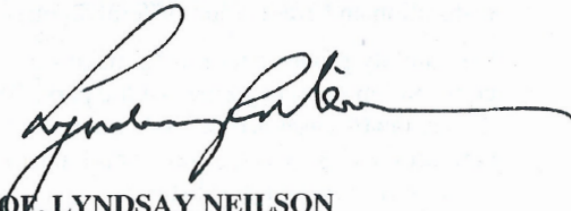
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## MANAGEMENT PLAN


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

The plan provides the basis for the future management of Dandenong Ranges National Park. It was finalised following consideration of the 34 submissions received on the Draft Management Plan.



**PROF. LYNDsay NEILSON**  
Secretary to the Department of  
Sustainability and Environment



**MARK STONE**  
Chief Executive  
Parks Victoria

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## SUMMARY

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Dandenong Ranges National Park (3540 ha) protects large areas of forest and woodland along the main ridge and slopes of the Dandenong Ranges. The park is an important component of the landscape backdrop of metropolitan Melbourne and is a key link in a system of national parks and other parks and reserves stretching from Western Port to the Yarra Valley and further to the east through the Yarra Ranges.

The park is notable for its Mountain Ash forest and the presence of significant wildlife such as the Superb Lyrebird, Powerful Owl and Sooty Owl. A total of 440 flora species and 191 fauna species have been recorded in the park. There are 34 species that are threatened in Victoria (20 flora and 14 fauna), including five plants and two animals threatened nationally and 11 animals and three plants listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic.).

Wurundjeri people were the original custodians of the area, and their descendents maintain an association with the area based on tradition. The Traditional Owners have interests in, and aspirations for, the management of the area.

The 'Dandenongs' attracted visitors seeking recreation from the late 1880s, and by the early 1900s it was a popular recreation area for the residents of Melbourne. The area continues to be an important and much loved destination for Melburnians and is an important destination for interstate and overseas visitors. There are numerous opportunities for picnicking, walking, jogging, studying nature and appreciating the natural environment. Numbers of annual visits to the park have been around one million and relatively stable since 1991. The major picnic grounds of the park continue to be popular destinations for visitors.

This Management Plan builds on the earlier management plan prepared for Dandenong Ranges National Park in 1991, which provided a successful framework for managing the park but did not address additions made to the park or new issues emerging since that time. This new plan sets out a vision, aims and strategies to guide future sound management.

Key aspects of the plan are summarised below.

- Continued emphasis on pest plant removal and habitat reconstruction.
- Control of feral animals and wandering domestic pets as a priority.
- Guidance of flora and fauna management by long-term and short-term 'Natural Values Management' objectives.
- Continued detailed monitoring of the lyrebird population and direction of management towards improving general habitat for lyrebird and other fauna populations.
- Protection of Indigenous places and objects, and protection and conservation of post-settlement cultural places and relics as appropriate.
- Respect for Indigenous cultural lore, and in collaboration with relevant Indigenous communities, reflection of the Traditional Owner's culture, rights in, and aspirations for, the park, in all aspects of planning and management.
- Continued provision of opportunities for a wide range of recreational activities that are consistent with protection of park values.
- Continued delivery of information and interpretation programs to the public.
- Continued delivery of curriculum-based educational programs to all school levels through the Education Centre.
- Development of cooperative programs with relevant agencies to raise the community's level of awareness of conservation issues relating to the park, and to foster the community's cooperation in their resolution.
- Encouragement and support of community groups and volunteers participating in park management programs.
- Promotion of opportunities for community and stakeholders to work together and with Parks Victoria to achieve common goals for the park.

- Application of best-practice standards when upgrading visitor facilities to minimise environmental impact.
- Development of working partnerships with local government and other agencies aimed at better visitor services and environmental management.
- Continued cooperation between Parks Victoria and the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Country Fire Authority, local government and local landholders in the implementation of fuel reduction programs and wildfire suppression.



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***National Parks Act 1975***

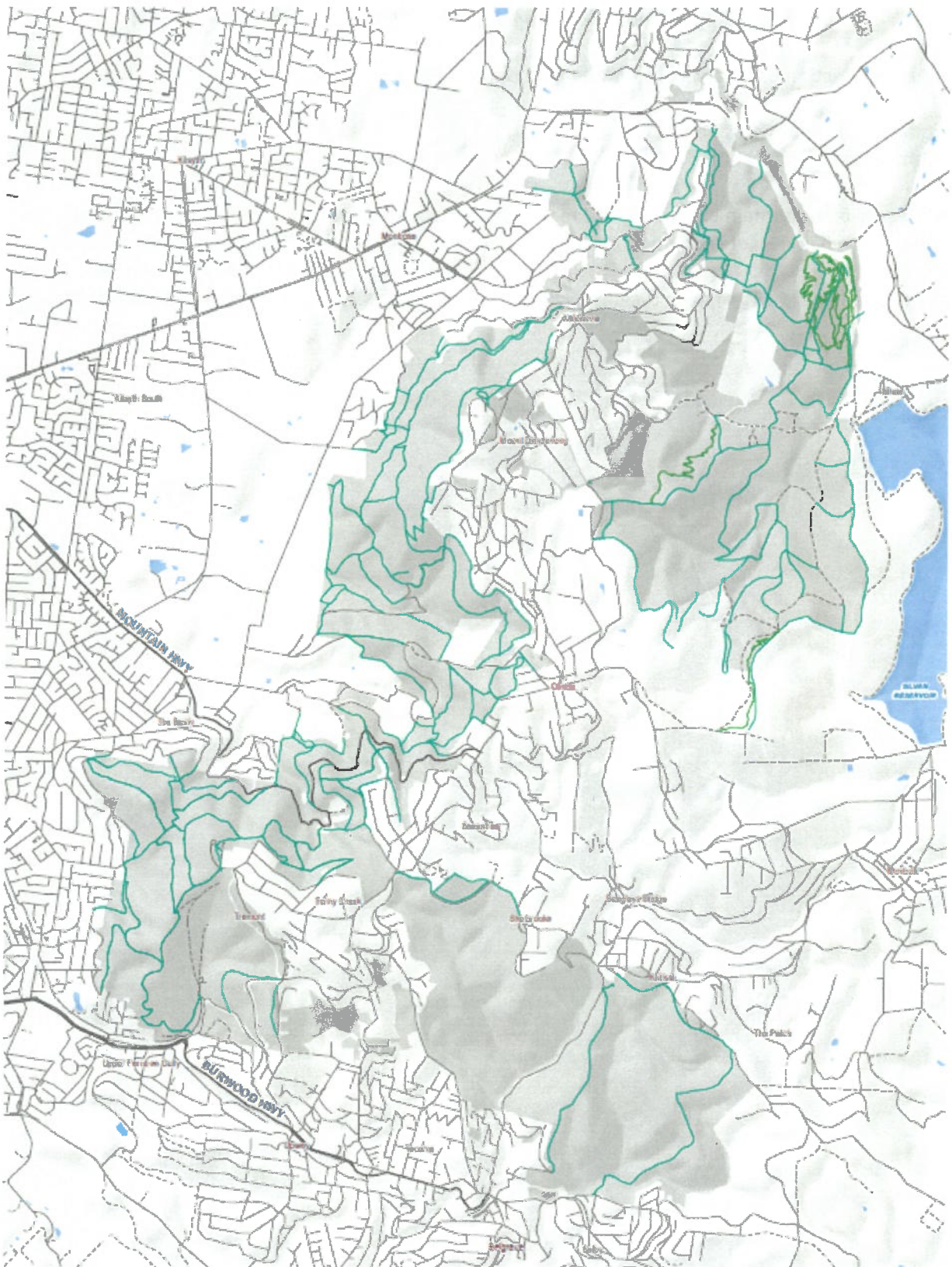
***Amendment of the Dandenong Ranges National Park Management Plan 2006***

**AMENDMENT Section 6.7 Cycling/ Mountain bike riding pp37-38**

**Additional text for dot point in section:**

**Management strategies (p38)**

- Permit cycling/mountain bike riding and maintain road and track access for riders in accordance with Tables 3 and 5 and Figure 6, subject to ongoing review of safety and environmental impact issues. **Mountain biking is permitted on trails as indicated in Figure 6.** When Lloyds Track is closed to recreational activities including cycling (section 6.4), permit this activity on a restored Tan Track.



**Dandenong Ranges National Park**

Figure 6 Cycling

17/09/2017  
 Coordinate System: GDA1984 VICGRID04  
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic  
 Disclaimer: This Website does not guarantee that the data is accurate. Users of any data and/or information obtained from this website should verify the accuracy of the data with the relevant authority. The State of Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

- IMB track
- Cycling permitted

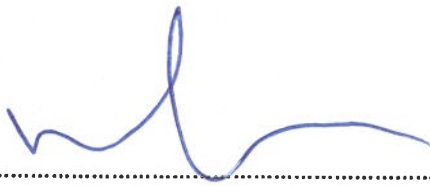


Under section 17(2) (d) of the *National Parks Act 1975*, the Secretary, Department Environment Land Water and Planning (the Secretary) has responsibility to prepare a management plan for National Parks. The Secretary has delegated this duty to the Chief Executive, Parks Victoria in an instrument of delegation dated 5 September 2016.

Therefore I, Matthew Jackson, Chief Executive of Parks Victoria, approve under the *National Parks Act 1975* the specified amendment to the *Dandenong Ranges National Park Management Plan 2006*, as specified.

**Signed at Melbourne**

by



.....  
Name Matthew Jackson

Title Chief Executive Officer, Parks Victoria

Date: 23/10/17

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 Location and planning area

Dandenong Ranges National Park (3540 ha) is located about 35 kilometres east of Melbourne (figure 1), and lies between Mount Evelyn in the north and Belgrave in the south. A number of townships, including Upper Ferntree Gully, Upwey, Tecoma, Kallista, The Patch, Ferny Creek, Sassafras, Olinda, Mount Dandenong and Kalorama, are close to the boundary.

The plan also takes into account the presence and management requirements of nearby land managed by Parks Victoria, principally the Dandenong Ranges Gardens and William Ricketts Sanctuary, and other nature conservation areas in the locality.

## 1.2 Creation of the park

The origin of the park is an area of 168 hectares at Upper Ferntree Gully and One Tree Hill, reserved in 1882 as a site for public recreation. In 1927 an area of 227 hectares was added to the original 168 hectares to create Fern Tree Gully National Park, which was proclaimed in 1928.

The State Government purchased additional land in the Dandenong Ranges through an extensive land acquisition program, including the historic Doongalla Estate which was purchased in 1950. The former Forests Commission purchased additional land on behalf of the former National Parks Service, increasing the size of Fern Tree Gully National Park.

The former Land Conservation Council (LCC) in its Final Recommendations for the Melbourne Study Area (LCC 1977) recommended that Fern Tree Gully National Park, Sherbrooke Forest and Doongalla Estate, together with various other public lands, be amalgamated to form a Dandenongs Regional Park.

Following considerable community interest in the area, the then State Government decided to establish Dandenong Ranges National Park. It was created on 13 December 1987 when it was included on Schedule Two of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.) as a result of the *National Parks (Dandenong Ranges) Act 1987* (Vic.). The park incorporated the core areas of

Fern Tree Gully National Park, Sherbrooke Forest and Doongalla Estate, as well as other public land.

In accordance with LCC recommendations (LCC 1994), various areas of land have been added to the park. The Mount Evelyn and Montrose Forests, Olinda State Forest, Burnham Beeches Estate, the ‘Mountain Ash Paddock’ and the associated ‘Tan Track’, the northern part (6 ha) of the former ‘40-acre Nicholas Paddock’ (purchased by the Crown in 1976), and smaller parcels of public land, including land forming the Sassafras and Upwey corridors, public land water-frontage reserves along two tributaries of Olinda Creek, the Mechanics and Singleton Reserves and Mount Dandenong Arboretum, were added to the park as a result of the *National Parks (Amendment) Act 1997* (Vic.), increasing the area of the park from 1920 ha to 3215 ha. Further substantial additions — surplus Melbourne Water land (‘Silvan No. 2 land’) and ‘Kalorama Park’, and a number of minor boundary refinements — were made to the park as a result of the *National Parks (Otways and Other Amendments) Act 2005* (Vic.), increasing the area of the park from 3215 ha to 3540 ha.

## 1.3 The Management Plan

This Management Plan is a strategic guide for future management of the Dandenong Ranges National Park. It replaces the previous Dandenong Ranges National Park Management Plan (DCE 1991), which did not address a number of emerging issues relating to the area.

As a public document, this plan establishes how Parks Victoria will protect the area’s natural and cultural values and, consistent with this, provide the services and facilities to help visitors to enjoy, appreciate and understand the park. The plan will also serve to inform adjacent land managers about the park’s management, and encourage them to participate with Parks Victoria in cooperative, community-based land management programs.

As a working document for the park, the plan informs Parks Victoria’s development of Corporate Plans, serves as a framework for

subsequent detailed planning and governs management activities.

### **Plan development**

The process of development included a review of the previous plan for the park (DCE 1991) with particular consideration given to the various management issues that have arisen in recent years. These issues include:

- additions to the park, almost doubling its size
- the pressure on visitor sites of continuing high levels of visitation
- increased awareness of the need for improved coordination of land management activities on lands under various tenures
- new information about environmental values and recreational demand.

Parks Victoria initially prepared this Management Plan as a Draft Management Plan in consultation with community groups and individuals who have a close involvement with the park, and with other key stakeholders. A set of issue papers was released for public comment in August 2002. Two public meetings were held to discuss the major issues facing the park and 16 written submissions were received. The Draft Management Plan was published for public comment in 2003 and 34 written submissions were received. Further consultation with the community and key stakeholders was undertaken as appropriate, and carefully considered. Key changes made to the draft in preparing this final Management Plan include:

- an enhanced focus on partnerships with community groups and agencies with common goals relating to the area
- inclusion of additional strategies to acknowledge, engage with and involve relevant Indigenous communities in managing Indigenous cultural heritage
- walking of dogs permitted on one track on the boundary of the park and the Mount Dandenong Arboretum
- Bleakley, A'vard and Pound Creek Tracks and Lipscombe and Moore Break removed from the cycling network to avoid environmental and risk management issues

- additions to list of priority pest plants to address significant local threats
- additions to the park as a result of the National Parks (Otways and Other Amendments) Act.

### **Plan implementation**

The strategies and actions in this management plan will be implemented through Corporate Plans, management practices, and park programs prepared annually as part of statewide prioritised programs.

Implementation of the plan will be consistent with Parks Victoria's commitment to sustainable practices, which aim to ensure the delivery of operations, services and facilities in an ecologically and socially responsible manner, and to minimise the use of expendable resources and generation of waste. As new information comes to light, Parks Victoria will adapt management techniques to minimise impacts on the environment and ensure that management continues to be as efficient and effective as possible.

A review of the plan will be considered 10 years after its publication. Amendments may only be made by the Secretary to DSE, following an authorised process which includes an appropriate level of community consultation.

Circumstances that might lead to amendment of the plan include:

- the results of monitoring or research, management experience or new information (such as greater understanding of new threatening processes) which indicate the need for a change in management direction
- significant changes in visitation or use
- a change in policy that calls into question plan objectives
- new legislation (such as significant boundary changes).

The plan may also be amended if an activity, development or use which conflicts with the provisions of the plan is approved by government (such as native title outcomes).

### 2.1 Regional context

Dandenong Ranges National Park is a key link in a system of parks and other reserves stretching from Western Port to the Yarra Valley and further to the east through the Yarra Ranges (figure 1). Other large areas of national park, State forest, park and other reserve, and rural land, supplement the park's role in nature conservation in the region. These protected areas act as core areas for nature conservation and conserve large areas of native flora and associated wildlife as well as significant cultural and heritage values.

Other popular local destinations that are managed by Parks Victoria include:

- William Ricketts Sanctuary—a place of natural beauty with clay sculptures and information centre
- a picnic ground at Silvan Reservoir Park, with landscaped picnic areas and open lawns, and roadsides in the Kallista–Monbulk area immediately adjacent to the national park
- Mount Dandenong Observatory—scenic viewpoint with extensive views of Melbourne.

Dandenong Ranges Gardens—The National Rhododendron Gardens, Pirianda Gardens, R J Hamer Arboretum, Alfred Nicholas Gardens, George Tindale Gardens, and Mount Dandenong Arboretum (part of the national park), are managed by Parks Victoria. These scenic botanic gardens have a range of facilities and enable visitors to view picturesque floral displays and autumn foliage.

Other reserves in the immediate vicinity that are managed by local committees of management or by the Shire of Yarra Ranges and Knox City Council include Kalorama Memorial Reserve, Ferny Creek Recreation Reserve, Sheffield Road Reserve, Emerald Creek, Baynes Park and Mount Evelyn Reserve (figure 2).

The general area is part of *Country* of the Wurundjeri people of the Woiwurrung language speaking group. Contemporary Wurundjeri people are associated with the area

by cultural lore, according to Indigenous cultural lore and customs.

Although the Dandenong Ranges National Park offers a wide range of recreational opportunities, it cannot cater for all needs. However, the national park, the public gardens, and other parks and reserves in 'the Dandenongs', together offer a complementary range of recreational opportunities and experiences in natural and cultural environments, with facilities of various capacities and levels of development.

Other parks, such as Lilydale Lake, Emerald Lake, Churchill National Park, Lysterfield Park, the Dandenong Valley Parklands, Cardinia Reservoir Park and a number of smaller reserves, offer alternative destinations and recreational opportunities and help, to some extent, to take the pressure off the facilities in Dandenong Ranges National Park.

Sassafras Creek and Perrins Creek form an important corridor for nature conservation, wildlife and recreation. There are a number of small recreational reserves along Sassafras Creek.

The park generally lies within the Shire of Yarra Ranges but includes a small section of the City of Knox.

### 2.2 Park significance and values

Dandenong Ranges National Park makes a valuable contribution to Victoria's parks system, which aims to protect viable, representative samples of the State's natural environments occurring on public land. It also provides opportunities for visitors to enjoy and appreciate natural and cultural values and makes an important contribution to tourism and the economy of the region.

The park falls within the Highlands Southern Fall Victoria Bioregion, which is moderately reserved, and within the national South Eastern Highlands Bioregion of which 19.4% is within parks and reserves in Victoria (Parks Victoria 2000c).

The park is assigned the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Category II (National Parks) of the United Nations List of National



Parks and Protected Areas. Category II areas are managed primarily for conservation and appropriate recreation.

The park is an important component of the landscape backdrop of metropolitan Melbourne as well as being the major landscape feature of the Dandenong Ranges. The community's attachment to landscapes in 'the Dandenongs' adds a layer of cultural value to their environmental values. The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) has classified the landscape of the area in recognition of its significance (section 4.5).

The area included in the park is significant to many in the community. Contemporary Wurundjeri people are associated with the area by cultural lore and custom, and the physical evidence of their people's past occupation provides them with a link to their ancestry.

Since the early 1900s, a number of other families and groups have developed a variety of traditional associations with the area. Many residents of Melbourne have favourite places in the area. More recently, the park has come to be appreciated and valued by many residents of the Dandenongs.

Significant features of the park are outlined below.

#### Natural values

- a total of 34 species threatened in Victoria (20 flora and 14 fauna) including five plants and two animals which are also threatened nationally and three plants and 11 animals which are listed in the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic.)
- the occurrence of Cool Temperate Rainforest, a vegetation community listed as threatened under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act
- habitat for the threatened Slender Tree-fern, the Mountain Bird-orchid and two species of amphipod
- breeding populations of threatened large forest owls such as the Powerful Owl and Sooty Owl
- the presence of 16 regionally significant flora species

- the presence of regionally significant fauna such as the Superb Lyrebird and Swamp Wallaby
- the closest Mountain Ash forest to Melbourne
- the headwaters of Dandenong Creek and part of the upper catchment of the Yarra River.

#### Cultural values

- evidence of past Indigenous use and occupation of the area
- relics of early European settlement and resource utilisation, and interaction with nature
- evidence of the evolving recreation and park management history
- natural landscapes which are highly valued by the community.

#### Recreational and tourism values

- a strategic location close to Melbourne with tall forest, wildlife and scenery
- contribution to the local economy by attracting large numbers of day and overnight visitors to the Dandenongs from Melbourne, and interstate and international tourists
- numerous opportunities for picnicking and barbecuing, walking, jogging, studying nature, appreciating the natural environment and scenic driving.

### 2.3 Changes in land use

Prior to settlement, Wurundjeri people used areas included in the park for hunting and gathering food. Elevated areas were usually used during the summer months.

