

**GUNAIKURNAI
AND VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT
JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**TARRA-BULGA NATIONAL PARK
— BRATAUALUNG COUNTRY**



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Quotations included in this plan are reproduced verbatim, including spelling, punctuation and capitalisation. These may differ from the style adopted in this plan.

Parks Victoria Act 2018


References to Parks Victoria in this plan should be read in the following context:

The *Parks Victoria Act 2018* (Vic.) will commence later in 2018. Under this Act, Parks Victoria will change from being an authority providing park management services by agreement to being an authority with park and reserve management responsibilities in its own right. It will continue to be a Committee of Management of particular reserves under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* (Vic.).

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Tarra–Bulga National Park — Brataualung Country

Tarra–Bulga National Park is a stronghold of virgin bushland in an otherwise cleared landscape. It is one of the last refuges of natural forest in the area and home to mountain ash trees, lyrebirds and wallabies as well as several species that have now largely disappeared from the rest of the region. The significant remnants of old growth forest are characteristic of a period when only Gunaikurnai were present on the land, and is therefore an important reminder to us of what our Country was like in the time of our ancestors.

— *Gunaikurnai Whole-of-Country Plan (GLaWAC 2015)*

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BASIS OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

In a 2010 Native Title Determination, the Federal Court recognised that the Gunaikurnai hold native title rights over much of Gippsland. At the same time, the Victorian Government took additional steps to recognise Gunaikurnai peoples' traditional rights and ownership and entered into a Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA) under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* (Vic.) with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation. The Recognition Statement from the RSA is reproduced in full in the Introduction to the Joint Management Plan (JMP).

The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) is the 'traditional owner group entity' for the purposes of the RSA. GLaWAC is also the Prescribed Body Corporate for the purposes of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth) and the Registered Aboriginal Party for the area for the purposes of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic.). As part of the RSA, Tarra–Bulga National Park has been granted to the Gunaikurnai as Aboriginal Title by the Victorian Government.

These Aboriginal Title areas are to be jointly managed by Gunaikurnai and the Victorian Government. The Aboriginal Title grant is subject to the Gunaikurnai giving the State the right to occupy, use, control and manage the land for the same purpose as applied immediately before the grant. In the case of Tarra–Bulga National Park, the land continues to be managed as a national park under the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.).

This management plan for Tarra–Bulga National Park is prepared under Section 82 of the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987* (Vic.) and the provisions of the Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Agreement 2010. It is consistent with the objects and requirements of the National Parks Act and the requirements of regulations made under that Act. (Additional legislation and policies which have been considered in the preparation of the Management Plan are listed in Appendix 4 of the Strategic Plan.) It replaces the previous management plan for Tarra–Bulga National Park (Parks Victoria 1996), which ceases to have effect on approval of this plan.

As these Aboriginal Title areas are within the area covered by the 2010 Determination and the RSA, the rights of the Gunaikurnai to undertake traditional activities apply to Tarra–Bulga National Park and the other nine Joint Management parks and reserves. Existing rights and interests in the park, held by others, are not affected by the Agreement, but remain subject to management policies and regulation.

The Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board (GKTOLMB) was established in accordance with the RSA between GLaWAC and the State of Victoria, with the statutory objective of enabling the knowledge and culture of the Gunaikurnai to be recognised in the management of the ten Aboriginal Title areas, including Tarra–Bulga National Park. The Board was responsible for preparing this management plan jointly with GLaWAC, Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

There have been few opportunities in the past for Gunaikurnai to participate in the decision-making and management of public land. Through this plan, GLaWAC and the Victorian Government seek to:

- ensure that Tarra–Bulga National Park is well managed, its values and assets are protected and conserved, and the statutory requirements for park management are fulfilled, through an equitable partnership between the Victorian Government and GLaWAC
- increase opportunities for Gunaikurnai people to connect with Country, foster employment and economic development opportunities and build their capacity and skills to take a central role in joint management with the other management partners
- benefit the Gunaikurnai and the State, by recognising, valuing, promoting and incorporating Gunaikurnai culture, knowledge, skills and decision-making into the park.

1.2 HOW TO READ THE PLAN

This Plan provides a description of joint management strategies and actions that are specific to Tarra–Bulga National Park. The following sections provide:

- a description of values, uses and threats relating to the land, water and heritage of the park, and goals and strategies to protect and conserve those values;
- a description of Traditional Owner, visitor and community connections to the park and their uses and activities; and goals and strategies for managing and enhancing those connections and uses;
- identification of government and community relationships and partnerships that are key to managing the park; and
- an integrated statement of the actions that will be undertaken over the next 10 years to achieve the goals and implement the strategies described in the plan.

In addition to the specific actions for Tarra–Bulga National Park in this plan, the strategic initiatives for joint management described in the Strategic Plan may include actions that relate to this park.

The *Parks Victoria Act 2018* (Vic.) will commence later in 2018. Under this Act, Parks Victoria will change from being an authority providing park management services by agreement to being an authority with park and reserve management responsibilities in its own right. It will continue to be a Committee of Management of particular reserves under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* (Vic.).

1.3 THE PARK

Tarra–Bulga National Park is one of several parks and reserves located in the ‘forest and mountain country’ of the Gunaikurnai RSA area.

The park covers 2022 hectares of Mountain Ash forest and cool temperate rainforest in the eastern part of the Strzelecki Ranges of South Gippsland. It was proclaimed on 17 June 1986 under Schedule Two of the National Parks Act. It is recognised by Gunaikurnai as a traditional place of gathering due to its topography as a high point of the ranges.

The Alberton Shire Council initially reserved a small area of forest near Balook in 1904 to protect its fern gullies, and a larger area in the Tarra Valley in 1909. The former was named Bulga—an Aboriginal word meaning mountain—while the latter was named after Charlie Tarra, an Aboriginal man who guided Paul Strzelecki and his party through Gippsland in 1840.

Various additions to these reserves were subsequently made. The decision to protect the two reserves as one National Park was based on Land Conservation Council recommendations to the Victorian Government for the South Gippsland Area, District 2 (LCC 1982).

Following a land exchange between APM Forests Pty Ltd and the Crown, an area of land linking the Tarra Valley and Bulga sections was added to the park in 1991, with a further addition in 2004.

The park is listed in Category II (National Parks) of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature protected area categories and the United Nations’ List of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves.

Category II areas are large natural or near natural areas set aside to protect large-scale ecological processes, along with the complement of species and ecosystems characteristic of the area, which also provide a foundation for environmentally and culturally compatible spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities.

2 TARRA–BULGA NATIONAL PARK UNDER JOINT MANAGEMENT

The park is located on the Country of the Brataualung clan of the Gunaikurnai. It lies on a central part of the Gunaikurnai creation storyline where Borun, carrying his canoe, travelled from the mountains in the north to the place called Tarra Warackel on the coast south of the park, now called Port Albert (GLaWAC 2015).

The forest provided resources, and the stream waters that flow from Tarra–Bulga would have been important, particularly in times of drought, as they are to the present-day communities of South Gippsland.

The cool temperate rainforest areas of the park are botanically rich and ecologically very significant due to their depletion in the broader landscape by land clearance, timber harvesting and large-scale bushfires in the region and other parts of eastern Victoria.

They are now vulnerable to the drying and warming impacts of climate change, requiring conservation action not just inside the park but outside its boundaries, to buffer the park from severe bushfires and invasive plants and animals.

The *Gunaikurnai Whole-of-Country Plan* sets out the following management priorities for the park:

- preventing the park from being isolated by logging
- maintaining roads and tourist infrastructure to minimise the impact of heavy traffic
- reclassifying and managing unreserved areas in the middle of the park
- ensuring that the visitor centre actively promotes Gunaikurnai cultural values and involves Gunaikurnai people in the design of displays and audio-visual material
- undertaking focused cultural mapping.

While recognising these priorities, this plan sets out actions that are consistent with and limited to the terms of the 2010 Recognition and Settlement Agreement.

