

An aerial photograph of a coastal landscape. The foreground shows turquoise water with white foam from waves breaking onto a sandy beach. The middle ground features a dense line of green forest along the coast. Beyond the forest, the land rises into rolling green hills under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

*Ngootyoong
Gunditj
Ngootyoong Mara
South West*

Management Plan
May 2015

This Management Plan is approved for implementation. Its purpose is to direct all aspects of management of the parks, reserves, forest park and Indigenous Protected Areas until the plan is reviewed.

A Draft Management Plan for the area was published in August 2013 and 54 submissions were received. All submissions were carefully considered in preparing this approved Management Plan.

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Ngootyoong Gunditj *Ngootyoong Mara* South West

Management Plan
May 2015



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Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.

Disclaimer

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

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

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this 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 that may arise from you relying on any information in the publication.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that this document may contain images, names, quotes and other references to deceased people.

A note on Guditjmarra language

Guditjmarra language used in this plan is Dhauwurd Wurrung, which is the language of the people of the area east of the Glenelg River, south of the Wannon River and west of the Hopkins River.

Ngootyooong Guditj, Ngootyooong Mara translates from the Guditjmarra Dhauwurd Wurrung language to Healthy Country Healthy People. This recognises that the environmental, cultural, economic and social benefits of being on and caring for Country leads to healthy people and communities.

Ngootyooong Guditj Ngootyooong Mara is pronounced noot (as in foot) yoong guhn-ditch noot-yoong mah-ra.

Acknowledgements: The plan was developed by Parks Victoria for the partners by a planning team which included Brian Doolan, Ian Foletta, Linda Greenwood, James Hackel, Wendy Luke, Joe Mumford, Jason Walker and Chris Wrench.

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Front cover: Cape Bridgewater

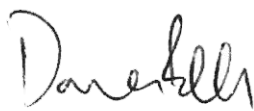
Approved Management Plan

The *Ngootyoong Gunditj Ngootyoong Mara* South West Management Plan is a strategic guide for managing and protecting over 130 parks, reserves and Indigenous Protected Areas in south-west Victoria. It takes a multiple park planning approach within a geographic landscape and covers over 116 000 hectares.

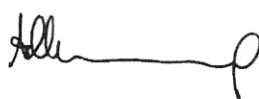
The plan integrates Gunditjmara Traditional Owners' knowledge into park management. The plan, prepared by Parks Victoria in partnership with Gunditjmara Traditional Owners, Budj Bim Council and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and with significant input from the community, aims to deliver complementary benefits for park management and the Traditional Owners. Goals and strategies for specific outcomes are provided across four types of Country – Stone Country, Sea Country, River Forest Country and Forest Country – and five natural ecosystems.

In developing the plan Parks Victoria consulted widely with a range of interested community and stakeholder groups and individuals. It was finalised following consideration of the 54 submissions received on the Draft Management Plan. The plan provides the basis for the future management of the national parks and other protected areas, reserves and Indigenous Protected Areas that comprise the planning area, and is approved for implementation.

The plan recognises the important contributions and participation that the community can make to park management and seeks to strengthen community relationships and encourage people to become involved with the area by supporting management with their knowledge, skills and enthusiasm.



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South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo
– Wilkin Flora and Fauna Reserve

Executive Summary

Ngootyoong Gunditj Ngootyoong Mara South West Management Plan May 2015

Ngootyoong Gunditj Ngootyoong Mara means Healthy Country, Healthy People and expresses the vision that the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners, other land managers and the wider community have for the future of more than 130 parks, reserves and Aboriginal community owned properties in south-west Victoria.

The *Ngootyoong Gunditj Ngootyoong Mara* South West Management Plan is a strategic guide for managing and protecting the parks, reserves and Aboriginal community owned properties (referred to as Indigenous Protected Areas) of the planning area. Parks Victoria (PV), the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners, Budj Bim Council and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning developed the plan as partners with valuable input from a broad range of interested community and stakeholder groups and individuals. As land managers, the plan partners will use the plan to guide management of these special areas.

A significant factor in managing protected areas across the planning area is Gunditjmara and Parks Victoria's cooperative management of Mount Eccles National Park through the Budj Bim Council. Cooperative management is one outcome from the Native Title settlement process with the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners.

The plan reflects a new approach by setting goals and priorities across National, State, Coastal, Forest and Regional parks, and reserves and IPAs, including the cooperative management of Mount Eccles National Park. This fresh approach recognises Gunditjmara Countries (River Forest Country; Stone Country; Forest Country; and Sea Country) and natural ecosystems in developing strategies for management. The strategies take a practical approach that recognises both the purpose of the parks and reserves and the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners' role in managing these special areas.

The plan respects the community's connections to the planning area, in particular the connections of the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners. The plan recognises that Country means the whole of the environment including nature and heritage, and material and spiritual components.

The plan takes a landscape-scale planning approach for protecting natural and cultural values, and recreation and tourism management across the planning area of over 116 000 hectares so that complementary action is taken over a wide area. A new approach to visitor services focuses on managing for the underlying value and experience important to park visitors in specific settings, destinations and journeys. There is an emphasis on cultural tourism and interpretation that recognises the Traditional Owners' responsibilities for setting directions and priorities for cultural heritage management to achieve the vision for the planning area.

The planning area

The plan covers over 116 000 hectares of public land and freehold Gunditjmara land in south-west Victoria comprising:

- nine National, State and Coastal Parks: Lower Glenelg, Mount Richmond and Cobboboonee national parks, Cape Nelson, Dergholm and Mount Napier state parks, Discovery Bay Marine National Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park, which are managed by Parks Victoria, and Mount Eccles National Park, which is cooperatively managed by Parks Victoria and the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners through the Budj Bim Council
- Cobboboonee Forest Park managed by DELWP
- 132 reserves and a regional park managed by Parks Victoria
- six Gunditjmara community owned properties, including three Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs).

Native Title held by the Gunditjmara covers most of the public land in the southern part of the planning area including Lower Glenelg, Cobboboonee, Mount Richmond and Mount Eccles national parks and Cobboboonee Forest Park.

All of the National, State and Coastal parks are managed under the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.). The Forest Park is managed under the *Forests Act 1958* (Vic.), and the regional park and reserves are managed under either the *Forests Act* or *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* (Vic.).

Most of the parks and reserves of the planning area have been well established over the past decades. Previous management plans have been largely implemented and the patterns of use and activities consolidated in this plan. Newer parks are Discovery Bay Marine National Park, created as part of Victoria's representative system of marine protected areas in 2002, and Cobboboonee National Park and Cobboboonee Forest Park, established in 2008.

While the plan cannot recommend boundary changes, the advantage of a landscape-scale plan is that it can consider management problems and solutions that extend beyond the protected area. For example, the current boundary of Discovery Bay Marine NP excludes intertidal and sub-tidal reefs. Strategies within the plan will assist protection of these high conservation value areas.

The following is a summary of how land manager actions and partnerships will contribute to delivering the vision for the planning area over the next 15 years.

Across the whole planning area

- Parks and reserves will be managed for nature and cultural heritage conservation and a range of recreation and tourism activities, while the IPAs will be managed for natural and cultural conservation and some limited visitor access.
- The Gunditjmara Traditional Owners' knowledge, practices and connection with Country will be respected and bring a cultural approach to planning and management.

- Management programs will be delivered to maximise the resilience and ecological integrity of Country and natural ecosystems using an adaptive management approach.
- The Gunditjmara Traditional Owners' ecological knowledge and practices and contemporary science and management practices will inform land, water and fire management.
- Environmental management will be guided by setting goals and strategies for natural ecosystems through a risk assessment and prioritisation process, providing land managers with a realistic and prioritised basis for implementing operational programs with a clear purpose for each of the natural ecosystems.
- Gunditjmara Traditional Owners retain decision making for management of Indigenous cultural heritage places.
- Gunditjmara Traditional Owners will build capacity in park management.
- Strategic bushfire management will include planned burning, control of bushfires and will protect ecological and cultural values consistent with managing risks to human life.
- Visitor Experience Areas will help to align management effort to support visitor experiences across the landscape rather than a site and asset approach.
- The wide range of recreation activities in remote to more developed natural settings in the forests, rivers, estuaries and beaches of the planning area will continue.
- Cultural tourism will be supported based on an understanding of Country and heritage values, places and landscapes.
- Public roads and access will remain largely unchanged across the planning area. Access in Cobboboonee and Mount Richmond national parks will be rationalised subject to public consultation.

Cooperative management of Mount Eccles National Park

Cooperative management of Mount Eccles National Park by Parks Victoria and the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners through the Budj Bim Council as Victoria's first cooperative managed national park will see a new way of managing the land to achieve both ecological and cultural objectives through joint decision making. The process will be adaptive, respectful and mutually responsive and involve listening and learning together.

- Joint decision making will direct land management programs such as pest plant and animal control, managing the koala population and fire.
- Shared goals will help care for Country and improve the health of the woodlands from years of drought and impacts of koala overpopulation.
- Use of cultural practices for managing the environment to improve the overall health of the park will be explored.

- Visitor experiences will be enhanced as a focus for Stone Country including interpretation of the cultural landscape and Budj Bim trail linking the national park and IPAs.
- Two way sharing of expertise between agencies and Gunditjmara Traditional Owners will build capacity in land management.

National, State, Coastal and Forest Parks and other reserves

- Park management will take an adaptive and landscape approach to setting goals and strategies across multiple parks for ecosystems, natural assets and their threats. Focus areas will direct implementation effort for pest plant and animal control including native animal control.
- Work will continue with Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and agencies to implement cross-tenure pest plant and animal programs and measures for water quality improvement and reduced sediment loads to minimise catchment related impacts on the parks.
- Fire management will support ecological outcomes such as maintaining a mosaic of growth stage diversity, and be appropriate for specific vegetation communities such as riparian and wetland vegetation.
- Visitor Experience Areas will support important activities and park experiences and guide management to protect these opportunities for visitors. These will also take into account the key journeys and destinations including the landscape and features of south-west Victoria, from the coast to the forests and inland rivers.
- The iconic Great South West Walk, a long distance 250 km semi-remote hiking opportunity through a variety of landscapes, including forest (Cobboboonee National Park), river (Lower Glenelg National Park) and coast experiences (Discovery Bay Coastal Park), will be promoted.
- Camping and hiking opportunities will continue to be provided along the Glenelg River supporting multi-day and single day canoe journeys, with some canoe-based and some vehicle accessible camping areas. Power boating and waterskiing will continue on the river's lower sections.
- Horse riding, hiking and camping such as around the Fitzroy River and Surry River areas will continue in Cobboboonee National Park and Forest Park. Dedicated horse riding opportunities will be provided.
- Cave experiences will be supported through the information centre at Princess Margaret Rose Cave and interpretation of the geological history of the lava caves at Byaduk Caves.
- Cobboboonee Forest Park will continue to provide a range of uses including visitor facilities at Cubbys Camping Area, a trailbike area, and production of minor forest produce.
- Existing authorised uses including honey production will continue.

Indigenous Protected Areas

- Ways of managing the environment for cultural resources and ecological benefits will be relearnt.
- New ways of learning that integrate cultural knowledge and traditional land management into park and reserve management will be explored.
- Expertise will be shared to build cultural heritage capacity among agencies and ecological and fire management capacity among Gunditjmara Traditional Owners.
- Combined ecological and cultural objectives, such as undertaking cultural burning to restore wetlands and bring back wildlife, will be priorities for management.
- Ecosystems and ecosystem processes that have been degraded from past land use, such as on formerly cleared and farmed areas that are now IPAs, will be restored.
- Drainage will be reversed to restore natural wetland systems including the return of Lake Condah to a functioning aquaculture landscape.
- With the Gunditjmara on Country, visitors will be offered new opportunities including face-to-face interpretation of Country and culture.
- Sustainable tourism businesses including tours, bush tucker and eel aquaculture will be developed.

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Cape Nelson Lighthouse
– Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve

1 Overview

1.1 About the management plan

This plan is a strategic guide for management of the parks, reserves, forest park and Indigenous Protected Areas within the planning area. The plan takes a landscape approach setting goals and strategies across multiple parks and land tenures and coordinating programs with other agencies and the community. The planning area covers the areas listed below (listed in full in Appendix 1) totalling almost 116 000 hectares in Victoria's south-west (map 1).

The plan was developed by Parks Victoria in partnership with the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). The plan is the result of the contributions, knowledge and hard work of many people. Addressing the many and varied issues necessary in the plan's preparation has given all the partners involved far greater insights into everyone's perspectives on Country and its conservation. The draft plan was made available for public comment from August to November 2013 and 54 written submissions were received. All comments were carefully considered in finalising this plan. Where necessary, further consultation was undertaken with the community and stakeholders (section 1.4).

The plan articulates management outcomes over a 15-year time frame, starting with a *Vision* for the area and *Zoning* (chapters 2 and 3). Based on these, a series of *Goals* has been determined and *Strategies* provided to direct management activities towards achieving those goals (chapters 4 to 7). Goals are measurable statements describing what management and the community are seeking to achieve for specific areas or aspects of park management (figure 1.1).

The planning area includes nine national, state and coastal parks, Gunditjmara community owned properties, a forest park and 132 reserves in Victoria's south-west.

MANAGEMENT PLAN		
Chapter 1	Overview	Essential background and basis
Chapter 2	Vision	A description of how the parks will look to a future visitor – the ultimate result of management
Chapter 3	Zoning	Geographic areas where different management directions and allowable activities apply
Chapters 4 to 7	Goals	Statements that describe what management seeks to achieve
	Strategies	Approaches, activities or methods to realise the Goals
	Implementation activity	Activity indicating delivery of Strategy

Figure 1.1 Management plan structure

This approved plan completes the planning process for Cobboboonee National and Forest Parks, which were not included in the *Portland and Horsham Forests Forest Management Plan 2010*. It replaces the following park management plans and complements and directs implementation of the existing IPA plans:

- Lower Glenelg National Park 1991
- Mount Eccles National Park and Mount Napier State Park 1996
- Dergholm section of Dergholm and Mount Arapiles State Parks 1998
- Discovery Bay Parks 2004 (Mount Richmond National Park, Cape Nelson State Park and Lighthouse Reserve and Discovery Bay Coastal Park)
- Discovery Bay Marine National Park 2007

Although the plan has a 15-year timeframe, some goals may be achieved earlier. Some goals and strategies may need to be changed as a result of adaptive management, new knowledge or changing circumstances to continue to achieve the vision. Progress in implementing the plan will be reviewed every five years. Over the life of the management plan, it may be necessary to review goals and strategies and review the way the parks, reserves and IPAs are managed. Where necessary the management plan will be amended in consultation with the community (section 1.3). The plan and any amendments are available on Parks Victoria's website www.parkweb.vic.gov.au.

Planning Area

The main legislation relating to the parks and reserves are the National Parks Act, Forests Act, Crown Land (Reserves) Act, *Heritage Rivers Act 1992* (Vic), and the *Reference Areas Act 1978* (Vic.)

National, State and Coastal parks

Eight areas reserved under the National Parks Act and managed by Parks Victoria primarily for conservation and compatible recreation. Referred to collectively as 'parks' in the plan.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Cobboboonee National Park | 18 510 ha |
| • Discovery Bay Marine National Park | 2770 ha |
| • Lower Glenelg National Park | 26 430 ha |
| • Mount Richmond National Park | 1733 ha |
| • Cape Nelson State Park | 210 ha |
| • Dergholm State Park | 10 400 ha |
| • Mount Napier State Park | 2800 ha |
| • Discovery Bay Coastal Park | 10 460 ha |

Lower Glenelg National Park includes three Reference Areas – Cobboboonee, Keegans Bend and Kentbruck Heath – and much of the Glenelg Heritage River.

Cooperatively managed National Park

One park reserved under the National Parks Act and cooperatively managed by Budj Bim Council and Parks Victoria primarily for conservation and compatible recreation in accordance with National Parks Act and the Native Title Act agreement. Included in the collective term 'parks' in the plan.

- Mount Eccles National Park 8565 ha

Mount Eccles National Park includes The Stones Reference Area.

Aboriginal community owned properties

Freehold land owned by the Gunditjmara community (Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation) and declared or intended as Indigenous Protected Areas by the Gunditjmara community owners and recognised by the Australian Government. Indigenous communities are supported to manage Indigenous Protected Areas for cultural heritage, conservation, sustainable use of cultural resources and public education as part of Australia's network of protected areas. These areas are referred to as 'IPAs' in the plan whether declared or proposed as an IPA.

- Lake Condah IPA (includes the Mission, Allambie and Muldoons) 1700 ha
- Kurtonitj IPA 353 ha
- Tyrendarra IPA 248 ha
- Peters 139 ha
- Lake Gorrie 502 ha
- Bryants 75 ha

Forest park

One park reserved under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act, and managed under the Forests Act as a forest park by DELWP for conservation, recreation and sustainable resource use. The Forests Act prohibits sawlog and pulpwood in the forest park. This park is referred to as 'Forest Park' in the plan.

- Cobboboonee Forest Park 8685 ha

Other reserves

Areas reserved under either the Forests Act or Crown Land (Reserves) Act and managed by Parks Victoria for a variety of purposes, including conservation and recreation, as recommended by the former Land Conservation Council (LCC) and accepted by Government.

A number of these reserves are further reserved under the *Wildlife Act 1975* (Vic.) as:

- Wildlife Reserves (hunting permitted) and State Game Reserves (game hunting is permitted) and classified as Natural Features Reserves or
- Wildlife Reserves (hunting not permitted) and classified as Nature Conservation Reserves.

Gunditj means Country – the whole of the environment including nature and heritage, and material and spiritual components.

These areas are referred to collectively as ‘reserves’ in the plan. The major reserves in this category include:

- Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve 23 ha
- Crawford River Regional Park 2419 ha
- 22 Nature Conservation Reserves 6700 ha
- 106 Natural Features Reserves 12 800 ha
- Portland North Cemetery Historic Area 2 ha
- Two Coastal Reserves 230 ha

Planning landscape

The landscape of the planning area has been occupied by Aboriginal people for millennia (figure 1.2). The area east of the Glenelg River and south of the Wannon River is the traditional Country of Gunditjmara (Dhauwurd Wurrung language).

This landscape coincides with the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (TOAC) Registered Aboriginal Party area and is made up of many features that are inter-related. These include the lands and waters, plants and animals, special places and stories, historic and current uses, and people and their interactions with each other and place. These features are seen as inseparable and make up what is known as Country. The Gunditjmara Traditional Owners place cultural values on natural areas, including aesthetic, social, spiritual, recreational and other values. Cultural values may be attached to the landscape as a whole or to individual components, for example to plant and animal species used by Gunditjmara Traditional Owners.

While these inter-relationships are recognised, for clarity and ease of use, this plan addresses many of these topics individually in developing goals and strategies to achieve clear outcomes for the parks and reserves.

Governance

The *Parks Victoria Act 1998* (Vic.) enables management services for parks and reserves to be provided on behalf of the Secretary to DELWP by Parks Victoria. Although Parks Victoria, DELWP and Budj Bim Council are responsible for overall management of the public land parks and reserves, other agencies are responsible for planning, managing or regulating certain activities.

DELWP establishes parks and reserves and provides strategic direction and policy advice for the management of the parks and reserves, including flora and fauna values and threatening processes, fire management, and catchment protection.

DELWP also advises on pest plants and animals, salinity and sustainable production practices and is responsible for commercial wood utilisation on Crown land including Cobboboonee Forest Park. The Game Management Authority is responsible for management and regulation of game and game hunting.