European settlement spread into the Dandenongs in the 1850s. Initially timber harvesting and hunting for game were the main activities. Many areas now included in the park were, however, protected from the clearing of native vegetation by early reservation as timber reserve or State forest. Limited areas were protected from logging, for example One Tree Hill (section 1.1), but timber harvesting continued, in some areas until as late as the 1960s. For many years,

numerous tracks created by forestry operations and sites originally cleared for tramways and sawmills have been used by visitors for recreational activities like picnicking, walking and appreciating scenery and wildlife (Anderson 2000).

The park includes a number of freehold blocks that were once cleared of vegetation but subsequently acquired by the State Government and added to the park.

Many areas abutting the park have been subdivided, cleared of native vegetation (at least in part), and developed or retained for residential purposes, flower farms, orchards, berry farms or herb farms. Some blocks have been planted as gardens with exotic trees and shrubs. Large formal gardens with mature stands of exotic trees are a feature of the area. As a result of developments such as the clearing of native vegetation, construction of buildings and drains, introduction of exotic plants and animals and associated human activities, the natural systems of areas abutting the park have undergone substantial changes.

## 2.4 The park visitor

Many people from greater Melbourne, particularly the south-eastern and northern suburbs, and residents of the Dandenongs, are attracted to the park by the many recreational opportunities provided by the principal settings of tall forest, wildlife and scenery.

Most people travel to the park by car or commercial-tour bus. Some use bicycles or catch the train to Ferntree Gully Station and then walk or cycle to reach the park.

Popular stops on commercial bus touring routes include Grants and Ferntree Gully Picnic Grounds. Visits to the Gardens of the Dandenong Ranges and William Ricketts Sanctuary are also popular. Visits to these sites are often combined with visits to the small townships for afternoon tea, a meal or shopping.

The main visitor activities are picnicking and barbecuing, walking, jogging, studying nature, appreciating the natural environment, scenic driving and stopping at viewpoints. Some walks are major attractions in themselves, with 52 000 people a year climbing the '1000 steps' from Ferntree Gully to One Tree Hill and 64 000 of the 80 000 visitors to Sherbrooke Picnic

Ground visiting Sherbrooke Falls (Chladek & Zanon 2001).

Numbers of visits to the park have been relatively stable since 1991. Visit numbers were last estimated to be 1 043 000, for 2001/2002.

Visit numbers for the major picnic grounds in the park for the year 2000/2001, based on surveys (Chladek & Zanon 2001), were estimated as follows:

Grants Picnic Ground	561 000
Ferntree Gully Picnic Ground	192 000
Sherbrooke Picnic Ground	79 000
One Tree Hill Picnic Ground	49 000
Doongalla Picnic Ground	33 000
Kalorama Lookout and Picnic Ground	281 000

Smaller numbers visited the minor picnic grounds. About 150 000 visits were made to the park on foot or bicycle (15% of total park visits).

Numbers of visits to sites in the vicinity of the park were estimated as follows:

William Ricketts Sanctuary	47 000
Mount Dandenong Observatory	647 000
R J Hamer Arboretum	57 000

Data from an earlier survey indicated that 99% of visitors were on a day trip and that 80% spent four hours or less in the park. Almost 80% were return visits (Parks Victoria 1998). Over 50% of visitors take a short walk while in the park. Other reasons given for visiting were scenic driving and sightseeing (39%), picnicking (34%) and relaxing/getting away from it all (24%) (Parks Victoria 2000a).

## 2.5 Legislation and LCC recommendations

### Legislation

Dandenong Ranges National Park is reserved and managed under the National Parks Act. The Act requires the Secretary to the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) 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. Appropriate research activities are also provided for under the Act. The National Parks (Park) Regulations 2003 apply to the park area.

Sections 4 (Objects) and 18 of the National Parks Act (appendix 1) set the framework and direction for the management of Dandenong Ranges National Park.

The *Parks Victoria Act 1998* (Vic.) enables management services for Dandenong Ranges National Park to be provided on behalf of the Secretary by Parks Victoria.

Issues relating to native title are dealt with according to the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth).

The provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) apply to Crown land within the park with respect to actions that have, will have or are likely to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance.

The *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1998* (Vic.) protects all indigenous flora and fauna within the park.

Other legislation, and policies and guidelines (section 2.6) at both the Commonwealth and State levels apply to management of the park and specific activities and uses.

### LCC recommendations

The LCC Melbourne Area District 2 Review Final Recommendations (LCC 1994) recommended that various areas of land be added to the park. Many of these have been added to the park as a result of the National Parks (Amendment) Act 1997 and National Parks (Otways and Other Amendments) Act 2005 (section 1.2).

LCC Recommendations (LCC 1994) that were accepted by the State government guide particular aspects of the parks management as described below and in subsequent sections of the plan. They emphasize the need to protect natural ecosystems and sites of cultural importance, supply water and protect water supply catchments, and provide opportunities for recreation and education associated with the enjoyment and understanding of natural and cultural environments. The LCC specifically recommended that the extant early 20<sup>th</sup> century recreational facilities of the former Fern Tree Gully National Park be protected.

## 2.6 Policy and guidelines

The park is also managed in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies and strategies and guidelines, including:

- *Guidelines and Procedures for Ecological Burning on Public Land* (DSE & Parks Victoria 2004)
- *Guidelines for Working with Aboriginal Communities and Protection of Cultural Sites* (Parks Victoria 2002e)
- *Indigenous Partnership Strategy and Action Plan* (Parks Victoria 2005)
- *Parks Victoria Heritage Management Strategy* (Parks Victoria 2003)
- *Memorandum of Understanding* (Parks Victoria & Yarra Ranges Shire Council 2002)
- *Dandenong Ranges National Park: Pest Plant Strategy* (Parks Victoria 2000b).

The park is managed within a broader context of a number of other plans and strategies, which include:

- *Draft Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land* (DSE 2005)
- *Port Phillip Region Fire Protection Plan* (NRE 1999)
- *Port Phillip and Westernport Regional Weed Action Plan 2000–2005* (NRE 2000a)
- *Melbourne Surrounds Regional Tourism Development Plan 2004–2007* (Tourism Victoria 2004)
- *William Ricketts Sanctuary Conservation Plan* (Parks Victoria 1997).

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## 3 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

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### 3.1 Vision

A future visitor to Dandenong Ranges National Park finds the character and core values of the park unchanged from earlier visits, although in improved ecological condition.

The tall forest, wildlife and scenery are managed for their outstanding natural values and diverse recreational opportunities. Sophisticated ecological management techniques are employed to protect and manage the natural values. Populations of rare and threatened species of plants and animals are now secure and the range of species such as the Superb Lyrebird has expanded. The forest is relatively weed-free and there are only small numbers of feral animals. Continuing attention is given to protection of life and property from wildfire, with the prescribed burning for fire protection integrated with the ecological requirements for fire.

The broader community is well aware of the park's values and management programs, and many community groups promote the park and participate in its management on a voluntary basis.

Natural and cultural values conservation programs and visitor services programs are integrated with the programs of local government agencies, to the benefit of all categories of land.

The community has ready access to the park for new recreational activities and traditional uses on an equitable basis. The community's enjoyment of the park is supported by high-quality visitor services with a focus on environmental education and information programs that contribute to people's understanding of the natural and cultural values of the park.

The park is a source of serenity, inspiration and human health and well-being.

### 3.2 Zoning

A management zoning scheme has been developed for the park to:

- provide a geographic framework within which to manage the area

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

Four management zones apply to the park—Conservation, Conservation and Recreation, Recreation Development and Education. In addition, a Special Protection Area—Cultural Values overlay is designated with management requirements additional to those of the underlying primary zone. Table 1 gives details of each zone and figure 3 shows their locations.

### 3.3 Management directions

#### Natural values conservation

- The vegetation in two-thirds of the park is in good condition and will be maintained in this state. The structure and diversity of other areas will be progressively restored, particularly core environmental areas.
- Native vegetation on the banks of streams and in areas of disturbed land will be restored to protect adjoining areas from invasion by weeds and other harmful processes.
- Populations and habitats of threatened species and regionally significant species will be protected and maintained, with emphasis on the restoration of areas of Damp Forest and Wet Forest and other significant vegetation communities.
- Corridors of native vegetation linking blocks of vegetation within the park will be restored and the restoration of corridors of native vegetation linking the park with other reserves will be encouraged.

**TABLE 1      MANAGEMENT ZONES AND OVERLAY**

<b>ZONE/ OVERLAY</b>	<b>AREA/LOCATION *</b>	<b>VALUES</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT AIM</b>
<b>ZONES</b>			
Conservation	2189 ha; 62% of the park.	Broad areas containing sensitive natural environments or ecosystems.	Protect sensitive natural environments and provide for minimal impact recreation and, simple visitor facilities, subject to ensuring minimal interference with natural processes.
Conservation and Recreation	1314 ha; 37% of the park.	Important natural values and scope for recreation opportunities.	Protect less sensitive natural environments and provide for sustainable, dispersed recreational activities and small-scale recreational facilities without significant impact on natural processes.
Recreation Development	26 ha; <1% of the park.	Sites with major/significant facility development in a natural setting.	Provide primarily for high-use visitor nodes with a concentration of recreation and/or interpretation facilities.
Education	11 ha; <1% of the park.	A readily accessible area with a range of environments, which can sustain some level of disturbance associated with educational activities.	Provide primarily for environmental education in a relatively undisturbed area.
<b>OVERLAY</b>			
Special Protection Area–Cultural Values	11.5 ha; <1% of the park comprising: – Doongalla Homestead and Stables – Mount Dandenong Arboretum.	Discrete significant areas requiring special attention.	Protect specific cultural values in specific areas and sites where a special management focus is required.

\* Management zones are shown in figure 3

- Pest species, including new and emerging species, will be controlled and eradicated where possible, with a high priority on the control of feral animals and wandering domestic pets.
- Emphasis will continue to be given to weed removal and habitat reconstruction.
- Detailed monitoring of the lyrebird population will continue and management will be directed towards improving the general habitat for fauna.
- Unnecessary management vehicle tracks and illegal tracks will be closed and rehabilitated to minimise environmental impacts and habitat fragmentation.
- Damage to the park caused by wastewater discharges from freehold land will be minimised by establishing and maintaining close cooperation with the relevant government agencies.

**TABLE 2 SUMMARY OF RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES**

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE				OVERLAY
	CONSERVATION & RECREATION	CONSERVATION	RECREATION DEVELOPMENT	EDUCATION	SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA—CULTURAL VALUES
	37% of park	62% of park	<1% of park	<1% of park	<1% of park
Bicycle riding <sup>1</sup>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Camping <sup>2</sup>	N	N	N	N	N
Commercial filming & photography <sup>3</sup>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dog walking <sup>4</sup>	Y	N	N	N	Y
Fires in fireplaces	N/A	N/A	Y	N/A	Y
Firewood collection	N	N	N	N	N
Fishing	N	N	N	N	N
Hang gliding & paragliding	Y	N	N	N	N
Horse riding <sup>1</sup>	Y	N	N	N	Y
Jogging	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Licensed tours	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Nature study	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Organised foot races <sup>3</sup>	Y	N	Y	N	Y
Orienteering & rogaining <sup>3</sup>	Y	N	Y	N	Y
Picnicking	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Portable BBQs <sup>5</sup>	N	N	Y	N	Y
Scenic viewing	Y	Y	Y	N/A	Y
Walking on formed tracks	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

## Notes:

Inquiries should be made to Parks Victoria regarding activities not mentioned in table 2.

This table needs to be read in conjunction with other provisions in the plan affecting specific activities.

<sup>1</sup> Only permitted on tracks as specified in tables 3 and 5.

<sup>2</sup> Chainsaws and generators not permitted.

<sup>3</sup> Parks Victoria authorisation and/or permit required.

<sup>4</sup> Only permitted on lead, in Mount Dandenong Arboretum and on a track as specified in table 5.

<sup>5</sup> Commercial portable gas fire appliances only. No portable solid fuel fire appliances.

## Key:

Y Permitted, except where specifically constrained by overlay as indicated in the table, or by conditions specified elsewhere in the plan, e.g. dog walking, orienteering/rogaining

N Not permitted

N/A Not applicable

### **Cultural values conservation**

- Indigenous places and objects will be protected from interference or damaging activities.
- Scenic landscape and historic places will be conserved by careful management.
- The Traditional Owners' cultural lore, interests, rights and aspirations relating to the park will be respected, promoted and reflected in all planning and management, in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies.
- The impact of any works and buildings on the park's natural and cultural values will be minimised by careful planning, design, siting and construction activities.

### **The park visit**

- Recreation opportunities will continue to be provided in the park consistent with table 2.
- The value of the park in enhancing human health and well-being will be promoted.
- Equity of access for all members of the community to the park's natural and recreational features will be improved.
- Information and interpretation programs will be delivered to assist the public to find, understand and appreciate the park's natural and cultural heritage values.
- Community awareness of the park will be developed, in cooperation with local government and other agencies where appropriate.
- The Education Centre will continue to deliver curriculum-based educational programs to all school levels.
- Best-practice standards will be applied to new and refurbished visitor facilities to minimise environmental impact.

- Programs to reduce the risk to the public from falling branches and other natural hazards will continue.
- Visitors will be encouraged to adopt minimal impact behaviour and to adhere to codes of conduct appropriate to their activities.

### **Community awareness and involvement**

- Visitors, relevant Indigenous communities, local communities and the broader community will be encouraged to become more aware of the park, its values and management, and to develop a sense of custodianship for it.
- Existing relationships between communities or groups and the park will be further developed and maintained to facilitate and encourage their participation in the park's management.
- Community groups with an interest in the park will be encouraged to pursue that interest by participating in relevant aspects of its management.
- A strong collaborative relationship will be developed with the relevant Indigenous communities to facilitate the appropriate reflection of the Traditional Owners' cultural lore, concerns, rights and aspirations in all aspects of planning and management.
- Ongoing opportunities for individuals, communities, groups and government agencies to discuss aspirations and issues of mutual concern relating to the park will be maintained.
- Government agencies, particularly local government and water and sewerage authorities, will be encouraged to cooperate in programs that facilitate the achievement of common goals relating to the park.

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## 4 STRATEGIES FOR NATURAL VALUES CONSERVATION

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### 4.1 Geological and landform features

The Dandenong Ranges are the remains of an ancient volcano. Weathering and the action of streams have eroded the old volcano over time to the extent that it is largely unrecognisable today. The whole block is detached from other mountain ranges and it is of an earlier volcanic derivation than most other volcanic areas in Victoria.

About 300 million years ago, over a period of time, a large volcano erupted near the present township of Olinda, creating four distinct lava flows. The lava cauldron was in the shape of a triangle. Its western edge ran southwest to Ferntree Gully and was bounded by the Selby Fault in the south, which stretches from Ferntree Gully to Emerald. Its eastern section was bounded by the fracture known as the Evelyn Fault.

The Ranges that resulted from these geological episodes rise steeply from the plain stretching to the west. The eastern slopes are gentler and are dissected by streams that flow north, to the Yarra Valley, or south to Port Phillip and Western Port Bays. The Dandenong Ranges have a significantly higher rainfall than the surrounding areas. This has had a marked influence on the development of landforms and has allowed the development of Mountain Ash forest in the deep soils of the moist, sheltered south-facing slopes.

Many landform features are significant to contemporary Wurundjeri people, in accordance with their tradition. Particular features may be intrinsic to their *Dreaming*.

#### Aim

- Conserve sites of geological and geomorphological significance.

#### Management strategies

- *Encourage scientific research on the geology and geomorphology of the park, and incorporate the findings in park records.*
- *Identify significant geomorphological sites, document their features and their*

*sensitivity to disturbance, and provide appropriate management where necessary.*

- *Record knowledge gained about the cultural lore of Traditional Owners that relate to particular landforms of the park, and use the knowledge with due respect in managing the landform areas (sections 5.1 and 6.1 and chapters 6 and 7).*
- *Include geology and geomorphology in the park's interpretation and schools education programs.*

### 4.2 Rivers and catchments

The park forms part of the catchments of the Yarra River and Dandenong Creek, and has a major influence on the quantity and quality of water flowing into these catchments. Water quality in the streams in the area is also a significant issue for nature conservation. Drainage from roads and tracks and erosion control after fire are important factors in maintaining water quality.

A large part of the Dandenong Ranges is not connected to a sewerage system, and on-site methods such as septic tanks are used instead for waste treatment. Many of the septic tanks are of the old type that does not treat sullage (grey water), and the grey water is simply discharged on the property or to stormwater drains. In many areas, stormwater from roads and built-up areas is not collected in underground drains and is often discharged in inappropriate locations.

The combined effect of sewage effluent, grey water and stormwater has serious long-term impacts on the park. Many urban areas are located above the park and the discharges drain down the slope into the park. The effluent is rich in nutrients, carries weed seeds and is often discharged at the wrong points. This results in the spread of weeds along drainage lines, dieback of Mountain Ash due to waterlogging and increased nutrient levels, and impacts on animal and plant life in the streams. Over the years, this has had a serious impact on the natural values of the park and will continue to do so unless major changes are made to effluent and stormwater disposal.



In the last few years, some improvements have been made. For example, road drainage has been improved on Sherbrooke Road and Churchill Drive, and a community-driven drainage project has been trialled at Hughes Creek. Grants Picnic Ground and the adjoining school have been connected to the reticulated sewerage system, and the re-constructed Sherbrooke and O'Donohue Picnic Grounds have had sophisticated septic systems installed as it is not currently possible to connect them to a reticulated system. There are also other opportunities for cooperative projects between management authorities where facilities adjoin, such as at Olinda where the National Rhododendron Gardens, the Recreation Reserve, the public golf course and the Olinda township public facilities share a treatment plant.

Water authorities also have programs to encourage connection to reticulated sewerage systems, and Melbourne Water is developing Waterway Management Activity Plans.

Solving the problem for the whole of the area presents considerable technical challenges and has significant financial implications. Nevertheless, it is essential to develop a long-term program of improvement involving VicRoads, the water and sewerage authorities, local government, Parks Victoria and other relevant government authorities and with the involvement of the community.

#### **Aims**

- Minimise, and where possible eliminate, the adverse impacts on the park area of sewage effluent, stormwater and grey water discharges from land outside the area.
- Ensure that facilities and management practices in the park do not contribute to poor water quality.
- Achieve high water quality standards for all streams in the park.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Develop cooperative arrangements with the Shire of Yarra Ranges and Knox City Council, water and sewerage authorities and the Catchment and Land Protection Board to minimise or eliminate waste*

*water and sewage effluent discharges from land adjoining the park.*

- *Continue to work with Melbourne Water to develop Waterway Management Activity Plans.*
- *Require new facilities in the park to conform to quality standards for waste water discharge and develop a program for the progressive replacement or refurbishment of old facilities.*
- *Design and maintain roads and tracks to minimise soil erosion and interruption to natural drainage systems.*
- *Cooperate with VicRoads in the redesign of road drainage systems to minimise impacts on the park.*

#### **4.3 Vegetation**

The park has relatively diverse vegetation for its size, with 16 ecological vegetation classes (EVCs) recognised (Parks Victoria 2002a). These range from pockets of Cool Temperate Rainforest in the gullies to Grassy Dry Forest on the exposed western slopes. Some 440 species of native plants have been recorded in the park.

The park has 20 plant species listed as threatened in Victoria, including three listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act and five which are also threatened nationally (appendix 2). The park is particularly important in protecting two species: the Slender Tree-fern and the Mountain Bird-orchid (Parks Victoria 2002a). It is also home to 16 regionally significant flora species (appendix 2).

Based on a survey undertaken in 2002 (Parks Victoria 2002b), nearly two-thirds of the park's vegetation was considered to be in good condition, only 8% considered as being in poor condition. However, because of the long and complex park boundary there are significant threats from weeds and pest animals near the boundaries. These threats are expected to continue to be a significant risk to the core environmental values of the park (section 4.7).

About 70% of the former 'Silvan No. 2 land' carries forest, with the remainder mostly cleared of vegetation. Some areas of the former 'Kalorama Park' carry Wet Forest

(Mountain Ash); substantial areas were previously cleared for agriculture.

Natural values management objectives for the park are given at appendix 6. The objectives will continue to be refined as more knowledge and feedback from environmental monitoring becomes available.

The park is famous for its Mountain Ash forest, which surrounds, or is adjacent to, urban areas. There are drier and more flammable forest types on the western side of the range. The age of the existing forest varies, but some areas are estimated to be about 250 years old, with younger stands dating from the time when various sections have been burnt in the past. The 'old growth' forests provide very important habitat for wildlife.

In recent times, much effort has been spent in preventing fires entering the Mountain Ash forest, because of the risk to life, property and environmental values. In the very long-term, with the exclusion of fire there will be little natural regrowth, and the oldest trees will gradually die and may be replaced by a different type of forest. The forest is also home to a wide range of wildlife, which has varying requirements in terms of the age and structure of the forest. For this reason it is generally considered preferable to have a range of tree age classes in a Mountain Ash forest, although in a relatively small park such as this it may only be possible to have a few represented.