The original reservation of the park and the conservation priorities prior to joint management have focused on the role of the park as a surviving remnant of the wet forests and rainforest that once covered much of South Gippsland. The history of timber-cutting, the efforts to clear and establish farms around the park, and the campaigns of conservation activists to reserve the park have all been prominent stories in the protection and interpretation of the park for visitors.

The importance of Tarra–Bulga for Gunaikurnai people—over thousands of years and to this day—has been much less visible in park management and visitor information. Under joint management, the timeless connection of the Gunaikurnai people to the park will be made more visible and they will bring their traditional knowledge and present-day practices and use rights into an active collaboration with land management agencies and community groups to protect and interpret all the features and stories of this magnificent place.

The park provides opportunities for the Gunaikurnai to increase and strengthen their connection to Country in a landscape characteristic of Country in its original and traditional condition. Joint management provides a renewed opportunity for Gunaikurnai people to hold community gatherings on Country, share lore, pass cultural skills and knowledge between generations, and meet cultural obligations to care for Country through conservation and restoration work.

Tarra–Bulga National Park gives all who come to it an inspiring experience of giant trees, towering forest, lush fern gullies, rich wildlife and crystal-clear mountain streams. Joint management brings the Gunaikurnai people into an active conservation and management collaboration with Parks Victoria, the community, scientists and neighbouring landholders, who all value the park in their own way.

3 ZONING

A park management zoning scheme has been developed to provide a geographic framework to manage the park. These zones will:

- communicate to the community and stakeholders which management aims have priority in different parts of the park
- indicate the types and levels of use allowed in the park
- assist in minimising conflicts between uses, or between those and the protection of park values
- provide a basis for assessing the suitability of future activities and development proposals.

Three management zones and one overlay apply to the park, with provision for a Cultural Values Overlay in future (Table 1). Zones describe the primary management priority and land-use for a designated part of the park, whereas overlays provide additional management direction where a specified value needs to be protected and conserved, or a variation is required to the activities that are allowed in the zone. The location of each zone and overlay is shown on Map 1.

The location of the zones largely reflects environmental and recreational values based on existing knowledge. Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the park are not well documented, and are being systematically surveyed and mapped. The zoning scheme includes provision for a Cultural Values Overlay that would be applied through a formal variation to the plan, incorporating the outcomes of the cultural mapping project when completed. Implementation of this overlay may require amendment of the description or provisions of other zones and overlays, and integration with the Aboriginal Heritage Act and the *Heritage Act 2017* (Vic.) to ensure compatibility.

Under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act, natural resource agreements can authorise activities such as hunting wildlife and game, fishing, and gathering flora and forest produce. No agreement over Tarra–Bulga National Park is in place. A future agreement may require variation to the zoning scheme and provisions of this management plan.

Table 1: Management zones and overlays.

Zone	Description and purpose
Conservation Zone	Areas of high natural value including land, water and ecological values. Recreation and nature-based tourism are allowed subject to close management to ensure minimal impact and disturbance of natural values. Limited visitor facilities are provided, and are dispersed and small-scale.
Conservation and Recreation Zone	Areas where the management emphasis is on protection of land, water, ecological and cultural values while encouraging dispersed recreation and nature-based tourism. Low-impact recreation activities are allowed; dispersed, small-scale facilities are provided, without significant impact on natural processes and landscape character.
Reference Area Zone	Areas proclaimed under the <i>Reference Areas Act 1978</i> (Vic.) where all human interference is kept to the essential minimum so that, as far as practicable, the only long-term change results from natural processes. No access is allowed except that associated with protecting natural processes, emergency operations and approved research. Reference Areas may be used for comparative studies against other areas to show the effects of natural and human processes.
Special Protection Overlay	Areas, generally small in extent, of threatened or highly significant native vegetation or wildlife populations that require special protection. Access and activities by visitors and others are not allowed or are subject to conditions.
Cultural Values Overlay (future)	Areas where the extent, nature or significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage and /or historic heritage is high. Specific protections and restrictions on use and activities may be applied.

4 CARING FOR COUNTRY

4.1 GUNAIKURNAI CULTURAL HERITAGE

Tarra–Bulga National Park is a central part of the Gunaikurnai creation storyline where *Borun* the pelican travelled, carrying his canoe, from the mountains in the north to the place called Tarra Warackel on the coast south of the park, now called Port Albert, where he married *Tuk* the musk duck and together they founded the five Gunaikurnai clans (*Gunaikurnai Whole-of-Country plan*).

The extent of Gunaikurnai occupation and use of the park has not been mapped, partly due to the priorities of earlier management as well as the difficulties of surveying the steep and heavily forested terrain.

Experience from surveys of other forested parks in the Victorian Alps and Gippsland, conducted after large-scale bushfires, suggests that evidence of Gunaikurnai occupation may prove to be more extensive than the paucity of existing records indicates (DSE and Parks Victoria, 2005), especially on ridges and streamlines that provided preferred travel routes.

A number of plant species are known to be culturally important for the Gunaikurnai (Oates and Frood 2017b) including:

- Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) — moeyang; used for food, medicine, fibre and implements
- Cherry Ballart (*Exocarpus cupressiformis*) — ballee, ballart; used for medicine and implements
- Drooping Mistletoe (*Amyema pendula*) — used for food and medicine
- Austral Bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*)
- Kangaroo Apple (*Solanum aviculare*) — gunyang, koonyang; used for food, medicine, fibre and implements.

Plants were important both for their practical uses and for cultural identity. For example, *moeyang* was traditionally an important species for making spear throwers, bathing rheumatic joints with the soaked bark, and making fishing lines from the inner fibres, and it was also prized for shields which were important for clan identity (GLaWAC 2015).

Cultural values and practices in the present, as well as the past, are fundamental to Gunaikurnai people. The park provides opportunities for the Gunaikurnai to increase and strengthen their connection to Country in an inspiring landscape, characteristic of *wurruk* in its original and traditional condition.

Joint management provides a renewed opportunity for Gunaikurnai people to hold community gatherings on Country, share lore, pass cultural skills and knowledge between generations, and meet cultural obligations to care for Country through conservation and restoration work in the park.

GLaWAC Joint Management Rangers undertake conservation and maintenance works in the park, co-operatively with Parks Victoria and there is great scope to build capacity and expertise through this program. As far as possible, the Gunaikurnai should be the tellers of their own cultural stories to visitors, students and by working with tour operators and the tourism industry to ensure that the promotion of the cultural heritage of the park to tourists and the public is accurate and rich.

The Native Title Determination and Recognition and Settlement Agreement of 2010 recognise the legal right of the Gunaikurnai to camp in the park as a traditional activity, consistent with law and regulation.

Camping by general visitors has not previously been permitted in the park due to the sensitivity of the vegetation and soils, and the opportunities for camping outside the park. The identification of a camping area for Gunaikurnai use should be informed by the proposed assessment of Gunaikurnai cultural values in the park.

The designation of a camping area or areas should then be considered and the basis of use and access determined.

4.2 LAND AND WATER VALUES

The park contains three Ecological Vegetation Communities (EVCs), the standard unit for classifying native vegetation types in Victoria, as well as some previously logged areas and former cleared farmland. The characteristics and conservation status of these are described in Table 2 and their location is shown in Map 2.

The topography of the park is characterised by enclosed valleys formed by narrow steep slopes with waterfalls and rapids along the watercourses.

The base rocks are fine-grained Cretaceous sandstones with interbedded softer sands and siltstone. They contain a diverse and abundant fossil flora in the rocky outcrops with impressions of *Taeniopteris* and *Sphenopteris* fossil ferns and liverworts. These types of outcrops are rare and of State geological significance (Rosengren et al. 1981). Small areas of Tertiary basalts and conglomerates also occur. The steepness of the land led to some of the area being excluded from selection for farming prior to the creation of the park.