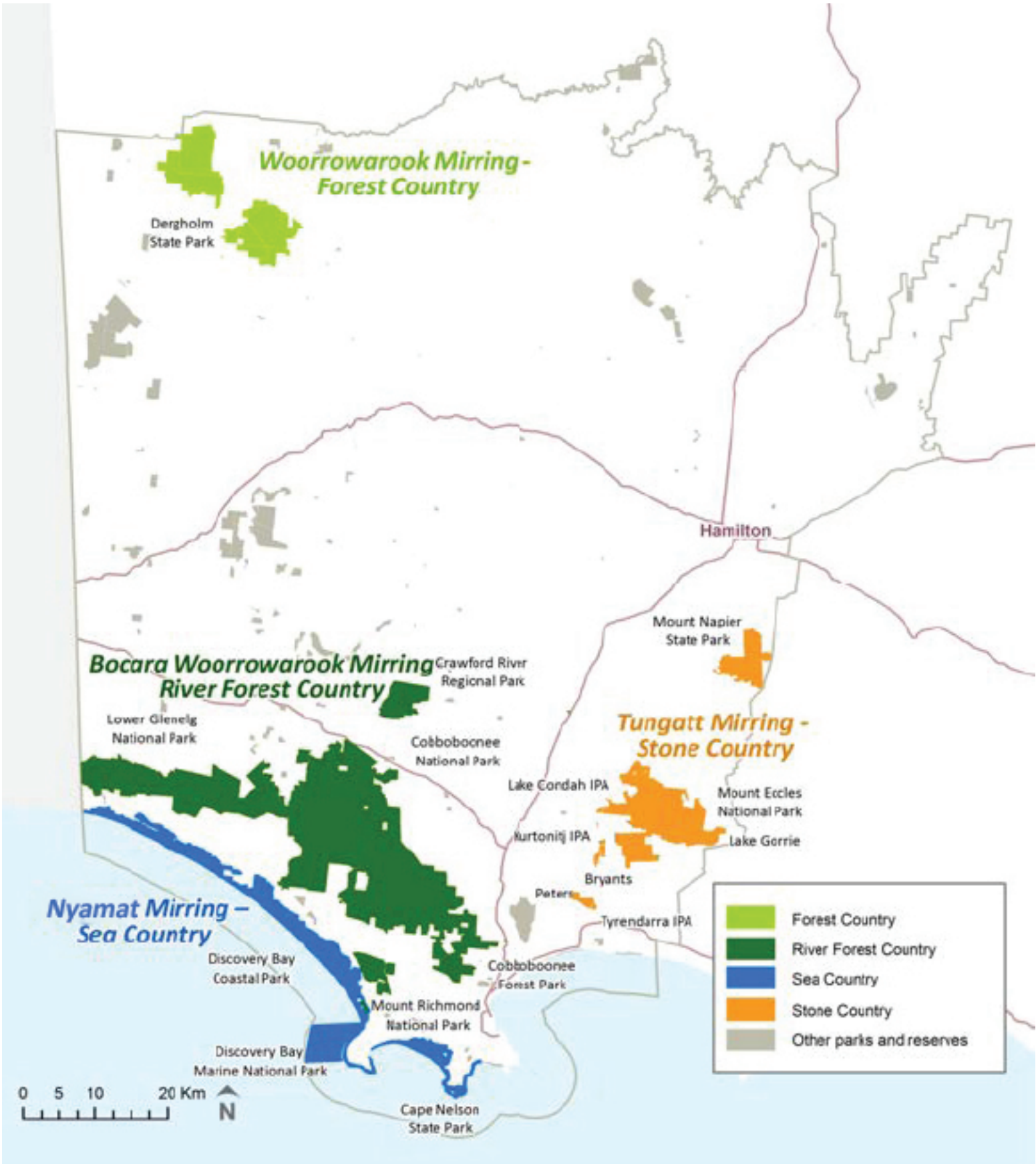


Figure 1.2 Key parks in the four types of Country

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources is responsible for the sustainable development of the extractive, oil and gas, geothermal energy, minerals exploration and mining industries in Victoria, through the provision of policy advice, regulation and promotion. Fisheries Victoria is the lead agency for enforcement of fishing prohibitions in the Marine National Park.

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority is responsible for facilitating and coordinating the management of the catchments in an integrated and sustainable manner for land, biodiversity and water resources. VicRoads is responsible for the management of major highways and access roads. Four shires – Glenelg, Southern Grampians, West Wimmera and Moyne – are responsible for planning, use and development of freehold land and the management of the local road network.

Registered Aboriginal Party

The Gunditj Mirring TOAC is recognised as a Registered Aboriginal Party under the Aboriginal Heritage Act. As such the Gunditj Mirring TOAC is recognised as the primary guardians, keeper and knowledge holder of Aboriginal cultural heritage for the planning area.

The Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation holds cultural heritage responsibility under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic.) for the whole planning area and Native Title over their traditional Country. The Gunditjmara respectfully acknowledge that their responsibility for cultural heritage protection throughout the planning area includes areas of the neighbouring clan groups Buandik Country (north-west) and Jardwadjali Country (north) with permission given by those groups in 1997.

The Gunditj Mirring TOAC's responsibilities include evaluating Cultural Heritage Management Plans, providing advice on applications for Cultural Heritage Permits, decisions about Cultural Heritage Agreements and advice or application for interim or ongoing Protection Declarations.

Native Title

A Native Title consent determination on 30 March 2007 recognised the Gunditjmara People's non-exclusive Native Title rights and interests over almost 132 000 hectares of vacant Crown land, national parks, reserves, rivers, creeks and sea north-west of Warrnambool, bounded on the west by the Glenelg River and to the north by the Wannon River. The area covers most of the southern half of the planning area and includes Lower Glenelg National Park, Cobboboonee National Park, Mount Richmond National Park, Mount Eccles National Park and Cobboboonee Forest Park and state forest.

In accordance with the Native Title Act, the State of Victoria reached an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Gunditjmara People that recognises Gunditjmara rights and interests in the determination area. In addition, the State Government and the Gunditjmara agreed to cooperative management of Mount Eccles National Park (see below) and the transfer of the freehold title of Lake Condah Reserve to the Gunditj Mirring TOAC.

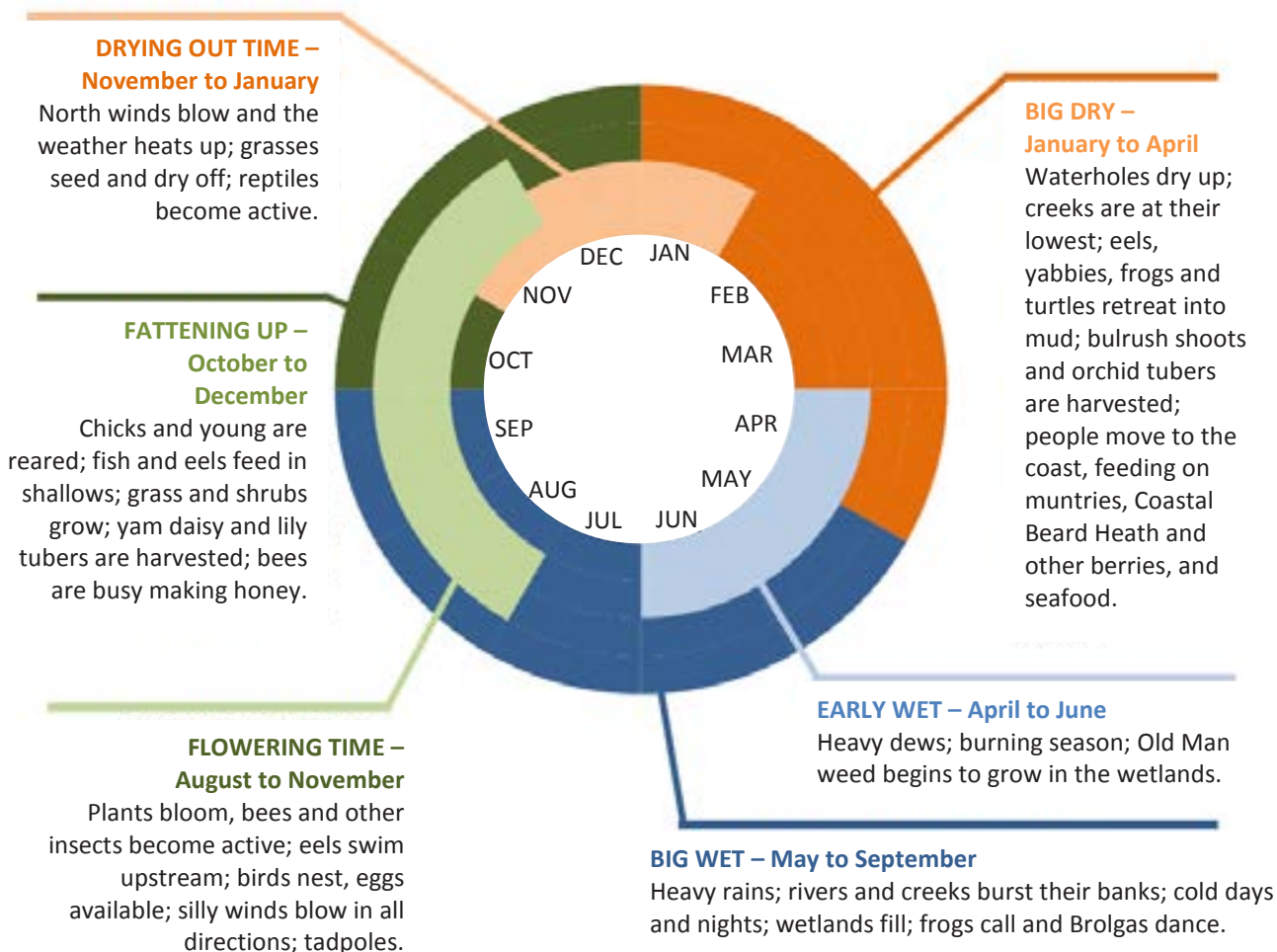


Figure 1.3 The six seasons of Gunditjmarra Country

Cooperative management

Mount Eccles National Park is Victoria's first cooperatively managed national park. The partnership between the Gunditj Mirring TOAC and the Victorian Government was formalised with the establishment of the Budj Bim Council, which includes representatives of the Gunditjmarra Traditional Owners and the State. The purpose of cooperative management as a National Park is to benefit both the Gunditjmarra and the wider community through recognising Gunditjmarra Traditional Owners' culture and knowledge, providing quality opportunities and public education and by conserving, protecting and enhancing natural and cultural values.

1.2 Gunditjmarra Country

For the Gunditjmarra, Country encapsulates people, plants and animals alike. It embraces the seasons, stories and spirits of the Creation. This flowing, connected cultural landscape possesses sacred places, proud languages, vibrant ceremonies, strong totems, ancient art, unique clan groupings, and law and lore. Gunditjmarra spirit is in this Country, from *Tungatt* (the stones), entwined in *Woorrowarook* (forests), along *Bocara* (Glenelg River) to the roaring *Nyamat* (sea).

Gunditjmarra Country is a diverse landscape in far south-western Victoria bounded by the Glenelg, Wannon and Hopkins Rivers and extending beyond the planning area to the east and beyond the coast to areas inundated by the sea. Gunditjmarra Country includes volcanic plains, dramatic coastline, limestone caves, rich forests, healthy rivers and plentiful Sea Country, including *Deen Maar* (Lady Julia Percy Island), where the Gunditjmarra believe the spirits of their dead travel to wait to be reborn. Gunditjmarra oral history tells of a volatile landscape with earthquakes, volcanic explosions and lava flows into the Southern Ocean. The Gunditjmarra identify four types of Country (figure 1.2) and recognise six seasons (figure 1.3) and these will be used to support management.



Glenelg River

– Lower Glenelg National Park

Bocara Woorwarook Mirring – River Forest Country

Lower Glenelg National Park, Cobboboonee National Park, Cobboboonee Forest Park, Mount Richmond National Park, Crawford River Regional Park

Bocara Woorwarook Mirring, or River Forest Country, is centred on the lower *Bocara* (Glenelg River) and its tributaries, and on the bordering creeks and swamps, and heaths and forests. The river, long a gathering place for fishing and camping by Gunditjmara, is a fishing ground, playground and destination for locals and visitors alike. Many sites of camps, jetties, huts and boat sheds along the river and at scenic places like Moleside remain as visitor sites today.

The heaths like Kentbruck Heath and areas like Mount Richmond inspired an appreciation for environment and for the scenic and wilder places to be conserved. The creation of parks halted the development of pine plantations and past land clearing practices, preserving what remained for all.

The Cobboboonee was timber country with giant trees. Used for timber harvesting, the forests provided work for many but were also places for recreation and gathering resources like firewood. The debate over the future of the forests was bitter and divisive. The creation of new parks saw the coming together of goals to conserve the forests and recognise and protect Gunditjmara sacred places to be valued and enjoyed.



Lake Surprise

– Mount Eccles National Park

Tungatt Mirring – Stone Country

Mount Eccles National Park, Mount Napier State Park, Indigenous Protected Areas

Tungatt Mirring, or Stone Country, is centred on dramatic volcanoes and lava flows. It stretches from Mount Napier in the north to encompass Mount Eccles (Budj Bim) and the Tyrendarra lava flows, and the extensive lakes and wetlands created as a result of volcanic eruptions, including Lake Condah. *Tungatt Mirring* today is marked by the Stony Rises, with Manna Gum woodland and the progressive purchase and restoration of Aboriginal community owned properties.

Budj Bim is the source of the Tyrendarra lava flow. Thousands of years ago this lava flowed across more than 50 km of land, west and south to the sea, and dramatically altered the drainage pattern of the land. This lava flow is very important to the Gunditjmara people because it created an opportunity to build a vast and complex aquaculture network. With the re-formed landscape the Gunditjmara engineered channels to divert water, fish and eels inland to holding ponds and wetlands. Here the fish and eels grew fat and were harvested with woven baskets set as fish traps in weirs constructed out of volcanic rocks. This resource allowed for permanent settlement, and the Gunditjmara constructed stone shelters. The success of the aquaculture was such that excess eels were smoked and traded.

Tungatt Mirring is central to the story of Gunditjmara people. It is a place of plenty, of refuge, of loss, of family and community, of inequity, of family settlements, a place where wetlands were drained and wars fought. A natural landscape from a western perspective that is intensely cultural. A remarkable Country of continuing connection for the Gunditjmara people.



Baileys Rocks
– Dergholm State Park

Woorrowarook Mirring – Forest Country

Dergholm State Park

Woorrowarook Mirring, or Forest Country, covers the forested plateaus in the north of the planning area that is the Country of the Jardwadjali and Bunganditj (Buandig) clans. The swamps and forests that were rich in resources were places of massacres and displacement as the colonists took the best watered and located lands from the Aboriginal people. The Aboriginal people were moved off Country leaving a gap in our knowledge of the Aboriginal heritage.

Vast pastoral runs turned to smaller farming settlements as colonists struggled with the challenges of the land, variable water flows, fire and drought. In time, some areas, including Dergholm State Park, were returned to forest. People still gather at places like Bailey’s Rocks to celebrate together and enjoy nature.



Rock pools
– Discovery Bay Marine National Park

Nyamat Mirring – Sea Country

Discovery Bay Coastal Park, Cape Nelson State Park, Discovery Bay Marine National Park

Defined by the meeting of the fresh and salt water, *Nyamat Mirring* was a place of contact where the earliest Europeans and Aboriginal people first met. A place of conflict over abundant ocean resources, of violence where Europeans massacred Gunditjmara ancestors, of danger with tales of shipwrecks and of abundance of fish, shell fish and birds. The place where eels come from the sea to travel to *Tungatt Mirring*.

Nayamat Mirring includes the submerged lands that bear the footprints of Gunditjmara ancestors. It is a place where the spirits of Gunditjmara ancestors cross over the sea to *Deen Maar* (Lady Julia Percy Island). It is a place of stunning beauty where people flock to have fun, holiday, enjoy nature and solitude. Its coastal cliffs, dune fields, beaches, wetlands and woodlands continue to provide the healthy environment and plentiful resources that sustain communities and wildlife. The coast of Discovery Bay is filled with Aboriginal artefacts that are evidence of earlier ages of plenty and integral to the cultural heritage of the Gunditjmara people. Sealers and whalers massacred almost the entire Kilcarer gundidj clan at the 'Convincing Ground' in *Nyamat Mirring* within the planning landscape, one of many recorded massacre sites throughout the Countries.

1.3 Planning approach

Parks Victoria's management approach for Victoria's parks and reserves sits within the context of State and Commonwealth legislation, international treaties, broader government public and private land policies and plans, best-practice principles, strategies and guidelines.

In synergy with the Gunditjmara people's philosophy of *Ngooyoong Gunditj, Ngooyoong Mara* (Healthy Country, Healthy People), the plan reflects *Healthy Parks Healthy People*, which seeks to reinforce and encourage the connections between a healthy environment and a healthy society. *Healthy Parks Healthy People* is supported by international research from fields as diverse as ecology, biology, environmental psychology and psychiatry that shows that access to nature plays a vital role in human health, wellbeing and development. The approach encourages those from the health, environment, parks, tourism, recreation, community development and education sectors to work together to provide a better outcome for all.

The management plan also adopts a landscape approach, setting goals and strategies across multiple parks and land tenures and coordinating programs with other agencies and the community. The alignment with broader State and federal strategies for the use, management and conservation of land and water such as Regional Catchment Strategies are particularly important to achieving the desired management outcomes across all land tenures.

This planning approach seeks to make direct links between management plans and annual programs and evaluation and reporting, such as State of the Parks.

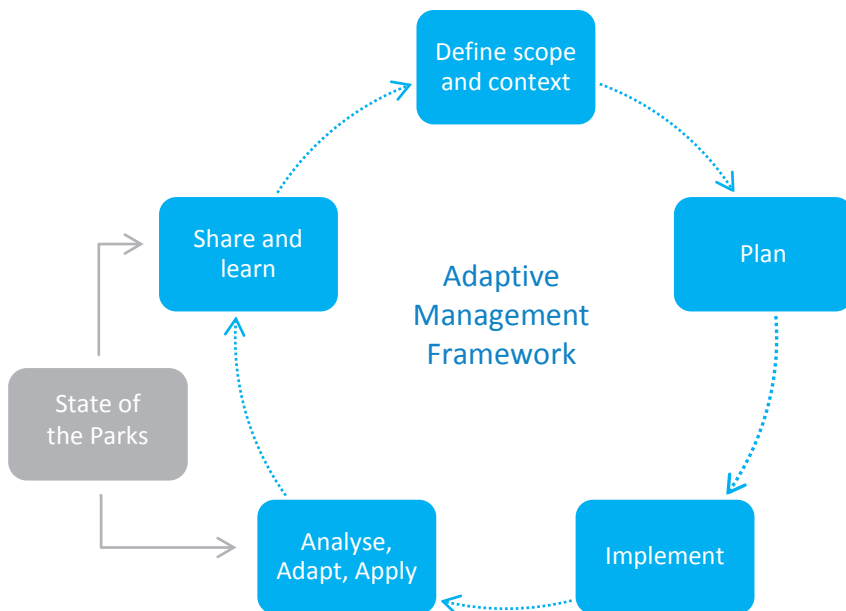
Plan implementation

The management plan facilitates sound management that meets statutory obligations, enables the community to take part in decision making, assists in the resolution of conflicts over uses and activities, and the continuity of management. All proposed activities and programs in the parks and reserves need to relate to the delivery of a plan goal or strategy. Hence the plan directs annual park programming and priority setting.

Implementation priorities for plan strategies will be identified for each five year period as a further guide to staff delivering the plan. Annual operational planning details specific works or projects, budgets, accountabilities and timelines for completion each year at a regional, district or IPA level.

Delivery of programs, including monitoring against agreed standards is reviewed and reported as part of routine organisational practice and progress also measured against the implementation priorities. Adaptive management, an integral part of the planning approach, is outlined below.

The Adaptive Management Framework (AMF) as shown in figure 1.4 allows for ongoing learning by continually assessing the success of actions in meeting management objectives, and allowing adjustment to management actions in the future. It is the integration of various components of management to provide a framework that systematically tests assumptions, promotes learning and continuous improvement, and provides timely information to support management decisions.