A thorough review of all possible options for management of the forest is required, and additional scientific research may be necessary. This will lead to the refinement of long-term natural values management objectives and provide directions for more active management of the forest.

Selective applications of fire for ecological purposes to some vegetation communities may be appropriate (section 4.6).

The 'Mountain Ash Paddock' on the north side of Sherbrooke Road was included in the park on the recommendation of the former Land Conservation Council (LCC 1994) as a possible location for future park facilities. The LCC also recommended that the remnant eucalypts be protected. This area is not required for park facilities. Currently the area

is grazed by domestic stock to control the accumulation of fine fuels. Natural regeneration has also been permitted to occur. Progressive revegetation of the paddock would provide useful additional habitat for native animals.

Much traditional knowledge about the use of flora of the park by Traditional Owners remains to be uncovered. Contemporary Wurundjeri people have an interest in the flora and may seek materials for purposes of teaching traditional practices to Wurundjeri children.

### Aims

- Protect and preserve the vegetation of the park in accordance with well-researched conservation objectives.
- Protect and preserve rare and threatened flora species and communities.

### Management strategies

- *Maintain the structure and diversity of the range of vegetation types in good condition throughout the park, in particular areas of Cool Temperate Rainforest, Damp Forest, Grassy Dry Forest, Grassy Forest, Herb-rich Foothill Forest, Lowland Forest, Shrubby Foothill Forest, Shrubby Gully Forest and Wet Forest.*
- *Restore the understorey diversity and structure of areas of Cool Temperate Rainforest, Damp Forest, Grassy Dry Forest, Lowland Forest, Shrubby Foothill Forest and Wet Forest.*
- *Restore overstorey structure of areas of Cool Temperate Rainforest and Herb-rich Foothill Forest.*
- *Restore areas of Lowland Forest presently in moderate condition.*
- *Restore and maintain areas of localised communities associated with drainage lines and rocky outcrops.*
- *Reinstate or restore areas of disturbed land to protect adjoining areas from threatening processes, with special attention to reducing fragmentation.*

- *Manage Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act listed species (appendix 2) according to approved action statements.*
- *Record knowledge gained about the cultural lore of Traditional Owners that relates to the vegetation of the park, and use the knowledge with due respect in managing the vegetation (sections 5.1 and 6.1; chapters 6 and 7).*
- *Undertake active management, where necessary, for rare or threatened species and communities, including monitoring of known threatened populations.*
- *Develop a long-term program to monitor the condition of vegetation communities and the emergence of new threats.*
- *Continue to refine the natural values management objectives for the park and use to guide adaptive annual works programs.*
- *Encourage research on the Mountain Ash forest to help define management objectives for this vegetation community.*
- *Develop and implement a detailed revegetation plan for the Mountain Ash Paddock taking into account the heritage values of the Tan Track, fire protection requirements and opportunities for recreational development, and phase out grazing (section 6.4).*
- *In consultation with relevant authorities, CFA brigades and user groups:*
  - *plant indigenous species on the former 'Nicholas Paddock' site to encourage the formation of copses that will provide for a wildlife corridor and a walking track link*
  - *maintain the values of the site as a fire break by slashing, and phase out grazing (sections 1.2, 4.4, 4.6, 6.4, 7.1 and chapter 8).*

#### **4.4 Fauna**

The park supports a range of fauna species, with 130 species of native birds, 31 species of native mammals, 21 reptiles and nine amphibians recorded in the park. The park has 14 fauna species listed as threatened in Victoria including the Tree Goanna and the Broad-toothed Rat, and 11 which are listed

under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee (FFG) Act (appendix 4). The park is particularly important in protecting two species of amphipod (NRE 2000b). Breeding populations of threatened large forest owls such as the Powerful and Sooty Owl are located in the park. It is also home to regionally significant, but not threatened, fauna such as the Superb Lyrebird and Black Wallaby.

The park is well known for its population of lyrebirds. Although lyrebirds live in many other parts of Victoria, this is the closest location to Melbourne where they can be observed in their natural habitat. Since European settlement the population has declined due to destruction of habitat through clearing for housing and agriculture, fire and weed invasion, and from the significant impact of feral animals, particularly foxes, although cats and dogs also play a role (Morgan et al. 1995).

The current management plan for the park recorded a steady decline in lyrebird range and numbers from 1975 to 1989 (DCE 1991). Since that time, an integrated predator control program has been established, together with pest plant control and rehabilitation of habitat. This program has resulted in an increase in lyrebird numbers since that time and an expansion of their range (Parks Victoria 2002c). Community groups have played a significant role in both monitoring populations and restoring habitat.

Much traditional knowledge about the use of fauna of the park by Traditional Owners remains to be uncovered.

Future management will be directed towards maintaining strong pressure on controlling predators, restoring more areas of degraded habitat, and developing viable habitat corridors.

For many years, visitors have come to Grants Picnic Ground (formerly part of Sherbrooke Forest) to enjoy wildlife and nature appreciation. The appeal of feeding the birdlife here is such that the site has become an international tourism destination and very popular with Victorians. Under the terms of a lease for the Sherbrooke Kiosk and Tearooms (section 7.1), the lessee is permitted to provide approved feed to visitors at this location.

Wildlife feeding is prohibited, within National Parks and any feeding outside Grants Picnic Ground in the remainder of Dandenong Ranges National Park is not permitted.

The most significant risk of bird feeding in these situations is that diseases carried by the birds can be transferred to humans. Birds such as rosellas can carry a disease known as psittacosis or parrot fever which is easily transferred to people. It is a severe infectious disease characterised by high fever and pneumonia. Many cases have been recorded around the world.

These diseases may also be transferred to other bird species, for example lyrebirds, and present a threat to those populations.

Other negative aspects of bird feeding are that prolonged artificial feeding with unsuitable food may harm the health of the birds, and that widespread artificial feeding may lead to artificially high numbers of some species to the detriment of other species in the locality.

#### Aims

- Protect and preserve indigenous fauna and fauna habitat, particularly significant species and habitats.
- Conserve threatened fauna species.

#### Management strategies

- *Maintain the structure and diversity of habitat for fauna species, particularly threatened and regionally significant species, and improve its suitability (appendix 4).*
- *Manage Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act listed species according to approved action statements (appendix 4).*
- *Record knowledge gained about the cultural lore of Traditional Owners that relates to the fauna of the park, and use the knowledge with due respect in managing the fauna (sections 5.1 and 6.1, and chapters 6 and 7).*
- *Consistent with the terms of the lease for Sherbrooke Kiosk and Tearooms, work with the lessee to maintain, manage and control the popular bird feeding activities in the precinct of the lease using approved seed.*

- *Continue to deliver integrated pest plant and animal programs which benefit faunal species (section 4.7).*
- *Continue to monitor population trends in key fauna species to determine impacts of management activities such as predator control and pest plant control.*
- *Develop a comprehensive information and education program at major picnic grounds to inform the public of the dangers and consequences of feeding wildlife (section 6.1).*
- *Ensure that lessees at Grants Picnic Ground comply with Parks Victoria guidelines to control feeding of wildlife at this site.*

#### 4.5 Landscape

The park is a crucial component of the scenic backdrop of metropolitan Melbourne which is highly valued for its beauty by many in the community. The park conserves the majority of forest and woodland in the Dandenong Ranges, although there are substantial areas of forested land on freehold land as well. The area not only forms an important component of the landscape but also provides numerous opportunities on tracks and at viewpoints to look over the Ranges and across the plain towards Melbourne and Port Phillip.

The landscape of the park is significant to the contemporary Wurundjeri people as a component of their *Country*. Particular elements of the landscape are significant to them, and some features may be intrinsic to their *Dreaming*, in accordance with tradition (sections 4.1, 4.3 and 4.4).

The landscape significance of the area has been recognised by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). The Trust has classified a number of landscapes in the region, including the whole of the park and a number of locations within it.

Maintenance of this special landscape requires complementary planning provisions for adjoining residential areas as well as careful management of landscape values within the park. Both the Shire of Yarra Ranges and the City of Knox recognise the importance of the botanical, zoological and landscape values of the area and the conservation values of the

surrounding areas in their municipal planning schemes. These use a wide range of zones and overlays to control adjacent land use and development. Provisions include protection of native vegetation and significant trees, landscape values and heritage places, and limits on the allowable density of development in the Dandenong Ranges' townships and foothill suburbs.

The Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme (Shire of Yarra Ranges 2000a) applies a Significant Landscape Overlay and Environmental Significance Overlay to parts of the park and notes that the residential area along the Mount Dandenong Ridge is a prominent feature of the landscape for much of the metropolitan area. The planning scheme notes that it is important to ensure that development on the Mount Dandenong Ridge does not compromise the special landscape and environmental values of the area. The Knox Planning Scheme (City of Knox 1999) applies a Significant Landscape Overlay to the Dandenongs foothill area to protect landscape qualities and a Vegetation Protection Overlay to provide interim protection for overstorey remnant vegetation.

Material for road mending is stockpiled at some locations in road reserves adjacent to the park. This can affect visual amenity.

#### **Aim**

- Maintain natural and cultural landscapes in the park area.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Minimise the visual impact of all park management activities and ensure that any future developments or facilities are sensitively integrated in the natural and cultural landscape.*
- *Assess park facilities and guidelines according to Parks Victoria's Development Risk Assessment Guideline. Where appropriate, remove redundant structures that intrude on the landscape and are assessed as having no heritage values.*
- *Encourage and support the Shire of Yarra Ranges and the City of Knox in continuing to actively apply the requirements of the landscape overlays in their planning*

*schemes when determining applications that may affect landscape values.*

- *Maintain existing viewpoints and provide information and interpretation material at these sites.*
- *Assist VicRoads to identify sites where road material stockpiles have an adverse impact on visitor sites and places with high landscape values, with a view to relocation of the stockpiles.*

#### **4.6 Fire management**

The park has extensive stands of forest and woodland and is extremely vulnerable to fire, particularly on the northern and western faces of the mountain. Urban areas surround the area, resulting in an increased risk of accidental or deliberately lit fires and greater potential threat to life and property. On average, wildfires occur in the park less than one year in every five. Devastating wildfires occurred in 1939, in 1962 wildfire burnt 70% of the area of the park, and 264 hectares were burnt in 1968. Other fires also occurred in 1954, 1959, 1962, 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1997 (Parks Victoria 2002d).

A continuing effort is required to provide information to the public on the risk of wildfire in this region, on strategies that have been adopted to minimise risk to life and property, and on emergency procedures and details of fire prevention programs such as fuel reduction programs. Integration of these information programs with similar local government programs is very important.

Under the provisions of the *Forests Act 1958* (Vic.), it is the responsibility of the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) to undertake proper and sufficient work for the prevention and suppression of fires on all protected public land. The National Parks Act requires the Secretary to DSE to ensure that appropriate and sufficient measures are taken to protect parks from injury by fire.

The draft Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land (DSE 2005) provides the framework for integrated management of fire and fire-related activities on public land in Victoria. The Code is part of a range of measures taken to ensure the maintenance of cultural and environmental values while providing for the protection of

human life, property and other assets from the deleterious effects of wildfire.

The Port Phillip Region Fire Protection Plan (NRE 1999) governs fire management in the park. The plan was developed by the former Department of Natural Resources and Environment in consultation with all relevant agencies and with input from the public. Parks Victoria takes a leading role in fire protection and management in Dandenong Ranges National Park. Parks Victoria implements the fuel reduction program and also undertakes other fire prevention works such as slashing which form the annual Fire Operations Plan. In the event of wildfire, there are well-established procedures to coordinate the response with Country Fire Authority (CFA) brigades.

Public land in the region is divided into five fuel management zones for prescribed burning. Four of these zones apply to the park. This zoning takes into account matters including the strategic importance of the area for fire protection, other management objectives for the area, suppression methods most appropriate for the area, and fuel loads.

The five zones are:

**Fuel Management Zone 1**  
**Protection of life and property**  
**(5 to 9 year burning cycle)**

Strategically located areas on the western and northern faces of the Dandenong Ranges are classified as Zone 1 to help protect residential areas and to reduce the likelihood of fire spreading into the remainder of the park. These include:

- Mount Dandenong Tourist Road, east to Hughes Street
- Hill Street, Mount Erin Road, Janes Dell Avenue, Alpine Road, Mountview Road, Highview Road
- western face of the Dandenongs, Ferny Creek to Sassafras
- western face of the Dandenongs, Olinda
- north-western face of the Dandenongs, Mount Dandenong to Kalorama
- Wilkilla Road.

**Fuel Management Zone 2**  
**Strategic fuel reduced corridors**  
**(10 to 20 year burning cycle)**

Zone 2 is located in an east–west alignment, approximately in the middle of the forest cover from Mount Evelyn Forest to the R J Hamer Arboretum. It is bounded in part, by Olinda Creek Road, Olinda Creek and a flower farm, and to the east and north by roads. It is located to assist in managing a fire coming from the north and west (Kalorama area).

**Fuel Management Zone 3**  
**Broad-area fuel reduced mosaic**  
**(15 to 30 year burning cycle)**

Large areas on the western and northern slopes of the Dandenongs.

**Fuel Management Zone 4**  
**Flora and fauna management**

There are no Zone 4 areas in the park.

**Fuel Management Zone 5**  
**Exclusion of prescribed burning**

Fire is excluded from the Wet Forest (predominantly Mountain Ash).

All fires, whether wildfires or prescribed burns, have an ecological impact. Both the Port Phillip Region Fire Protection Plan and the Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land provide for the deliberate use of fire for ecosystem management but, as yet, no areas (Zone 4) have been designated for this purpose in the park. Improved understanding of the relationship between fire and biodiversity provides an opportunity to develop prescribed burns aimed at the conservation of flora and fauna.

Much knowledge about the pre-settlement occurrence and uses of fire by Traditional Owners remains to be uncovered.

The Guidelines and Procedures for Ecological Burning (DSE & Parks Victoria 2004) provide a framework for the introduction of ecological burning.

Introduction of ecological burning to the park will require:

- more intensive research on the native vegetation communities within the park to determine what fire regime is required for their conservation

- integration of an ecological burning program with existing fuel reduction burns to achieve both protection from wildfire and long-term conservation of the plant and animal communities in the park
- monitoring the effects of wildfire and fuel reduction programs on native plants and animals.

Some of the roads and tracks in the park are required to provide access to strategic locations for fire fighting and need to be maintained in appropriate condition (section 6.2).

The former ‘Nicholas Paddock’, which includes an area of park and an adjacent area of Crown land, forms a strategic fire break between the western face of the Dandenongs and the area to the east (sections 1.2 and 7.2) and is currently grazed to control the accumulation of fine fuels. DSE intends to construct a heli-dam on the Crown land to provide for more effective water bombing of fires in this sector of the Dandenongs (section 7.2).

#### **Aims**

- Protect life and property from damage, and the park from injury, by wildfire.
- Minimise the adverse environmental impact of fires and fire suppression.
- Identify fire regimes appropriate to the conservation of flora and fauna.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Undertake fire prevention and suppression in accordance with the Port Phillip Fire Protection Plan and the Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land.*
- *Continue to cooperate with DSE, the CFA, local government and local landholders in the implementation of fuel reduction programs in accordance with the Fire Operations Plan.*
- *Provide regular feedback to DSE on the continuing development of the Port Phillip Fire Protection Plan.*
- *Apply appropriate soil conservation measures after wildfire to minimise soil erosion and siltation of streams.*

- *Plan and implement fuel reduction programs in a way that minimises soil erosion and siltation of streams.*
- *Maintain the former ‘Nicholas Paddock’ as a strategic firebreak. Control hazards on areas within the park by slashing, and phase out grazing (sections 4.3, 6.4, 7.1 and 7.2).*
- *Encourage research on appropriate fire regimes to enable burning for ecological purposes to be introduced into the park.*
- *Record knowledge gained about the cultural lore of Traditional Owners that relate to the use of fire in the park, and use the knowledge with due respect in the management of fire (sections 5.1 and 6.1, and chapters 6 and 7).*
- *Incorporate the results of research into the Fire Operations Plan, and seek its incorporation in the Fire Protection Plan as appropriate.*
- *Monitor the effects of prescribed fire and wildfire on flora, fauna and communities.*

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

Pest plants and animals represent a significant threat to the integrity of the park. The area is especially vulnerable to invasion by domestic pets and feral animals because of the proximity of its boundaries to adjoining areas of urban or semi-urban land. Sections of the park contain a legacy of exotic plants from past land uses.

More than 200 species of pest plant are recorded in the park (Parks Victoria 2000b). Pest plants that represent the most important threats to park values are listed in appendix 5, but there are many others which also represent a significant threat.

Pest plants threaten the natural values of the park by smothering or out-competing native vegetation and by damaging the habitat of native animals. Pest plant infestations are often very difficult to eliminate entirely and require continuing intensive work to control them. A range of techniques is available for pest plant control but the most common methods used in the park are hand pulling and selective application of herbicides.

Over the past ten years much progress has been made in pest plant control in the park, with community groups and volunteers playing a significant ongoing role (section 8.2). A number of the 'core areas' of the park have a relatively low incidence of pest plants, and most of the very serious pest plant problems are located near the park boundary. A major continuing effort will be needed to bring the park to the desired condition.

Parks Victoria has prepared a Pest Plant Strategy for the park that identifies objectives, assesses risk and provides a five-year works program for the control of pest plants (Parks Victoria 2000b). Development of the strategy was guided by the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (Vic.) and Parks Victoria's Environmental Management Framework, and the strategy is consistent with the Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Weed Action Plan (NRE 2000a).

Feral and wandering domestic animals have had a devastating effect on native wildlife and have been the major cause of the decline in many species. In the last ten years, control programs, mainly baiting, have resulted in a significant reduction in the number of foxes and a corresponding increase in native animal activity. Although the fox population has been reduced within the park, there are still many fox incursions from outside the park which require a high ongoing level of control.

Parks Victoria is currently monitoring the prevalence of dogs and cats in the park. If the results show that domestic pets are still entering in significant numbers, it may be necessary to consider ways to better target education programs on responsible pet ownership and to encourage stronger enforcement of regulations.

The vegetation in the park is potentially susceptible to dieback from harmful soil pathogens such as Cinnamon Fungus and Armillaria. Both have been recorded in the area. Monitoring of vegetation will be required to measure changes over time.

Material for road mending is stockpiled at some locations in road reserves adjacent to the park. This presents a risk of introduction of pest plants and pathogens into the area. Earth moving equipment and vehicles used by other

agencies can also introduce weeds and pathogens.

### Aims

- Control, and where possible eradicate, pest plants and animals using methods that minimise disturbance to natural systems and park values.
- Limit the harmful effects of plant pathogens where control methods are available.

### Management strategies

- *Continue pest plant removal and habitat restoration programs, with a focus on priority pest plants (appendix 5).*
- *Review the pest plant program regularly to ensure maximum effectiveness and the application of new treatment methods, and to take into account new and emerging weeds.*
- *Continue to support community groups in removing pest plants and improving habitat, and encourage new groups to become involved in particular areas of the park.*
- *Develop a Pest Animal Strategy for the park, incorporating existing control programs.*
- *Continue to implement baiting programs to control foxes, and encourage adjacent landholders to apply control measures.*
- *Continue to liaise with local government, landowners and the local community regarding responsible pet ownership and pest plant control (sections 7.2 and 7.3).*
- *Implement measures, where necessary, to control straying dogs and cats in the park.*
- *Monitor the effects of plant pathogens, and apply remedial action where available.*
- *Apply appropriate measures to prevent harmful soil pathogens from spreading when road works and construction activities are undertaken.*
- *Encourage agencies with vehicles working in or adjacent to the park to adopt wash-down procedures, and apply appropriate management to materials stockpiles.*



## 4.8 Soil conservation

At particular locations poor-quality stormwater drainage results in sediment and nutrients being carried into streams, with potential effects on flora and fauna. Careful management is required after fuel reduction burning and wildfire to minimise soil erosion (section 4.2).

At the major picnic grounds there has been evidence of soil compaction caused by visitors, particularly near picnic tables and barbecues and around the bases of Mountain Ash trees. The recent refurbishment of a number of these facilities has included detailed design features to minimise compaction and trampling of vegetation and protection of the tree root zones.

Some roads and tracks that have been available to management vehicles but not to public vehicles are steep and prone to erosion. These need to be closed or, if resources allow, reconstructed and regularly maintained (table 3).

Off-road use by horse riders and mountain bike riders has created tracks on steep slopes and caused soil erosion (sections 6.6 and 6.7). Education and enforcement, where necessary, are required.