The endangered Cool temperate rainforest EVC is particularly significant. It is found in the wettest, most climatically fire-protected niches and is almost entirely restricted to deeply dissected foothills, gully systems of mountain ranges and montane plateaus.

These are primarily along south facing gullies, creeks and on south-east facing slopes, where insolation is low. It can occur on river flats where rainfall is at its maximum.

Cool temperate rainforest requires a high to very high annual rainfall of 1200–2000 mm and is largely restricted to environments where severe fire occurs at intervals greater than 400 years. This community has undergone a gross geographical decline, particularly in the Otways and Strzeleckis as a result of land clearing and the effects of fire and timber harvesting.

It is threatened by fires of high intensity and frequency which eliminate *Nothofagus* and other over-storey species, allowing light-dependent sclerophyll species to colonise, and if there are repeated fires, to replace the rainforest species.

Approximately two hundred species of vascular plants have been identified in the park (Ashwell 1988; Beaglehole 1972) including 41 species of ferns of which four are significant, being the slender tree-fern—listed as vulnerable under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic.)—Skirted tree-fern, Sticky wattle and Fairy lanterns.

Two hundred and eighty-nine different kinds of fungi and non-vascular plants such as mosses and liverworts have also been recorded. Although the park's cultural values have not been systematically surveyed, it is known from assessments elsewhere in the joint management area that numerous plant species have cultural importance.

A total of 115 vertebrate fauna species have been recorded in the park of which nine are rare or threatened, including the South Gippsland spiny crayfish, the Strzelecki burrowing crayfish and the barking owl, all of which are endangered.¹

The park contains a substantial assemblage of bird and mammal species. The Superb Lyrebird, Powerful Owl, Pilotbird, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Eastern Whipbird, Laughing Kookaburra, Crimson Rosella, Eastern Yellow Robin and Pied Currawongs are other birds occurring in the park.

The Common Wombat, Swamp Wallaby, Greater Glider, Sugar Glider, Common and Mountain Brushtail Possums, Short-beaked Echidna, Agile and Dusky Antechinus, Long-nosed Bandicoot, Platypus, and Common Ringtail Possum also inhabit the park.

DELWP's NatureKit biodiversity data products provide important information for conserving flora and fauna in the park.

¹ DELWP (2018) *Victorian Biodiversity Atlas*

Table 2: Ecological Vegetation Classes, Tarra–Bulga National Park.

Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC)	Description	Bioregional conservation status	Character species	High-impact weed species
Wet Forest (87.1% of park area)	Characterised by a tall eucalypt over-storey to 30 m with scattered understorey trees over a tall broad-leaved shrubby understorey and a moist, shaded, fern-rich ground layer that is usually dominated by tree-ferns.	depleted	Mountain Ash (<i>Eucalyptus regnans</i>) Blue Gum (<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> s.l.) Messmate Stringybark (<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>)	Blackberry (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> spp. agg.) Tutsan (<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>) Sycamore Maple (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)
Cool Temperate Rainforest (10.4% of park area)	Closed non-eucalypt forest to 25 m tall with occasional eucalypt emergents. Occurs in high rainfall areas protected from fire within Wet Forest. The understorey characterised by tree ferns and a rich epiphytic flora. The ground layer is dominated by a diversity of ground ferns.	endangered	Myrtle Beech (<i>Nothofagus cunninghamii</i>) Southern Sassafras (<i>Atherosperma moschatum</i>) Blackwood (<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>)	Various
Damp Forest (2.5% of park area)	Dominated by a tall eucalypt tree layer to 30 m over a medium to tall dense shrub layer of broad-leaved species typical of Wet forest mixed with elements from dry forest types. The ground layer includes herbs and grasses as well as a variety of moisture-dependent ferns.	endangered	Messmate Stringybark (<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>) Eurabbie (<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> subsp. <i>bicostata</i>) Mountain Grey Gum (<i>Eucalyptus cypellocarpa</i>)	Blackberry (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> spp. agg.) Spear thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>) Ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>) Cat's Ear (<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>) Self-heal (<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>)

Table 3: Significant species, Tarra Bulga National Park.

Scientific name	Common name	Conservation status	FFG Action Statement
<i>Euastacus neodiversus</i>	South Gippsland Spiny Crayfish	endangered	176
<i>Engaeus rostrigaleatus</i>	Strzelecki Burrowing Crayfish	endangered	173
<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Barking Owl	endangered	116
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl	vulnerable	92
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	Grey Goshawk	vulnerable	—
<i>Cyathea cunninghamii</i>	Slender Tree-fern	vulnerable	238
<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>	Sooty Owl	vulnerable	unnumbered

Landscape and catchment context

The park is in the Strzelecki Ranges, which is identified as a landscape priority area in the West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy (WGCMA 2013).

This priority area incorporates the water catchment area for the Tarra River, which supplies the townships of Alberton, Devon North, Port Albert and Yarram. The Upper Tarra River is in good condition, with excellent streamside vegetation and aquatic life (DEPI 2013).

The natural landscape of the Strzelecki Ranges has been fragmented by clearing for intensive agriculture, as well as by timber production. The area around the park has been heavily logged, and the cleared hills are visible from the park.

Tarra–Bulga National Park is a very important regional remnant of intact native vegetation. There is moderate to high connectivity between remnants in the ranges, which needs to be maintained and extended.

4.3 HISTORIC HERITAGE

From the 1860s, settlers occupied the land in the area for dairy farming, extensively clearing and burning the countryside to establish and maintain cultivation, leaving only a few scattered areas of forest. Settlers' cottages were dotted about the ridges of the Strzelecki Ranges from the 1890s once the rugged and steep slopes were opened for selection, and the township of Balook was established.

Several nearby timber mills took out the remaining commercial timber, and by the 1930s most of the forests had been cleared. Many farms were abandoned or became neglected because of the harsh nature of the land.

There are numerous sites with historic heritage value, including sites of early timber-cutting and agriculture and some interesting early structures, but many of these have been obscured or obliterated by exposure and regrowth (Parks Victoria 1996). Notable sites are Corrigan Suspension Bridge, Moorfields Dairy Site, Wills Homestead, Wills Track, Cooks Mill, and Logging Winch.

A notable aspect of the park's history is that its caretaker in the early 1950s, Karamoana Healey, was the first woman appointed as a caretaker of a national park in Victoria; in effect she was Victoria's first female ranger.

4.4 THREATS TO COUNTRY AND HERITAGE

Key threats to the natural values of the park were recognised in the previous management plan (Parks Victoria 1996) and are the focus of ongoing programs and management operations.

Invasive plants and animals

The park's flora and fauna includes a range of introduced plant and animal species, including blackberry, deer, rabbits, foxes, cats and dogs. Wild seedlings of pines and plantation eucalypts become established in the park from seeds blown in from adjacent areas.

Broad-scale control programs in and around the park have focused on foxes and blackberries, with occasional targeted controls of weeds such as Tutsan, Sycamore Maple and Ivy. Deer are an emerging threat on public and private land across much of eastern Victoria.

Pathogens

Although the park is generally in good ecological condition, climate change and the threat of pathogens, in particular Myrtle Wilt, could have a considerable impact.

Myrtle Wilt is a fatal disease of *Nothofagus cunninghamii* (Myrtle Beech) caused by the fungal pathogen *Chalara australis*. It has been listed as a potentially threatening process under the Flora

and Fauna Guarantee Act, and an action statement has been prepared to guide actions to limit the threat (DSE 2009).

The disease develops initially through the infection of stem or root wounds via air or water dispersal of fungal spores. Human activity is likely to elevate disease incidence rates above the natural background levels in undisturbed forest.

The actions required by park managers include training staff in detection, prevention, and control, minimising disturbance (especially during road and track construction and facility development) and monitoring rainforest communities to detect outbreaks.

Fire management

Wet forest is vulnerable to severe fires when extreme weather coincides with drought or long dry periods that reduce fuel moisture levels in the forest.