Adaptive Management Framework steps:

1. Conceptualise what you will achieve in the context of where you are working.
2. Plan both your Actions and Monitoring.
3. Implement both your Actions and Monitoring.
4. Analyse your data to evaluate the effectiveness of your activities. Use your results to Adapt your project to maximize impact.
5. Capture and Share results with key external and internal audiences to promote learning

Figure 1.4 Adaptive Management Framework

The framework provides logical steps and a range of tools to guide the effective implementation and evaluation of the management of Country and enables a clearer connection to be made between desired outcomes and actions on the ground.

Plan evaluation

Many strategies in the plan will be implemented as part of day to day management of parks and reserves and these are reported and recorded through normal management processes. It is important to track progress of park management programs beyond completing activities. It is also important to track management effectiveness and progress towards achieving the goals for the planning area.

The goals for key values and strategies to achieve the goals, including strategies that address the threats they face, together with key activity areas for implementation, are identified in chapters 4 to 7. Completing and aggregating reporting on the strategies will ultimately realise the goals for the planning area.

Careful analysis is required to determine the cause of changes in values and uses; whether they can be attributed to park management or other effects. Given the timeframe of many ecological processes, measuring of values is undertaken at timeframes ranging from five to ten years or longer and data compared with earlier assessments. Evaluation of management effectiveness uses information collected through monitoring programs to inform future management. The World Commission on Protected Areas framework forms the basis for knowledge assessment of context, plans, actions, resources, processes, outputs and outcomes.

The following measures are proposed as interim measures of park goals and are aimed at indicating the success of overall park management rather than of the specific strategies noted throughout this plan. They will generally be reported through the State of the Parks report, which is prepared every five years, and in Parks Victoria's Annual Report. These measures are expected to be refined and, subject to available funding, further measures identified with the development of Signs of Healthy Parks monitoring and other programs and as more information becomes available and techniques improve.

Key measures for park goals

Protecting the natural environment

The park goals are to maintain the extent, condition and complexity of ecosystems and habitats and populations of communities and species, and where possible improve the diversity of vegetation growth stages. Measures include:

- Condition and trend in condition of Dry Forests and Woodlands, Inland Waters and Wetlands, and Heathland Natural Ecosystems in Lower Glenelg and Cobboboonee National Parks, Dergholm State Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park (State of the Parks) – maintain
- Trend in habitat condition for South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo – improve
- Trend in numbers and breeding success of Hooded Plovers – increase
- Trend in numbers of waterfowl in IPAs – increase
- Trend in numbers of Long-nosed Potoroos and Southern Brown Bandicoots – increase
- Trend in ecosystems within known tolerable fire intervals – increase
- Area of planned burning meeting ecological and risk mitigation objectives – increase
- Understanding predicted future climate impacts – increase.

Community connections

The park goals include recognising and respecting people's heritage and connections. Measures include:

- Involvement in park management of Gunditjmara Traditional Owners – increase
- Involvement of volunteers and other community groups such as Friends of Great South West Walk – maintain.

People in the parks

The parks goals include maintaining a range of experiences while protecting the environment. Measures include:

- Visitor experience and level of satisfaction – maintain
- Condition of visitor facilities – maintain
- Trend in condition of the road and track network – maintain to appropriate standards
- Trend in walking track condition – maintain to appropriate standards.



Community open house
– Portland

1.4 Community input

The plan has been developed with extensive consultation. Discussion papers, fact sheets, maps and other information were made available on Parks Victoria's website which allowed interested community members to contribute ideas and comment.

Five community open house days were held in April and May 2012 in the region at Macarthur, Portland, Heywood, Nelson and Casterton. A research project in partnership with the University of South Australia and the University of Queensland enabled online community mapping to improve knowledge of places and experiences that are important for people in relation to recreation, culture, heritage and other significant values across the planning area. The information helped in reviewing zoning for the planning area including defining Visitor Experience Areas which protect those experiences identified. Cultural mapping was also undertaken as part of a Cultural Heritage and Social Values Assessment. The assessment project gathered and assessed information on Gunditjmara cultural heritage, land use history and historic and contemporary connections across the planning area, and identified places of non-Indigenous cultural heritage significance, many of which shared values with the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners.

Open House participants and the community mapping projects provided significant input into the draft plan. To date this consultation has identified a number of issues including:

- fuel reduction burns and their impacts on biodiversity, wildlife and flora
- improving access to sites, information and experiences of Gunditjmara culture, and visitor facilities in Mount Eccles National Park and Lake Condah
- maintaining horse riding access in parks and reserves, especially in Cobboboonee National Park and Forest Park
- support for a name change of Mount Eccles National Park
- improving the management of weeds.

The Draft Management Plan was released for community consultation from 27 August 2013 to 11 November 2013. All submissions were carefully considered when preparing this plan. A total of 54 submissions were received on the draft plan

including 22 from organisations and 32 from individuals (appendix 2). Submissions included over 280 comments, issues and suggestions. Where needed, further consultation was undertaken with partners, the community and stakeholders to finalise this plan.

The submissions supported a number of key aspects of the plan including support for increased involvement of Gunditjmara Traditional Owners in park management and a planning approach that doesn't stop at park boundaries but looks across land tenures to ensure programs are effective across the landscape. The main issues raised in submissions during consultation on the draft plan were renaming Mount Eccles National Park, dog walking, horse riding, beekeeping, Visitor Experience Areas and measures proposed for recording success in implementation of the plan. In response to the submissions, the following changes to the plan's overall direction have been made:

- although there was support for renaming Mount Eccles National Park, the proposal of Mount Eccles Budj Bim National Park had very little support - discussions to determine a suitable name will continue
- Mount Eccles National Park is recognised as a key attraction and will be promoted as a key tourism asset of Stone Country
- additional strategies to monitor impacts of dogs and horses on beaches, particularly to ensure that nesting shore birds are protected, were included, along with provision to review strategies if necessary
- strategies that implement the Government's new policy on beekeeping, which aims to encourage this activity on public land, have been included
- Visitor Experience Areas have been reviewed and better defined
- measures have been clarified
- conservation zoning has been reviewed and refined.
- Forest Park zoning has been amended to address an omission in the draft plan and is based on the zoning established for the area under the West Victoria Regional Forest Agreement. The range of uses permitted is unchanged from the draft plan except that harvesting of minor forest timber products and firewood are excluded in Special Protection Zones in the Forest Park. Further analysis will be undertaken of these zones against Regional Forest Agreement requirements considering the area now in Cobboboonee National Park incorporating any new information on park values.

Where possible, information has been updated, such as the marine natural ecosystem section.

1.5 Regional context

The planning area covers almost 116 000 hectares of parks, reserves and Indigenous Protected Areas in a rural and coastal landscape around four and a half hours drive west of Melbourne and six and a half hours south-east of Adelaide. There is no one large iconic park in the planning area but rather a series of medium to smaller parks and reserves fragmented by past and current land uses including grazing, logging and farming. The Lower Glenelg and Cobboboonee National Parks provide the largest tracts of remaining natural areas.

The landscape of the planning area is bounded to the north by the Glenelg River and Grampians ranges, to the west by the South Australian border and to the east by the basalt lava flow of the Victorian Volcanic Plains. The landscape while distinctively rural also represents Gunditjmara Country and contains evidence of creation events and stories. The planning area is centred on parks and reserves that are on Stone Country, Forest Country, River Forest Country and Sea Country (section 1.2).

A dominant feature is the Glenelg River. Originating in the Grampians the river cuts across a subtle landscape covering tablelands, and volcanic and limestone plains and meets the Southern Ocean at Nelson. The river is the longest river navigable by large pleasure craft in the region and the Glenelg River estuary and associated wetlands are recognised as nationally important. Other notable features include volcanoes, lava flows, diverse caves and karst systems, distinctive coastal cliffs, extensive swamps and wetlands, and complex and extensive water management and aquaculture systems built by the Gunditjmara, some features possibly being built over 4000 years ago, and they continue to be valued today.

Two areas are considered to be regionally significant for their distinctive landscape character: the rolling tablelands where the thickly vegetated area of Dergholm State Park is a set amongst rolling hills on the border of the Tablelands and the Wimmera Plain; and the vegetated rises where the thickly forested landscapes of Cobboboonee and Lower Glenelg National Parks are conserved in an area where plantation forestry is prevalent.

Five of the 27 terrestrial bioregions in Victoria cover the planning area: Glenelg Plain, Bridgewater, Victoria Volcanic Plain, Warrnambool Plain and the Dundas Tablelands and part of the Otway Marine Bioregion, one of the five Victorian marine bioregions.

The planning area includes parts of the Millicent Coast, Glenelg and Portland Coast Basins. As part of the Glenelg Hopkins catchment management region, the parks and reserves of the planning area are strongly influenced by the activities of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA, which is responsible for facilitating and coordinating the management of the catchments in an integrated and sustainable manner for land, biodiversity and water resources (section 4.2).

The planning area protects ecosystems associated with more fertile soils that have been largely cleared for agriculture elsewhere across the south-west landscape. The management plan complements and supports Habitat 141, a longer term ground-breaking climate-change protection project that connects across the landscape of the planning area to the Mallee, the Murray River and the arid parks in South Australia and NSW. Based on consistent processes, Habitat 141 also aims to maintain and restore functional ecosystems that support their full complement of species. There are mutual benefits in working more effectively together and coordinating actions of the broad alliance of agencies and non-government and community organisations involved with Habitat 141.

The parks and reserves are surrounded by freehold land and State forest. The freehold land, largely cleared of native vegetation, is farmland used for sheep grazing or cropping, and extensively in Stone and River Forest Country for softwood and hardwood plantations.



State forest is managed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to balance a variety of purposes, including providing timber for sustainable forestry, minor forest produce, conserving flora and fauna, protection of water catchments and water supply, protecting landscape, archaeological and historic values, and providing recreational and educational opportunities.

The planning area covers the Glenelg Shire and small parts of Southern Grampians, West Wimmera and Moyne Shires. The shires play a key role in management and use of freehold land through administration of planning schemes, which includes assessing applications for developments for any opportunities and potential impact on a range of values, including on the planning area. The population of the Glenelg Shire has been slowly increasing; however, there is considerably less pressure on the planning area from population growth than in coastal shires closer to Geelong and Melbourne. Within the planning area are the two major townships of Hamilton and Portland with approximate populations of 10 000 each. Mount Gambier in South Australia with a population of 32 000 is the nearest large centre. The key business and service centres of Portland, Heywood and Casterton and other main towns such as Dartmoor, Macarthur, Narrawong and Nelson are five to six hours drive from Melbourne.

The parks and reserves make a significant economic contribution to these towns through tourism, employment and other uses. The key park settings that inspire people to visit are the natural environs of the 350 km long Glenelg River that cuts through the plains from the Grampians to the Coast at Nelson, the 130 km of ocean surf and spectacular coastline and marine environments and the fascinating Stone Country, an area rich in Indigenous culture where the lava flows of recent volcanoes can be seen. Portland, Bridgewater and Nelson have a range of accommodation options reasonably close to the parks.

The planning area is part of the Great Ocean Road National Landscape zone and Tourism Victoria's Great Ocean Road region, which accounts for around 14 per cent of all tourists to Victoria. However, the available data does not distinguish between visitors to the eastern half of the tourism region, which includes the very popular Great Ocean Road area, and the planning area, which makes up the western half of the tourism region.

There are opportunities for the parks and IPAs to entice visitors to travel beyond a short radius of Melbourne and the shipwreck coast with the iconic attraction of the Twelve Apostles and build on the supply of high quality tourism products that enhance nature-based and touring experiences consistent with the Great Ocean Road “Experience Nature’s Journey” campaign to encourage visitor dispersal and an extended stay.

1.6 Significance of the Parks, Reserves and Indigenous Protected Areas

A statement of significance by the Gunditjmara is given in chapter 2 Vision.

Cultural importance

In 2004, the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape, including Mount Eccles National Park, Lake Condah IPA and Tyrendarra IPA, was included on the National Heritage List of Australia, providing protection under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC). The Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape was listed for its outstanding heritage value to the nation because of its:

- importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia’s natural or cultural history
- possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia’s natural or cultural history
- importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period
- importance as part of Indigenous tradition.

The Gunditjmara people developed and managed this landscape by digging channels to bring water and young eels from Darlots Creek to low lying areas. They created ponds and wetlands linked by channels containing weirs. Woven baskets were placed in the weirs to harvest mature eels. These engineered wetlands provided the economic basis for the development of a settled society with villages of huts built using stones from the lava flow. Across the planning area there are many Aboriginal places including those that represent creation stories and spiritual connections, intensively used and occupied landscapes, places of conflict and massacres, favourite camping and meeting places and places that symbolise resistance and land justice. It is important to recognise that for the Gunditjmara cultural and natural values, and tangible and intangible values, are indivisible.

The lighthouse and associated buildings at Cape Nelson retain important and fascinating connections with Victoria’s maritime history. The planning area still holds dry stone walls and ruins of early pastoral endeavours and many valued forest places, sites and places with connections from people working in the forests. There are many places that people value when using the parks for recreation and holidays, including coastal landscapes and views.

Natural values

The planning area includes 55 Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs). Around one third (37%) of the planning area has EVCs that are classified as Vulnerable while 3% of the area has EVCs that are classified as Endangered. Six communities within the planning area are listed as threatened under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic.) (FFG) or EPBC Act. Action plans have been developed for two – Coastal Moonah Woodland and Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland. Two hundred and forty-five flora species and 168 fauna species in the area are listed as rare or threatened. Of these, 40 flora species and 90 fauna species are listed under the FFG Act. Species listed include a number of orchids, wetland dependant birds such as Brolga and woodland dependant species such as South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo and Brush-tailed Phascogale.

Ground-dwelling mammals with a body mass between 35 and 5500 grams have suffered an exceptionally high rate of decline. The planning area is one of the last natural refuges in southern mainland Australia for such ‘critical weight range’ species as the nationally Endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot and nationally Vulnerable Long-nosed Potoroo. It is also one of two highly localised areas in Australia supporting the nationally Endangered Heath Mouse. The planning area is a stronghold for Hooded Plover and many woodland bird species known to be declining in south-eastern Victoria and is outstanding for its threatened flora and diversity of orchids. Two areas, Lawrence Rocks Wildlife Reserve and one extending from South Australia that includes the Discovery Bay Coast, are Important Bird Areas recognised by BirdLife International as important at a global level.

The Glenelg River is the largest river in south-west Victoria and part has been recognised as a Heritage River for its important natural values, including the River Red Gum woodlands, roosting bat habitat, threatened fish, fish and bird diversity and karst areas.

The area is one of Australia’s most extensive volcanic precincts and includes six sites of international significance and 14 of national significance.

The planning area also provides a range of ecosystem services, tangible benefits that people receive from nature. These include flood and drought regulation, air and water purification, nutrient cycling including absorbing and storing carbon, preventing soil erosion and the fulfilment of peoples’ spiritual, educational and recreation needs.

Recreation and tourism

The parks in the southern part of the planning area have many significant natural assets that provide for tourism, attracting many thousands of visitors to the planning area each year and providing considerable economic benefit to local communities.

Groups with a recreation focus are drawn to the area for its natural and built attractions. A combination of canoe and walk activities draws these together. The Great South West Walk, one of Victoria’s major long distance hiking trails, is one of the area’s key attractions. Covering 250 km, the walk traverses Sea Country and River Forest Country. Forest, coastal and river areas are represented through a number of parks and attract many walkers (local and international) to the area each year.

Canoe touring on the Glenelg River between Dartmoor and Nelson is a popular flat water canoe journey and noted as a significant value in the Glenelg’s Heritage River listing. Recreation activities support a number of tourism operations, leasing equipment such as canoes and bicycles and providing transport and accommodation. There is opportunity for further development of these opportunities. Tourism attractions include Cape Nelson Lightstation with tours, café and luxury accommodation, Princess Margaret Rose Cave tours and accommodation and Discovery Bay sand dune buggy driving.

The area’s significant Indigenous cultural heritage provides an opportunity for Indigenous culture-based tourism and for Indigenous culture to be recognised in park management as at Mount Eccles NP and the nearby Tyrendarra IPA. The Gunditjmara have begun to develop Aboriginal tourism with Budj Bim Tours offering guided tours through the landscape.

IUCN World Conservation Union categories

The parks and reserves (appendix 1) are assigned various categories of the IUCN World Conservation Union list of National Parks and Protected Areas (table 1.1).

Table 1.1 IUCN protected area management categories and management objectives.

Park and reserve type	IUCN Category	IUCN Primary Objective
National Park, Marine National Park, State Park (unless otherwise specified)	II – National Parks	To protect natural biodiversity along with its underlying ecological structure and supporting environmental processes, and to promote education and recreation.
Nature Conservation Reserve, Reference Area	Ia – Strict Nature Reserve	To conserve regionally, nationally or globally outstanding ecosystems, species (occurrences or aggregations) and/or geodiversity features: these attributes will have been formed mostly or entirely by non-human forces and will be degraded or destroyed when subjected to all but very light human impact.
Cape Nelson State Park, Discovery Bay Coastal Park, Natural Features Reserve - Cave Reserve, Scenic Reserve, Streamside Area	III – Natural monument or feature	To protect specific outstanding natural features and their associated biodiversity and habitats.
Natural Features Reserve - Bushland Reserve, Wildlife and State Game Reserve (Hunting)	IV – Habitat/species management area	To maintain, conserve and restore species and habitats.
Historic Area, Lake Reserve, Lighthouse Reserve, Coastal Reserve, Regional Park, Forest Park	Not a protected area or not assigned	Management more for informal recreation of large numbers of people, or resource uses and not primarily for the protection of biodiversity.
Tyrendarra, Kurtonitj and Lake Condah IPAs	VI – Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	To protect natural ecosystems and use natural resources sustainably, when conservation and sustainable use can be mutually beneficial.



Limestone cliffs along the Glenelg River
– Lower Glenelg National Park

2 Vision

Ngootyoong Gunditj, Ngootyoong Mara is what we want for the parks and reserves and communities

Healthy Country, Healthy People – *Ngootyoong Gunditj, Ngootyoong Mara* in Gunditjmara – is what we want for the planning area. The different landscapes – Stone Country, Sea Country, River Forest Country and Forest Country – are all important and connect with each other and people. We all have a right and responsibility to care for Country, working together with respectful conversations to achieve our aspirations for Country. We will work together to restore and improve ecosystems so that they are intact and resilient. We recognise the connections between people and Country; between communities and Country – past, present and future. Forever.

Ngatanwarr wartee pa kakay teen Gunditjmara mirring

Welcome brothers and sisters to Gunditjmara Country

For Gunditjmara people, ‘Country’ includes all living things—none better than the other but equal in its importance in forming this diverse natural landscape that is Gunditjmara Country.

Country means people, plants and animals alike. It embraces the seasons, stories and spirits of the creation. This flowing, connected cultural landscape possesses its own sacred places, languages, ceremonies, totems, art, clan groupings and law.

Our spirit is in this Country, from Nyamat Mirring (Sea Country) up through Bocara Woorrowarook Mirring (Glenelg River Forest Country) where Boandik Country north-west of Bocara (Glenelg River) embraces Woorrowarook Mirring (Forest Country) and across the wetlands to Budj Bim and Tungatt Mirring (Mount Eccles and Stone Country).

Our Country is a place of belonging and pride that comes with this belonging. We are proud to share many aspects of our land, art and culture with visitors/guests. It is a part of us and who we are, and we ask that you care for it when you visit. It is our responsibility to look after Country, our children will continue to look after Country, because that’s the way it is and will be.



Culturally Scarred Tree

3 Zoning

The planning area has been mapped into a number of zones where different management directions apply (map 2A and 2B, and appendix 1). A number of overlays have also been developed where specified activities or values require special management (maps 2A–2B, 3A–3E). Table 3.1 summarises the areas allocated to zones and table 6.2 summarises the recreation opportunities available within these zones.