Some parts of the park, particularly the Montrose area, are prone to landslips, with unstable areas located above residential developments (section 6.10). Major slips have occurred in the past but the possibility of recurrence can be lessened by retaining vegetation cover, minimising waterlogging from poor drainage or seepage from on-site water disposal installations, and by attention to the construction and maintenance of roads and tracks. Monitoring also helps to identify any land movements in the defined hazard areas.

### Aim

- Prevent soil degradation and erosion caused by visitor and management activities.

### Management strategies

- *Improve stormwater drainage in cooperation with relevant authorities (section 4.2).*
- *Minimise soil compaction and damage to tree root zones in the redesign of day-use facilities.*
- *Design and maintain roads and tracks to minimise soil erosion and interruption to natural drainage systems.*
- *Apply appropriate soil conservation measures after wildfire to minimise soil erosion and siltation of streams.*
- *Plan and implement fuel reduction programs in a way that minimises soil erosion and siltation of streams.*
- *Rehabilitate and maintain management vehicular roads and tracks as necessary to control erosion (section 6.2).*
- *Rehabilitate damage caused by off-road use by horses and bikes (sections 6.6 and 6.7).*
- *Apply special maintenance procedures in areas prone to landslip.*
- *Close and rehabilitate illegal tracks to prevent soil erosion and siltation of streams (sections 6.6 and 6.7).*

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## 5 STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL VALUES CONSERVATION

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### 5.1 Indigenous cultural heritage

The Indigenous cultural heritage includes all Indigenous places and objects, and Indigenous cultural lore relating to the park.

The park is part of *Country* of the Wurundjeri people of the Woiwurrung language speaking group. The physical evidence of their past occupation provides them with a link to their ancestry. Little detailed information is available about the cultural lore of Wurundjeri people or their use of the Dandenongs prior to European settlement.

The elements of the landscape are significant to the descendants of Wurundjeri people, and some landscape elements may be intrinsic to their *Dreaming*. A number of Indigenous places have been recorded in the park.

All Indigenous places and objects are protected under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Cwlth) and the *Aboriginal and Archaeological Relics Preservation Act 1972* (Vic.). Issues relating to the protection of cultural heritage and the involvement of Indigenous communities are approached in accordance with the legislation and Parks Victoria's guidelines (Parks Victoria 2002e). Parks Victoria works with the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council, which is designated as the local Aboriginal community under the Commonwealth Act, regarding Indigenous place identification, monitoring, protection and assessment.

Parks Victoria respects the Wurundjeri people's cultural lore, and seeks to reflect the Traditional Owners' cultural lore, interests and rights in, and aspirations for, the park, in all aspects of planning and management (Parks Victoria 2005).

A number of Indigenous staff have been employed in the Dandenong Ranges District over recent times and many Parks Victoria staff have undertaken cross-cultural training.

#### Aims

- Protect Indigenous places and objects.
- Nurture Indigenous cultural lore relating to the park.

#### Management strategies

- *Protect Indigenous places and objects from disturbance or damage, in collaboration with the relevant Indigenous communities, and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV), and in accordance with:*
  - *relevant legislation*
  - *Parks Victoria's Guidelines for Working with Aboriginal Communities and Protection of Cultural Sites.*
- *Respect Indigenous cultural lore and, in collaboration with Indigenous communities and accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies, reflect the Traditional Owners' culture, rights in, and aspirations for the park in all planning and management (sections 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 6.1, 6.10, 7.1 and 8.2).*
- *Encourage and support research to uncover the cultural lore of the Traditional Owners that are relevant to implementation of the plan, in particular:*
  - *location of Indigenous places and objects of special significance needing protection or other management action*
  - *landscape features of special significance*
  - *distribution, harvesting practices and uses of flora*
  - *populations and harvesting practices and uses of fauna*
  - *pre-settlement occurrences and uses of fire*
  - *stories of the Dreaming.*
- *Assess annual work programs to minimise the potential for park management activities to impact on Indigenous cultural heritage, in consultation with the relevant Indigenous communities (section 8.2).*
- *Ensure that all management actions are in accordance with the Native Title Act.*
- *Maintain confidentiality in respect of Indigenous cultural lore, places and objects, and aspirations, in accordance*

*with the tradition and views of the relevant Indigenous communities (section 6.1 and 8.2).*

## 5.2 Historical heritage

Permanent settlement by Europeans of the Dandenong Ranges began in the early 1850s when the first pastoral run in the area was established. Timber extraction commenced shortly after a mill was established at Ferntree Gully in 1854. In 1867 the bulk of the forests of the Dandenong Ranges were proclaimed as a 10 700 hectare timber reserve. This later became known as the Dandenong State Forest (Bardwell 1982). Timber harvesting continued in the Hardys Gully and Monbulk Creek area until 1927 (Friends of Sherbrooke Forest 2000) and in other areas until the 1960s.

Some of Dandenong State Forest was excised from the Crown in 1878 and the 1890s to make areas available for village settlements, but these efforts did not prosper until much later because of the difficulties of clearing land and bringing produce to market (DCE 1991; Bardwell 1982).

The park derives from a small area reserved as a site for public recreation in 1882 (section 1.2). The extension of the railway to Ferntree Gully in 1889, the opening of the narrow-gauge railway from Upper Ferntree Gully to Gembrook in 1900 and the gradual improvement of roads resulted in broader settlement of the area and further opened it to tourism. From the early 1900s, with the widespread development of tourist infrastructure such as guest houses and teashops, the Dandenongs became (and continue to be) an iconic tourist destination for Melbourne's residents.

Since the 1940s residential development has expanded steadily, and suburbia now reaches to the lower slopes of the ranges (DCE 1991; Bardwell 1982). Gold was discovered in the region in the 1850s but the main workings were located to the east of the park area, at Gembrook and Cockatoo.

The park contains a number of historic sites giving evidence of early settlement and historic associations. The former Doongalla homestead was established in the mid-1890s but was destroyed by a bushfire in 1932. The heritage site is of great interest as it reflects the

development of a country estate in the early 1900s. The remnant garden contains many mature specimens of exotic trees, one of which is listed on the National Trust Register of Significant Trees. The Doongalla Heritage Precinct was added to the properties under the purview of the Dandenong Ranges Gardens Trust in 1999, and is covered by an addendum to the *Dandenong Ranges Gardens Future Direction Plan* (Parks Victoria & Dandenong Ranges Gardens Trust 2002).

Other notable sites in the park include the Edwardian era kiosk at Ferntree Gully Picnic Ground, which is designated as regionally significant, and the landscape and natural values of Sherbrooke Forest. Additional places of historic interest are the site of the Sanctuary and Aviary at Ferntree Gully, One Tree Hill Lookout and the One Thousand Steps, the Kyeema Memorial and Burkes Lookout, and Mast Gully Track (Shire of Yarra Ranges 2000b).

### Aims

- Conserve and protect the historic heritage of the park.
- Provide opportunities for visitors to learn about the park's historic heritage.

### Management strategies

- *Protect, preserve, interpret and manage features and sites of cultural or historical significance, consistent with Parks Victoria's Heritage Management Strategy and in accordance with the principles outlined in the Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS 1999) and the provisions of the Heritage Act 1995 (Vic.).*
- *Collect and record information relating to sites of cultural and historical significance. Continue to provide interpretive materials that improve visitors' appreciation of the park's cultural and historical aspects.*
- *Prepare a heritage action statement for the park which prioritises a program of heritage works for the significant heritage features and landscapes in the park.*
- *Prepare Heritage Maintenance Plans for the Ferntree Gully Kiosk and remaining structures and landscape features at the*

*Doongalla Homestead site, and maintain in accordance with the plans.*

- *Include post-settlement cultural heritage information relating to the environmental history, cultural landscape values, settlement, recreation and park management history, in information, interpretation and schools education programs.*

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## 6 STRATEGIES FOR VISITORS

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### 6.1 Information, interpretation and education

Parks Victoria uses information, interpretation and education as core methods of communicating with people about the values, features and management objectives of Victoria's parks. These services are very important in developing a widespread appreciation of the park's values and fostering support from the community (chapter 8).

The principal sources of pre-visit information are the Parks Victoria website, which contains comprehensive information on attractions, activities and particular details of parks, the telephone information line, which gives a personalised service, and various printed publications.

The park has many significant points of entry rather than major entrances, so the provision of information to all visitors is difficult. The park office at Ferntree Gully provides a range of information for visitors to the south of the park. The City of Knox Upper Ferntree Gully information centre and the Puffing Billy office also distribute Parks Victoria information.

The northern end of the park does not have a park office but there is a comprehensive information board at Five Ways, Kalorama. Shire of Yarra Ranges service centres also distribute information to visitors approaching the park from the north. Additional outlets would be useful.

Information/orientation signage is in place at various points throughout the park, although the visitor experience could be improved by erecting additional directional and information signage, particularly at Grants Picnic Ground.

The park has an active interpretation and schools education program, and a three-year interpretation plan has been developed.

Park staff deliver the interpretation and schools education program, with support from the Education Officer, tertiary students and overseas volunteers. Visitors are involved in activities ranging from guided walks and talks to self-guided interpretive walks supported by Park Notes and signage. The interpretation program seeks to promote interaction with

visitors to improve their knowledge and understanding of nature conservation and the special values of the park. The program is integrated with park management objectives and delivers key messages that address current issues and develop support for park management policies and practices.

The park is one of the few parks in the State with an Education Centre. The Ferntree Gully Education Centre operated from 1995 to 1998 inclusive, and was reopened in 2000 to deliver a range of curriculum-based educational programs to all school levels by a qualified teacher.

The Education Zone (section 3.2 and table 1) includes an area that is suitable for low-impact school environmental education programs.

#### Aims

- Promote and encourage visitors' discovery, enjoyment and appreciation of the park's natural and cultural values in a safe and park-friendly manner.
- Engender support for park management policies and practices.

#### Management strategies

- *Provide more comprehensive information and orientation for visitors approaching the park, in cooperation with licensed tour operators and relevant local government authorities and tourism bodies (sections 6.11 and 8.3).*
- *Provide information on, and marketing of, walking, cycling and horse riding trails, in cooperation with the City of Knox and the Shire of Yarra Ranges (section 8.2).*
- *Maintain high-quality information, interpretation and schools education services that:*
  - *assist visitors to discover, appreciate and enjoy the natural and cultural values of the park*
  - *encourage safe and park-friendly behaviour*
  - *engender support for park management policies and practices.*

- *Provide additional information and directional signs on walking tracks and at picnic grounds and viewing points at levels established under Parks Victoria's Levels of Service System (table 4).*
- *Continue to provide a comprehensive curriculum-based schools education program.*
- *Identify opportunities for, and encourage and support, the involvement of contemporary Wurundjeri people in the development and delivery of information and interpretive and tourism services relating to Indigenous heritage in the park (section 5.1, 6.10 and 8.2).*
- *Promote the cultural lore of the Wurundjeri people that relate to the park through the information services and interpretation and schools education program (sections 5.1, 6.10 and 8.2).*
- *Continue to support the Education Centre at Ferntree Gully and the presence of a qualified teacher to deliver the program.*
- *Continue to provide self-guided interpretation walks in the park.*
- *Erect signage at Grants Picnic Ground and other major picnic grounds informing visitors of the issues associated with wildlife feeding and providing improved visitor orientation (section 4.4).*
- *Continue to support staff involvement in the delivery of high-quality interpretation programs where appropriate.*

## 6.2 Motor vehicle access and use

The park is only 35 km from the centre of Melbourne and is readily accessible to a large proportion of the city's population, particularly from the south-eastern and eastern suburbs. The major highway access to the park is via Burwood Highway and Maroondah Highway, which pass to the south and north of the area respectively. However, there is also a large network of major and minor roads leading to and traversing the area. All the major roads and some of the minor roads passing through the area are the responsibility of VicRoads or

local government (table 3). Traffic density on roads running through the park is unusually high, as these roads also service the townships and residential areas adjacent to the park and the numerous restaurants and reception centres.

Some roads in the park are used mostly as major or minor thoroughfares or for access to residential areas and are currently managed by other agencies (table 3). Retention of these roads as part of the park may not be appropriate.

High-standard sealed roads provide access to the major picnic grounds in the southern part of the park. All-weather two-wheel-drive roads give access to Doongalla and to Eagle Nest and Valley Picnic Grounds (table 3). Access and facilities for people with disabilities are available at most picnic grounds.

Valley Picnic Ground and Eagle Nest Picnic Ground are closed by gates at night to help reduce vandalism. Silvan Road remains open at night, although road-kills of wildlife, vandalism, rubbish dumping, car dumping and other illegal activities continue in this section of the park. Closure of Silvan Road at night could reduce the incidence of these problems.

A number of motor vehicle tracks within the park are maintained for fire management access (section 4.6) and are also used for non-motorised recreation, and need to be maintained to a standard appropriate to these purposes. Some tracks no longer serve a purpose and will be closed and rehabilitated to reduce habitat fragmentation and improve nature conservation values.

Management of motor vehicle roads and tracks is summarised in table 3 and management of walking tracks in table 5. Horse riding and cycling access are discussed in sections 6.6 and 6.7.

### Aim

- Continue to provide road and track access within the park.

**TABLE 3 MANAGEMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE ROADS AND TRACKS****PART A VISITOR MOTOR VEHICLES \***

ACCESS ROAD	CURRENT CLASSIF'N	PLANNED CLASSIF'N	PLANNED OTHER USES	MANAGEMENT ACTION, FUNCTION & REMARKS
<b>NATIONAL PARK</b>				
Silvan Road #	5B	5B	Cy, Ho	National park road providing visitor access to Valley and Eagle Nest Picnic Grounds and also used by through traffic. The road is closed to private vehicles 4.00 pm – 9.00 am in periods outside daylight saving and 6.00 pm – 9.00 am during periods of daylight saving. PV 3
Entrance road—Ferntree Gully Picnic Ground #	5B	5B	Cy	Road and carpark closed to private vehicles 4.30 pm – 9.00 am in periods outside daylight saving and 7.30 pm – 9.00 during periods of daylight saving. Provides visitor access to Ferntree Gully Picnic Ground and carpark. PV 5
Ferndale Road section	5C	5C	Cy, Ho	Close section of road in national park. Ferndale Road section outside park remains open (see below). SYR, PV 5
Boundary Road – Silvan Rd/Valley Picnic Ground #	5C	5C	Cy, Ho	Road and carpark closed to private vehicles 4.00 pm – 9.00 am in periods outside daylight saving and 6.00 pm – 9.00 am during periods of daylight saving. Provides visitor access to Valley Picnic Ground and carpark. PV 5
Doughtys Road	5C	5C	Cy, Ho	Residential street along boundary, Olinda Unit. PV 4
Eagle Nest Road—Silvan Rd/Eagle Nest Picnic Ground #	5C	5C	Cy	Road and carpark closed to private vehicles 4.00 pm – 9.00 am in periods outside daylight saving and 6.00 pm – 9.00 am during periods of daylight saving. Provides visitor access to Eagle Nest Picnic Ground and carpark. PV 5
Entrance road—Olinda Falls Picnic Ground	5C	5C	Cy	Provides visitor access to Olinda Falls Picnic Ground and carpark. PV 5
Coles Ridge Road (sealed section within picnic ground)	5B	5B	Cy	Provides visitor access to Grants Picnic Ground and carpark. PV 5
Lord Somers Road extension – One Tree Hill Picnic Ground #	5B	5B	Cy	Road and carpark closed to private vehicles 4.00 pm – 9.00 am in periods outside daylight saving and 7.00 pm – 9.00 am during periods of daylight saving. Provides visitor access to One Tree Hill Picnic Ground and carpark. PV 5
Entrance road—O'Donohue Picnic Ground	5B	5B	Cy	Provides visitor access to O'Donohue Picnic Ground and carpark. PV 5
Entrance road – Sherbrooke Picnic Ground	5B	5B	Cy	Provides visitor access to Sherbrooke Picnic Ground and carpark. PV 5
Doongalla Forest Road – Doongalla Homestead and Stables Picnic Ground #	5C	5C	Cy	Road and carpark closed to private vehicles 4.00 pm – 9.00 am in period outside daylight saving and 6.00 pm – 9.00 am during periods of daylight saving. Provides visitor access to Doongalla Homestead and Stables Picnic Grounds. PV 5

Table 3 (contd).

ACCESS ROAD	CURRENT CLASSIF'N	PLANNED CLASSIF'N	PLANNED OTHER USES	MANAGEMENT ACTION & RESPONSIBILITIES
<b>ROAD OR ROAD RESERVE (NOT PART OF NATIONAL PARK)</b>				
Mount Dandenong Tourist Road	Primary road.	-	-	Major thoroughfare and tourist road. VR.
Mountain Highway	Primary road.	-	-	Major thoroughfare and tourist road linking The Basin and Sassafras townships. SYR.
Monbulk Road	Primary road.	-	-	Major thoroughfare and tourist road passes through Sherbrooke Unit. SYR.
Grantulla Road	Primary road.	-	-	Minor thoroughfare and tourist road passes through Sherbrooke Unit. SYR.
Belgrave–Ferny Creek Road	Primary road.	-	-	Minor thoroughfare and tourist road passes through Sherbrooke Unit. SYR.
One Tree Hill Road	Primary road.	-	-	Residential street provides access to One Tree Hill Picnic Ground. SYR.
Olinda Creek Road	Secondary road.	-	-	Minor thoroughfare passing through Olinda Unit. SYR.
Churchill Drive	Primary road.	-	-	Residential thoroughfare passing through Ferntree Gully Unit. SYR.
Sherbrooke Road	Primary road.	-	-	Minor thoroughfare and tourist road passes through Sherbrooke Unit. SYR.
Sherbrooke Lodge Road	Primary/secondary road.	-	-	Residential street provides access to O'Donohue and Sherbrooke Picnic Grounds (sealed in part). SYR.
Olinda–Basin Road	Secondary road.	-	-	Minor thoroughfare (gravel) linking The Basin and Mount Dandenong townships. Passes through Doongalla Unit. SYR.
Falls Road	Secondary road.	-	-	Minor thoroughfare (gravel) linking The Basin and Mount Dandenong townships. Passes through Doongalla Unit. SYR.
Nation Road	Minor road.	-	-	Residential street along boundary, Sherbrooke Unit. SYR.
Titania Crescent	Access track.	-	-	Residential street along boundary, Ferntree Gully Unit. SYR.
Ferndale Road	Minor road.	-	-	Residential street. Section of road in national park to be closed (see above). SYR.



Table 3 (contd).

**PART B MANAGEMENT VEHICLES ONLY**

<b>ROUTE</b>	<b>CURRENT CLASSIF'N</b>	<b>PLANNED CLASSIF'N</b>	<b>PLANNED OTHER USES</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT ACTION, FUNCTION &amp; REMARKS</b>
<b>FERNTREE GULLY UNIT</b>				
Alamein Ave	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Alpine Track	5C	5C	Ho	PV 5
Arbor Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Belview Tce	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Chandlers Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Short Cr/Crete Rd	5C	5C	Cy	Allow cycling, rename as 'Crete Track'. PV 5
Feather Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Government Rd	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Hansen Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Himalaya Rd	5C	5C	Cy	Allow cycling. PV 5
Lantern Tk	5C	-	-	Close track and rehabilitate track site. PV 5
Link Tk <sup>++</sup>	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Lyrebird Tk <sup>++</sup>	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Macedon Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Mystic Rd	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Outlook Rd	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Poachers Tk <sup>++</sup>	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Ramu Ave	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
School Tk	5C	5C	Cy	Improve surface of track linked with Knox Cycle Trail/Upper Ferntree Gully Train Station. PV 5
The Boulevard	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Tremont Hill Track	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Tobruk Ave	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Tysons Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
View Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
<b>DOONGALLA AND MOUNT EVELYN UNITS</b>				
Alpina Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Angle Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Banksia Tk <sup>++</sup>	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Bills Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Box Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Bradley Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Bridge Gve	5C	5C	Cy	Allow cycling. PV 5
Browns Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Camellia Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5

Table 3 (contd).

ROUTE	CURRENT CLASSIF'N	PLANNED CLASSIF'N	PLANNED OTHER USES	MANAGEMENT ACTION, FUNCTION & REMARKS
Caterpillar Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Clarke Rd	5C	5C	Cy, Ho	Allow cycling. PV 5
Channel 10 Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Dacite Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Dandenong Creek Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Dodds Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Dog Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Doongalla Rd	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
East Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Edgar Tk	5C	5C	Cy, Ho	PV 5
Fern Gully Gve	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Fireline Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Golf Course Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Helen Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Hilton Tk	5C	5C	Cy, Ho	Allow cycling. PV 5
Invermay Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Inverness Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Jubilee Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Kyeema Tk <sup>++</sup>	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Link Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Marshall Tce	5C	5C	Cy, Ho	Allow cycling and horse riding. PV 5, terrace links with horse riding network outside national park.
Myrtle Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
NE Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Old Coach Tk	5C	5C	Cy, Ho	Allow cycling. PV 5
Osprey Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Pavitt Lane	5C	5C	Cy, Ho	PV 5
Pony Tk	5C	5C	Cy, Ho	PV 5
Range Rd	5C	5C	Cy, Ho	PV 5
Rankin Tk <sup>++</sup>	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Ridge Tk	5C	5C	Cy, Ho	PV 5
Rowdys Tk <sup>++</sup>	5C	5C	-	PV 5
School Tk	5C	5C	Cy, Ho	PV 5
SE Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Singleton Tce—south of Marshall Tce	5C	5C	Cy, Ho	PV 5
Singleton Tce—north of Marshall Tce	5C	5C	Cy	Remove from horse riding network. PV 5
Stables Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Thompsons Rd	5C	5C	Cy	Allow cycling. PV 5

Table 3 (contd).