The fire history on Victoria's public land has been systematically recorded only in the last decade, and the fire history of the park is poorly known. Major bushfires occurred in South Gippsland in 1898 and 1944 and the park is known to have been burnt in the massive 1939 fires.

The Calignee Bushfire, which was part of the devastating Black Saturday complex of fires in 2009, burnt the northern area of the park, and other spot fires burnt areas of the park.

The *Code of Practice for Bushfire Management on Public Land* (DEPI 2012) provides the framework for public land fire management throughout Victoria. Fire management on public land in non-urban areas, including national parks, is the responsibility of DELWP.

The *East Central Strategic Bushfire Management Plan* (DELWP 2015) sets the direction for fire management in and around the park. The park lies on the extreme south-eastern boundary of the East Central bushfire landscape, contiguous with the Alpine – Greater Gippsland bushfire landscape.

The treatment of fuel risks and ecological fire requirements are considered in DELWP's Fire Operations Plan process. The natural, cultural and recreational values identified and prioritised in this plan will inform that process, so that burning and fuel treatments are modified where necessary.

Parks Victoria provides a significant portion of DELWP's overall fire management capability and contributes advice on the development and implementation of fire management strategies affecting parks. Initial actions to train and facilitate GLaWAC personnel to participate in and contribute to the public land fire management network have commenced.

Climate change

Climate change is a potential intensifier of existing and new threats. These include changes to hydrology, increased frequency and severity of extreme events such as bushfires and storms, changes in vegetation caused by rainfall and evaporation changes, and invasive plants and animals.

Changes such as vegetation alteration are likely to occur slowly, whereas more extreme events can occur at any time. The progressively warmer, drier conditions that are likely to occur under climate change pose a major threat to the rainforest areas of the park, which depend on cool, humid conditions and the absence of severe fires. The stress of warming and drying conditions will also increase the susceptibility of the rainforest areas to pathogens and invasive plants. Storm events with high winds increase the risk of damage to tall trees in old growth areas of the park, and the threats to public safety.

Threats to cultural heritage

Extreme events such as bushfires and floods pose a threat to cultural heritage and historic heritage across the park. More localised threats arise from the disturbance of sites by human activity.

Historic sites in the park are relatively well-known and mapped. Most of these sites are old logging and timber milling sites where few structural remains exist.

For these sites the key conservation strategy is to monitor and protect the sites from erosion, visitor impacts and other localised disturbances through works, education and enforcement.

There has been very little survey, recording or mapping of Gunaikurnai cultural heritage sites. The key conservation strategy for is to systematically survey, record and map values and sites in the park, including both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. GTOLMB is undertaking this work in the park. Once it is completed, protection and conservation strategies that are relevant to the identified values need to be developed.

Other threats

Tree harvesting that took place in parts of the park before their inclusion is still evident in a depleted overstorey and stands of wattle that colonised the former eucalypt stands and are now senescing. The lack of canopy affects the structural integrity of the forest and its natural ecological functions. The major roads through the park are potential entry points for invasive plants and animals. They also fragment the park and are likely to affect wildlife movement and other processes.

4.5 CONSERVATION STRATEGIES TO DEAL WITH THREATS

Table 4 describes the key land and water values in the park and the strategies to control threats to those values. Comprehensive conservation of the natural values in the park needs to be based on systematically set objectives and measurable actions to achieve those objectives, using a conservation action planning process or equivalent methodology. That process should consider the broader regional landscape so that interventions such as invasive animal control are undertaken cooperatively with neighbouring land managers.

Land and water values are identified primarily at the level of EVCs and threatened species, using state-wide datasets. However, it is often more practical and effective to take conservation action by targeting assets at an intermediate level; for example, controlling weeds or undertaking planned burning to improve the health of an assemblage of ground-cover plants in a particular EVC or part of the park, rather than the EVC as a whole or a single threatened plant species.

An intensive conservation action planning process is required to identify the most critical assets, given the present condition of the park and the ecological processes (such as predation or weed invasion) that are operating within it. The strategies in Table 4 should therefore be further evaluated through conservation planning that takes into account their feasibility, impact and priority in the broader landscape.

Table 4: Land, water and heritage values, threats and conservation strategies.

Threat	Priorities	Goals and strategies
Wet Forest, Damp Forest and Cool Temperate Rainforest EVCs		
Bushfire	Extreme fire events	Maintain existing extent and condition. Work with DELWP to ensure there is adequate risk reduction on surrounding public and private land via burning and other measures. Manage fuel loads without burning in Cool Temperate Rainforest EVC. Prevent fires starting inside the park through visitor education and regulatory enforcement.
Myrtle beech/Cool temperate rainforest		
Pathogens introduced by human activity Emerging weeds	Myrtle Wilt	Implement relevant actions under FFG Action statement No. 238 (DSE 2009). Monitor and control emerging invasive plants under warming, drying conditions.
Wet forest and damp forest		
Invasive plants degrading forest structure	Blackberry, Tutsan, Ivy and Sycamore MAPLE. Depleted and senescing canopy	Contain current extent of infestations. Implement targeted invasive plant control programs. Control invasive plants and animals and to facilitate natural canopy regeneration. Maintain park-wide fire protection strategies to buffer areas from severe fire.
All EVCs		
Predation of wildlife by foxes, cats and wild dogs	High	Apply landscape-scale predator control using baiting and other techniques.
Grazing and erosion caused by deer and rabbits	Moderate	Implement targeted culling and control programs. Monitor Sambar deer population and impacts and review feasible control options.
Gunaiurnai cultural heritage		
Lack of documented recording and mapping of cultural sites and intangible heritage Culturally important plants and animals	Cultural survey and mapping	Complete the current GKTOLMB cultural mapping project for the ten Jointly managed parks and reserves. Determine required management actions including implementation of a Cultural values overlay.
Lack of knowledge of species conservation requirements	Cultural knowledge and current conservation status	Obtain knowledge through Joint Management Plan strategic initiatives.
Historic heritage		
Deterioration of sites due to weather or vandalism	Corrigans suspension bridge, timber milling sites	Monitoring bridge as part of regular park asset assessments. Informally monitor milling sites as appropriate.

5 PEOPLE IN THE PARK

5.1 TRADITIONAL OWNERS CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY

In addition to taking a greater role in the management and conservation of the park, Gunaikurnai people will take opportunities to gather in the park, pass on lore and cultural knowledge between generations and undertake traditional practices.

Unlike many of the other parks and reserves in the settlement area, the landscape of Tarra–Bulga is steep, rugged and densely forested, making it difficult to access and move through beyond the small picnic areas and walking tracks.

Although camping has not been permitted in the park, there is an opportunity under joint management to designate an area or areas for Gunaikurnai gathering and camping, particularly once cultural mapping is completed and areas of prior use and occupation are known.

There is also an opportunity for Gunaikurnai rangers and others to progressively provide visitors with information and interpretation about the park and to tell their own cultural stories.

5.2 VISITORS TO THE PARK

Because of its proximity to large towns the park is a popular destination for day visitors, particularly in the warmer months. Each of the four road access routes through the park are highly scenic and are suitable for two-wheel-drive vehicles.

The Visitor Centre at Balook is a focus for information and interpretation. It has a theatre and display area, including panels explaining the natural and cultural history of the park. There are picnic areas at the Visitor Information Centre, Tarra Valley and Bulga (Map 3).

There are seven short walks of varying length, including a 1.2 km walk that crosses the impressive Corrigan Suspension Bridge stretching through the rainforest canopy, as well as five longer walks, some of which extend outside the park. These short and long walks, together with short stays in the picnic areas, provide the primary experience of the park for most visitors. Diaper Track provides access between the Bulga and Tarra Valley sections of the park, traversing plantation land outside the park for a short section.

The Grand Strzelecki Track hiking route runs through the park and connects it to Morwell National Park. The walk was established by community groups, local government and land managers. It extends from Jeeralang Junction near Morwell National Park to Macks Creek, east of the park, with loops focused on Tarra–Bulga National Park and plantation areas around Mt Tassie. The complete walk takes approximately four days, but many hikers walk the loop in stages, making Tarra–Bulga an important start–finish point and focal area.