Table 3.1 Summary of planning area zoning

Zone *	National Parks Act parks		Reserves		Indigenous Protected Areas		Cobboboonee Forest Park		Total (zones)	
	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%
	Conservation and Recreation Zone	36 038	44	5433	25	2662	85			44 133
Conservation Zone	42 528	51	16 604	74	449	14			59 581	51
Education Area	429	1	137	1	64	1			630	1
Reference Area Zone	2883	4							2883	2
Special Protection Zone							1973	23	1973	2
Special Management Zone							540	6	540	1
General Management Zone							6172	71	6172	5
Total (parks)	81 878	71	22 174	19	3175	3	8685	7	115 912	

* Recreation Development Zone is less than 1% of the planning area and not included in the above table.

Zones

Conservation and Recreation Zone

Areas where the management emphasis is on protection of environmental and cultural values while allowing for recreation. Dispersed recreation and nature-based tourism activities are encouraged. The level of activities and small-scale of recreation facilities allows for activities to occur without significant impact on natural processes.

Conservation Zone

Areas of high natural value where the emphasis is on protection of the environment. This zone is the priority for environmental management programs and actions. Recreation and nature-based tourism are permitted subject to close management to ensure minimal impact to values and minimal interference to natural processes. The majority of the parks and reserves are zoned conservation.

Education Zone

Three community use areas are to be managed as Education Zones – Tarragal Education Area near Mount Richmond National Park, Mount Napier Education Area in Mount Napier State Park, and the key visitor site in the south-east of Tyrendarra IPA.

The two Education Areas, as recommended by the former LCC and accepted by Government, are zones where students can study natural ecosystems, practice methods of environmental analysis or field techniques, and conduct simple natural science experiments. While nature study is permitted on most areas of parks, use is usually restricted to passive forms, mostly relying on observation. The education zone in Tyrendarra IPA is an area available for cultural heritage and environmental education activities.

Reference Area Zone

Four areas (Cobboboonee, Keegans Bend and Kentbruck Heath in Lower Glenelg National Park, and The Stones in Mount Eccles National Park) proclaimed under the Reference Areas Act. Reference areas are areas 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 permitted except that associated with protecting the natural processes, emergency operations and approved research. They may then be used for comparative studies against land where human interaction and activities occur, showing the effects of human utilisation of land.

Recreation Development Zone

A small area comprising the Cape Nelson Lighthouse precinct of the Lighthouse Reserve with a high level of facility development for a high number of visitors, which includes a café and boutique accommodation.

General Management Zone

Areas within the Forest Park managed for a range of uses and values (section 1.4).

Special Protection Zone

Areas within the Forest Park managed for conservation. It forms part of the informal reserve network designed to complement the dedicated reserves. Timber harvesting operations including minor forest produce and firewood is excluded (section 1.4).

Special Management Zone

Areas within the Forest Park managed to conserve specific features while catering for sustainable timber production including minor forest produce and firewood and other utilisation activities under certain conditions (section 1.4).

Overlays

Visitor Experience Areas (VEAs) are a priority for visitor management programs and actions to protect unique settings that support a range of defined visitor experiences. These areas are also a focus for delivering visitor services and facilities in a sustainable way that protects the integrity of natural and cultural values and minimises impacts. Where VEAs overlay Conservation Zone additional vigilance is required to ensure visitor use is sustainably managed in areas of higher biodiversity value. Visitor Experience Areas (table 6.1) have in some cases been extended beyond a park, reserve or IPA boundary and cover areas managed by other land managers such as local government and in some cases include private land.

The parts of VEAs occurring outside the parks, reserves or IPAs indicate areas that also form part of the visitor experience such as linking roads and tracks, views in the landscape or areas with complementary facilities or services. The VEAs do not constrain land managed by other parties, but recognise that management decisions need to consider implications beyond the park boundary. They also highlight that there may be opportunities to collaborate in providing complementary services, facilities, access and information that support an integrated experience for visitors and tourism.

Heritage Rivers as proclaimed under Schedule One of the *Heritage Rivers Act 1992* (Vic.) are managed to protect the heritage values, maintain or improve water quality, and retain unimpeded river corridors. The Glenelg River Heritage River follows public land water frontage and streamside reserves downstream from Dartmoor to the sea at Nelson, including the reaches within Lower Glenelg National Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park. Within the National Park, the heritage river boundaries either lie 200m from each side of the river or follow the park boundary or riverside road. Parts of the Glenelg River (1) and (3) Streamside Reserves and Nelson Streamside Reserve are also included in the Glenelg Heritage River. The section of the Glenelg River in South Australia is not included as Heritage River.

Marine *Special Management Areas* in accordance with the Government accepted recommendations of the former Environmental Conservation Council's *Marine, Coastal and Estuarine Investigation* of 2000 are managed to protect specific values (table 3.2 and map 2B) and otherwise provide for recreational and commercial fishing activities, passive recreation, education and scientific study in ways that minimally affect the area.

Some areas have additional protection through legislative means, such as species and communities listed under the FFG Act, and have not been zoned but will be managed in accordance with relevant legislation and regulations. Overlays are not applied to small localised areas managed for permitted uses such as public infrastructure including pipelines, powerlines and telecommunication towers, apiculture sites and park depots.

Table 3.2 Special Management Areas

Special Management Areas	Area	Value	Strategy
Cape Bridgewater	23 ha	One of two mainland Australian fur seal colonies	Manage and minimise interactions with the protected seal breeding colony in accordance with the <i>Wildlife (Marine Mammals) Regulations 2009</i> (Vic.).
Lawrence Rocks WR (6.5 ha) and 100m offshore	24 ha	Breeding colonies of seabirds including the largest colony of gannets in Victoria, kelp forests, State geological significance	Maintain the seabird breeding colonies and the protection of marine and terrestrial values.
Portland Bay. 1 km off shore near Portland (within the planning landscape)	2675 ha	Victoria's most extensive seagrass on the open coast, fish nursery, rocky reefs and rare brown algae	Continue to prohibit seining operations from Point Danger to the mouth of the Surry River and ensure dredge soil disposal avoids any impact on the seagrass ecosystem.



Fish trap –
Tyrendarra Indigenous Protected Area

4 Caring for Country

To keep Country healthy it is important to understand ecological values and processes, and work together to reduce the impacts of any threats.

4.1 Healthy ecosystems

The planning area covers almost 116 000 hectares of parks, reserves and IPAs which are important for the conservation of a diverse range of species and communities within natural systems ranging from woodlands and forests to coastal and marine environments. The Glenelg and Wannon River systems are the area's largest drainage basins with the Glenelg River terminating in a significant estuary in the south-west of the planning area. The largest areas of intact native vegetation occur in the west and south-west in parks and reserves. A large proportion of the land surrounding parks and reserves in the planning area has been cleared or modified for agriculture, towns, forestry or other developments.

To guide natural asset management for this plan the goals and strategies are related to five of Victoria's 14 broad Natural Ecosystems derived from EVCs, the basic mapping units used for biodiversity planning and conservation assessment across Victoria. The five Natural Ecosystems in the planning area are: Dry Forests and Woodlands; Inland Waters and Wetlands; Heathland; Coastal; and Marine. These are generally related to Country and parks (table 4.1).

The knowledge and practices of Gunditjmara Traditional Owners, scientists, communities, land managers and research partners informs sound management and forms the basis for developing clear, long-term ecosystem management strategies and priorities (section 7.2).

The plan takes a landscape approach – setting goals and strategies across multiple parks and land tenures and coordinating programs with other agencies and the community – and adopts an adaptive management approach. Environmental management is guided by setting goals and strategies for natural ecosystems through a risk assessment and prioritisation process. This identifies the priority natural assets, such as a vegetation community, wetland type or particular species, and the threats to the assets. The strategies are then focussed on addressing the key threats to the natural assets. This provides land managers with a realistic and prioritised basis for implementing operational programs with a clear purpose for each of the natural ecosystems.

The goals and strategies set out below are applicable to all natural ecosystems across the planning area. Goals and strategies that apply to individual ecosystems are included in the subsections for each ecosystem that follow.

Table 4.1 Natural ecosystems represented in Countries and parks

	Natural Ecosystem	Dergholm SP	Lower Glenelg NP	Cobboboonee NP	Cobboboonee FP	Mt Richmond NP	Crawford River RP	Indigenous Protected Areas	Mt Eccles NP	Mt Napier SP	Discovery Bay CP	Cape Nelson SP	Discovery Bay Marine NP
Mirring													
Woorowarook	Heathland	■											
	Heathland		■	■	■	■	■						
Bocara	Dry Forest and Woodlands		■	■	■	■	■						
Woorowarook	Inland Waters and Wetlands		■	■	■	■	■						
	Dry Forest and Woodlands							■	■	■			
Tungatt	Inland Waters and Wetlands							■					
	Inland Waters and Wetlands										■		
Nyamat	Coastal										■	■	
	Marine												■

Goal	Implementation activity
Gunditjmara Traditional Owners' connection with Country and ecological knowledge and practices are respected and incorporated into planning and management.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Utilise Gunditjmara contemporary and traditional ecological knowledge, such as the six season calendar, to bring a cultural approach to park management and guide decision making.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Build PV, DELWP, Glenelg Hopkins CMA and Gunditjmara capacity to share ecological knowledge and manage natural values of the planning area.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Develop partnerships for priorities that maximise the resilience and ecological integrity of Country and natural ecosystems, including Gunditjmara Traditional Owners' culturally valued species.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Support development of management tools such as the <i>Gunditjmara Traditional Owners' Ecological Knowledge Tool Kit</i> for managing threatening processes in the planning area.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Develop training programs for Gunditjmara to build capacity in all areas of park management.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara

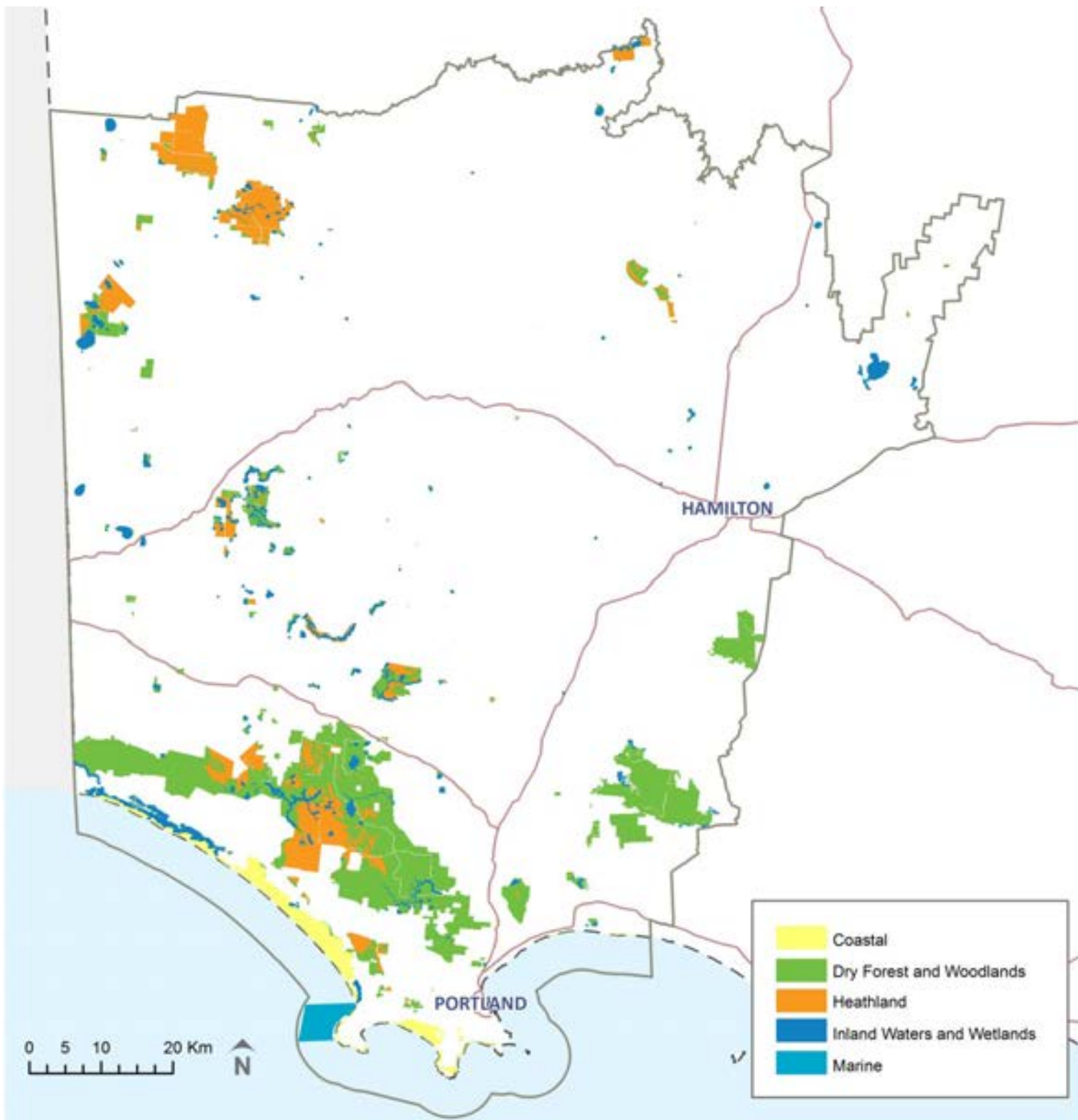


Figure 4.1 Distribution of the five natural ecosystems across the planning area

Goal	
Healthy ecological processes of natural ecosystems are maintained using an adaptive management approach for environmental management.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Maintain ecosystems and habitats that are currently in good condition.	Ongoing park operations
Restore ecosystems and ecosystem processes that have been degraded from past land uses (focus areas are wetlands and dry forests in IPAs).	Ongoing park operations
Build ecosystem resilience to support listed rare and threatened flora and fauna through an integrated landscape approach to planning and management between land managers.	Works and services with partners
Support partnership projects including Glenelg Ark and Glenelg Eden (section 5.2) to address priority pest plant and animal threats.	Works and services with partners
Goal	
The impacts of climate change on ecosystems and species are minimised across the planning area.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Prepare for the impacts of a changing climate on natural values and work with other agencies, land managers, scientists and the community (including Glenelg Hopkins CMA, DELWP, community groups and park neighbours) to develop climate change adaptation measures.	Works and services with partners
Identify and protect areas that can act as climate change refugia for threatened and endangered species.	Ongoing park operations
Explore opportunities for revegetation projects for biodiversity benefits and carbon sequestration including participating in landscape scale conservation projects such as Habitat 141 and use of any optimum areas for biodiverse carbon plantings such as from the Glenelg Hopkins CMA's Natural Resource Management Plan for Climate Change.	Ongoing park operations

4.1.1 Dry Forest and Woodlands Natural Ecosystem

The Dry Forests and Woodlands Natural Ecosystem includes much Forby Forest, Tall Mixed Forest (Eastern), Grassy/Heathy Dry Forest, and Rocky Knoll, and some areas of Inland Plains Woodland and Western Plains Woodland. This is the most abundant ecosystem (61% of the vegetation coverage) within the planning area and occurs in three countries; *Tungatt Mirring*, *Woorrowarook Mirring* and *Bocara Woorrowarook Mirring*. It is the principal natural ecosystem in Cobboboonee National Park, Cobboboonee Forest Park, Mount Eccles National Park, and the IPAs. The ecosystem also covers over half of Lower Glenelg National Park.

The ecosystem is generally in good condition; stable and intact in Lower Glenelg and Cobboboonee National Parks and Dergholm State Park, but declining in Discovery Bay Coastal Park. Dry Forests and Woodlands are important for a suite of small to medium-sized mammals, and many rare and threatened species including Mellblom’s Spider-orchid, Limestone Spider-orchid, Winged Water-starwort, Blotched Sun-orchid, Colourful Spider-orchid, Metallic Sun-orchid and South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Rufous Bristlebird (*Coorong* ssp.), Barking Owl, Brown Treecreeper, Diamond Firetail, Hooded Robin, Powerful Owl, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Swamp Antechinus, Smoky Mouse and Heath Mouse.

Key threats to the Dry Forests and Woodlands include large-scale bushfire and inappropriate burning regimes, loss of tree hollows, fragmentation and small size and isolation of habitat patches, the introduction and spread of invasive plants, predation of native fauna by introduced species, grazing by introduced herbivores including rabbits, goats, pigs, deer and cattle, over grazing by kangaroos, over browsing by koalas and impacts on groundwater, habitat loss and modification. Dry Forest and Woodlands are subject to climate change projections of a hotter and drier climate with increased fire. This is predicted to exacerbate many of the existing threats and has implications on the abundance and distribution of some species.

The goals and strategies set out below aim to maintain and where possible, improve the diversity of growth stages, maintain the extent, floristic diversity and habitat complexity of the Dry Forest and Woodland natural ecosystem and improve connectivity across the south-west landscape. The key natural assets to which management strategies are focussed are woodland vegetation communities, ground storey plants such as orchids, South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, and hollow dependent and ground-dwelling fauna.

Goal	
A mosaic of growth stages to improve habitat structure and features such as tree hollows and woody debris of Western Plains Woodlands are maintained and where practicable restored (focus areas are Lower Glenelg NP, Mount Eccles NP, Mount Napier SP, and all IPAs).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Ensure fire management maintains the mosaic of growth stage diversity and considers the protection of long-unburnt habitats, canopy and tree hollows in strategic bushfire management planning at the landscape scale and in subsequent operational planning.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
Improve the extent and condition of woodlands in IPAs including determining requirements for cultural burning in eucalypt woodlands and pine removal at Kurtonitj IPA.	Ongoing park operations

Goal	
The extent, composition and mosaic of growth stages of Grassy Woodland vegetation communities are improved (focus areas are Mount Eccles NP, Mount Napier SP, Lake Condah IPA and potentially Kurtonitj IPA for Koala management, and monitoring of kangaroos for all IPAs).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Eradicate pine seedlings from high value areas.	Area treated for pest plants
Contain established invasions of Coast Wattle and eradicate new and emerging weeds.	Area treated for pest plants
Reduce kangaroo abundance to levels that allow regeneration of Grassy Woodlands.	Ongoing park operations
Reduce Koala abundance to levels that allow survival and regeneration of Manna Gums in Grassy Woodlands.	Ongoing park operations
Determine requirements for cultural burning in remnant Grassy Woodland in IPAs and other priority areas.	Targeted research and monitoring
Contain and if possible eradicate goats from Mount Napier State Park.	Area treated for pest animals
Goal	
The current extent and species richness (composition) of rare or threatened ground storey plant species including orchids in mixed dry forest is maintained (focus areas are Mount Richmond NP, Cobboboonee NP, Cobboboonee FP, Lower Glenelg NP, Bats Ridge WR, Tooloy–Lake Mundi WR, Red Hill Swamp WR and Dergholm SP).	
Strategy	Implementation activity
Ensure fire management, including ecological burning regimes, considers the protection of rare or threatened ground storey plant species including orchids.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
Goal	
Maintain and improve habitat and feeding opportunities for South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo within the current extent of Brown and Desert Stringybark stands (focus areas are Lower Glenelg NP and Tooloy–Lake Mundi WR and all other stands).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Ensure the requirements of long-unburnt areas, particularly in areas dominated by Desert Stringybark, are considered in strategic bushfire management planning at the landscape scale and in subsequent operational planning.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
Contain the spread and if possible eradicate pines from Brown and Desert Stringybark stands.	Area treated for pest plants
Liaise with South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Recovery Team and support actions, such as collaring nest trees where appropriate.	As per recovery team requirements

Goal	
The species richness, abundance and breeding opportunities for hollow-dependant fauna including woodland birds, Brush-tailed Phascogale, Yellow-bellied Glider and forest bats is maintained and improved (focus areas are Lower Glenelg NP, Cobboboonee NP, Cobboboonee FP, Mount Eccles NP, Mount Napier SP, Mount Richmond NP, Dergholm SP and all IPAs).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Consider the needs of hollow-dependent fauna in fire operations planning. Ensure the value of nesting trees for the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo nesting trees is considered in strategic bushfire management planning at a landscape scale and in subsequent operational planning.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
Reduce fox abundance to levels that allow increasing distribution and breeding success of hollow-dependant fauna.	Area treated for pest animals
Work with partners to reduce the fragmentation of the Dry Forest Woodlands across the landscape.	Works and services with partners
Work with apiarists to manage feral bees impacting hollow-bearing trees and other habitat requirements of hollow-dependant fauna.	Area treated for pest animals
Goal	
The species richness, abundance and recruitment and dispersal opportunities for small to medium-sized ground-dwelling mammals and for endangered fauna including Barking Owl, Growling Grass Frog, Long-nosed Potoroo and Masked Owl in Dry Forest Woodlands is maintained (focus areas are Lower Glenelg NP (Kentbruck Heath), Narrawong FR, Cobboboonee NP, Cobboboonee FP, Mount Richmond NP and all IPAs).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Reduce fox and cat abundance to levels that allow increasing distribution and breeding success of small to medium sized ground-dwelling fauna.	Area treated for pest animals
Support Glenelg Ark fox control program.	Works and services with partners
Ensure fire management considers the conservation of threatened species and protection of hollow-bearing trees and other habitat requirements of ground-dwelling mammals.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
Work with partners to reduce the fragmentation of the dry forest and woodlands across the landscape.	Works and services with partners

4.1.2 Inland Waters and Wetlands Natural Ecosystem

This ecosystem includes rivers and wetlands, including Saline Wetlands, Treed Swampy Wetland, Freshwater Wetland (permanent and ephemeral) as well as vegetation in the riparian zone in the other natural ecosystems. This ecosystem covers 6% of the planning area of the parks, reserves and IPAs.