ROUTE	CURRENT CLASSIF'N	PLANNED CLASSIF'N	PLANNED OTHER USES	MANAGEMENT ACTION, FUNCTION & REMARKS
Toroa Rd	5C	-	-	Close track and rehabilitate track site. PV 5
Trig Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Wallaby Tk	5C	5C	Cy	Allow cycling. PV 5
View Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
West Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Wols Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
<b>OLINDA UNIT</b>				
Barges Rd	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Bartlett Rd (section closed to protect key Lyrebird habitat)	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Black Hole Tk	5C	5C	Ho	PV 5
Board Tk	5C	5C	Cy, Ho	PV 5
Bobcat Link	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Bulldog Ave	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Chamberlain Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Eagle Nest Rd—Eagle Nest Picnic Ground/Georges Road	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Falls Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Fauna Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Georges Rd	5C	5C	Cy	Remove from horse riding network, PV 5. Conservation Zone – use by horses not appropriate. PV 5
Hermons Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Mathias Rd	5C	5C	Cy, Ho	Maintenance shared with Dandenong Ranges Gardens. PV 5.
Manna Gum Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Predator Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Prices Tk	5C	5C	-	Remove from cycling network. PV 5
VW Track	5C	-	-	Close track and rehabilitate track site. PV 5, dead end track.
Richardsons Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Road 13	5C	5C	Cy	Allow cycling. PV 5
Road 15	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Road 16	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Road 17	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
<b>SHERBROOKE UNIT</b>				
Coles Ridge Rd	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Edgebrooke Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Hackett Tk <sup>++</sup>	5C	5C	-	Improve track surface. PV 5

Table 3 (contd).

ROUTE	CURRENT CLASSIF'N	PLANNED CLASSIF'N	PLANNED OTHER USES	MANAGEMENT ACTION, FUNCTION & REMARKS
Lipscombe Break <sup>++</sup>	5C	5C	-	Improve track surface. Remove from cycling network to limit risks to environment and visitors. PV 5
Lyrebird Walk <sup>++</sup>	5C	5C	-	Walkers only between Neumann Tk and Hall Tk. PV 5
Moore Break	5C	5C	-	Improve drainage and track surface. Remove from cycling and horse riding network to limit risks to environment and visitors. PV 5
Neumann Rd—from Lyrebird Walk to Paddy Tk	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Neumann Rd—Grantulla Rd/Paddy Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Paddy Tk	5C	5C	Cy	PV 5
Pole Tk <sup>++</sup>	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Ridge Tk <sup>++</sup>	5C	5C	-	PV 5
Sherbrooke Tk <sup>++</sup>	5C	5C	-	PV 5

## Notes:

All roads and tracks listed in the table are managed by Parks Victoria, except those shown otherwise. Planned categories and uses are not shown for roads on road reserve, and managed by other road authorities.

- \* All routes listed in Part A of the table that are in the national park are maintained open for walkers, and for two-wheel-drive and four-wheel-drive motor vehicles, except as otherwise shown.
- # Routes and carparks shown thus are closed each night to private vehicles, and to horses, as shown in the remarks column.
- \*\* All routes in Part B of the table are open to management vehicles and walkers but closed to private motor vehicles, cyclists and horse riders unless otherwise shown.
- ++ Routes shown thus are not accessible to fire tankers other than small tray vehicles with a 'slip on' tank.

## Key:

## Parks Victoria classification

- 5A Primary road – all weather, two lanes, mainly sealed road.
- 5B Secondary road – all weather, two lanes formed and gravelled, or single lane sealed with gravel shoulders.
- 5C Minor road – Single lane unsealed, formed road usually lightly gravelled.
- 5D Access track – Single lane, dry weather formed from natural materials.
- 5E Rough track – Single lane, unformed earth track at or near the natural surface.

## Function:

- PV 3 Major roads between townships.
- PV 4 Provide for park access, and additional functions such as commercial uses, through access to other location (outside the national park), or access to private property or utilities.
- PV 5 Provide access, exclusively for visitors into parks for recreational activities, or exclusive use for park management.

## Other uses:

- Cy Cycling
- Ho Horse riding

## Management responsibility:

- SYR Shire of Yarra Ranges
- VR VicRoads

### Management strategies

- *Permit motor vehicle access and maintain vehicular roads and tracks for visitors, park management, fire services, other emergency purposes and transit traffic, in accordance with tables 3 and 5.*
- *Close Silvan Road at night, except as required for emergency purposes.*
- *Close and rehabilitate unnecessary management vehicle tracks in accordance with table 3.*
- *Investigate possible excision from the park of motor vehicle roads used as public thoroughfares (table 3).*

### 6.3 Picnicking

Picnicking is one of the most popular activities undertaken in the park. Major picnic grounds are provided at Ferntree Gully, Grants, Sherbrooke, O'Donohue and One Tree Hill, and smaller sites at Doongalla Homestead, Olinda Falls, Valley, Eagle Nest, Mount Dandenong Arboretum and Kalorama (figure 4). The level of facilities at these sites varies considerably, from sealed car parking areas, toilets, toilets for people with disabilities, picnic tables, kiosk, barbecues, shelters, information and walks at the major sites (e.g. Grants Picnic Ground) to minimal development with only picnic tables and walks at the least developed sites (e.g. Eagle Nest Picnic Ground). This creates a range of recreational experiences and options for different types of visitor.

With increasing numbers of people using the major picnic grounds in the park it has become necessary in recent years to redesign and rebuild some of the sites. Use of the sites had reached the stage where significant environmental damage was occurring through soil compaction, damage to vegetation and septic tank discharge. At Grants, Sherbrooke and O'Donohue picnic grounds, physical impact has been reduced by the construction of paved and hard-surfaced areas, new furniture has been installed, fencing constructed where necessary and careful management applied to the areas around Mountain Ash trees. Grants Picnic Ground has been connected to the reticulated sewerage system and Sherbrooke

and O'Donohue picnic grounds have received upgraded septic systems. The Ferntree Gully, One Tree Hill and Olinda Falls sites have also been refurbished in recent times.

Risk management programs have also been implemented to reduce the risk of people being injured by falling branches and trees (section 6.11). Several elevated structures associated with walking tracks and visitor facilities are planned to be upgraded to reduce visitor risk and improve amenity, subject to environmental review and consultation.

Provision of visitor facilities at Kalorama Picnic Ground is being reviewed through the preparation of a Landscape Plan.

Toilets and other facilities designed to allow access and use by people with disabilities have been introduced to most of the main visitor sites in the park, but other sites remain difficult to access. Because of the location and popularity of the park, it is likely that many people with disabilities may wish to visit it, and this should continue to be reflected in site design and wider provision of appropriate facilities.

Management will continue to focus on minimising environmental impacts at existing sites and minimising danger from falling trees and branches (section 6.11).

#### Aim

- Provide picnicking facilities which enhance visitors' enjoyment of the park and are consistent with protecting park values.

#### Management strategies

- *Provide and maintain day-use facilities in accordance with table 4 and figure 4.*
- *Continue to reduce the risk of injury to visitors from falling trees and branches at day visitor facilities through implementation of the risk management program (section 6.11).*
- *Improve visitor facilities at Kalorama Picnic Ground consistent with the Landscape Plan for the park (table 4).*

**TABLE 4 MANAGEMENT OF VISITOR SITE RECREATION FACILITIES**

SITE	LOS	TOILET	TOILET FOR DISABLED	KIOSK	PICNIC TABLE	PICNIC SHELTER	FIRE PLACE OR BBQs	WATER SUPPLY	PARK INFO	WALK TRACK	LOOK OUT	CAR PARK
Ferntree Gully Picnic Ground	H	E	E	N	E	E,U	E,U	E	E	E	N/A	E
One Tree Hill Picnic Ground	M	E	E	N	E	E	E	E	E	E	N	E
Sherbrooke Picnic Ground	H	E	E	N	E	N	E	E	E	E	N/A	E
O'Donohue Picnic Ground	M	E	E	N	E	N	E	E	E	E	N/A	E
Grants Picnic Ground	VH	E	E	E,U	E	E	E	E	E,U	E	N/A	E
Doongalla Homestead and Stables Picnic Ground	M	E	E	N	E	N	E	E	E	E	N/A	E
Olinda Falls Picnic Ground	M	E	E	N	E	N	E	E	P	E	E	E
Eagle Nest Picnic Ground	B	N	N	N	E	N	N	N	N	E	N/A	E
Valley Picnic Ground	M	E	E	N	E	N	E	E,U	N	E	N/A	E
Kalorama Picnic Ground	M	E,P	P	N	E	E,U	E	E	E	E	E	E
Mount Dandenong Arboretum	B	E	N	N	E	N	N	E	N	N	N	E

**Key:**

## Levels of service (LOS)

- VH Very High – high level of visitor facilities and amenities provided  
H High – very high level of visitor facilities and amenities provided  
M Mid – moderate levels of visitor facilities and amenities provided  
B Basic – limited visitor facilities and amenities provided

## Facilities

- E Existing facility  
N No facility  
U Upgrade existing facility  
P Provide facility  
N/A Not applicable

## 6.4 Walking

Walking is a very popular activity with visitors and nearby residents and the park has an excellent network of both short and longer distance walking tracks (table 5). Roads and tracks providing access for management vehicles are also available for walking. Future management emphasis will be directed towards maintaining tracks in good condition and making them more accessible to the general public by providing better signage and information (section 6.1).

A long-distance walking track traversing the park from north to south would add another dimension to the recreational opportunities available in the park. It could use the existing network of tracks and use existing commercial accommodation adjacent to the park for overnight stays. Individuals or groups could walk the track in part or in full. The walk could also be promoted to overseas or interstate visitors who might wish to do the walk with a licensed operator. Park management would provide appropriate information, interpretation material and signage.

It is proposed that the Tan Track should be reopened for pedestrian, horse riding and cycling use, and the walking of dogs (sections 6.5, 6.6, 6.7 and table 5). Re-opening of the Tan Track will provide a more appropriate route for horses and walkers with dogs on leads than Lloyds Track, which is currently used for this purpose.

Mountain Ash Paddock is to be progressively revegetated (section 4.3) and may become a suitable area for walking.

### Aim

- Provide walking opportunities for visitors' that allow them to enjoy the park, and enhance their health and well being, without detriment to the environment.

### Management strategies

- *Maintain the extensive network of existing walking tracks to proposed standards and undertake works in accordance with table 5.*

- *Restore Tan Track as a walking track in close consultation with Ferny Creek Historical Society and Ferny Creek Recreational Reserve Committee of Management, and close Lloyds Track to walkers and other recreational activities.*
- *Investigate the development of a loop track in the Mountain Ash Paddock (section 4.3).*
- *Investigate the feasibility of promoting a long-distance walking route through the park.*
- *Investigate a trail link between Sherbrooke Forest and the area to the west of the former 'Nicholas Paddock' (section 4.3).*
- *Promote a horse riding 'code of conduct' where multiple use of tracks occurs, to reduce conflicts between park users.*

## 6.5 Dog walking

Dogs are generally not permitted in National Parks. Walking dogs on leads has been permitted in the Dandenong Ranges National Park on a track on the park boundary that links with tracks outside the park, and in the Mount Dandenong Arboretum that has been substantially modified and has lower environmental values. Such dog walking has minimal impact on the park's natural values and other park visitors.

### Aim

- Minimise impacts from dogs on the park while avoiding constraints on dog walking in abutting areas.

### Management strategy

- *Permit the walking of dogs on leads:*
  - *on Lloyds Track. When Lloyds Track is closed to recreational activities (section 6.4), permit this activity on the restored Tan Track*
  - *in the Mount Dandenong Arboretum.*

**TABLE 5 MANAGEMENT OF WALKING TRACKS**

TRACK	LENGTH	CURRENT GRADE	PLANNED GRADE	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	REMARKS
Acacia Nature Trail	1.1 km	3,-	3,-	-	
A'vard Tk	0.45 km	4,Cy	4,-	-	Removed from cycling network to limit risks to environment and visitors.
Barnes Walk	0.08 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Track aligned near Belgrave–Ferry Creek Rd linking Ridge Tk and Pound Creek Tk)	0.84 km	4,Cy, Ho	3,-/-	Realign track to road reserve in consultation with the Shire of Yarra Ranges.	Removed from cycling and horse riding network to limit risks to environment and visitors.
Bartlett Tk	1.50 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Bleakley Tk (previously Monbulk Tk)	1.00 km	3,Cy	3,-	-	Removed from cycling network to limit risks to environment and visitors.
Bridge Tk	0.7 km	4,-	3,-	-	-
Bruce Walk	0.09 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Camelia Walk	0.16 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Cascade Tk	0.8 km	4,-	3,-	Upgrade track to planned standard from Olinda Falls to Olinda Ck Rd.	-
Chandler Walk	0.08 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Clematis Tk	0.8 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Collier Walk	0.05 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Davies Walk	0.22 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Dobson Walk	0.06 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Elijah Walk	0.07 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Foden Tk	0.2 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Gerraty Walk	0.13 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Hall Tk	1.0 km	3, Cy	3, Cy	-	-
Hardy Gully Nature Walk	0.7 km	2,-	2,-	-	-
Hillclimb Tk	1.7 km	4,-	4,-	Upgrade wetter sections of track.	-
Jackson Walk	0.2 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
KC Tk	0.75 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Lawrence Walk	0.11 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Lloyds Tk	2.1 km	3,Cy, Ho	3,Cy, Ho	Close track to recreational activities and relocate the activities to Tan Track as soon as practicable.	-
Margaret Lester Forest Walk	0.3 km	1,Di	1,Di	-	The 'walk' has a sealed surface and is suitable for disabled access.



Table 5 (contd).

TRACK	LENGTH	CURRENT GRADE	PLANNED GRADE	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	REMARKS
Mechanics Tk	1.5 km	4,-	4,-	Relocate upper sections of the track away from Olinda Creek. Improve track surface.	-
Monument Tk	0.4 km	4,-	3,-	-	Partially closed to protect key lyrebird habitat in 1991. Section that parallels Lloyds Track to be closed.
Musk Tk	0.9 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
O'Donohue Tk	0.8 km	3,-	3,-	-	-
Possum Tk	0.5 km	4,-	-,-	Close and rehabilitate to protect key lyrebird habitat.	-
Pound Creek Tk	0.75 km	4,-	3,-	-	Removed from cycling network to limit risks to environment and visitors.
Rifle Range Gully Tk	0.8 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Simson Walk	0.48 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Stoney Rise Tk	0.7 km	4,Cy	4,-	-	Closed to management vehicles in 2001.
Tan Track	2.1 km	closed	2 (refer next column)	In close consultation with Ferny Creek Historical Society and Ferny Creek Recreational Reserve Committee of Management, restore as a Grade 2 walking track and permit cycling and horse riding.	-
Thompsons Walk	0.48 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Tree Fern Gully Tk/1000 Steps/Kokoda Memorial Trail	1.3 km	3,-	3,-	-	-
Tree Fern Loop	0.6 km	3,-	3,-	-	-
Tree Fern Tk	0.4 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Tregallas Tk	0.4 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Wattle Tk	1.0 km	4,-	4,-	-	-
Welch Tk	0.6 km	4,Cy	4,-	-	Removed from cycling network to limit risks to environment and visitors.

Note: Tracks are provided for walkers, and are available for other recreational uses as shown. All tracks are also available for use by management vehicles, except Stoney Rise Tk.

Key:

Australian Standards Classification for Walking Tracks (AS 2156)

Grade 1 For a large number of visitors, including those with reduced mobility, with frequent encounters and high levels of interpretation and facilities.

Table 5 (contd).

- Grade 2 For a large number of visitors to walk easily in a natural environment with frequent encounters with others and a moderate to high level of interpretation and facilities.
- Grade 3 For visitors to walk in slightly disturbed natural environments, requiring moderate levels of fitness with occasional encounters with others and perhaps signage—interpretation and facilities are not common.
- Grade 4 For visitors to explore and discover relatively undisturbed natural environments along defined tracks with few encounters with others and no interpretive signage.

Recreational uses

Di	Suitable for disabled access
Cy	Cycling
Ho	Horse riding

## 6.6 Horse riding

There are extensive opportunities for horse riding on approximately 22 km of tracks within or adjacent to the park. Horse riding is currently permitted on all roads open to visitors' motor vehicles, some roads open to management vehicles only and some walking tracks, in accordance with tables 3 and 5, and figure 6. Horses are not permitted in picnic areas. Special signs identify tracks designated for horse riding.

The park also provides opportunities for horse riding to link with a broader trail network outside the park. It is not proposed that horse riding opportunities be extended within the park.

The tracks designated for horse riding may be closed from time to time, particularly during winter when they are slippery and the risk to horses and the risk of track erosion is high. A permit is required for groups of ten horses or more. There is evidence of some off-road riding, which damages vegetation, causes soil erosion and can lead to the spread of weeds.

Areas of the park zoned Conservation are unable to sustain continued use for horse riding. As a result it is proposed that Georges Road be closed to horses and Silvan Road be made available as an alternative route. Moore Break and the track adjoining the Belgrave–Ferry Creek Road between Ridge Track and Pound Creek Track will also be closed to horse riding because of the steep grade and poor drainage.

The former Land Conservation Council recommended (LCC 1994) that the old horse riding 'Tan Track' and associated planted corridor located adjacent to Sherbrooke Road be restored, and that remnant eucalypts in the

adjoining 'Mountain Ash Paddock' be protected (section 4.3).

### Aim

- Provide opportunities for horse riding consistent with minimising environmental impacts and conflicts with other users.

### Management strategies

- *Permit horse riding and maintain road and track access for horse riders in accordance with tables 3 and 5, and figure 5. When Lloyds Track is closed to recreational activities including horse riding (section 6.4), permit this activity on a restored Tan Track.*
- *Provide information (including maps) on horse-riding opportunities and clearly identify the horse-riding network on-ground through use of signage.*
- *Promote a horse riding 'code of conduct' where multiple use of tracks occurs, to reduce concerns between park users.*
- *Permit groups of ten horses or more on designated tracks within current permit conditions.*

## 6.7 Cycling/Mountain bike riding

The park provides extensive opportunities for cycling and mountain bike riding. These are permitted on approximately 70 km of tracks in the park, including all roads open to visitors' vehicles and most roads open to management motor vehicles only, and a few walking tracks, as shown in tables 3 and 5, and figure 6. Cycling is not permitted on most walking tracks to protect sensitive environmental areas. Tracks closed to cyclists display a 'No Bikes' symbol. Tracks normally open to cycling may

be closed at short notice, particularly if they become muddy, eroded or dangerous.

No competitive events are allowed in the park because of potential environmental impact and conflict with other park users.

A number of sites in the park have experienced significant erosion and vegetation loss through off-track riding.

#### **Aim**

- Provide opportunities for bicycle and mountain bike riding consistent with minimising environmental impacts and conflicts with other users.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Permit cycling/mountain bike riding and maintain road and track access for riders in accordance with tables 3 and 5 and figure 6, subject to ongoing review of safety and environmental impact issues. When Lloyds Track is closed to recreational activities including cycling (section 6.4), permit this activity on a restored Tan Track.*
- *Provide information (including maps) on cycling opportunities and clearly identify the cycling network on ground by signage.*
- *Promote a cycling ‘code of conduct’, where multiple use of tracks occurs, to reduce concerns between park users.*
- *Apply temporary closures, as required, for safety and environmental protection purposes.*
- *Enforce regulations relating to off-track bicycle use and use on closed tracks.*
- *Close and rehabilitate illegal tracks.*

### **6.8 Hang-gliding**

Hang-gliding has been permitted at one site in the park: Burkes Lookout on Kyeema Track, located on the western face of the range, south of Mount Dandenong (figure 4). The site has only been used occasionally.

Parks Victoria is currently having discussions with the Victorian Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association with a view to establishing a formal agreement governing this activity in parks. As part of the process, the Burkes

Lookout site has been identified as a preferred launching area.