The three visitor sites at Balook, Bulga and Tarra Valley make up what can be regarded as a single visitor experience area. The area offers picnicking, walks, road cycling and scenic driving through tall Mountain Ash forest, luxuriant rainforest and fern gullies. The towering trees, clear streams and prominent bird life provide an iconic and inspirational Victorian mountain forest experience, characteristic of the time of the Gunaikurnai ancestors when only Aboriginal people were present on the land.

The substantial visitor centre at Balook provides an excellent base for interpretation and education about the natural and cultural features of the park. High-standard facilities for picnicking at Balook and Tarra Valley and a network of walking tracks through the park make the area very accessible and suitable for a relatively wide range of abilities.

5.3 VISITOR STRATEGIES

The strategy for visitor experiences in the park is to provide highly accessible opportunities, services and facilities for picnicking, scenic driving, short walks and education for a wide range of visitor segments and abilities to appreciate and learn about the rainforest/Ash forest ecosystem and cultural heritage; and to control visitor impacts on the park's natural and cultural values.

The existing road and track network and public access arrangements meet park management and visitor needs and do not require any change. Higher impact recreation activity is not appropriate due to erodible soils and pathogen risks.

The park is traversed by several major roads which provide scenic touring routes but are winding and narrow. The roads carry significant traffic by log-trucks and regional transport, as well visitor traffic. Parks Victoria manages the road leading to Bulga picnic area. All other public roads are managed by VicRoads, local government or Hancock Victorian Plantations.

The range of visitor and public activities allowed in the park is shown in Table 5. This table does not limit the operation or exercising of Native Title or Traditional Owner rights held by the Gunaikurnai people.

Camping has not been permitted in the park because of the sensitivity of the vegetation and soils, and because there are opportunities for camping outside the park. The 2010 Native Title Determination and Recognition and Settlement Agreement recognised the legal right of the Gunaikurnai to camp in the park as a traditional activity, provided it is consistent with laws and regulations.

Following an assessment of Aboriginal cultural values in the park, the designation of a camping area or areas will be considered and the basis of access and use will be determined.

Table 5: Recreational activities allowed in management zones.

Activity	Conservation Zone	Conservation and Recreation Zone	Reference Area Zone	Special Protection Overlay
Camping — designated areas*	No	No	No	No
Camping — dispersed vehicle-based	No	No	No	No
Camping — dispersed other	No	No	No	No
Competitive events	Yes (subject to permit, if activity type is allowed)	Yes (subject to permit, if activity type is allowed)	No	No
Cycling	Yes (on open public roads and MVO roads and tracks; not allowed on walking tracks)	Yes (on open public roads and MVO roads and tracks; not allowed on walking tracks)	No	No
Dogs	No	No	No	No
Education activities	Yes	Yes	No	No

* A camping area may be designated following the completion of cultural values mapping.

Activity	Conservation Zone	Conservation and Recreation Zone	Reference Area Zone	Special Protection Overlay
Fires	No	No	No	No
Firewood collection	No	No	No	No
Fishing	No	No	No	No
Fossicking and prospecting	No	No	No	No
Geocaching	Yes (no excavation allowed)	Yes (no excavation allowed)	No	No
Guided activities	Yes	Yes	No	No
Horseriding	No	Yes (only on Diaper Tk and Old Yarram–Balook Rd)	No	No
Hunting	No	No	No	No
Orienteering and rogaining	No	Yes, subject to permit	No	No
Picnicking	Yes	Yes	No	No
Walking and hiking	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Vehicle use, including two-wheel-drives, four-wheel-drives and trail bikes		Yes (on open public roads – not allowed on MVO only roads and tracks)	No (except for essential management and emergency operations, or approved research)	No

6 WORKING TOGETHER

6.1 THE JOINT MANAGEMENT DELIVERY PARTNERS – GKTOLMB, PARKS VICTORIA, GLaWAC, DELWP

The park is managed by Parks Victoria as part of Victoria's parks and conservation reserves system. Parks Victoria rangers operate from Traralgon and the Balook Visitor Centre in the park. Regional and state-wide technical specialist staff provide environmental, cultural and visitor expertise and services to manage the park from other locations in eastern Victoria and Melbourne.

Parks Victoria and GLaWAC have an agreement for GLaWAC to undertake works in Tarra–Bulga National Park and other jointly managed parks and reserves, which has been operating since 2013.

DELWP is responsible for fire management on non-urban public land and provides legislative and policy support and advice to the GKTOLMB and Parks Victoria. The GLaWAC works crew has recently commenced participation in DELWP's fire management program.

The GKTOLMB, Parks Victoria, GLaWAC and DELWP have identified the potential for these partnerships to expand and evolve significantly over time through mentoring, training, information sharing, and employment and contractual opportunities.

This process should operate in multiple directions with expertise and knowledge of park and public land management being shared by Parks Victoria and DELWP, and cultural and local knowledge and expertise being shared by GLaWAC. The GKTOLMB provides a central forum for coordinating these partnerships, and provides the strategic park management directions for the partnerships through this joint management plan.

6.2 COMMUNITY AND OTHER PARTNERS

The Friends of Tarra–Bulga is an active volunteer group which supports conservation and education in the park. It makes an important contribution to the operation of the park by staffing the Balook visitor centre and providing information. The group conducts surveys and monitoring of the park's flora and fauna, undertakes restoration and maintenance works, provides information to visitors at the Balook Visitor Centre and offers guided walks. It also maintains a website which provides detailed information about the park's values and history and promotes volunteer work in the park.

The Balook and District Residents Association has a long-established interest in the park, having advocated for its creation and expansion, and continues to hold community gatherings in the park.

An incorporated body of volunteers, Grand Strzelecki Track Inc., initiated the establishment of the Grand Strzelecki Track concept and coordinates its promotion and operation.

The Sporting Shooters Association of Australia and the Australian Deer Association provide volunteers to assist with deer and invasive animal control programs in the joint managed parks.

Other agency partners are important in the management of the park. The West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority provides significant funding for conservation works on public land in the region and provides strategic coordination of catchment restoration investment. The East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority provides executive personnel and support to the GKTOLMB.

Hancock Victorian Plantations is a major landholder around the park. The park is situated within the Shire of Wellington which is responsible for local planning regulation, road maintenance and traffic management around the park, as well as other municipal responsibilities.

Destination Gippsland is an important partner in the marketing of the park and its location on regional tourism routes such as the Grand Ridge Road.

6.3 AUTHORISED USES

Several government and commercial agencies maintain facilities within the park. They include Telstra (underground cables), SP Ausnet (power lines) and South Gippsland Water (a stream gauging station on Middle Creek). These utilities present few maintenance problems and access is readily available to both sites.

Telstra's underground cables are located beneath unused road reserves to the west of the Bulga Picnic Area. An SP Ausnet 22 kV overhead transmission line runs along an easement near the northern boundary of the APM Forests land exchange corridor.

SP Ausnet maintains a cleared easement 60 metres wide along its transmission line, which has a significant visual impact. However, the easement passes through an area that is being reforested, which will decrease the visual impact of the transmission line. Consent under the National Parks Act is required for maintenance works on the powerline and easement.

Access to the stream gauging station on Middle Creek is by a track through private property. The use of this station by South Gippsland Water is minimal and causes little conflict with the natural values of the park.

A number of tour operators undertake activities in the park, which are managed under licences.

6.4 PARK BOUNDARIES

The park boundary is highly irregular, reflecting the history of incremental reservation. Significant private land inliers and public land plantation inliers exist within the park. Opportunities to rationalise the boundaries by acquiring additional land or redesignating other public land should be investigated.

7 GOALS AND ACTIONS

The following goals and actions should be read in conjunction with the goals and strategic initiatives set out in the Strategic Plan document.