Bocara, the Glenelg River, is the largest river in south-west Victoria and boasts some of the state's best river reaches. Between Dartmoor and the coast, including spectacular river gorges through Lower Glenelg National Park, the Glenelg is classified as a Heritage River. Significant tributaries of the Glenelg River include the Wannon, Chetwynd, Stokes and Crawford rivers. The Glenelg Hopkins CMA is responsible for coordinating the management of regional catchments in an integrated manner and for acting as the caretaker of river health (sections 4.2 and 5.2).

Half (52%) of the ecosystem occurs within Discovery Bay Coastal Park, Cobboboonee National Park, Bryan Swamp Wildlife Reserve and Tooloy–Lake Mundi Wildlife Reserve. It also occurs in the IPAs, notably Lake Condah and Tyrendarra, and in three countries; *Woorrowarook Mirring*, *Bocara Woorrowarook Mirring* and *Nyamat Mirring*.

The Inland Waters and Wetlands Natural Ecosystem is generally in good condition and stable in Lower Glenelg and Cobboboonee national parks, and Dergholm State Park. The ecosystem is important for many rare and threatened species including West Coast Peppermint and Wiry Bossiaea, Little Tern, South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Orange-bellied Parrot, Brolga and for a number of threatened aquatic species including fish such as Dwarf Galaxias and Yarra Pygmy Perch. The ecosystem is also important for the culturally significant Short Finned Eel.

Key threats include modification to hydrology, water quality decline, fragmentation, burning of riparian vegetation, and the introduction and spread of invasive plants, animals and fish. Inland Waters and Wetlands are considered highly vulnerable to climate change with increased stress on rivers already under pressure from salinity, over allocation of water for agricultural and other uses and declining water quality. Cyclic periods of drought and flood are likely with extended dry periods interspersed by periods of above average rainfall and flooding. Changes in quality and volume of wetlands can also reduce habitat for migratory birds.

Estuaries

Three estuaries occur within the planning area: those of the Glenelg River, Fitzroy River and Surry River. These estuaries are intermittently closed to the sea bringing dynamic changes in salinity and oxygen levels. Artificial opening or intervention is undertaken in accordance with the Victorian Waterway Strategy and Glenelg Hopkins CMA Estuary Management Plans to relieve flooding, improve water quality and allow fish recruitment (section 4.2).



Livingston Island boardwalk
– Discovery Bay Coastal Park

The Glenelg River estuary is a seasonally closed, salt wedge type estuary. It is recognised nationally as a wetland of high conservation significance. Prior to European settlement many of the coastal wetland and lake systems in the surrounding area flowed into the lower Glenelg River estuary. Following European settlement, connection of these wetlands to the estuary was modified by drainage works to make land more suitable for agriculture. Long Swamp in Discovery Bay Coastal Park was also previously connected to the estuary via Eel Creek but now flows out to sea near Noble Rocks, about 12.5 km from the Glenelg River mouth. These past changes to the hydrology of estuaries influence the current management regime.

The goals and strategies below aim to maintain or improve the condition of degraded inland waters, wetlands and estuarine systems, maintain critical habitat features (e.g. vegetation structure, refugia), functioning (e.g. hydrology, water quality and quantity, filtration) and the connectivity of riparian and in-stream ecosystems. The key natural assets to which management strategies are focussed are the Glenelg River and Estuary, coastal wetlands, inland freshwater wetlands, saltmarsh saline wetlands, Brolgas, migratory waterbirds and eels. The section on Coasts Natural Ecosystem should also be referred to for further strategies that effect estuaries.

Goal

The extent of representative river reaches that are ecologically healthy and the condition of aquatic and semi-aquatic habitat, native fish diversity and vegetated riparian areas are maintained or increased (focus areas are the Glenelg River (Heritage River), tributaries such as Moleside Creek, and Crawford River RP, Glenelg River Fulham SSR, Wilkin FFR, Tyrendarra FR, Darlots Creek and Fitzroy River adjoining IPAs).

Strategies

Implementation activity

Eradicate new or emerging invasive pest plants and animals in the aquatic and semi-aquatic environments.

Ongoing park operations

Reduce the extent of pines, blackberry, Bridal Creeper and other highly invasive established weeds in vegetated riparian areas.

Area treated for pest plants

Strategies (cont.)	Implementation activity
Work with the Glenelg Hopkins CMA to prevent the introduction and spread of introduced fish including Carp and Mosquito Fish.	Works and services with partners
Protect areas of habitat significance for roosting for bats and woodland birds along rivers.	Ongoing park operations
Goal The extent and diversity of estuarine habitats in the Glenelg Estuary to support fish diversity and the extent and quality of fringing vegetation is maintained (focus areas are Lower Glenelg NP and Discovery Bay CP).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Eradicate new weeds and reduce the extent of invasive weed species: boxthorn, Italian Buckthorn, South-West Cape Bridal Creeper, and Spiny Rush (Lower Glenelg NP) and beach daisy (Discovery Bay CP).	Area treated for pest plants
Work with the Glenelg Hopkins CMA to prevent the introduction and spread of introduced fish.	Works and services with partners
Consider the protection of fringing vegetation in strategic bushfire planning, and protect fringing vegetation during fire suppression operations to the extent possible consistent with the protection of human life.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
Manage artificial river mouth openings as required when environmental and social conditions are met in line with the Glenelg Hopkins CMA decisions using the Estuary Entrance Management Support System.	Ongoing park operations
Goal The extent and quality of aquatic habitats and fringing wetland vegetation and the quality of water entering coastal and inland freshwater wetland systems is maintained and where possible improved (focus areas for coastal wetlands are Lake Mombeong and Long Swamp complex; focus areas for inland freshwater wetlands are Crawford River RP, Darlots Creek and adjoining Lake Condah, Tyrendarra and Kurtonitj IPAs, Lake Gorrie, Cobboboonee NP (Grassy Flats Swamp), and Kerr Swamp WR).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Liaise with Glenelg Hopkins CMA regarding maintenance of environmental flows and water regimes, complementing CMA work on private land and IPAs.	Works and services with partners
Contain Coast Wattle and prevent its spread into fringing wetland vegetation.	Area treated for pest plants
Reduce fox and cat abundance to levels that allow increasing distribution and breeding success of wetland dependent species.	Area treated for predator control
Reduce the abundance of pigs to levels that allow regeneration of fringing vegetation, and eradicate isolated pig populations.	Area treated for pest animals

Strategies (cont.)	Implementation activity
Investigate and undertake cultural burning in wetlands in IPAs to improve aquatic resources and habitat.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
Consider the protection of fringing vegetation in strategic bushfire planning, and protect fringing vegetation during fire suppression operations to the extent possible consistent with the protection of human life.	Planned burns include ecological results
Manage riparian areas to protect waterways and water quality.	Works and services with partners
Goal The roosting, feeding and nesting habitat for migratory waterbird species are improved (focus areas are Discovery Bay CP, Lake Condah IPA, Kurtonitj IPA, Tyrendarra IPA and Glenelg Estuary).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Work in partnership with park users and neighbours to reduce fox abundance to levels that allow increasing distribution and breeding success of waterbirds.	Area treated for pest animals
Support the investigation for listing of the proposed Ramsar site in Discovery Bay Coastal Park.	Works and services with partners
Identify partnerships for restoring appropriate water regimes including appropriate water levels to improve nesting and feeding opportunities.	Works and services with partners
Eradicate new and emerging weeds particularly Coast Wattle, Phalaris and Soft Rush from riparian and fringing wetland vegetation.	Area treated for pest plants
Ensure the seasonal presence of migratory birds and maintenance of their habitat is considered in strategic bushfire management planning at a landscape scale and in subsequent operational planning.	Planned burns include ecological results
Goal Water regimes that improve extent and connectivity of habitat to maintain abundance of eels are maintained and where possible restored (focus areas are Lake Condah and Darlots Creek).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Restore cultural water flows to priority Gunditjmara aquaculture channels and functioning eel traps that support cultural tourism and commercial use in the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape.	Ongoing park operations
Restore drainage patterns and return Lake Condah to a functioning aquaculture landscape, including wildlife abundance.	Ongoing park operations
Identify partnerships for restoring appropriate water regimes and connecting habitats for eels and for restoring degraded wetlands, complementing work by the Glenelg Hopkins CMA on private land.	Works and services with partners

Strategies (cont.)	Implementation activity
Prevent the spread of introduced fish including Carp into eel habitats.	Area treated for pest animals
Contain existing weeds (Coast Wattle), prevent spread into threatened wetland vegetation communities and eradicate new or emerging weeds.	Area treated for pest plants
Goal The ecological character, extent and condition of the saltmarsh saline wetlands, including their habitat values for the Orange-bellied Parrot, are maintained and improved (focus area is Discovery Bay CP).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Identify partnerships for restoring degraded wetlands and water regimes complementing work by the CMA on private land.	Works and services with partners
Contain existing established weeds (including Coast Wattle), prevent spread into wetland vegetation communities and eradicate new or emerging weeds.	Area treated for pest plants

4.1.3 Heathland Natural Ecosystem

The Heathland Natural Ecosystem includes heathland sands communities and generally occurs on deep infertile sands and consists of a low, dense heathy shrub layer and a number of sedges and sedge-like species. Heathland is the second largest ecosystem representing 24% of the vegetation cover in the planning area and occurs in two countries; *Woorrowarook Mirring* and *Bocara Woorrowarook Mirring*. The majority of Heathland Natural Ecosystem occurs in Dergholm State Park, Lower Glenelg and Cobboboonee national parks with other large areas within Tooloy–Lake Mundi Wildlife Reserve and Wilkin Flora and Fauna Reserve. Kentbruck Heath within Lower Glenelg National Park is notable for its floristic diversity of ground and low understory flora including orchids.

The Heathland Natural Ecosystem is generally in good condition, stable and intact in Lower Glenelg and Cobboboonee National Parks and Dergholm State Park, and in moderate condition but stable in Discovery Bay Coastal Park.

A suite of species are only found in heathland or strongly linked to heathlands including King Quail, Rufous Bristlebird, Ground Parrot, Heath Mouse and Southern Brown Bandicoot and many rare and threatened species including Winter Sun-orchid, South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo and Silky Mouse. Threatened flora includes Buloke, Dergholm Guinea Flower, Hairy Tails and Trailing Hop Bush.

Key threats to heathland include inappropriate fire regimes, habitat loss and modification, the introduction and spread of invasive plants, predation of native fauna by introduced species, grazing by introduced species, the impacts of climate change and the introduction or spread of the soil pathogen *Phytophthora*.

The goals and strategies aim to maintain a diverse mosaic of growth stages to provide a complex mosaic of connected habitat for ground-dwelling mammals and birds. The key natural assets are the ground and understorey heathland flora, Heath Mouse and Southern Brown Bandicoot.

Goal	
The extent and species richness of ground and understorey flora, and a mosaic of growth stages for floristic diversity and habitat complexity is maintained (focus areas are Lower Glenelg NP including Kentbruck Heath, Dergholm SP and all IPAs for pathogens).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Improve hygiene procedures and manage recreation and others uses of affected areas to contain the spread of pathogens, Cinnamon Fungus in particular.	Ongoing park operations
Eradicate pine seedlings from Kentbruck Heath and contain pine invasion to a surrounding buffer area of 1 km.	Area treated for pest plants
Reduce and where possible eradicate pig and goat populations to prevent disturbance to ground layer vegetation.	Area treated for pest animals
Ensure fire management maintains a mosaic of vegetation growth stages and the protection of long-unburnt habitat is considered in strategic bushfire management planning at the landscape scale and in subsequent operational planning.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
Goal	
The habitat structure, extent and floristic composition of Heathland sands habitats that protect populations of Heath Mouse and Southern Brown Bandicoot are maintained and improved (focus areas are Narrawong FR, and Lower Glenelg NP including Kentbruck Heath).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Reduce fox and cat abundance including through Glenelg Ark to levels that allow increasing distribution and breeding success of Heath Mouse and Southern Brown Bandicoot.	Area treated for pest animals
Ensure the presence of Heath Mouse and Southern Brown Bandicoot and protection of their habitat are considered in strategic bushfire management planning at a landscape scale and in subsequent operational planning.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
Minimise the use of ground-disturbing machinery use during fire suppression activities and minimise disturbance in Heathland Sands habitats.	Ongoing park operations
Goal	
The floristic richness and mosaic of growth stages of Heathy Woodlands are maintained and improved (focus areas are Cobboboonee NP, Cobboboonee FP, Mount Richmond NP, Bats Ridge WR, and Tarragal EA).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Minimise the use of ground-disturbing machinery during fire suppression activities and minimise disturbance in Heathland sands habitats.	Ongoing park operations
Ensure fire management maintains a mosaic of vegetation growth stages and protects long-unburnt habitats.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation



Cape Bridgewater
– Discovery Bay Coastal Park

Strategies (cont.)	Implementation activity
Reduce the extent of pines and blackberry.	Ongoing park operations
Manage recreation and other uses of affected areas to contain the spread of pathogens.	Visitor works and services
Goal	
Maintain and improve habitat and feeding opportunities for South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo within the current extent of Brown and Desert Stringybark stands (focus areas are Lower Glenelg NP Dergholm SP, Toooly–Lake Mundi WR and Wilkin FFR).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Implement appropriate fire management in stringybark forests to maintain long-unburnt areas, reduce fire intensity and canopy scorch, particularly in areas dominated by Desert Stringybark to protect the current food supply for South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo to support a viable population.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
Liaise with South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Recovery Team and support actions, such as collaring nest trees where appropriate.	Ongoing park operations

4.1.4 Coast Natural Ecosystem

Comprising 8% of the planning area’s vegetation cover, this ecosystem includes coastal scrubs and herbland. The ecosystem is part of *Nyamat Mirring* represented in Discovery Bay Coastal Park, Cape Nelson State Park and Narrawong and Nelson Bay Coastal Reserves. The Coast Natural Ecosystem is important for many rare and threatened species including Scented Spider-orchid, Colourful Spider-orchid and Swamp Greenhood, Orange-bellied Parrot, Ground Parrot, Rufous Bristlebird, Hooded Plover and the FFG Act listed Coastal Moonah Woodland. Coastal rocky platforms provide habitat for the Australian Fur Seal and New Zealand Fur Seal including at Cape Bridgewater and Cape Nelson.

The ecosystem provides important shorebird habitat for migratory species listed under international agreements such as the China and Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreements (CAMBA and JAMBA), and protected under the EPBC Act. The beaches of Discovery Bay Coastal Park are part of the stronghold for Hooded Plovers in Victoria, which are monitored regularly. Protection measures include beach-nesting bird signs at access points and seasonal dog walking provisions outside the breeding season from August to March – April (section 6.3). BirdLife Australia recognises two areas as Important Bird Areas [IBAs], areas recognised by BirdLife International as important at a global level. The two sites are Lawrence Rocks Wildlife Reserve, which consists of two rocky islets off the coast from Portland with a resident Australasian Gannett population, and the Discovery Bay Coast through to Picaninnie Ponds in South Australia with resident populations of Australasian Bittern, Hooded Plover, Rufous Bristlebird and Striated Fieldwren, and non-breeding Orange-bellied Parrot.

The key threats include inappropriate fire regime, introduction and spread of invasive plants such as Coast Wattle, predation of native fauna by introduced species, grazing by introduced species, fragmentation, habitat loss and modification and the introduction and spread of the soil pathogen *Phytophthora*. Coastal environments are predicted to be impacted by climate change with more frequent storms, resulting in potential inundation and coastline erosion. In addition, coastal ecosystems and species are also subject to the climate change related threats such as hotter, drier conditions and increased fire.

The goals and strategies aim to maintain habitat structure and floristics of coastal scrub to provide the food source and diverse habitats essential for migratory waders and shorebirds and the dynamic natural processes in dune systems. The key natural assets are shorebirds and migratory birds, ground storey plants such as orchids, Coastal Moonah Woodland and dune vegetation.