#### **Aim**

- Provide opportunities for hang-gliding and paragliding while minimising the impact of these activities on park values and on other users.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Subject to a formal agreement with the Victorian Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association about the use and management of the site, permit the launching of hang-gliders and paragliders from Burkes Lookout site on Mount Dandenong.*
- *Develop a site management plan for the Burkes Lookout launching area in conjunction with relevant recreational user groups.*

### **6.9 Orienteering and rogaining**

Orienteering and rogaining events are currently allowed in the Conservation and Recreation Zone and the Recreation Development Zone, subject to consideration of conflicts with other park users and environmental impact. Orienteering and rogaining off tracks can cause environmental damage, so these activities are restricted to formed tracks under permit.

#### **Aim**

- Provide opportunities for orienteering and rogaining while minimising the impact on park values and on other users.

#### **Management strategy**

- *Continue to permit orienteering and rogaining events under permit conditions in the Conservation and Recreation Zone and the Recreation Development Zone.*

### **6.10 Tourism services**

Tourism services provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy and appreciate the park that might not otherwise be available.

There are 23 licensed tour operators currently licensed to provide guided tours and activities in the park. These activities include coach tours, walking tours and horse riding tours.

The kiosk at Grants Picnic Ground is operated under a lease arrangement (section 7.1).

The high rate of visitation, the heritage assets and the proximity of the park to Melbourne indicate that there is potential for a wider range of services than can be provided by Parks Victoria (sections 2.4 and 5.2).

#### **Aim**

- Increase opportunities for visitors to enjoy and appreciate the park without detriment to natural and cultural heritage.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Ensure that all tourism operators working in the park are licensed and have appropriate training and accreditation (section 7.1).*
- *Monitor the activities of licensed tour operators to assess potential impacts on park values.*
- *Work with licensed tour operators to deliver appropriate messages relating to park values and protection (section 6.1).*
- *Identify opportunities for, and encourage and support the involvement of, contemporary Wurundjeri people in the development and delivery of visitor services in the park, particularly interpretive and educational services relating to Indigenous cultural heritage (sections 5.1, 6.1 and 8.2).*
- *Encourage the provision of a range of appropriate commercial services.*

### **6.11 Public safety**

Tall trees, such as Mountain Ash, can present a risk to visitors to the park, to vehicles on the roads that traverse it and to residents on its borders. A risk management assessment has been undertaken and Parks Victoria has implemented a tree management system that evaluates risks in high-use areas and instigates appropriate action. The major picnic grounds have been redesigned in recent years to minimise the risk to visitors of falling trees and branches, and extensive pruning of unsafe branches is undertaken regularly. The Shire of Yarra Ranges and City of Knox have similar programs.

Wildfire represents a serious threat to visitors from time to time. Visitor evacuation plans have been developed for emergency situations and these need to be regularly reviewed and updated where necessary. Emergency response plans are coordinated with local government plans.

There is a risk of major landslips in the region, particularly in the Montrose area (section 4.8). Local government planning controls are in place to restrict new capital investment in areas at risk of slippage or down-slope from old landslips. Risks can also be reduced by ensuring that road construction and maintenance crews and contractors are trained in, and implement, techniques to minimise water penetration into landslip areas.

#### **Aims**

- Protect visitors and neighbours, where possible, from natural hazards such as tree fall and landslips.
- Promote safe visitor use of the park.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Coordinate with local government in the development of Municipal Emergency Response Plans.*
- *Implement the Emergency Response Plan for the park as required.*
- *Continue to implement the tree risk management program in heavily used areas and on roadsides.*
- *Undertake negotiations with the Shire of Yarra Ranges regarding monitoring and risk assessment of areas of land prone to landslips.*
- *Continue to advise visitors of appropriate behaviour to protect them from injury through Park Notes, signage and interpretive programs as appropriate.*
- *Implement information and education programs regarding the risks to health and other problems associated with feeding native birds (section 4.4).*

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## 7 STRATEGIES FOR AUTHORISED AND ADJACENT USES

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### 7.1 Authorised uses

Grants kiosk and tearooms is operated under a 20 year lease granted in 1999 under section 19(2)(a) of the National Parks Act by the then Minister for Conservation and Land Management (section 6.10). In accordance with the lease, the lessee is to extend and refurbish the kiosk early in the lease term. A concept plan has been prepared for the building to guide the refurbishment of the kiosk, and was used in discussions with a range of stakeholders. The proposed redevelopment is intended to improve the current standard of service at the picnic ground and complement the recent refurbishment works to the adjacent toilet block and shelter.

There are a number of utilities in the park managed by government authorities and service providers. These include four TRUenergy power easements, a gas main, three water mains, four telephone line easements, a site for testing timbers and preservatives for telegraph poles, and two research plots for measurement of forest growth. Section 27 of the National Parks Act and Parks Victoria's operational policies require that public authority works in parks are limited to essential works and have a minimal effect on the park, park visitors and other park users.

The former 'Nicholas Paddock', which includes an area within the park and abutting Crown land, is currently grazed by horses. 'Mountain Ash Paddock' is currently grazed by domestic stock. The grazing within the park is to be phased out, with hazard reduction maintained by slashing as necessary (sections 4.3 and 4.6).

#### Aim

- Minimise the impacts of authorised occupations and activities on the park, and the visitors and other users of the park.

#### Management strategies

- *Undertake the redevelopment of the Grants Picnic Ground Kiosk and Tearooms consistent with the concept plan and existing lease arrangements.*

- *Manage authorised uses in accordance with the requirements of legislation and Parks Victoria's operational policies, in consultation with relevant Indigenous communities (section 8.2).*
- *Monitor existing uses and liaise with lessees, licensees and other authorised occupants to ensure that authorised activities have minimal impact on national park values and visitors' enjoyment.*
- *Ensure all new authorisations include conditions that will minimise the impact of authorised utilities, occupations and activities on national park values and visitors' enjoyment.*
- *Arrange consents with appropriate conditions under Section 27 of the National Parks Act for public utilities in the park.*
- *Seek replacement of all overhead cables within the park with underground cabling as the opportunity arises.*
- *Phase out grazing within the park (sections 4.3, 4.6 and 7.2).*

### 7.2 Boundaries and adjacent uses

The park encompasses 3540 hectares of land and its boundary is more than 120 km in length. The shape of the park makes it vulnerable to invasion by pest plants and feral animals, and the proximity of residential areas to the boundaries greatly increases the risk of wandering domestic animals entering the park.

Some sections of the current park are awkward in shape and do not possess logical boundaries from either the ecological or the management points of view. This is particularly true of the narrow sections connecting the major blocks of the park, such as the Upwey Corridor between the Ferntree Gully and Sherbrooke Units. Some of these sections are fragmented and degraded. Improvements to these areas will enhance their value as habitat corridors, and in the longer term improve the park's ecological viability.

Protection of the natural values of the park and abutting areas requires close cooperation among land managers, including authorities

such as Melbourne Water, and freehold land managers. The natural systems of the park are particularly vulnerable to the incursion of drainage and pest plants and animals from abutting freehold land (sections 4.2 and 4.4). Stormwater drainage from freehold areas with poor sewerage and wastewater systems is having severe effects on the park's natural systems.

Some boundaries of the park are not fenced and it is difficult for members of the public to determine where the boundaries lie, which may encourage inappropriate use of the park. Additional fencing or marking in selected locations would be of benefit.

The Dandenong Ranges Gardens, which in some places adjoin the park, have similar management issues with feral animal control, drainage, weed control and management of native vegetation.

The part of the former 'Nicholas Paddock' that remains as Crown land (11.9 ha) is cleared and has been used for many years for horse agistment (section 1.2). The land is in a strategic location for fire protection (section 4.6). Retention of grazing in the paddock will assist in maintaining an important firebreak. Planting of shelterbelts with fire-resistant vegetation will improve nature conservation values and not increase fire risk. DSE proposes to construct a heli-dam for fire suppression purposes on part of this land.

Both the Shire of Yarra Ranges and the City of Knox recognise in their municipal planning schemes the importance of Dandenong Ranges National Park and the conservation values of the surrounding areas (section 4.5). The schemes utilise a wide range of zones and overlays to control adjacent land use and development.

The City of Knox is currently reviewing its policies and controls for the Dandenongs foothills, in order to strengthen its ability to prevent inappropriate development that may impinge on the landscape and environment of the area and the adjoining park.

### Aim

- Minimise the impacts on the park of activities occurring outside the park's boundaries.

### Management strategies

- *Determine the small areas of public land that are suitable for addition to the park, and seek their addition as appropriate.*
- *Determine the thoroughfares and sites that may no longer be appropriate to retain as parts of the park, and seek park boundary adjustments to exclude them, as appropriate.*
- *Investigate the possibility of establishing a Committee of Management for the Crown land portion of the 'Nicholas Paddock' and seek to ensure that the area is managed in accordance with fire protection requirements and in consultation with stakeholders (sections 4.3 and 4.6).*
- *Survey and fence areas of the park boundary where appropriate, in cooperation with adjoining landowners.*
- *Survey, and if necessary mark, unclear sections of the park boundary, in cooperation with adjoining landowners.*
- *Coordinate management of the park and adjoining Dandenong Ranges Gardens in relation to natural resource management issues and the provision of visitor facilities and opportunities.*
- *Encourage the Shire of Yarra Ranges and the City of Knox to continue to actively apply the requirements of the vegetation protection overlays in their planning schemes when determining applications that may affect flora values of land adjacent to the park.*

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## 8 STRATEGIES FOR COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

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### 8.1 Community awareness

Raising community awareness of the park's values is essential to develop a sense of custodianship for the park and engagement in the area's management. Such a sense of custodianship is more likely to develop if community views and values are respected.

Strong park-related social networks among park visitors, the local community and park staff create a platform from which to raise awareness and reach others in the community.

The park has active information, interpretation and schools education programs (section 6.1). People living nearby are given information on park management issues, and volunteer groups are supported as part of Parks Victoria's Community Awareness Program.

#### Aims

- Increase the community's awareness and understanding of the park's values and management activities.
- Build a sense of custodianship for the park among community groups and individuals.
- Nurture relationships with adjoining landholders and the broader community.

#### Management strategies

- *Continue the Community Awareness Program to raise environmental awareness and understanding among visitors, and the local and broader community. As appropriate:*
  - *deliver guided walks at key sites, and incorporate environmental and park management messages in interpretive and school programs (section 6.1)*
  - *maintain relevant and current information on the Parks Victoria website*
  - *participate in community activities where this could raise the community's awareness of the park, including attending local festivals*

- *support monthly media articles on park values and threats*
- *support the formation of new park-related community groups*
- *encourage domestic animal control and removal of invasive weeds from freehold land adjoining the park (section 7.2).*
- *Promote information on park features, values and management activities to the local community.*
- *Communicate to the broader community the work of Friends, volunteers and community groups.*

### 8.2 Community participation

The participation of community groups and individuals in the park's management is pivotal in effective long-term planning, use and care of the park's values.

Community groups, particularly local groups and user groups, assist in the early detection of threats, bring enthusiasm, and provide knowledge and skills that assist management and greatly benefit the park.

Community groups' participation is more likely to be sustained if the groups' views and skills are respected, and they receive active support in maintaining social networks and the implementation of projects.

Dandenong Ranges National Park is notable for the close involvement of community groups in park management. There are more than 20 'Friends' and community groups who take an active interest in the park. Many of the groups have had a long-term commitment to programs in weed control and wildlife monitoring. The achievements of these groups have been impressive, including removal of weeds from large areas of the park, long-term monitoring of the lyrebird population and undertaking surveys of the condition of native vegetation.

Parks Victoria encourages and supports these groups with financial grants, training, equipment and technical advice. An annual

forum of volunteer groups is held to review progress and receive feedback. Recognition and celebration of their contributions to park management, as well as continuing material support and assistance, will be essential to ensure their ongoing commitment.

Various other community groups have particular interests in the park, or traditional associations with the area, but have yet to become actively involved in the park's management. Parks Victoria is keen to establish ongoing working partnerships with such groups, particularly the relevant Indigenous communities, and to involve them in achieving shared goals for the park.

The park also supports a program for volunteers who work beside park staff for a period of up to one year. This is designed for both local people with an interest in park management, and overseas students. Volunteers are accommodated within the park and receive practical on-the-job training. The program has proved to be very successful, with good outcomes for both the volunteers and the park. Many of the volunteers have progressed to professional positions in related work.

Work by the Keith Turnbull Research Institute (DSE), the Healesville Sanctuary and research partnerships with universities add to knowledge of the flora and fauna of the park. Community events in the park have been sponsored by service organisations such as the RSL and Legacy.

Key elements of the relationship between Dandenong Ranges National Park and the community are expanding opportunities for active involvement of individuals and interest groups in the park's management, and extension of the park's role as a focus for scientific and applied research and monitoring, and as a resource for environmental education, training and staff development.

#### **Aims**

- Encourage and support the constructive involvement of Friends groups, community groups and volunteers in park management activities.
- Develop a working relationship with the relevant Indigenous communities for nurturing the Indigenous heritage of the park.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Strengthen relationships with Friends, and with other community groups that use, or have a particular interest in, the park.*
- *Build strong relationships with the relevant Indigenous communities and with other Indigenous people that have an interest in the park.*
- *Establish a forum to represent the traditional knowledge, and aspirations for the park, of the Traditional Owners. Develop collaborative arrangements for reflecting and integrating the Traditional Owners' cultural lore and aspirations for the park in all aspects of its planning and management (sections 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 5.1, 6.1, 6.10 and 7.1).*
- *Promote opportunities for community groups to assist Parks Victoria in the park's management.*
- *Encourage groups that use or have an interest in the park to work together and with Parks Victoria to achieve goals of mutual interest for the planning. Provide Friends, volunteers and community groups that participate in the park's management with:*
  - *safe park experiences*
  - *opportunities to appropriately exercise interests and utilise knowledge and skills*
  - *sustainable and rewarding volunteer experiences*
  - *logistical and financial support, consistent with this plan*
  - *encouragement and assistance to pursue sources of funding, including joint grants with other groups and Parks Victoria grants, for projects in the park.*
- *Continue to conduct the annual forum for volunteer groups, and also invite interested members of the community.*
- *Provide opportunities for, and encourage and support, tertiary students and overseas students undertaking volunteer work experience and research activities that assist park management and are consistent with the plan.*



- *Encourage and support Friends and other interest groups and volunteers to develop an understanding and appreciation of the park's values, including the cultural lore of the Traditional Owners that relate to the park.*
- *Promote opportunities among interested community groups and Parks Victoria staff for sharing knowledge and increasing understanding and appreciation of each other's aspirations and goals for the park.*
- *Integrate the work of volunteer groups into the park's annual work program so that Parks Victoria can most effectively support their efforts in priority areas.*

### **8.3 Agency partnerships**

Parks Victoria is responsible for overall management of the park, but other agencies also have legislative responsibilities that relate to activities carried out in the area. Issues that relate to the responsibilities of agencies are more likely to be resolved more effectively and efficiently, and to the benefit of the area, if the agencies adopt a collaborative approach to issues.

Accordingly, Parks Victoria maintains close liaison, and collaborates, with various agencies, including:

- DSE with respect to the planning and management of land, natural and cultural values, and threatening processes including fire
- Port Phillip and Westernport CMA to seek to ensure that Regional Catchment Strategies specifically and appropriately address impacts of use and management of catchments on the park
- CFA (as well as DSE) to ensure safety and protection of park values in managing fire within and around the park
- AAV and the Central Victoria Cultural Heritage Unit to ensure appropriate management of Indigenous heritage
- Heritage Victoria to ensure appropriate management of historic heritage
- Melbourne Water in respect of streams within the park and the development of Waterway Activity Plans

- Shire of Yarra Ranges and Knox City Council to encourage development of local planning provisions, and their application, in a manner that facilitates achievement of National Parks Act management objectives
- regional tourism authorities to assist appropriate promotion of the park in regional visitor information centres and in regional tourism strategies.

Parks Victoria has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Shire of Yarra Ranges (Parks Victoria & Yarra Ranges Shire Council 2002). The MOU commits the two organisations to work together on a range of specific projects and in coordinated delivery of programs.

Priority areas for joint activities include recreation and tourism, sustainable land use, environmental management, management planning, statutory planning and emergency management. Potential activities to be carried out in a coordinated and complementary manner include joint pest plant control programs or scheduling fire prevention activities such as roadside slashing. Initiatives also include proposals for Parks Victoria to manage land in the Sassafras Creek corridor on behalf of the Shire of Yarra Ranges, Melbourne Water and VicRoads, which all have responsibilities in the area.

Government agencies involved in cooperative programs include DSE, the Department of Primary Industries and VicRoads.

#### **Aim**

- Liaise, and collaborate in a timely manner, with other agencies to ensure that all agency activities relating to the park achieve optimum outcomes for the park in accordance with legislation and Government policy.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Liaise with local municipalities, State agencies and Commonwealth agencies whose functions relate to the park. Resolve issues that relate to the park and the interests of other agencies in collaboration with those agencies and consistent with national park and other legislation, government policy and the expectations of the community.*

- *Liaise with regional tourism authorities and local tourism agencies to ensure that promotion of the park is coordinated and appropriate. Collaborate with regional visitor information centres in the distribution of promotional information relating to the park.*
- *Develop cooperative programs with relevant agencies to foster community participation, and awareness of nature conservation issues.*
- *Use the MOU with the Shire of Yarra Ranges as the basis for an expanded range of cooperative programs for recreation opportunities, nature conservation and environmental management. Develop similar arrangements with the City of Knox and other land management agencies to help the development of cooperative programs.*
- *Cooperate with VicRoads to minimise the introduction of weeds and pathogens into the park, improve the visual amenity of roadsides and minimise the impact of road drainage works.*

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## GLOSSARY

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**Biodiversity**—the natural diversity of all life: the sum of all native species of flora and fauna, the genetic variation within them, their habitats and the ecosystems of which they are an integral part.

**Bioregion**—an area with unique underlying environmental and ecological features.

**Catchment**—the area of land that drains to a watercourse or estuary.

**Committee of Management**—a committee appointed under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* to manage reserved Crown land on behalf of the Minister.

**Country**—all of nature, culture and spirituality relating to an area.

**Crown land**—land belonging to the State.

**Culture**—a material, social, aesthetic or spiritual development or refinement produced by the human mind.

**Cultural lore**—tradition and oral history that are or have been connected with the cultural life of people (includes songs, rituals, ceremonies, dances, art, customs and spiritual beliefs) and are significant to the people in accordance with their tradition.

**Customs**—observances and practices of people (includes land management and resource use) in accordance with tradition.

**Dreaming**—the primordial creative world of the spirit ancestors and the continuing reality for their totem ancestors.

**Ecosystem**—a dynamic complex of interacting organisms and their associated non-living environment.

**Geomorphology**—the scientific study of landforms and geological formations and the processes that shape them.

**Heritage**—a place, activity, way of life or structure that has aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or other value for present and future generations.

**Indigenous cultural heritage**—cultural lore, customs, places and objects of significance to Indigenous people in accordance with their tradition.

**Indigenous people**—people who are descendants of Aboriginal Australians.

**Infrastructure**—physical structures that facilitate the human use of an area (e.g. roads, paths, toilet blocks).

**Levels of Service Framework**—a strategic framework for visitor and asset management that is used to support resource allocation decision-making to best provide appropriate recreational infrastructure in a consistent manner.

**Long-term**—15–30 year timeframe.

**Object**—an object that is of particular significance to Indigenous people in accordance with their tradition.

**Relevant Indigenous communities**—includes the Traditional Owners, and the Scheduled aboriginal community for the park.

**Scheduled Aboriginal community**—the local Aboriginal community scheduled under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Cwlth) relating to an area of the park.

**Short to medium-term**—from the present to life of the plan (about 10 years).

**Stakeholders**—those people and organisations who may affect, be affected by, or perceive themselves to be affected by, a decision or activity.

**Stormwater**—runoff from land during and following rain. Stormwater removes accumulated material including litter, soil, nutrients, pathogens, chemicals, pesticides, oils and grease.

**Threatening processes**—a source of potential harm or a situation with a potential to cause loss.

**Tradition**—the body of knowledge, belief and customs that is passed from generation to generation.

**Traditional Owners**—Wurundjeri people who reasonably assert an association with the area, based on direct descent from the original Indigenous custodians, in accordance with Indigenous tradition.

**Values**—natural and cultural assets (e.g. historic artefacts, features, landscapes, flora and fauna species, flora communities) that have been given worth or are considered to be desirable.

### Abbreviations

**AAV**—Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.

**DSE**—Department of Sustainability and Environment.

**LCC**—(former) Land Conservation Council.

**NRE**—(former) Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

## APPENDIX 1 NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Management objectives for national and state parks included on Schedule Two or Two B of the National Parks Act are listed below.