Caring for Country

Goal

The land, water and cultural heritage of Tarra–Bulga National Park are protected and cared for using the combined values, knowledge and skills of the Gunaikurnai, Parks Victoria, community and partners.

Land and water

No.	Action
TB1	Apply the zoning set out in Table 1.
TB2	Protect and restore the park’s natural environment by implementing the land and water priorities and strategies detailed in Table 4.
TB3	Implement relevant Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act action statements for threatened and endangered species in the park as detailed in Table 3.
TB4	Work with DELWP to protect the park from bushfire through fuel management strategies that do not adversely affect the Cool Temperate Rainforest EVC and other values.
TB5	Build knowledge and undertake surveys and mapping of plants and animals in the park including those of cultural importance to the Gunaikurnai.
TB6	Work with West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority to control pest plants and animals consistent with the <i>West Gippsland Invasive Plants and Animals Plan</i> .
TB7	Develop a comprehensive conservation plan for the park aligned with the <i>Gunaikurnai Whole-of-Country Plan</i> and broader Gippsland Plains and Strzeleckis Park Landscape.
TB8	Undertake environmental projects and engage with partners to address soil erosion and to rehabilitate areas of significance.
TB9	Work with DELWP, community groups and private landholders through the Cores and Links program to create ecologically functional biolinks between patches of native vegetation of high conservation value around the park.
TB10	Investigate boundary adjustments to the park to rationalise irregularities and make logical inclusions of areas of high conservation importance.

Cultural heritage

TB11	Increase the visibility of Gunaikurnai cultural values in the park through <i>Welcome to Wurruk</i> and other appropriate signage relevant to the Brataualung clan at entry points and visitor nodes.
TB12	Implement the heritage conservation strategies in Table 4 including mapping and survey of Gunaikurnai cultural values and sites, in addition to the broader social values in the park. Implement a cultural values overlay based on the outcomes of cultural mapping.
TB13	Establish a plant and animal emblem for the park with totemic significance for Gunaikurnai.
TB14	Create opportunities for greater Gunaikurnai connection through visiting the park and undertaking community cultural activities and events.

-
- TB15 Consider establishing a designated camping area following survey and mapping of cultural values, and determine access and use arrangements.
 - TB16 Implement Gunaikurnai knowledge-sharing and understanding of culture through Elders and Gunaikurnai ranger-led activities.
 - TB17 Incorporate cultural values information into induction processes for contractors in the park.
 - TB18 Implement cultural resource management procedures for the park as agreed between the partners.
 - TB19 Implement the provisions of any Natural Resource Agreement that may be established for the park under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act.
-

People in the Park

Goals

Gunaikurnai increase their connection with the park through management, operations and the opportunity to undertake cultural practices.

Visitor and community enjoyment, experience and understanding of the park are enhanced by joint management.

- | No. | Action |
|------|--|
| TB20 | Manage the Tarra–Bulga visitor experience to provide highly accessible opportunities, services and facilities for picnicking, scenic driving, short walks and education for a wide range of visitor segments and abilities to appreciate and learn about <i>wurruk</i> and culture; and to control visitor impacts on the park’s natural and cultural values. Manage recreational activities in accordance with Table 5. Generally, maintain existing regulatory settings for activities and uses in the park, apart from changes set out in this plan (including approved variations) or changes arising from statutory requirements. |
| TB21 | Significantly increase the interpretation of Gunaikurnai culture in the park through signs, displays and online or printed information to present a more comprehensive story of the park and its natural and cultural heritage. |
| TB22 | Seek investment to undertake a substantial renovation of the Balook visitor centre to enhance interpretation of the park, Gunaikurnai culture and practices in mountain forest, and to provide an improved operations base for joint management rangers, volunteers, educators and others working in the park. |
| TB23 | Rename places in the park such as picnic grounds and walking tracks in traditional language. |
| TB24 | Establish Gunaikurnai interpretative information for visitors along park tracks about culturally important plants, animals and features. |
| TB25 | Ensure all tour operators undertake cultural awareness training conducted by Gunaikurnai, to enhance knowledge and protection of cultural heritage, and to improve interpretation of Gunaikurnai culture to visitors. |
| TB26 | Liaise with and assist Grand Strzeleckis Track Inc. to incorporate increased information about Gunaikurnai cultural heritage and joint management in their communications, and promote the loop section of the track centred on the park. |
| TB27 | Maintain the existing road and track network and public access arrangements in the park, and collaborate with VicRoads and the Wellington Shire Council on the management of roads through the park for which they are responsible. |
| TB28 | Investigate, with local tourism bodies and Destination Gippsland, the potential to increase the attractiveness of the park for visitors travelling on the Grand Ridge Road and the Princes |

Highway based on improved cultural interpretation in the Balook visitor centre and through the park.

- TB29 Explore possible eco-accommodation development on inliers or land adjacent to the park, incorporating possible business development opportunities for Gunaikurnai.
- TB30 Initiate discussions with school groups in South Gippsland and the wider Gippsland region to offer a program of cultural awareness and guided activities.
- TB31 Establish a Gunaikurnai junior ranger program in the park for schools in the Gippsland area.

Working Together

Goals

Joint management of Tarra–Bulga National Park operates as an effective partnership in which Gunaikurnai build their capacity to play a central role.

Community groups and stakeholders have the opportunity to contribute to the management of the park.

No.	Action
TB32	Implement a staged plan for Gunaikurnai to take a more active role in the operation of the visitor centre.
TB33	Promote the opportunities for the Gunaikurnai, Parks Victoria rangers, Friends of Tarra–Bulga and other community groups to share knowledge about the park and its management.
TB34	Increase the participation and input of Gunaikurnai in DELWP fire management programs in and around the park.
TB35	Provide opportunities for Parks Victoria rangers in the park to interact with other parks and partners in the RSA area to develop their understanding and knowledge of joint management approaches.
TB36	Maintain close collaboration with the West Gippsland CMA and DELWP biodiversity staff in relation to catchment connectivity and pest plant and animal programs in and around the park landscape.
TB37	Work with the Wellington Shire Council and the timber industry to reduce the impacts of traffic on park roads and ensure adequate maintenance.
TB38	Regularly liaise with community and stakeholder groups with an interest in the park including neighbours, and bushwalking, conservation, tourism and historical groups, and develop opportunities for volunteer programs and events.
TB39	Ensure Gunaikurnai are included in the assessment and approval of research applications in the park in accordance with the Aboriginal Heritage Act.
TB40	Implement relevant entitlements or obligations under the Native Title Act, and any future Land Use Activity agreement that is established under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010, relating to Gunaikurnai rights to negotiate long-term and high-impact leases and comment on lower impact authorisations in the park.
TB41	Where appropriate promote Gunaikurnai cultural sites by developing a series of site specific policies which will outline the level of public access, infrastructure requirements and culturally appropriate interpretive themes.

8 PLAN MONITORING AND REVIEW

An annual rolling plan will be used to implement the actions in Section 7. The progress and effectiveness in implementing these actions will be tracked by collecting two types of data:

- data on *activities* — what is being done under joint management
- data on *outcomes* — what changes are occurring as a result of what is being done.

Table 6 provides further detail on both types of data, and describes how they will be collected.

To minimise the burden of additional data collection processes, the methodology outlined below builds on existing project management processes and data wherever possible. Progress on actions that apply to more than one of the joint managed parks (for example, Gunaikurnai capacity building) will be reported under the Strategic Plan actions while tracking the initiatives in specific parks that contribute to that broader action.

Table 6: Data used to track progress in implementing the Joint Management Plan.