Goal	
The diversity and abundance of bird species, including shorebirds and migratory bird species and their roosting, feeding and nesting habitat, is maintained (focus areas are Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay CP).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Undertake predator control including Glenelg Ark to reduce impacts on bird species including Hooded Plover and migratory species including Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Grey Plover, Red-necked Stint, Red Knot, Sanderling and Double-banded Plover.	Area treated for predator control
Ensure the protection of habitat of threatened species such as Orange-bellied Parrot and Rufous Bristlebird is considered in strategic bushfire management planning at the landscape scale and in subsequent operational planning.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
Increase monitoring of numbers, breeding sites and success of key beach nesting species.	Ongoing park operations
Manage visitor activities to minimise disturbance of shore and migratory birds.	Visitor services planning

Goal	
The current extent and species richness of threatened flora species is maintained (focus areas are Long Swamp complex in Discovery Bay CP and Cape Nelson SP).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Ensure the regeneration of threatened flora including orchids is considered in strategic bushfire management planning at a landscape scale and in subsequent operational planning.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
Reduce rabbit density to levels that allows regeneration of threatened species.	Area treated for pest animals
Minimise site disturbance and impacts from recreation and management activities.	Visitor services planning
Goal	
The species richness, intactness and connectivity of Coastal Heathland, and the extent of Coastal Moonah Woodland communities are maintained (focus area is Discovery Bay CP).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Minimise the use of ground-disturbing machinery during fire suppression activities to minimise disturbance to dune systems.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
Contain the extent of Coast Wattle.	Area treated for pest plants
Goal	
The intactness of coastal dune vegetation and functioning of dune systems is maintained (focus area is Discovery Bay CP).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Avoid undertaking planned burning in dune systems.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
Where possible avoid the use of machinery in fire suppression activities to minimise disturbance to dune systems.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
Minimise the impact of recreation and visitor facilities, including in the Swan Lake dune buggy area.	Visitor services planning

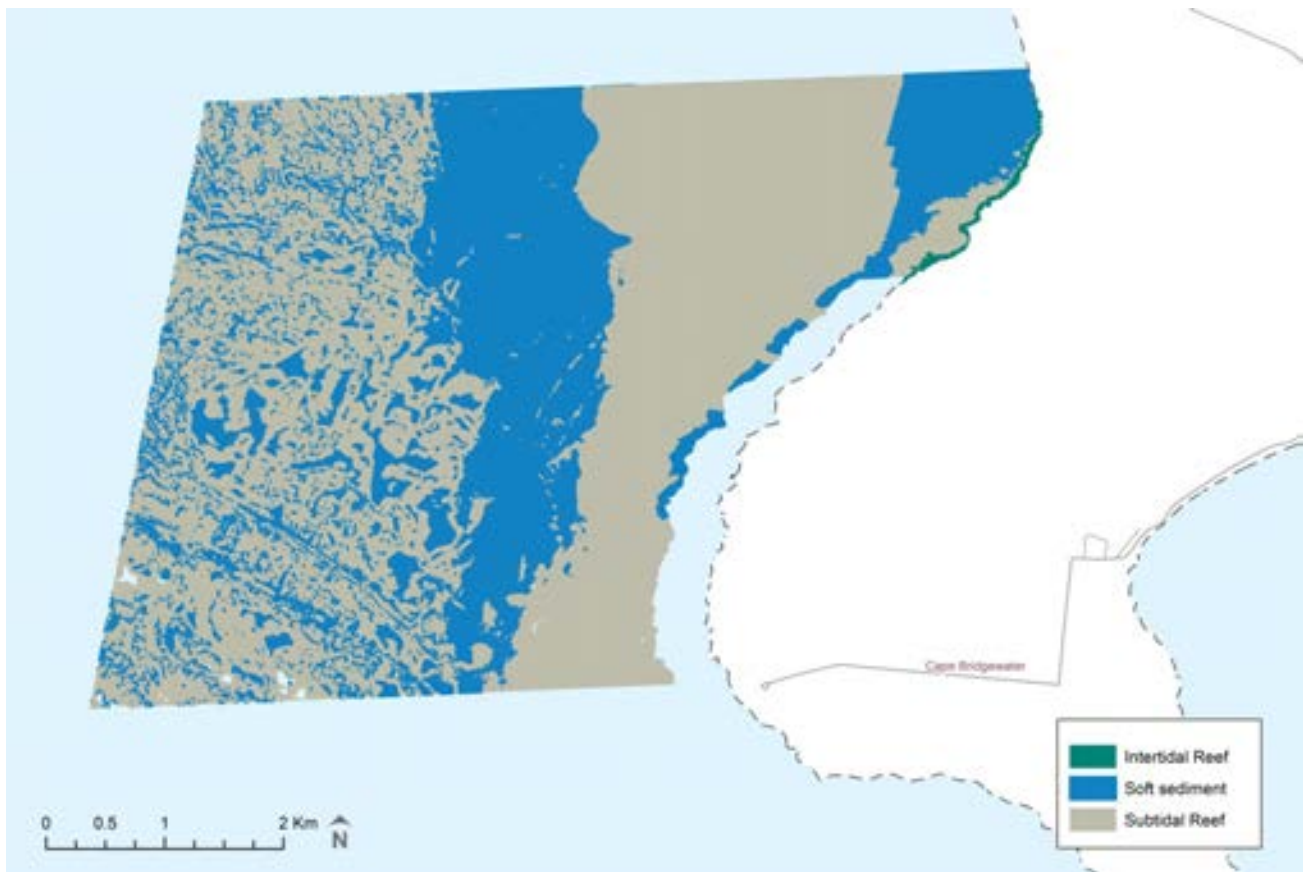


Figure 4.2 Discovery Bay Marine National Park habitats

4.1.5 Marine Natural Ecosystem

Discovery Bay Marine National Park abutting Discovery Bay Coastal Park protects part of *Nyamat Mirring* including all of the planning area's Marine Natural Ecosystem. The park comprises several habitats – intertidal rocky shores, subtidal rocky reef, subtidal soft sediment and the water column – which provide for a range of significant marine fauna including mammals, birds and invertebrates

(figure 4.2). It has rocky habitats of complex forms and a high diversity of invertebrates, including low profile calcarenite-capped basalt platforms, isolated low calcarenite reefs, deep calcarenite reefs, shallow basaltic reefs and heavy sloping basalt walls.

The Bonney Coast, which extends from Robe in South Australia to Discovery Bay, is a productive area because of a nutrient rich cold water upwelling, known as the Bonney Upwelling. This high productivity provides an important feeding ground for seabirds, fur seals and whales. It also greatly influences primary productivity and maintains commercially important fisheries species such as Blacklip Abalone and Southern Rock Lobster. The continental shelf and the Bonney Upwelling draws close to the coast near the township of Portland and this makes the area a highly significant recreational fishery for Southern Bluefin Tuna. The park provides important feeding and roosting habitat for fifteen threatened bird species including the Wandering Albatross and Southern Giant-petrel. It protects feeding areas for ten internationally important migrant JAMBA or CAMBA species.

Conservation Action Planning for marine protected areas across Victoria identified two key focal ecosystems in the park:

- Subtidal Reefs with six key natural assets – Brown macroalgae dominated beds, large mobile fish including sharks and rays, motile macroinvertebrates, Giant Kelp Forest communities, sessile invertebrate dominated communities such as thick growths of sponges, ascidians, bryozoans and gorgonians, and mixed red algae sessile invertebrate dominated communities; and
- Water Column with key assets including planktonic and other species, baleen whales and seabirds.

Key threats to the invertebrate key natural assets are illegal activities including poaching of abalone, marine pests (including Green shore crab, Broccoli weed and Japanese kelp), introduced pathogens and diseases, and climate change. Key threats to large fish are illegal activities. Key threats to water column assets such as seabirds and whales are oil spills and climate change. Climate change poses a serious threat with the marine environment predicted to be impacted by higher sea temperatures, changing sea currents and acidification of the ocean. There is also limited ecological knowledge of important habitats, communities and processes that occur in the park.

Parks Victoria works in partnership with agencies, including DELWP, Fisheries Victoria, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Marine Safety Victoria, Port of Portland, the local petroleum industries and community and recreational groups to increase awareness of and deliver effective management of the park.

The goals and strategies aim to strengthen effective partnerships with agencies and communities, build understanding of the ecological processes and functioning of the marine ecosystem and minimise the impacts of threats on the key natural assets as they emerge.

Goal	
The highly productive dense stands of habitat-forming algae that provide cover and food for a diverse assemblage of fish and invertebrates in the subtidal reef ecosystem are maintained, and the impacts from illegal activities and climate change are reduced and the spread and establishment of marine pathogens and pests are prevented through effective partnerships (focus area is Discovery Bay Marine NP).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Work collaboratively to implement compliance plans and emergency arrangements with partner agencies including response to new marine pests and pathogens. Work with tour operators, and fisher, diver and other user groups to prevent illegal activities and new incursions of marine pests and pathogens.	Works and services with partners
Report and record new incursions of marine pests in accordance with Victorian pest management arrangements and implement boat cleaning protocols for management, research and licensed tour operator vessels operating in the park.	Ongoing park operations
Maintain effective visitor signage, boundary markers and interpretive material.	Visitor works and services
Continue subtidal reef mapping and monitoring programs including for potential threats, such as abalone virus and the Japanese kelp <i>Undaria</i> spp.	Targeted research and monitoring
Encourage research to increase ecological knowledge of the marine ecosystems and address key knowledge gaps. Undertake regular ecological risk assessments to identify threatening processes.	Targeted research and monitoring
Promote community and visitor understanding and encourage community based monitoring of intertidal reefs near Whites Beach as part of relevant marine habitat monitoring programs such as Sea Search.	Ongoing park operations



Brittle Star
– Discovery Bay Marine National Park

Goal A well connected and highly productive water column ecosystem that supports planktonic health and nutrient cycles to provide the trophic base for higher order species including cetaceans, pinnipeds, elasmobranchs and other pelagic fish, and seabirds is maintained, impacts from oil spills are prevented and impacts from climate change are reduced through effective response and partnership arrangements, (focus area is Discovery Bay Marine NP).	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Manage visitor activities to minimise disturbance of seal colonies in accordance with the Wildlife (Marine Mammals) Regulations.	Visitor works and services
Work collaboratively to implement marine emergency contingency plans and arrangements with controlling agencies including for marine pollution, cetacean strandings and wildlife management.	Ongoing park operations
Work with Port of Portland on marine pollution responses within the park and adjacent waters and maintain communications with the petroleum industry and relevant agencies with respect to petroleum activities near the park.	Ongoing park operations
Report and respond to oil spills in and near the park in accordance with the Portland Region Marine Pollution Contingency Plan.	Ongoing park operations
Encourage research to better understand local hydrological processes and marine ecosystems and address key knowledge gaps.	Ongoing park operations



Glenelg River
– Lower Glenelg National Park

4.2 Catchments and water

Water provides a critical connection between *Nyamat Mirring* (Sea Country), *Tungatt Mirring* (Stone Country), *Bocara Woorrowarook Mirring* (River Forest Country) and *Woorrowarook Mirring* (Forest Country). Proper flows are essential to sustain freshwater ecosystems, support adjacent habitat and provide connections between catchments and marine environments. River habitat corridors can help provide ecological connectivity, resilient ecosystems across landscapes and enable transition or movement of plant and animal species.

Significant pressures have been placed on streams, wetlands, aquifers and estuaries in the planning area, largely as a result of past land use changes including extensive draining of wetlands for agriculture and water diversion and regulation. Drought has further reduced stream flows and climate change could in some cases push the situation across critical thresholds. River and wetland rehabilitation are important for increasing the resilience of freshwater systems to the impacts of climate change.

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA is responsible for reporting on the condition of catchments and rivers, and plays a role in assisting with water quality monitoring. It also coordinates major regional cross-tenure partnership projects such as Glenelg Alliance and the South West Biolinks Project.

Soil erosion has been a feature of the Dundas Tablelands since European settlement. The Glenelg River catchment is recognised as one of the most severely eroded in Victoria. Extensive sheet, tunnel, gully and stream bank erosion has delivered large volumes of sand from the Dundas Tablelands, with between four and eight million cubic metres of sand trapped in the Glenelg River and its tributaries. Biodiversity within the river has been severely affected, with the original sequence of deep pools now filled, reducing habitat and drought refuge. Despite this, the Glenelg Basin still contains the greatest biodiversity values in the region, with a number of river reaches in moderate to good condition. The basin also contains all five of the reaches classified as 'ecologically healthy' under the Regional River Health Strategy.

Parks Victoria, Glenelg Hopkins CMA and adjacent landowners work together to implement drainage schemes (such as Cashmore Drainage Scheme) including maintaining outfalls on parks and other public land.

The Goals and Strategies aim to maintain and improve the condition of catchments through partnerships in order to minimise adverse impacts on the planning area.

Goal	
The water quality and natural functions of catchments, including the Glenelg River Karst systems, are protected and restored for communities and the environment.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Work with Glenelg Hopkins CMA and agencies to support water quality improvement, reduced sediment loads and to minimise catchment related impacts on the parks.	Works and services with partners
Identify partnerships for restoring degraded wetlands and water regimes complementing work by the Glenelg Hopkins CMA on private land (section 4.1.2).	Works and services with partners
Retain the Glenelg River free from impoundments or barriers that restrict the passage of in-stream indigenous fauna.	Ongoing park operations
Work with Wannon Water to only permit water diversions if volume, timing and off-take do not significantly impair habitat.	Works and services with partners
Manage water assets in a landscape-scale approach to ensure survival through dry years, enable recovery in wetter years, continue essential supply of high quality water and conserve aquatic refugia to minimise the impacts of climate change on water and catchments.	Ongoing park operations
Goal	
The condition of catchments is maintained and improved through effective partnerships to minimise impacts.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Strengthen partnerships across public–private land for whole of landscape and integrated approaches to increase connectivity of Country through habitat corridors and programs such as Habitat 141.	Works and services with partners
Continue to work across land tenures with other agencies and land managers and the community (including Glenelg Hopkins CMA, DEWLP, community groups and park neighbours) in landscape scale and integrated pest plant and animal programs.	Works and services with partners



Fire management
– Dergholm State Park

4.3 Fire management

Fire is a natural part of the environment, important for regenerating and maintaining the health of species and ecosystems. The pattern of fire varies across the landscape and over time making the extent to which fire can be managed complex and variable. This challenge is likely to be exacerbated by predicted changes in the climate. Fires are expected to be more intense and fire seasons expected to start earlier and end later. A longer and more intense fire season may decrease the time available for planned burning.

DELWP is the lead agency for fire management on Victoria's public land, Parks Victoria works closely with DELWP to ensure that fire management addresses risks to human life, property and essential services and maintains or enhances biodiversity; including a diversity of vegetation growth stages, ecological, geological and cultural assets, and water yield and production.

Fire management is conducted according to the *Code of Practice for Bushfire Management on Public Land*. The code was revised in 2012 to incorporate recommendations from the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission. DELWP will prepare Strategic Bushfire Management Plans that outline landscape and regional strategies to achieve bushfire management objectives for public land. Fire Operations Plans informed by strategic planning detail areas for fuel management and are supported by annual tactical plans.

Two primary objectives for fire management on public land are identified in the Code:

- Minimise the impact of fire on human life, communities, essential community infrastructure, industries, the economy and the environment. Human life is given the highest priority of these considerations.
- Maintain or improve the resilience of natural ecosystems and their ability to deliver services such as biodiversity, water, carbon storage and forest products.



Figure 4.3 Fire Management Zones (*Code of Practice for Bushfire Management on Public Land*)

Fire management zones (figure 4.3) are used to achieve a number of aims relating to mitigation of bushfire risk to life, property and community assets and maintaining ecological resilience, water quality and other landscape values.

Asset Protection Zones have a focus on providing localised protection around communities or assets at high risk from bushfire; these are largely in the south of the planning area. Fuel management activities in the South Western Bushfire Risk Landscape aim to reduce the level of bushfire risk identified through modelling undertaken in 2013.

Fire management may include exclusion of burning in some areas that are intolerant to fire.

Inappropriate fire regimes, either through bushfire or planned burning, may lead to a loss of biodiversity and a decline in ecosystem health, changes to vegetation composition and structure and loss or damage to cultural values and social and economic opportunities.

Fire suppression also needs to be carefully managed to avoid loss or damage to cultural values and decline in ecosystem health from fragmentation of vegetation and habitat, soil erosion, weed invasion, increased water turbidity at stream crossings and loss of aquatic species.

Tolerable Fire Intervals (TFI) provide a guide to how frequent fires should be to allow the persistence of most species in a vegetation community. Heathland Natural Ecosystem requires fire at intervals of between five and thirty years. Dry Forest and Woodlands Natural Ecosystem can tolerate more frequent fires.

The riparian communities are not reliant on fire to regenerate and recover slowly after fire. TFIs do not currently address fauna requirements and further work is needed in this area. Additional fire management strategies for priority species are in section 4.1.

Within the planning area, planned burns are the main tool managers use to maintain resilient Dry Forests and Woodlands, and Heathland Natural Ecosystems. Planned burns need to be carefully managed to achieve strategic risk management, ecological and biodiversity objectives.

It is thought that the open lake like form of IPA swamps during the early contact period was a result of reed reduction caused by Aboriginal harvesting and firing. Cultural burning of wetlands in the IPAs is appropriate in order to support traditional practices.

Country Fire Authority (CFA) permits are required for burns in IPAs. DELWP and Parks Victoria can assist with technical expertise in planning and implementing burns for ecological and cultural purposes and resources.

Goal	
Fire is managed as part of the landscape with protection of human life, property and essential services as a priority, and to maintain healthy ecosystems and biodiversity, and sustain Gunditjmara practices.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
<p>Undertake planned burning in Dry Forest and Woodlands, Heathland and Coast Natural Ecosystems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using fire ecology principles, guided by indicators such as tolerable fire intervals • to increase the mosaic of growth stage diversity and maximise growth stage representation • to reduce fuel loads and potential impacts of large-scale bushfires on communities, assets and infrastructure • ensuring fire management does not adversely affect habitat for threatened species and takes into account the specific ecological requirements of threatened and other species including the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo and the seasonal presence of migratory birds. 	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
<p>Ensure the ecological value of Moonah Woodland, riparian and wetland communities and old growth forest, and Manna Gum woodlands of Mount Napier SP (section 4.1) is considered in strategic bushfire management planning at the landscape scale and in subsequent operational planning.</p>	Planned burns include ecological results
<p>Undertake planned burning primarily for ecological and cultural purposes in <i>Tungatt Mirring</i> (Mt Eccles NP and IPAs).</p>	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
<p>Ensure fire management maintains a mosaic of vegetation growth stages and assists in the maintenance of healthy ecosystems.</p>	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
<p>Commence post-fire restoration work as soon as practicable to minimise spread of weeds or risk of erosion.</p>	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
<p>Work with municipal councils and agencies to integrate fire management and maximise bushfire safety options for local communities and park visitors.</p>	Works and services with partners
<p>DELWP, PV and CFA work together to implement planned burns in IPAs in accordance with the views of Gunditjmara.</p>	Works and services with partners
<p>Avoid, where practicable, using ground disturbing machinery during fire suppression activities in the Coast Natural Ecosystem and dune systems and, in consultation with the Gunditj Mirring TOAC, in IPAs where fire control is not compromised.</p>	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results

Strategies (cont.)	Implementation activity
Where possible, undertake fire suppression activities away from Inland Waters and Wetlands, riparian communities and known habitats or populations of threatened species to prevent disturbance and risk of exposure to fire retardants. Where this is not possible, use techniques that minimise ground disturbance.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
Goal Gunditjmara participate in fire management and their traditional ecological and cultural knowledge is integrated into fire management planning and practices.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Support training of and involve Gunditj Mirring TOAC members in fire planning and response activities including involvement in Fire Industry Brigades with the CFA and encourage accreditation as General Firefighters with DELWP.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Develop and implement fire ecology objectives incorporating Gunditjmara ecological knowledge and traditional burning practices through the regional fire ecology working group.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Increase DELWP and PV staff understanding of Gunditjmara cultural heritage.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Reintroduce, monitor and adapt cultural burns for resource use using Gunditjmara traditional burning practices in specific wetlands in IPAs.	Works and services with partners

4.4 Geological features

The 2007 *Victorian Geomorphological Framework* describes three distinct geomorphological land types in the planning area: low elevation tablelands in the terraces and floodplains of the Glenelg and Wannon Rivers (*Woorrowarook* and *Bocara Woorrowarook Mirring*); the volcanic western plains stony rises (*Tungatt Mirring*); and coastal active cliffs, transgressive dunes and lagoonal low coasts (*Nyamat Mirring*). From the north of the planning area, where Dergholm State Park has gentle dunes and sandy soils dissected by the Glenelg valley, the basalt lava flowed from the east over the flat and swampy limestone plains to the sea. Mount Eccles National Park and Mount Napier State Park in the east have extensive volcanic features including caves, Lower Glenelg National Park in the west has extensive tertiary limestone caves, Mount Richmond is an older volcano covered by sands, and headlands are the main sites where the Western Victorian volcanic systems meet the Southern Ocean.

The flat to undulating plains are mainly composed of thin lava flows overlaying a Tertiary marine plain, which remains exposed in some areas. The youngest flows retain their original stony rise relief and rocky outcrops. The older flows have weathered to undulating or level plains and plateaus. In lower parts of the landscape, extensive lakes and swamps, which often dry out seasonally, have been created from lava flows altering drainage.



Tarragal Caves
– Discovery Bay Coastal Park

The Glenelg Hopkins catchment contains 49 different soil types with characteristics that vary with the parent material geology, landscape location and the weathering processes active over the period of their formation. Soil erosion has been a feature since European settlement. Other threats to soil health are nutrient decline and wind erosion.