For an up-to-date copy of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.), refer to Victorian Acts on the Victorian Legislation and Parliamentary Documents website [www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au](http://www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au).

### 4. Objects of the Act

The objects of this Act are –

- (a) to make provision, in respect of national parks, State parks, marine national parks and marine sanctuaries –
    - (i) for the preservation and protection of the natural environment including wilderness areas and remote and natural areas in those parks;
    - (ii) for the protection and preservation of indigenous flora and fauna and of features of scenic or archaeological, ecological, geological, historic or other scientific interest in those parks; and
    - (iii) for the study of ecology, geology, botany, zoology and other sciences relating to the conservation of the natural environment in those parks; and
    - (iv) for the responsible management of the land in those parks;
  - (c) to make provision in accordance with the foregoing for the use of parks by the public for the purposes of enjoyment, recreation or education, and for the encouragement and control of that use.
- Section 17. National parks and State parks
- (2) The Secretary shall, subject to this Act –
    - (a) ensure that each national park and State park is controlled and managed, in accordance with the objects of this Act, in a manner that will -
      - (i) preserve and protect the park in its natural condition for the use, enjoyment and education of the public;
      - (ii) preserve and protect indigenous flora and fauna in the park;
      - (iii) exterminate or control exotic fauna in the park;
      - (iv) eradicate or control exotic flora in the park; and
      - (v) preserve and protect wilderness areas in the park and features in the park of scenic, archaeological, ecological, geological, historic or other scientific interest;
    - (aa) have regard to all classes of management actions that may be implemented for the purposes of maintaining and improving the ecological function of the park;
    - (b) ensure that appropriate and sufficient measures are taken to protect each national park and State park from injury by fire;
    - (ba) ensure that appropriate and sufficient measures are taken –
      - (i) to protect designated water supply catchment areas; and
      - (ii) to maintain water quality of and otherwise protect the water resources in those areas; and
      - (iii) to restrict human activity in those areas for the purposes of subparagraphs (i) and (ii);
    - (c) promote and encourage the use and enjoyment of national parks and State parks by the public and the understanding and recognition of the purpose and significance of national parks and State parks; and
    - (d) prepare a plan of management in respect of each national park and State park.

## APPENDIX 2 THREATENED FLORA

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	THREATENED STATUS		
		AUSTRALIA	VICTORIA	FFG Act
<i>Acacia leprosa</i> (Dandenong Ranges variant)	Dandenong Ranges Cinnamon Wattle	-	r	-
<i>Beyeria viscosa</i>	Pinkwood	-	r	-
<i>Caladenia flavovirens</i>	Summer Spider-orchid	-	r	-
<i>Caladenia oenochila</i>	Wine-lip/Lindley's Spider-orchid	K	v	-
<i>Caladenia vulgaris</i>	Slender Pink-fingers	-	r	-
<i>Chiloglottis jeanesii</i>	Mountain Bird-orchid	-	r	-
<i>Correa reflexa</i> var. <i>lobata</i>	Powelltown Correa	-	r	-
<i>Corybas aconitiflorus</i>	Spurred Helmet-orchid	-	r	-
<i>Cyathea cunninghamii</i>	Slender Tree-fern	R	v	L
<i>Cyathea X marcescens</i>	Skirted Tree-fern	-	v	-
<i>Euphrasia collina</i> subsp. <i>Trichocalycina</i>	Purple Eyebright	R	r	-
<i>Glycine latrobeana</i>	Clover Glycine	V	v	L
<i>Lastreopsis hispida</i>	Bristly Shield-fern	-	r	-
<i>Macromitrium longirostre</i>	Macromitrium (moss)	-	k	-
<i>Prasopphyllum lindleyanum</i>	Green Leek-orchid	-	v	-
<i>Prasopphyllum</i> sp. aff. <i>pyriforme</i> 2	Elegant Leek-orchid	-	k	-
<i>Pteris comans</i>	Netted Brake	-	r	-
<i>Pterostylis grandiflora</i>	Cobra Greenhood	-	r	-
<i>Thismia rodwayi</i>	Fairy Lanterns	R	v	L
<i>Thuidium laeviusculum</i>	Forest Weft-moss	-	v	-

Source: DSE 2004a

Threatened status:

National threatened status:

V vulnerable

R rare

K poorly known

Threatened in Victoria (TIV) status:

v vulnerable

r rare

k species poorly known

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act status:

L listed under the Act

## APPENDIX 3 SPECIES OF HIGH REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Agrostis</i> sp. aff. <i>hiemalis</i>	Forest Bent
<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i> subsp. <i>flaccidum</i>	Weeping Spleenwort
<i>Austrostipa densiflora</i>	Dense Spear-grass
<i>Caladenia filamentosa</i> var. <i>filamentosa</i>	Daddy Long-legs
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	Common Everlasting
<i>Ctenopteris heterophylla</i>	Gypsy Fern
<i>Festuca asperula</i>	Graceful Fescue
<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i> s.l. (previously referred to <i>L. glabrescens</i> s.l.)	Woolly Tea-tree (glabrous-leaved form)
<i>Olearia</i> aff. <i>speciosa</i>	Daisy-bush
<i>Plantago hispida</i>	Hairy Plantain
<i>Prasophyllum flavum</i>	Yellow Leek-orchid
<i>Pyrrosia rupestris</i>	Rock Felt-fern
<i>Sarcochilus australis</i>	Gunn's Orchid (Butterfly Orchid)
<i>Solanum vescum</i>	Gunyang
<i>Spiranthes australis</i>	Austral Ladies' Tresses
<i>Tmesipteris parva</i>	Small Fork-fern

Source: Parks Victoria 2002a



## APPENDIX 4 THREATENED FAUNA

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	THREATENED STATUS		FFG ACT	
		AUSTRALIA	VICTORIA	STATUS	ACTION STATEMENT
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	Grey Goshawk	-	Vul	N	-
<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great Egret	-	Vul	L	No. 120
<i>Austrogammarus australis</i>	Dandenong Freshwater Amphipod	-	DD	L	No. 3
<i>Austrogammarus haasei</i>	Sherbrooke Amphipod	-	DD	L	No. 110
<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	Spotted-tailed Quoll	V	End	L	No. 15
<i>Egernia coventryi</i>	Swamp Skink	-	Vul	L	-
<i>Galaxias olidus fuscus</i>	Brown Galaxias	-	DD	L	-
<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater	-	Vul	L	No. 193
<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Growling Grass Frog	V	End	L	-
<i>Mastacomys fuscus</i>	Broad-toothed Rat	-	NT	-	-
<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Barking Owl	-	End	L	No. 116
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl	-	Vul	L	No. 92
<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>	Sooty Owl	-	Vul	L	No. 117
<i>Varanus varius</i>	Lace Monitor	-	Vul	-	-

Sources: DSE 2003, DSE 2004b and SAC 2003.

Threatened status:

National threatened status:

V vulnerable

Threatened in Victoria (TIV) status:

End endangered

Vul vulnerable

NT near threatened

DD data deficient

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act status:

L listed under the Act

N nominated for listing under the Act

## APPENDIX 5 PRIORITY PEST PLANTS

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	ENVIRONMENTAL RISK RATING*
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Blackberry	Regionally controlled
<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	Cape Broom	Regionally controlled
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	English Broom	Regionally controlled
<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Angled Onion	Very serious threat
<i>Passiflora spp. aff. mollissima</i>	Banana Passionfruit	Very serious threat
<i>Vinca major</i>	Blue Periwinkle	Very serious threat
<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Boneseed	Very serious threat
<i>Watsonia bulbillifera</i>	Bulbil Watsonia	Very serious threat
<i>Paraserianthes lophantha</i>	Cape Wattle	Very serious threat
<i>Acacia elata</i>	Cedar Wattle	Very serious threat
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry Laurel	Very serious threat
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English Ivy	Very serious threat
<i>Leycesteria formosa</i>	Himalayan Honeysuckle	Very serious threat
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	Very serious threat
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese Honeysuckle	Very serious threat
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	Karamu	Very serious threat
<i>Crocasmia crocosmiiflora</i>	Montbretia	Very serious threat
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Sweet Pittosporum	Very serious threat
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	Very serious threat
<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	Tutsan	Very serious threat
<i>Tradescantia albiflora</i>	Wandering Trad	Very serious threat
<i>Sollya heterophylla</i>	Western Australian Bluebell	Very serious threat
<i>Cestrum elegans</i>	Cestrum	Serious threat

Sources: Parks Victoria 2000b, Carr et al. 1992.

\* Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (Vic.)

## APPENDIX 6 NATURAL VALUES MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR THE PARK

The following Natural Values Management Objectives have been developed in accordance with the Parks Victoria Environmental Management Framework. The objectives will continue to be refined as more knowledge and feedback from environmental monitoring becomes available.

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### NATURAL VALUES MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

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#### COOL TEMPERATE RAINFOREST (EVC 31)

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Short to Medium-term	<p>Maintain the 44 ha of good condition forest as core environmental areas.</p> <p>Restore understorey species diversity and structure in areas of moderate condition to extend the core area by 10 ha.</p> <p>Restore overstorey structure in areas of poor condition to extend the core area by five ha. Protect threatened flora and fauna species to allow self-regenerating, genetically viable populations.</p>
Long-term	<p>Maintain the community in good condition to provide a diversity of self-regenerating species with appropriate structure and age class distribution over 100% (59 ha) of its current extent in the park. Maintain this community as a core environmental area in association with adjoining communities in good condition.</p>

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#### DAMP FOREST (EVC 29)

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Short to Medium-term	<p>Maintain 497 ha of existing good condition forest, particularly the interface with adjoining communities in good condition, to form core environmental areas.</p> <p>Restore understorey species diversity and structure to provide self-regeneration and appropriate age class distribution, focusing on key fire response species.</p> <p>Restore both terrestrial and aquatic habitats for threatened and iconic species.</p> <p>Restore fire breaks to moderate condition, taking account of the need to modify the shrub layer of the understorey compatibly.</p> <p>Reduce fragmentation in core environmental areas, including restoration of four ha of former farmland (see Disturbed Land).</p> <p>Maintain the existing condition of 291 ha of poor to moderate condition forest, preventing further deterioration.</p>
Long-term	<p>Maintain the community in good condition, providing a diversity of self-regenerating species with appropriate structure and age class distribution over 63% (497 ha) of its current extent in the park, with special emphasis on core environmental areas.</p> <p>Restore the remaining 37% (291 ha) to good condition, providing a diversity of self-regenerating species with appropriate age class distribution, focusing on key fire response species. Restore fire breaks to moderate condition, taking account of the need to modify the shrub layer of the understorey compatibly.</p>

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**NATURAL VALUES MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS**


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**GRASSY FOREST (EVC 128)**


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Short to Medium-term	<p>Maintain 96 ha of existing good condition forest, particularly the interface with adjoining communities in good condition, to form core environmental areas.</p> <p>Rationalise and restore understorey species diversity and structure in areas of poor and moderate condition to extend the good condition area by 138 ha, with special emphasis on buffers to core environmental areas and boundary disturbance areas.</p> <p>Restore fire breaks to moderate condition taking account of the need to modify the shrub layer of the understorey compatibly.</p>
Long-term	<p>Maintain the community in good condition, providing a diversity of self-regenerating species with appropriate structure and age class distribution over 100% (234 ha) of its current extent in the park with special emphasis on core environmental areas and boundary disturbance areas.</p>

**GRASSY DRY FOREST (EVC 22)**


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Short to Medium-term	<p>Maintain 106 ha of existing good condition forest, particularly the interface with adjoining communities in good condition, to form core environmental areas.</p> <p>Restore understorey species diversity and structure to provide self-regeneration and appropriate age class distribution, focusing on key fire response species.</p> <p>Rationalise and restore fire breaks to moderate condition taking account of the need to modify the shrub layer of the understorey compatibly.</p> <p>Protect threatened flora and fauna species to allow self-regenerating, genetically viable populations.</p> <p>Maintain the existing condition of 140 ha of poor to moderate condition forest preventing further deterioration, with special emphasis on protecting core environmental areas and minimising disturbances from boundary areas.</p>
Long-term	<p>Maintain the community in good condition, providing a diversity of self-regenerating species with appropriate structure and age class distribution over 43% (106 ha) of its current extent in the park with special emphasis on core environmental areas and boundary areas.</p> <p>Restore the remaining 57% (140 ha) to good condition providing a diversity of self-regenerating species with appropriate structure and age class distribution, focusing on key fire response species. Restore fire breaks to moderate condition taking account of the need to modify the shrub layer of the understorey compatibly.</p>

**HERB-RICH FOOTHILL FOREST (EVC 23)**


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Short to Medium-term	<p>Maintain 100 ha of existing good condition forest. Restore understorey and overstorey structure and age class distribution. Restore fire breaks to moderate condition taking account of the need to modify the shrub layer of the understorey compatibly.</p> <p>Maintain the existing condition of 85 ha of poor to moderate condition forest, preventing further deterioration.</p>
Long-term	<p>Maintain the community in good condition, providing a diversity of self-regenerating species with appropriate structure and age class distribution over 54% (100 ha) of its current extent in the park.</p> <p>Restore the remaining 46% (85 ha) to good condition, providing a diversity of self-regenerating species with appropriate structure and age class distribution, focusing on key fire response species.</p>

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**NATURAL VALUES MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS**

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**LOWLAND FOREST (EVC 16)**

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Short to Medium-term	<p>Maintain and restore 64 ha of existing good and moderate condition forest. Restore understorey species diversity and structure to provide self-regeneration and appropriate age class distribution, focusing on key fire response species.</p> <p>Rationalise and restore fire breaks to moderate condition taking account of the need to compatibly modify the shrub layer of the understorey.</p>
Long-term	<p>Maintain the community in good condition, providing a diversity of self-regenerating species with appropriate structure and age class distribution over 100% (64 ha) of its current extent in the park.</p>

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**SHRUBBY FOOTHILL FOREST (EVC 45)**

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Short to Medium-term	<p>Maintain 457 ha of existing good condition forest, particularly the interface with adjoining communities in good condition, to form core environmental areas. Restore understorey species diversity and structure to provide self-regeneration and appropriate age class distribution, focusing on key fire response species.</p> <p>Rationalise and restore fire breaks to moderate condition taking account of the need to modify the shrub layer of the understorey compatibly.</p> <p>Maintain the existing condition of 345 ha of poor to moderate condition forest, preventing further deterioration and with special emphasis on buffers to core environmental areas and boundary disturbance areas.</p>
Long-term	<p>Maintain the community in good condition, providing a diversity of self-regenerating species with appropriate structure and age class distribution over 57% (457 ha) of its current extent in the park, with special emphasis on core environmental areas and boundary areas.</p> <p>Restore the remaining 43% (345 ha) to good condition, providing a diversity of self-regenerating species with appropriate structure and age class distribution, focusing on key fire response species.</p>

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**SHRUBBY GULLY FOREST**

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Short to Medium-term	<p>Restore and maintain 14 ha of existing good condition forest to provide appropriate species diversity and structure, self-regeneration and appropriate age class distribution, with special emphasis on long-term viability.</p>
Long-term	<p>Maintain the community in good condition, providing a diversity of self-regenerating species with appropriate structure and age class distribution over 100% (14 ha) of its current extent in the park.</p> <p>Maintain this community as part of a core environmental area in association with a diverse range of adjoining communities in good condition.</p>

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**NATURAL VALUES MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS**


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**WET FOREST (EVC 30)**


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Short to Medium-term	<p>Maintain 579 ha of existing good condition forest, particularly the interface with adjoining communities in good condition, to form core environmental areas.</p> <p>Restore understorey species diversity and structure to provide self-regeneration and appropriate age class distribution.</p> <p>Restore both terrestrial and aquatic habitats for threatened and iconic species.</p> <p>Restore fire breaks to moderate condition taking account of the need to compatibly modify the shrub layer of the understorey.</p> <p>Reduce fragmentation in core environmental areas.</p> <p>Determine the long-term idealised fire age class distribution for Mountain Ash, <i>Eucalyptus regnans</i>.</p> <p>Maintain the existing condition of 213 ha of poor to moderate condition forest, preventing further deterioration.</p>
Long-term	<p>Maintain the community in good condition, providing a diversity of self-regenerating species with appropriate structure and age class distribution over 73% (579 ha) of its current extent in the park with special emphasis on extending core environmental areas and determining the long-term age class distribution for Mountain Ash, <i>Eucalyptus regnans</i>.</p> <p>Restore the remaining 27% (213 ha) to good condition providing a diversity of self-regenerating species and appropriate age class distribution with special emphasis on extending core environmental areas and determining the long-term idealised fire age class distribution for Mountain Ash, <i>Eucalyptus regnans</i>. Restore fire breaks to moderate condition taking account of the need to modify the shrub layer of the understorey compatibly.</p>

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**OTHER LOCALISED COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATED WITH: (A) DRAINAGE LINES (SWAMPY RIPARIAN WOODLAND, RIPARIAN FOREST, SHRUBBY RIPARIAN FOREST/RIPARIAN SCRUB, RIPARIAN SHRUB LAND, FERN SWAMP); (B) ROCKY OUTCROPS (ROCKY OUTCROP GRASSLAND)**


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Short to Medium-term	<p>a) Restore and Maintain &lt;15 ha of these significant but localised communities to provide appropriate species diversity and structure, self-regeneration and appropriate age class distribution, with special emphasis on long-term viability.</p>
Long-term	<p>Maintain these communities in good condition, providing a diversity of self-regenerating species with appropriate structure and age class distribution over 100% (&lt;15 ha) of their current extent in the park.</p> <p>Maintain these communities as viable components of a core environmental area in association with a diverse range of adjoining communities in good condition.</p>

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**DISTURBED LAND (FORMER FREEHOLD LAND AND CAR PARKS, ETC. WITH SUBSTANTIALLY MODIFIED VEGETATION COVER)**


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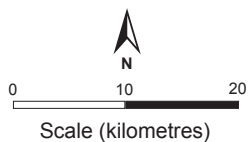
Short to Medium-term	<p>Reinstate or restore 90 ha of disturbed land to moderate condition to protect adjoining areas from threatening processes, with special attention to reducing fragmentation adjoining core environmental areas, including four ha of former farmland (see Damp Forest).</p>
Long-term	<p>Restore and maintain 100% (90 ha) of disturbed land to good condition, providing a diversity of self-regenerating species with appropriate structure and age class distribution, with special emphasis on protecting and extending core environmental areas.</p>




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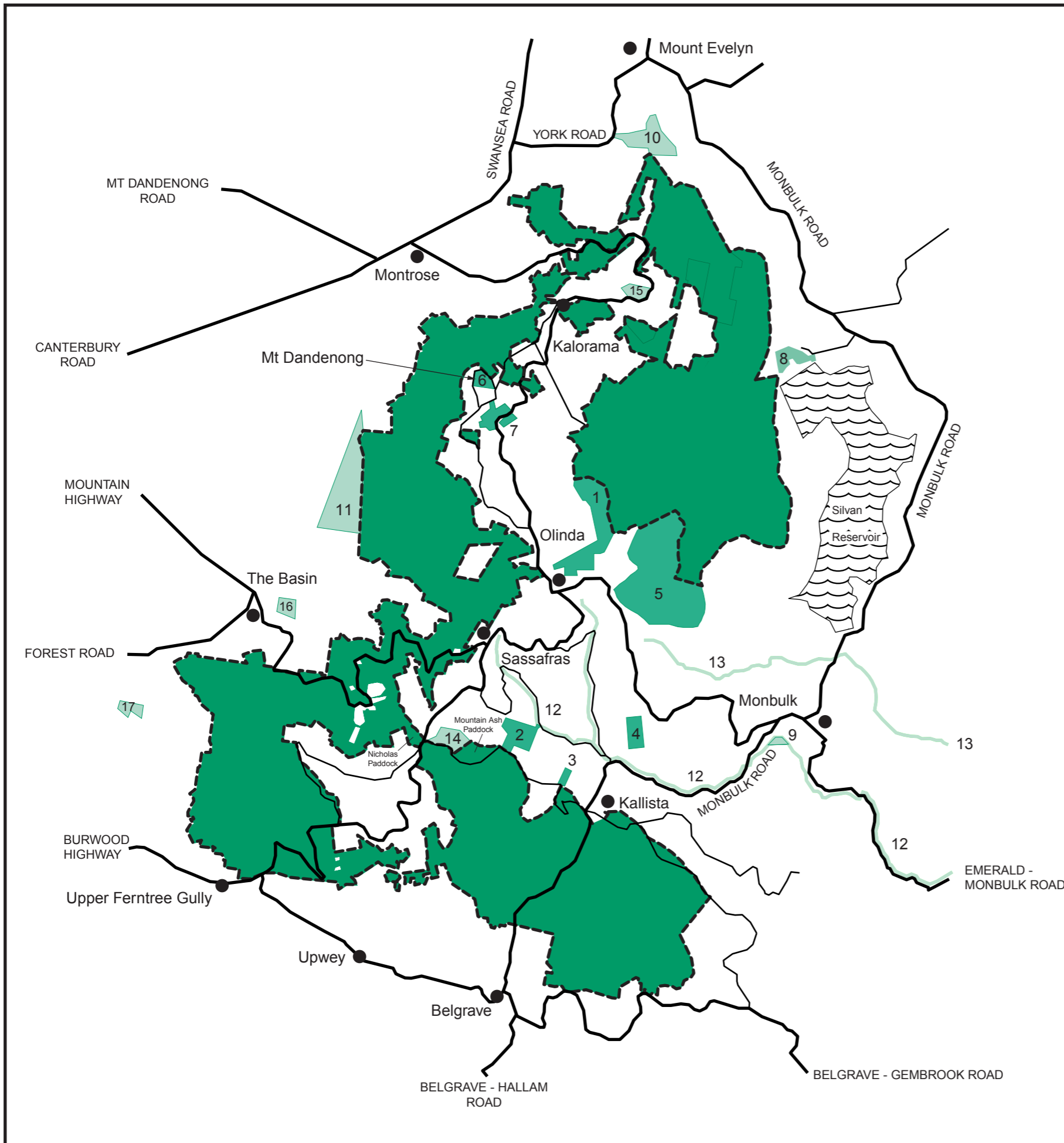
# Dandenong Ranges National Park