Data type	Description	Data source and method
Activities	<p>Activities are the things we are doing under joint management.</p> <p>Tracking activities is important for understanding whether the planned projects and activities are being implemented successfully. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the activities of each of the strategic initiatives documented in Table 5 in Section 4 of the Strategic Plan. • the actions described in this management plan for Tarra–Bulga National Park. 	<p>Tracking the activities outlined in the Introduction and Strategic Plan of the JMP will be based on the project management tools that the partners use to guide implementation.</p> <p>Existing project management tools should provide sufficient evidence and information on how implementation is progressing, what has been completed, any bottlenecks or issues to be addressed, and the staff responsible.</p>
Outcomes	<p>Outcomes are the changes that occur as a result of what is being done.</p> <p>Tracking outcomes is important for understanding whether the intended changes are being achieved, and therefore whether the goals for the first five-year period are being achieved. Outcomes are documented in Tables 3 and 4 of the Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>Some outcomes identified for the five-year goals can be tracked using existing project management tools, while others will require additional data collection.</p> <p>Appendix 2 of the Strategic Plan specifies potential indicators and timings for outcomes.</p>

Table 7 provides an example of the data that will be collected on the outcomes of joint management. It is an excerpt from the complete outcomes framework, which is contained in Appendix 2 of the Strategic Plan.

Table 7: Excerpt of outcomes framework from the Strategic Plan.

Theme	Example of outcome <i>The desired change</i>	Description <i>Further detail</i>	Indicators and frequency <i>How will the change be assessed?</i>
People	More visitors see, engage with, and learn from Gunaikurnai and non-Gunaikurnai staff on parks.	Gunaikurnai and non-Gunaikurnai rangers and other management staff will be more visible in parks, engaging with visitors and educating them about park values and Gunaikurnai heritage.	Number of rangers and other staff working in roles such as guides and educators. Detail on programs implemented to build capacity of rangers and staff as guides and educators (e.g. number of participants). <i>Annual</i>
Culture	Protections are in place for all identified cultural sites	Measures will be put in place to protect all culturally important sites from erosion, park use and other threats.	Percentage of identified cultural sites that have protections in place. <i>Annual</i>
Country	Rangers and management staff have the knowledge, skills and resources to implement sustainable, integrated land management practices.	Partners aim to continue capacity-building and training programs for rangers and other management staff in sustainable land management practices that integrate Gunaikurnai traditional practices with modern conventional practices.	Details on program (e.g. content, forms of capacity building implemented, number of rangers completing capacity building initiatives). <i>Annual</i>
Working Together	Decision-making processes are embedded.	The JMP specifies the decision-making processes in the governance structure. Partners will embed these by demonstrating they have put them into practice and are using them to make decisions.	Reflection on how decision-making processes and governance arrangements have been followed and complied with in the previous 12-month period, and lessons for the future. <i>Annual</i>

The monitoring regime, especially for Caring for Country and People in the Parks actions, will use measures and data specified in regional Conservation Action Plans and state-wide monitoring programs conducted across the broader park and reserve estate, including the *State of the Parks* and *State of the Forests*. This will be particularly important for monitoring outcomes, which are often complex and can only be monitored efficiently at selected locations rather than in every park.

This management plan has effect for 10 years and will be formally reviewed and renewed at the end of that period. After the five-year review of the Strategic Plan, any consequential variations to this management plan will be made at that time through a consultative process.

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Tarra-Bulga National Park
National Management Plan
 Joint Management Plan
 20/06/2018
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 (MGRS) UTM
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic



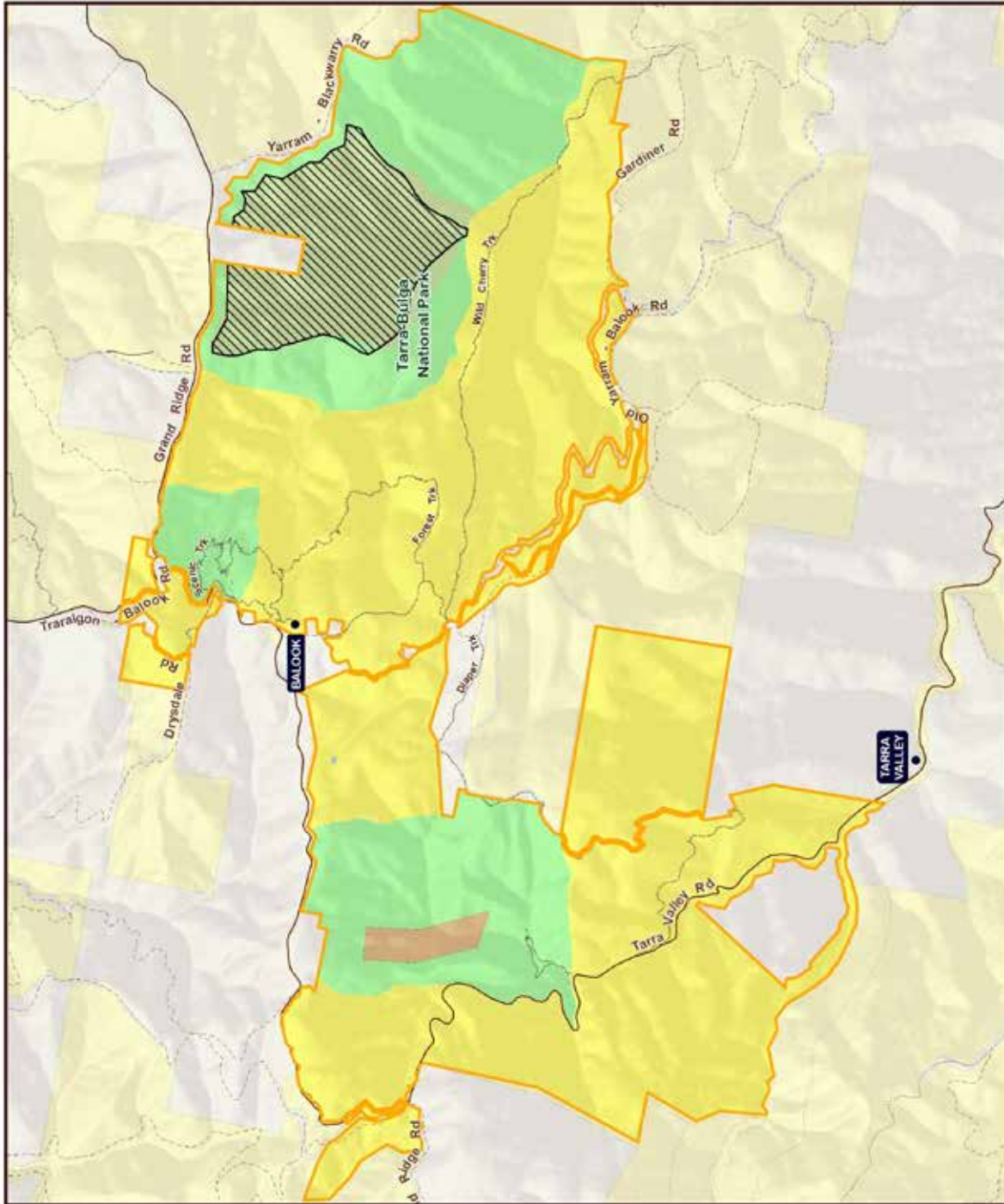

- Walking track
- 4WD
- Unsealed road
- Sealed road
- Arterial road
- Joint Management
- Public Land
- Park and Reserve