Many of the geological features are integral parts of significant cultural landscapes (section 5.1). Mount Eccles is part of the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape. Aboriginal people witnessed the eruption of Mount Eccles and the listing recognises that the link between the eruption of the volcano and Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape is of outstanding heritage value as a demonstration of the process through which ancestral beings reveal themselves in the landscape.

Mount Eccles and many of the diverse volcanic features also have international and national geological significance. Many of the volcanic features, wetland formations and limestone caves and features are geological heritage sites of significance recognised by the Geological Society of Australia. Two sites have state significance: the remnant peaks of submerged volcano of Lawrence Rocks and Cape Duquesne, a calcarenite cliff with caves and blowholes overlying basalt. Nine have regional significance: Glenelg Estuary, Long Swamp, Nobles Rocks, Cape Montesquieu, Swan Lake, Shelly Beach in Bridgewater Bay, including four also registered on the former National Estate: the foredune and dune complex of Discovery Bay, the dune calcarenites and volcanic complex of Cape Nelson in Nelson Bay, and the fossiliferous Maretimo clay and marls of the Maretimo Cliffs.

The cave and other karst features of Lower Glenelg National Park are one of Victoria's major groups of caves including Princess Margaret Rose Cave. There are extensive and numerous cave systems including the Byaduk Caves in Mount Napier State Park, and Bats Ridge Wildlife Reserve. The intriguing Petrified Forest and other formations in the coastal park and further north Baileys Rocks, a group of large granite tors in Dergholm State Park, are attractions for visitors. Cape Bridgewater has some of the highest sea cliffs on the Victorian coastline and the dune fields of the coastal park are the largest area of mobile dunes in Victoria.

Geological features can be affected by erosion and vegetation loss, particularly following fire. Inappropriate visitor activities also pose a risk and public access to some caves (table 4.2) and other features and the collection of rocks and fossils is not permitted.

Table 4.2 Caves with restricted access – research only

Park	Australian Speleological Federation Cave Number and Name
Lower Glenelg National Park	G1 Pirates, G2 Amphitheatre, G4 Currans Creek, G5 McEacherns, G9 Kates Slide, G14 McLennans Punt, KB1 Fern, - 1987 Cave
Mount Eccles National Park	H39 to 48, H50 to 53, H55, H58– to H61, H68, H69, H71, H72, H78
Mount Napier State Park	H56, H57, H62, H66, HX101, HX104, HX105, HX 107

Goal	
The diversity of volcanic features, caves, karsts and the stony rises, is maintained and the unique geological features and habitat values are protected from avoidable damage.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Increase Gunditjmara involvement in the protection of key features.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Respect and recognise Gunditjmara significant landscapes, features and their stories.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Work with user groups and the community to increase awareness of significant geological features and their connection with Gunditjmara cultural value.	Works with the community
Monitor and minimise impacts from recreation and other activities.	Visitor services planning
Maintain access to a range of adventure and wild caves and continue to work with the Victorian Speleological Association Inc. (VSA), the Australian Speleological Federation Inc. and the Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association Inc. to manage caves (section 6.3).	Visitor services planning
Manage access to protect features at appropriate sites for research only as per table 4.2; implement seasonal closure of Southern Bent-wing Bat roosting caves from between April and September and year round and closure of Tom-The-Cheap Cave at Bats Ridge WR, Church Cave at Byaduk and Currans Creek Cave in Lower Glenelg NP as a priority.	Visitor services planning
Work with the speleological associations to continue to document, survey, and classify caves and associated features including bats.	Works with the community
Ensure the impacts from large-scale events, such as bushfire and flood, are mitigated as soon as practicable.	Ongoing park operations



5 Cultural landscapes and community connections

There are many landscapes within Gunditjmara *Nyamat Mirring* (Sea Country), *Tungatt Mirring* (Stone Country), *Bocara Woorrowarook Mirring* (River Forest Country) and *Woorrowarook Mirring* (Forest Country), special places and associations connecting Gunditjmara Traditional Owners and the broader community to the area.

5.1 Cultural landscapes

Sacred to the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners, the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape is home to the remains of one of Australia's largest aquaculture systems. For thousands of years the Gunditjmara people flourished through their ingenious methods of channelling water and systematically harvesting eels to ensure a year round supply. Here the Gunditjmara lived in permanent settlements, dispelling the myth that Australia's Indigenous people were nomadic and transforming the understandings of the complexities of Aboriginal societies in the past. Dating back thousands of years, the area shows evidence of a large, settled Aboriginal community systematically farming and smoking eels for food and trade in what is one of Australia's earliest and largest aquaculture and engineering ventures.

People, communities and cultural groups often value places because of their strong or special social, cultural or spiritual association. Many recognise and value different landscapes across the planning area and different elements of the same landscape: from birdwatchers to beekeepers, Budj Bim tour guides to horse riders. The landscapes and places may be important as a landmark such as the views of Cape Bridgewater cliffs, as a reference point in a community's identity, such as Lake Condah, or provide community attachment through use or association.

The Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape has outstanding heritage value for the ancient and extensive system of constructed channels and weirs that allowed for eel fisheries by the Gunditjmara and the particularly clear example of the way that Aboriginal people used their environment as a base for launching attacks on European settlers and escaping reprisal raids during frontier conflicts.

The legacy of Gunditjmara ancestors can be seen on the shores of Lake Condah on the Stone Country where Gunditjmara engineering works remain including weirs, channels and eel traps, as well as settlements of circular stone dwellings. Traces of shell midden sites, stone tools, scar trees, camp ovens and rock shelters and other special places can also be seen in the planning area. There is potential for more and different archaeological evidence to be found. The geographical distribution of known sites is unlikely to reflect the true pattern of pre-contact Aboriginal activity, as more sites have been recorded in areas of greater visibility or accessibility, or where survey work has been focussed. For example, a comparatively large amount of archaeological survey work has been done in the IPAs while fewer archaeological places are recorded in the lesser surveyed Mount Eccles National Park.



Education Centre
– Tyrendarra Indigenous Protected Area

Gunditjmara Country is a flowing, connected interwoven cultural landscape of special places; forests, mountains, lakes, streams, eel traps, rocks and pathways.

The names and dreaming stories associated with the landscape are remembered today and passed down by Gunditjmara elders for future generations. Both science and cultural knowledge bring to life a story of a cultural landscape and heritage which each new generation must rediscover. Many places are still being rediscovered and recorded, and this is an important rebirth of knowledge. This heritage is a vital legacy for the current and future generations of the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners.

Heritage is more than objects and buildings; it is also intangible and intrinsic values, places, associations and experiences. Heritage is at the heart of community identity. Visitors come to share this appreciation as they learn the stories of place and discover links to their own past. The planning area contains cultural places, both physical and intrinsic, which include historic places, landscapes and associations representing the rich and diverse history of the area. The many special cultural places in Gunditjmara Country are important culturally and spiritually to the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners who care for them and continue their connections to the land. Gunditjmara heritage places include sacred sites and trade routes such as rivers, places associated with creation stories and significant events, churches and cemeteries, and massacre sites. While the bulk of European history is outside the planning area, there are ruins of early stations, failed soldier settlements, farms and homesteads, dry stone walls and timber mills and links with shipping on the coast with the lighthouse (table 5.1).

The coastal cliffs and headlands of *Nyamat Mirring* are major scenic features that attract many visitors to the area. The headlands are formed from basalt overlain with limestone and are the main sites where the lava flows met the Southern Ocean. Cape Nelson and Cape Bridgewater contribute to a landscape of state significance. The Department of Planning and Community Development is undertaking a Landscape Assessment Study of south-west Victoria that will result in planning scheme policy to ensure future protection.

Themes or storylines help people understand the common threads in the history of an area, across time and across people. A *Cultural Values and Social Values Assessment* undertaken for the Traditional Owners and Parks Victoria by Context Pty Ltd in 2012 involved, in part, working with the Gunditjmara and broader community to identify key stories (figure 5.1). These illustrate interconnectedness

of the area’s history and help demonstrate the many connections (section 5.2) to valued places and Country across the landscapes (table 5.1).

There are different ways to respect and protect heritage places: looking after the physical place, recording and passing on stories, and understanding who is associated with the place and their views about its conservation. For key areas, such as Cape Nelson Lighthouse, a conservation heritage plan guides management. Landscape and cultural heritage places and values can be affected by lack of knowledge and understanding, inappropriate recreation, vandalism, development on adjacent land and natural events such as fire, storms and erosion. Climate change may damage significant sites through coastal flooding, erosion or bushfire.

Goal	
Landscapes, features and values associated with cultural heritage, including Gunditjmara heritage, are recognised, respected, protected and celebrated.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Continue to strengthen the involvement of the Gunditjmara in the protection of cultural landscapes and in interpretation of cultural heritage and landscapes.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Manage fire, visitor access and other activities to prevent avoidable damage to places and landscapes and ensure evidence of new sites is appropriately investigated, recorded and protected.	Ongoing park operations
Refine the Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (OAAV) sensitivity mapping to better direct the need for Cultural Heritage Management Plans for works and research opportunities.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Promote use of OAAV cultural site documentation and protocols for all site recording in the field.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Support the nomination of the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape as a World Heritage Site.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Maintain confidentiality of Gunditjmara knowledge, places, objects in accordance with the views of the Gunditj Mirring TOAC and the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Develop an agreement regarding intellectual property of the Gunditjmara and how it will be safeguarded and respected in sharing knowledge in managing the planning area.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Build land manager capacity for the management of cultural landscape and values.	Ongoing park operations



Bill Golding, founder of Friends of the Great South West Walk
– Discovery Bay Coastal Park

Goal	
A stronger and shared appreciation of heritage values, and valued places and landscapes is built and acknowledged in land management.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Use Gunditjmara language for new visitor sites. Investigate renaming key features and locations and using Gunditjmara names or dual names particularly for interpretation, signage and ParkNotes.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Establish a process with ongoing community input on cultural heritage, such as via Parks Victoria’s website.	Ongoing park operations
Strengthen the understanding of <i>Nyamat Mirring</i> , <i>Tungatt Mirring</i> , <i>Bocara Woorrowarook Mirring</i> and <i>Woorrowarook Mirring</i> and cultural landscapes (figure 5.1 and table 5.1).	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Support gathering of knowledge and stories for park and reserve management, future generations and cultural obligations.	Ongoing park operations

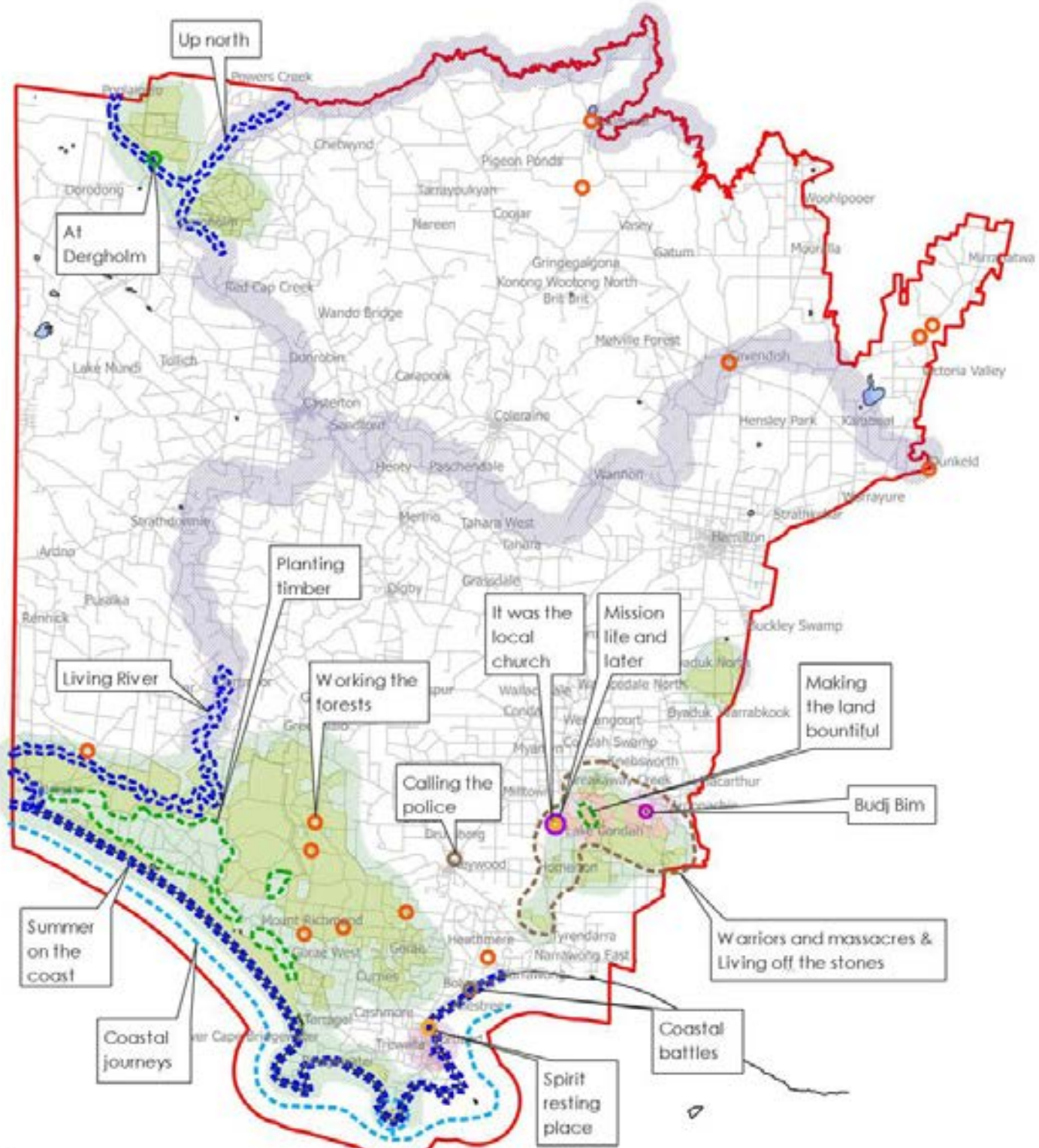


Figure 5.1 Key stories across Countries of the south-west landscape

Table 5.1 Themes, stories and Countries (adapted from Context Pty Ltd report)

Gunditjmara theme	Key Story	Country (Mirring)	Victoria's Themes	Places and associations
Creating Gunditjmara Country	Budj Bim	<i>Tungatt</i>	Shaping Victoria's Environment	The volcanoes and lava flows, the places associated with Gunditjmara creation stories, the settlers' stories of living with fire and drought, the creation of the parks.
Living with Country	Borders and meeting places Living off the Stones Summer on the Coast Living River Up north	All	Peopling Victoria's Places and Landscapes Transforming the Land	Aquaculture at Lake Condah, Portland North Cemetery Historic Area, Lake Condah Mission, and Cemetery, Gunditjmara Land Justice Story. Oven mounds, occupation sites, canoe trees, Bessiebelle Sheepdip, Baileys Rocks homestead site, dry stone walls and structures in Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape and Mount Napier State Park, lime kilns, Bats Ridge Wildlife Reserve, shell grit extractions site, Cape Nelson State Park, timber harvesting and mill sites in Cobboboonee National Park and Forest Park, cliff path to freshwater springs, Cape Bridgewater, Peter Francis Points Arboretum, remains of early tramway, Bolwarra Bushland Reserve.
Movement and settlement	Coastal journeys Making tracks	All	Connecting Victorians by transport and communications	Gunditjmara trade and exchange networks, access following pathways, Cape Nelson Lightstation, Glenelg River travel, forest roads.
Spiritual life	Spirit resting place It was the local church too	<i>Nyamat Tungatt</i>	Shaping Victoria's environment Building community life	The volcanoes and lava flows, the places associated with Gunditjmara creation stories, the settlers' stories of living with fire and drought, the creation of the parks.
Transforming the landscape	At Dergholm Making the land bountiful Planting timber	<i>Woorowarook Tungatt Bocara Woorowarook</i>	Transforming the land	Oven mounds, occupation sites, canoe trees, Bessiebelle Sheepdip, Baileys Rocks homestead site, dry stone walls and structures in Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape and Mount Napier State Park, lime kilns, Bats Ridge Wildlife Reserve, shell grit extractions site, Cape Nelson State Park, timber harvesting and mill sites in Cobboboonee National Park and Forest Park, cliff path to freshwater springs, Cape Bridgewater, Peter Francis Points Arboretum, remains of early tramway, Bolwarra Bushland Reserve.
Fighting for Country	Warriors and massacres Coastal battles Calling in the police	<i>Tungatt Nyamat Bocara Woorowarook</i>	Governing Victorians	Convincing Ground and other sites in the landscape that are outside the planning area.
Change and transformation	Mission life and later	<i>Tungatt</i>	Peopling Victoria's Places and Landscapes Governing Victorians	Aquaculture at Lake Condah, Portland North Cemetery Historic Area, Lake Condah Mission and Cemetery, Gunditjmara Land Justice Story.
Work and recreation	Working the forests	<i>Bocara Woorowarook</i>	Building Victoria's Industries & workforce	Catering for tourists Princess Margaret Rose Cave, Gunditjmara working in the European settler economy, Cape Nelson Lightstation tours and accommodation, Great South West Walk, Budj Bim tours, former shacks at wacks, Lower Glenelg River, Gunditjmara sacred places, Lake Condah Mission, Friends groups, Conservation Volunteers Aust.
Struggle for civil rights	Seeking land justice	All	Governing Victorians	Gunditjmara places and connections including the Convincing Ground and other sites in the landscape that are outside the planning area
Protect culture	Creating parks	All	Shaping Victoria's environment	Protected areas, natural areas, parks and reserves, coastal landscapes.

5.2 Community connections

Family and community

For Gunditjmara Traditional Owners, connection with Country has always been strong, pre and post contact, through landscapes, hunting, aquaculture, gathering places, ceremonial and burial grounds, survival and stories. An assessment of cultural values and social values by Context included the following:

‘Throughout the Planning Area, but especially in the southern areas, there are many places that represent the history of Gunditjmara – creation times, evidence of their long engagement in shaping the landscape, their traditions of care and management, their determination to retain their rights to land following the arrival of European colonisers, the sad and joyful stories of Mission life and afterwards, and all of the many places that are a ‘connection’ to land, culture, family and community for today’s Gunditjmara.

‘There is a strong link between healthy country and healthy people for Gunditjmara, and the opportunities to again care for country, be and work on country and pass on knowledge and traditions is vitally important. Looking after country involves caring for all aspects of country – all living things, water, and land.’

Many other people also have strong connections to places; connections that contribute to a personal, family or community sense of identity. There are key themes and stories for the planning area that help everyone re-see and understand how people are all connected by land, history and stories (section 5.1). Many people have long associations through volunteer work, with extensive knowledge and skills in the parks management. For example various groups associated with BirdLife Australia can provide valuable local input into conservation activities and research and monitoring priorities required for particular bird species. A number of field naturalists groups including Portland Field Naturalists, schools, recreation groups, and other conservation groups have long and effective involvement as active volunteers within the planning area. There are mutual benefits from volunteers in the parks and reserves and volunteers are encouraged and continue to be welcomed. Many have a strong love for places – camping spots used over many years, huts along the Glenelg, the coast or have connections to a park or reserve. Recognising and respecting connections to places is an important part of caring for Country and the wellbeing and identity of all communities.

Although there was support for the renaming Mount Eccles National Park in submissions on the draft plan, the proposal to change the name to Mount Eccles Budj Bim National Park had very little support. Discussions to determine a suitable name will continue. The park was named after the inactive volcano Mount Eccles, which is a major feature of the park and Stone Country. Major Thomas Mitchell named the peak after William Eeles; however, a drafting error altered the name from Mount Eeles to Mount Eccles around 1845.