Figure 1  Location



-  Dandenong Ranges National Park
-  National Parks and State Parks
-  Other Parks





**Dandenong Ranges National Park**  
**Figure 2 Land Tenure**

**DANDENONG RANGES NATIONAL PARK** 


**DANDENONG RANGES GARDENS OR PUBLIC LAND**  
 (managed by Parks Victoria) 

- 1 National Rhododendron Gardens
- 2 Alfred Nicholas Gardens
- 3 George Tindale Gardens
- 4 Pirianda Gardens
- 5 R J Hamer Arboretum
- 6 Mt Dandenong Observatory
- 7 William Ricketts Sanctuary
- 8 Silvan Reservoir Park

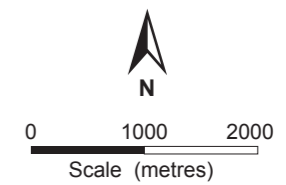
**OTHER PUBLIC LAND** 

- 9 Baynes Park
- 10 Mt Evelyn Reserve
- 11 Sheffield Road Reserve
- 12 Sassafra Creek
- 13 Emerald Creek
- 14 Ferny Creek Reserve
- 15 Kalorama Memorial Reserve
- 16 Wicks Reserve
- 17 Koolunga Reserve

**SILVAN RESERVOIR** 

**MAJOR ROADS** 

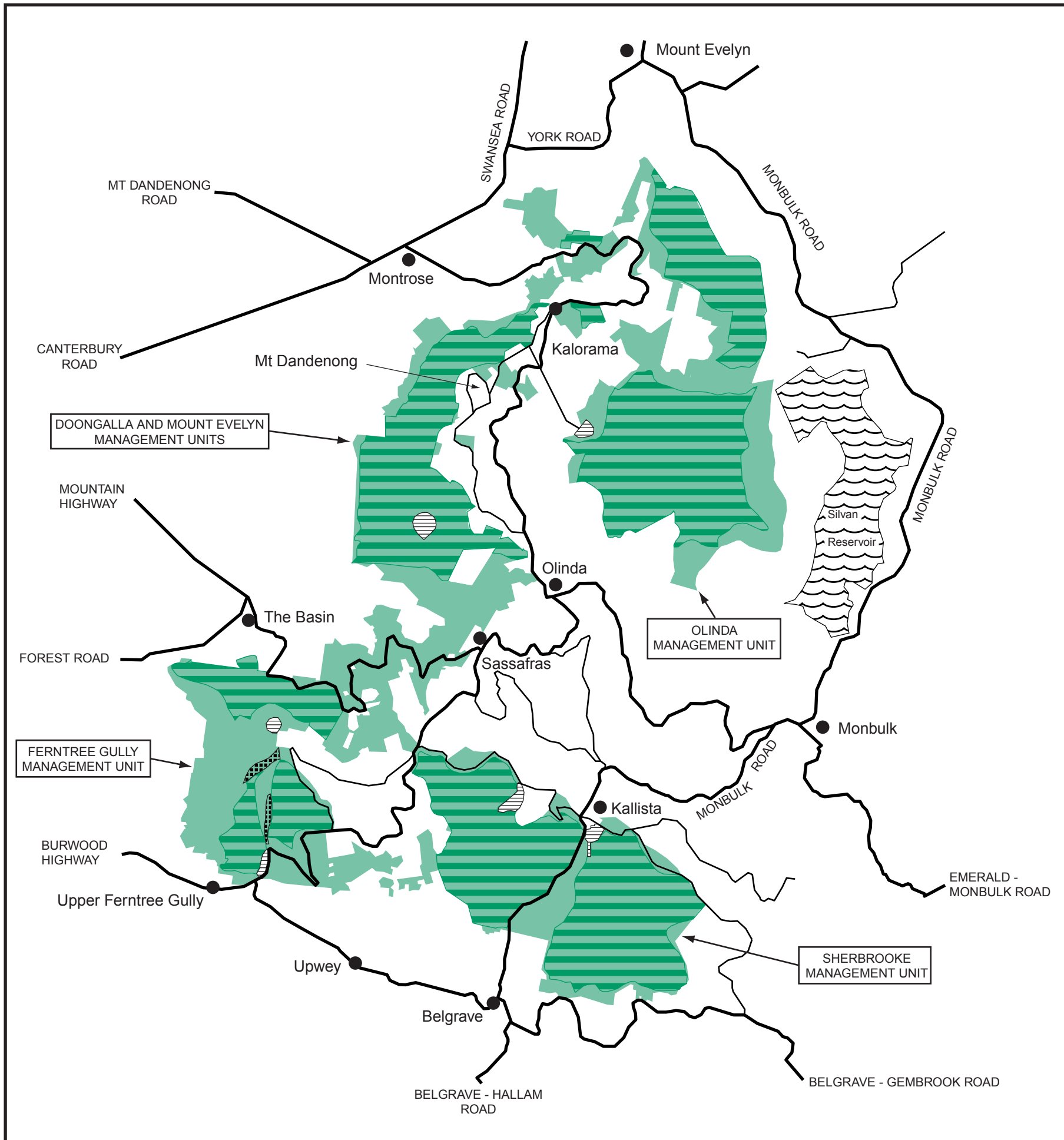
**MINOR ROADS** 









# Dandenong Ranges National Park

## Figure 3 Management Zones






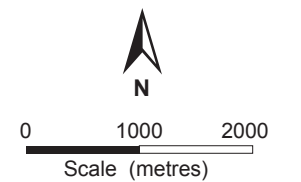
### ZONES

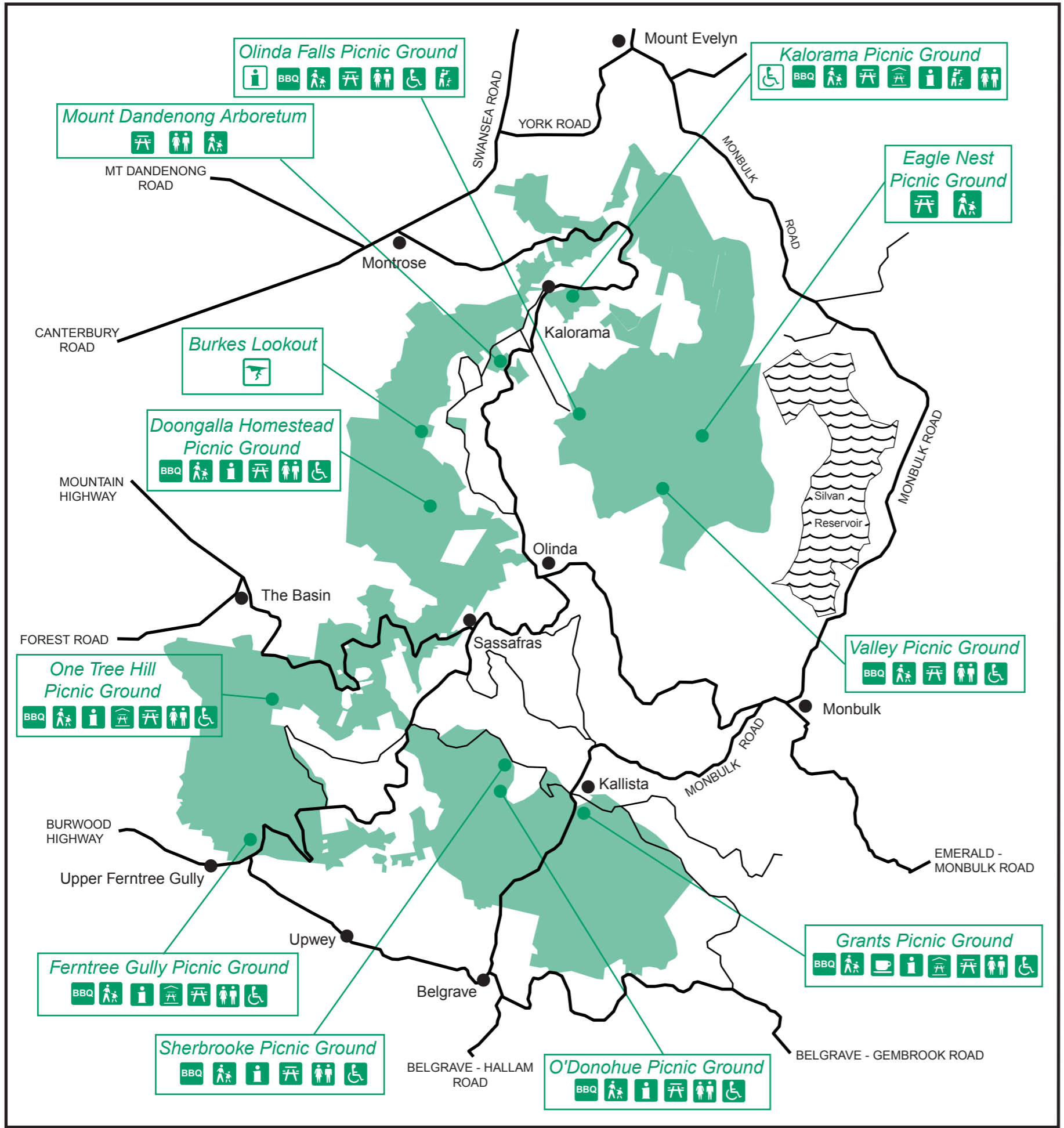
- Conservation 
- Conservation and Recreation 
- Recreation Development 
- Education 

Special Protection Areas are listed in the text (table 1)

### OTHER FEATURES

- Silvan Reservoir 
- Major Roads 
- Minor Roads 





**Dandenong Ranges National Park**  
**Figure 4 Visitor Facilities and Access**

**DANDENONG RANGES NATIONAL PARK**

**EXISTING FACILITIES**

Only facilities in the Planning Area are shown. Many other facilities for visitors are located in areas adjacent to the Park.

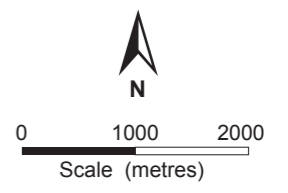
- |                  |  |                                     |  |
|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Fireplace or BBQ |  | Picnic shelter                      |  |
| Family walk      |  | Toilet                              |  |
| Kiosk            |  | Toilet for people with disabilities |  |
| Park information |  | Lookout                             |  |
| Picnic tables    |  |                                     |  |

**PROPOSED FACILITIES**

- |                  |  |                                     |  |
|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Park information |  | Toilet for people with disabilities |  |
| Hang-gliding     |  |                                     |  |

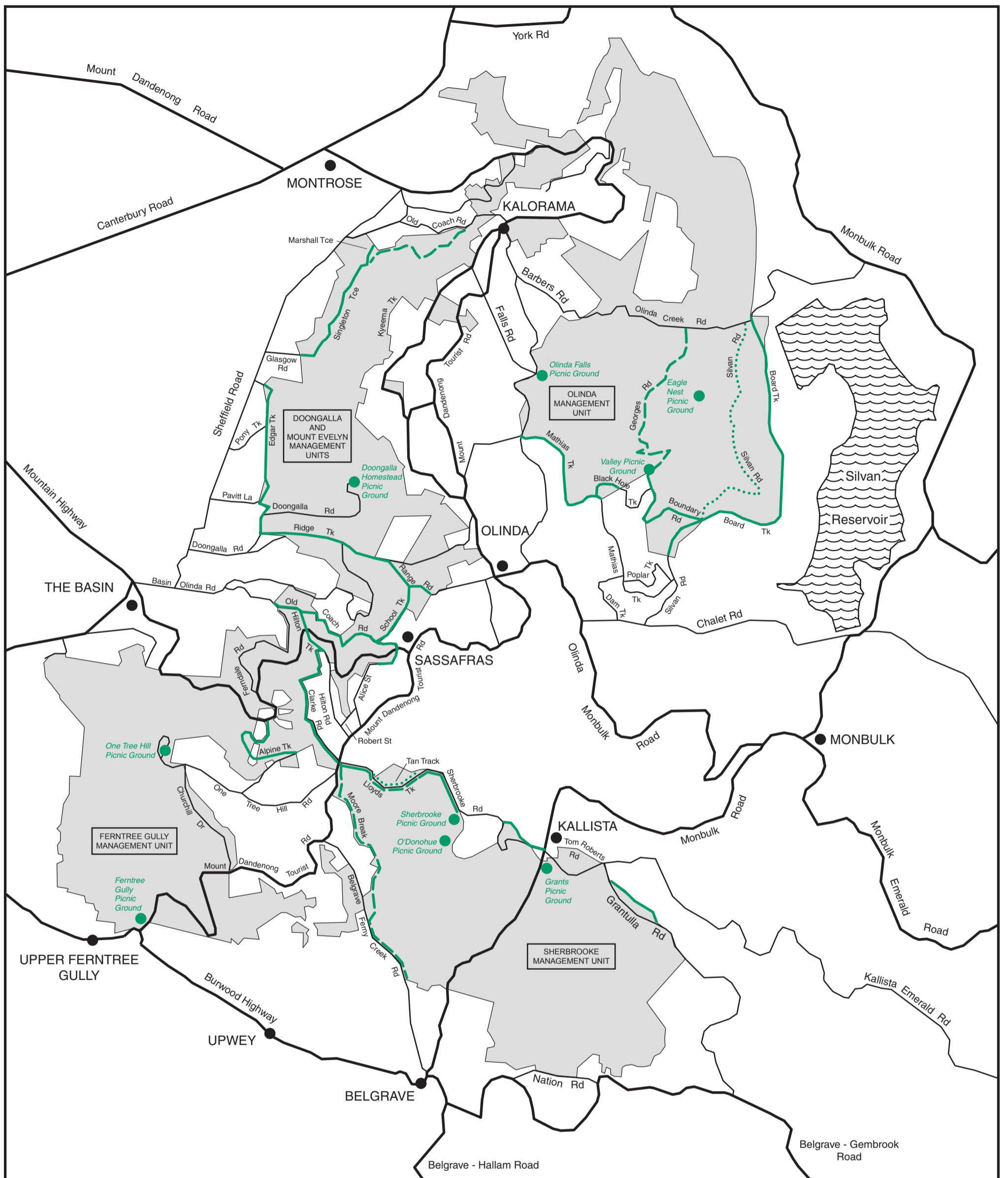
**OTHER FEATURES**

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Silvan Reservoir |  |
| Major Roads      |  |
| Minor Roads      |  |



Cartography by Shearwater Associates Pty Ltd  
 Revision 8 - 14/11/05

Boundaries and scale approximate only.

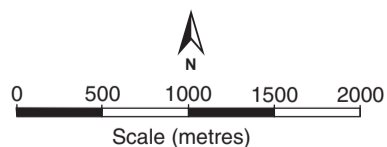


# Dandenong Ranges National Park

## Figure 5 Horse Riding

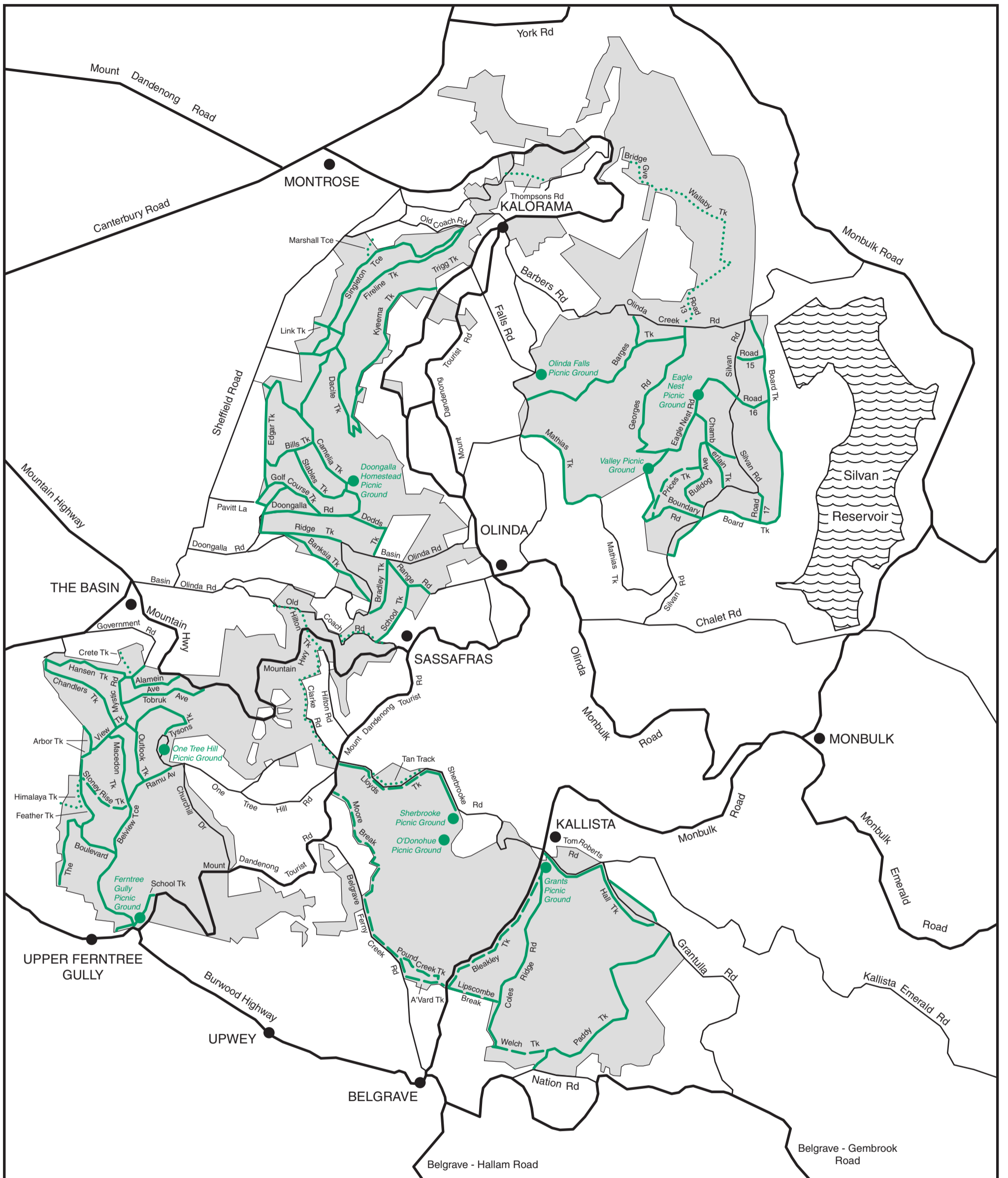


Cartography by Shearwater Associates Pty Ltd  
Revision 5 - 14/11/05



Boundaries and scale approximate only.

- Dandenong Ranges National Park
- Major Roads
- Minor Roads
- Tracks available for horse riding
- Additional tracks available for horse riding
- Tracks no longer available for horse riding

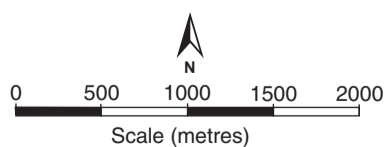


# Dandenong Ranges National Park

## Figure 6 Cycling



Cartography by Shearwater Associates Pty Ltd  
Revision 6 - 28/11/05



Boundaries and scale approximate only.

- Dandenong Ranges National Park
- Major Roads
- Minor Roads
- Tracks available for cycling
- Additional tracks available for cycling
- Tracks no longer available for cycling