Management Zones and Overlays

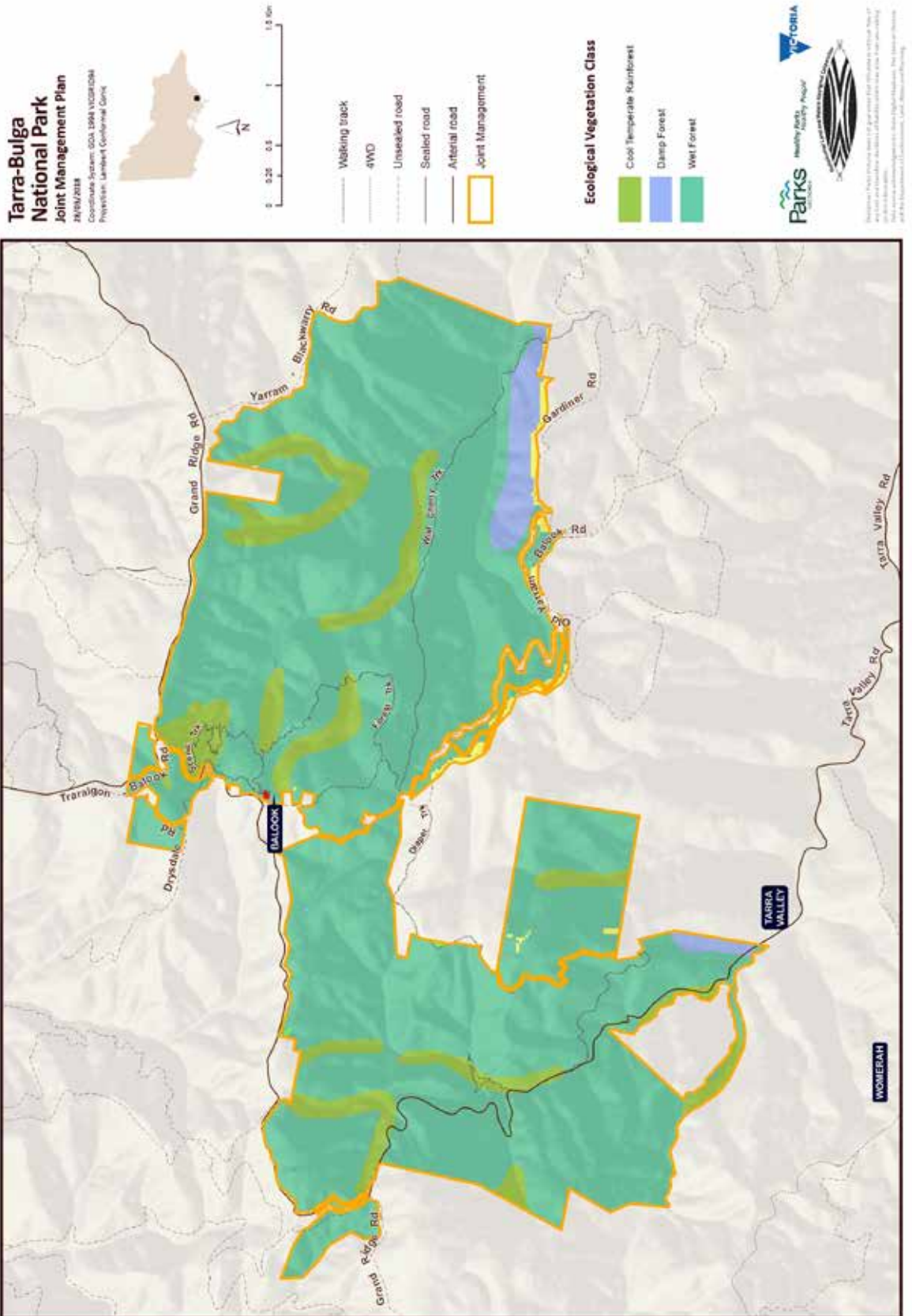
- Reference Area Zone
- Conservation Zone
- Conservation & Recreation Zone
- Special Protection Overlay

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Map 1: Management zones and overlays, Tarra–Bulga National Park.



Map 2: Ecological Vegetation Classes, Tarra–Bulga National Park.

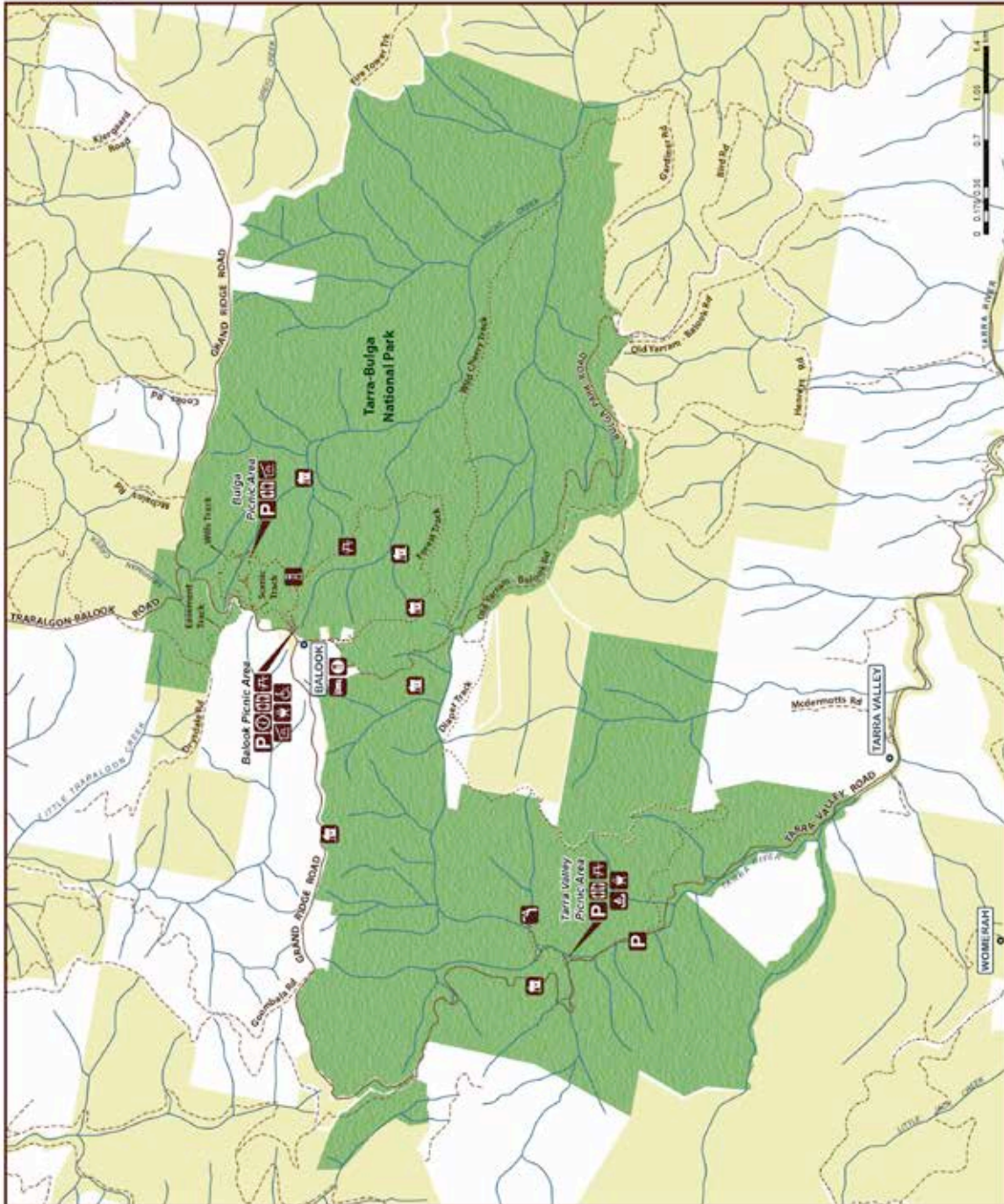
Tarra-Bulga National Park
Joint Management Plan

21/11/2011
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994, VICGD04
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic



- Visitor Sites & Facilities**
- Information Centre
 - BBQ
 - Carpark
 - Fire Place
 - Disabled Access
 - Ruins
 - Picnic Area
 - Accommodation
 - Toilet
 - Kiosk
 - Sheltered Picnic Area
 - Lookout
 - Corrigans Bridge
- Arterial Roads
 Sealed Roads
 Unsealed Roads
 Walking Tracks
 4WD
 Management Vehicles Only

- Joint Management
- Park and Reserve
- Public Land



Disclaimer: This map is for information only. It does not constitute a contract. The State Government and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
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Map 3: Visitor sites and facilities, Tarra-Bulga National Park.