Partnerships

Parks Victoria, Gunditjmara Traditional Owners and DELWP are exploring new ways of working together. This is demonstrated through the development of this management plan covering different land status and managers and will be further strengthened in implementing the plan and achieving the shared and complementary outcomes.

Parks Victoria collaborates with DELWP particularly in relation to roads and tracks, fire, and flora and fauna and the complementary management of the adjacent state forest. For example, Glenelg Ark is a fox control program to support the recovery of native mammals, birds and reptiles in many of the parks and state forest in the southern part of the landscape. It is a collaborative, landscape-scale project by DELWP and Parks Victoria. Similarly Glenelg Eden offers collaborative, landscape-scale weed control in high priority areas in the southern part of the landscape including dunes, heathlands, swamps and forests.

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA is responsible for ensuring the protection and sustainable use of land, vegetation and water resources within the region. The CMA is also responsible for the preparation of regional catchment strategies, managing river health and floodplains, coordinating water quality management (section 4.2) and supporting Landcare and other community-based natural resource management groups. Parks Victoria works closely with CMAs to help identify objectives and deliver outcomes.

There is interstate cooperation with the South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage and South Australia's Country Fire Service for management of the west side of Glenelg River in Lower Glenelg National Park to South Australia border.

Goal	
Peoples' connection to place and Country are recognised and respected.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Respect Gunditjmara knowledge, places, objects and cultural obligations and address these matters in a culturally appropriate way.	Ongoing park operations
Recognise and promote communities' shared connection to places and stories (section 6.4).	Ongoing park operations
Support the renaming of Mount Eccles National Park in accordance with the Guidelines for Geographic Names standard process.	Ongoing park operations
Manage access to Gunditjmara owned land so that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gunditjmara people and culture are sustained • people who have suffered disconnection from their traditional Country can return and reconnect • the handing on of culture, traditions and knowledge is supported • natural and cultural values are protected. 	Works and services with the Gunditjmara

Strategies (cont.)	Implementation activity
Further document and build wider community appreciation of past conflict and massacre sites as part of the broader landscape stories (section 6.4).	Ongoing park operations
Support employment opportunities across land tenure for Gunditjmara Traditional Owners.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Goal Working partnerships in managing the planning area are strengthened and partner agencies and neighbouring land managers work together to ensure programs achieve shared goals and mutual benefits.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Integrate cultural knowledge and traditional land management into contemporary park and reserve management.	Ongoing park operations
Work in partnership with other agencies such as Glenelg Hopkins CMA, South Australia's DEH, and groups such as BirdLife Australia, and fishing and boating clubs and adjoining private landholders in landscape-scale and species management programs.	Works and services with partners
Strengthen the partnership approach across the planning area to reflect Gunditjmara Traditional Owners' aspirations, such as the Lake Condah Development Project.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Continue the strong working partnership with community groups such as the Friends of the Great South West Walk, Friends of Points Arboretum, Nelson Coastcare, Macarthur Advancement and Development Association, and the Field Naturalists of Hamilton and Portland.	Works with the community
Develop opportunities for local communities, neighbours and community groups with living connections and extensive knowledge of the planning area to work together and with park staff, and use their knowledge to improve operational management.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Promote and support volunteer involvement in park management and investigate the application of access agreements to recognised recreational bodies as part of volunteer park management, such as hunting clubs.	
Promote extending volunteer programs such as walking track assessment and maintenance and the campground host program.	Works with the community
Increase involvement of recreation bodies to promote minimal impact codes and improve recreation management.	
Seek opportunities to collaborate with relevant land managers and agencies in providing integrated visitor and tourism experiences and complementary services, facilities, access and information within Visitor Experience Areas (section 6.2).	Ongoing park operations



Princess Margaret Rose Cave
- Lower Glenelg National Park

6 People on Country

The many settings that attract people to the parks, reserves and IPAs will be protected and many opportunities for enjoyable and memorable experiences will be enhanced.

6.1 Visiting Country

Visitor planning is based on understanding the experiences visitors seek and the relationship between those experiences and the settings, facilities, services and recreational opportunities of the areas visited. Visitor management aims to facilitate enjoyable, memorable and satisfying experiences that build awareness and deeper appreciation of the natural and cultural values of parks and develop a lasting connection to those places (section 6.2).

The key settings that inspire people to visit the planning area are the 350 km of the Glenelg River, which cuts through the plains from the Grampians to the coast at Nelson, the 130 km of ocean surf and spectacular coastline and marine environments and the fascinating *Tungatt Mirring*, an area rich in Aboriginal culture and where the lava flows of recent volcanoes can be seen. While some locations are popular, the remoteness of the planning area from large population centres provides an opportunity for visitors seeking less crowded experiences, particularly outside seasonal peak periods.

Annual visitation to the parks in the planning area is estimated at under 500 000 visits. This is relatively low in the context of the 33.1 million visits to the national park estate and 86 million visits to the Parks Victoria estate. The majority of visitation is from a local and regional catchment, including a high proportion of visitors from South Australia. Interstate and overseas visitors are generally found visiting the more developed tourist-orientated sightseeing areas along the coast and river such as Cape Bridgewater, Cape Nelson and Princess Margaret Rose Cave.

Visitor satisfaction monitoring at Lower Glenelg National Park in 2012 indicated that 74.9% of visitors were satisfied with their visit, which is similar to other parks in country Victoria. Camping and sightseeing were found to be the two dominant attractions.

Tourism Victoria's market profile for 2011 reported that the most common domestic overnight visitors to the region were from the market segments described as Traditional Family Life, Visible Achievement and Socially Aware.

6.1.1 Roads and tracks

The visitor opportunities provided across the planning area are accessible by an extensive network of roads and vehicle tracks. Parks Victoria, DELWP and other public land managers are responsible for roads and tracks within the land they manage in accordance with the *Road Management Act 2004* (Vic.). Within the planning area, this includes over 700 km of roads and tracks maintained for a variety of uses, including access to visitor sites and park features for recreation and tourism, fire and park management activities, emergency response and transit. In providing for public access by two-wheel drive, four-wheel drive and other vehicles, park management seeks to achieve a balance between recreation and environmental protection. Access to IPAs is generally only part of guided experiences. Roads and tracks open to the public are shown on map 3A–E. Tracks may be closed seasonally or permanently for public safety and to prevent damage to tracks, or to environmental and cultural heritage values.

The road and track network plays an important role in supporting vehicle based opportunities for two-wheel drive, four-wheel drive, motorbike riding, trailbike riding and touring. The Wood, Wine and Roses Forest Drive traverses Cobboboonee National Park and Cobboboonee Forest Park. Portland and Discovery Coast regional tourism promotes a number of scenic drives through the planning area, three of which include parks and reserves as well as Gunditjmara cultural heritage features.

The road and track network also provides for a range of non-motorised uses such as walking, cycling and horse riding. Walkers are normally permitted to use all roads including seasonally closed and management vehicle only roads, while cyclists and horses have restrictions in place for some roads in specific parks (table 6.2).

Assessment of fragmentation of parks and reserves by roads and tracks found that most of the parks were slightly fragmented, with Dergholm State Park partly fragmented. In contrast Mount Richmond National Park is highly fragmented and has a number of vehicle tracks that duplicate park access and impact on natural values. Cobboboonee National Park has a high number of tracks that were previously developed for forestry and other purposes that duplicate park access and fragment the park, and many informal vehicle tracks. The track system in both parks requires review to ensure it is sustainable and continues to serve management and visitors. Public consultation will precede any changes.

Goal	
A safe and sustainable network of roads and tracks supports visitor access and management.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Maintain the public road network as shown on map 3A–E.	Visitor works and services
In consultation with users, assess the sustainability of the road and track networks in Mount Richmond and Cobboboonee national parks, and Bats Ridge Wildlife Reserve, giving consideration to the needs of all users, and fire and emergency requirements.	Visitor services planning



Fishing Cape Bridgewater
– Discovery Bay Coastal Park

Strategies (cont.)	Implementation activity
Investigate renaming tracks in Gunditjmara language.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Restrict access to Gunditjmara spiritual places as required for cultural practices or protection of values.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Manage access within IPAs through guided experiences to protect Gunditjmara culture and heritage as a priority.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Identify roads that play a key role in supporting walking, horse and cycling use and manage those roads to achieve satisfying and safe visitor experiences for all users.	Visitor services planning

6.1.2 Recreational trails

Trails are one of the essential means of enabling visitors to experience the parks at close quarters and gain access to key features of the area. The area offers canoeing and kayaking along the Glenelg River and hiking on dedicated walking tracks. There are over 40 walking tracks, the most significant being the 250 km long Great South West Walk, which includes dedicated walking sections and sections along beaches and vehicle tracks. The Great South West Walk is included in *Victoria's Trails Strategy 2014-24* as a State Significant Trail by Tourism Victoria. A key challenge is the ongoing maintenance of recreational trails and partnerships with volunteer groups have been critical to maintaining a high quality experience along many of these trails.

Mountain biking is an increasingly popular activity across Victoria. There are currently no dedicated mountain bike trails in the planning area and demand for facilities is to be met outside the planning area or by the existing vehicle road and track network. Trails that support horse riding will also be met through the vehicle road and track network although there are opportunities to identify dedicated horse trails when assessing the track network in Cobboboonee National Park (section 6.3).



Surry Ridge Campground
– Cobboboonee National Park

Goal	
A safe and sustainable network of trails provides a range of opportunities for visitors to access and enjoy the parks.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Maintain the trail network as shown on map 3A–E including signage for shared trails.	Visitor works and services
Assess walking track rationalisation opportunities and consult the public on any proposed changes.	Visitor services planning
Investigate renaming trails in Guditjmara language.	Works and services with the Guditjmara
Continue to support volunteer involvement in the management of trails.	Visitor works and services

6.2 Visitor Experience Areas

Visitor planning starts with identifying the key areas that provide important opportunities for visitors to have a particular experience. These areas, called Visitor Experience Areas (VEAs), are a priority for visitor management programs and actions to protect unique settings that support a range of defined visitor experiences. They are also a focus for delivering visitor services and facilities in a way that protects the integrity of natural and cultural values and minimises impacts.

A VEA may define a ‘journey’ or a ‘destination’. A journey describes where the visitor travels through the landscape, such as the Lower Glenelg River Canoe Trail VEA. A destination recognises a precinct containing one or more visitor sites or trails providing the basis for visitor use and activities in that area. For example Cape Nelson VEA is a highly developed destination with facilities and associated trails to explore the grounds of the light station and nearby areas.

Table 6.1 Visitor Experience Areas (refer to map 3A–E)

Country	Parks	VEAs
<i>Tungatt Mirring</i> – Stone Country	Mount Eccles National Park, Mount Napier State Park, Indigenous Protected Areas	1. Budj Bim Trail (journey) 2. Budj Bim (Mount Eccles) (destination) 3. Allambie (destination) 4. Lake Condah (destination) 5. Lake Gorrie (destination) 6. Kurtonitj (destination) 7. Tyrendarra (destination) 8. Byaduk Caves and Mount Napier (destination)
<i>Bocara Woorrowarook Mirring</i> – River Forest Country	Lower Glenelg National Park, Cobboboonee National Park, Mount Richmond National Park, Cobboboonee Forest Park, Crawford River Regional Park	9. Glenelg River (destination) 10. Lower Glenelg River Canoe Trail (journey) 11. Cobboboonee Trailbike Area (destination) 12. Wood, Wine and Roses Forest Drive (journey) 13. Fitzroy River (destination) 14. Crawford River (destination) 15. Great South West Walk (journey) 16. Mount Richmond (destination)
<i>Nyamat Mirring</i> – Sea Country	Discovery Bay Marine National Park, Cape Nelson State Park, Discovery Bay Coastal Park	17. Cape Nelson (destination) 18. Cape Bridgewater (destination) 19. Bridgewater Lakes (destination) 20. Swan Lake (destination) 21. Nelson (destination)
<i>Woorrowarook Mirring</i> – Forest Country	Dergholm State Park	22. Baileys Rocks (destination) 23. Glenelg River Fulham (destination) 24. Peter Francis Points Arboretum (destination)

For each VEA the appropriate services to be provided are based on an analysis of the predominant visitors and activities, and the required settings and facilities. The VEAs are also tenure blind, meaning that they consider aspects outside the parks, such as linking roads, visitor services and the landscape settings that are part of the visitors' experience. For example, the Great South West Walk VEA links several parks and reserves through and around Portland to recognise that this area is part of the experience even though it is outside the planning area.

Twenty-four VEAs have been identified in the planning area across the four Gunditjmara countries (table 6.1). Each VEA includes one or more visitor sites that support the opportunities visitors seek from their visit. There are over 60 visitor sites across the planning area including campgrounds and picnic areas with visitor facilities such as parking, toilets, signs and picnic tables. Sites and facilities are managed to meet the needs of different visitors at a level of service appropriate to each of the experiences, activities and settings.

The level of service for visitor sites ranges from very high to very basic. Very high service sites generally provide visitors with ease, convenience and quality facilities while very basic sites have limited facilities and cater for visitors seeking a self-reliant experience in more natural settings. All facilities and services are located and designed to be sustainable, minimise impact on park values, and managed to a safe standard within available resources.

There are also opportunities for visitors to enjoy areas outside the defined VEAs. These areas tend to have lower visitation, sites have a basic to very basic level of service, and generally require less management.

Goal	
A range of opportunities is provided for visitors to experience the parks through the identification and management of VEAs.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Maintain visitor opportunities throughout the planning area with priority given to protecting those defined for the VEAs.	Visitor works and services
Minimise the impacts of visitors on environmental and cultural values, giving priority to VEAs within Conservation Zones.	Visitor services planning
Utilise visitor research to ensure that management is targeted to current and anticipated needs of visitors in VEAs.	Visitor works and services
Minimise impacts on visitor experience of anticipated increased frequency and variability of natural events such as bushfires and severe weather events in VEAs.	Visitor services planning
Goal	
A range of visitor sites will be provided with a mix of facilities that support enjoyable visitor experiences and minimise impacts on natural and cultural values.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Ensure facilities within VEAs contribute and support visitor satisfaction and are in keeping with the opportunities offered.	Visitor works and services
Prioritise renewal and maintenance of facilities to those sites identified as critical to the VEAs (map 3A–E).	Visitor services planning
Identify sites that make no significant contribution to VEAs for decommissioning or closure.	Visitor services planning
Maintain facilities in other areas in keeping with their setting.	Visitor works and services

6.2.1 Tungatt Mirring – Stone Country VEAs

The volcanic landscape of Stone Country is the setting for visitor experiences for Mount Eccles National Park, Mount Napier State Park, Budj Bim (Lake Condah IPA including, Allambie and Lake Gorrie) IPAs and the Tyrendarra IPA. Stone Country provides a unique opportunity for visitors to experience these unique natural settings and share a greater appreciation for the volcanic lava flows and the cultural importance of this landscape to the Gunditjmara people. The journeys and destinations of the stone country VEAs also contribute to an integrated and sustainable tourism experience within the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape.

VEA 1 Budj Bim Trail

The Budj Bim Trail is a journey for cycling and walking in a natural and cultural setting. The trail uses unsealed vehicle tracks in Mount Eccles National Park and adjacent Lake Condah IPA and Lake Gorrie. There are opportunities for further development of the trail consistent with the *Budj Bim Master Plan*, which was released in 2014 and looks at the area’s potential for indigenous-based tourism and business development as an international tourism icon (section 6.5).

Goal	
Create an opportunity for visitors to experience the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape and IPAs through a trail based experience.	
Strategy	Implementation activity
Further develop and promote the Budj Bim Trail as an iconic cultural cycling and walking experience.	Visitor services planning

VEA 2 Budj Bim (Mount Eccles)

Mount Eccles, known as Budj Bim by the Gunditjmara, is an important cultural landscape. The largely natural setting is a destination for campers, sightseers and trail users exploring western Victoria’s volcanic history.

This destination, together with the Budj Bim Trail journey and the IPA destinations, contributes to an integrated Aboriginal tourism experience for the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape. The *Budj Bim Master Plan* identified opportunities for a visitor centre and commercial accommodation near Lake Surprise.

A variety of easy to difficult walks provide access to the key features including Lake Surprise, Natural Bridge and the lava canals as well as koala, kangaroo and emu viewing opportunities. The destination is built around the camping and picnic area at Mount Eccles, which is a critical visitor site for the planning area. It offers a high level of service with a mix of facilities suited to camping and interpretation of the landscape through self-guided and guided opportunities.

The road network also provides opportunities for four-wheel driving and cycling. The eyrie sites on the rim of the crater at Mount Eccles summit are important habitat for the Peregrine Falcon. Walking access to summit is only permitted on the designated walking tracks for public safety and to prevent habitat disturbance.

Goal	
Provide highly accessible opportunities for sightseers, campers and trail users to experience, appreciate and learn about the volcanic history and cultural connections within the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Identify opportunities to enhance the design, layout and provision of camping facilities to improve accessibility for visitors seeking more developed and serviced camping to complement proposals in the <i>Budj Bim Master Plan</i> (section 6.5).	Visitor works and services
Investigate opportunities to enhance interpretation and learning about geology, wildlife and culture through static, multimedia and guided opportunities.	Visitor services planning
Integrate Mount Eccles with the Budj Bim Trail linking with the adjacent IPAs.	Visitor works and services
Provide for walking on designated tracks only on the Mount Eccles summit.	Visitor works and services

VEA 3 Allambie; VEA 4 Lake Condah; VEA 5 Lake Gorrie; VEA 6 Kurtonitj; VEA 7 Tyrendarra

These VEAs are destinations in a range of settings in the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape for visitors to understand Gunditjmara culture, stories and history. They provide the opportunity to share the significance of Stone Country including the geological and cultural significance of the Tyrendarra volcanic lava flow, associated wetlands and the important archaeological features of national and international significance. The heritage of the world's most ancient stone villages and wetland engineering in the landscape as part of traditional eel aquaculture are unique to Stone Country. The wetland engineering is believed to be the world's oldest freshwater aquaculture system. The VEAs for Mount Eccles and the Budj Bim Trail also form part of the integrated tourism offer.

A range of visitor facilities, infrastructure and vehicular access are already in place to support the establishment of cultural tourism. The provision of guided visitor tours, camp sites, day visitor facilities, improved access and the development of a range of potential tourism attractions are defined in the *Budj Bim Master Plan*.

A range of guided tours offered by the Gunditjmara will also be established over time as the supporting facilities and services are realised.

Potential short and long-term tourism development opportunities identified in the Master Plan to enhance the tourism offer include:

- several interpretation sites across the network supported by an Education Centre and wetland restoration;
- safari camping at Allambie;
- an aquaculture centre and eel processing facility at Lake Condah; and
- commercial accommodation at a number of sites across the network.

The *Budj Bim Master Plan* also proposes a longer term objective to define a road access 'spine' between the townships of Macarthur and Tyrendarra that would be called the Budj Bim Tourist Drive and function as a scenic drive, providing access to each of the settings in the Budj Bim Landscape. Feasibility studies and business planning for a number of these tourism development concepts have already been undertaken.

Goal	
Provide opportunities for tourism across the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape consistent with the <i>Budj Bim Master Plan</i> .	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Implement the <i>Budj Bim Master Plan</i> over time subject to available funding and as investment is secured.	Visitor works and services
Investigate opportunities for establishing tourism development concepts identified in the <i>Budj Bim Master Plan</i> .	Visitor services planning
Enhance information and interpretation at relevant sites based on the core themes for the Budj Bim Heritage Landscape.	Visitor works and services
Provide a range of cultural tours and experiences as part of a sustainable tourism business.	Visitor works and services
Provide bus access and facilities at appropriate IPAs to support cultural tours.	Visitor works and services
Work with tourism bodies to promote and market cultural tourism experiences.	Visitor works and services
Work with local government and tourism bodies to enhance road access and tourism signage, and investigate the feasibility of establishing a Budj Bim Tourist Drive.	Visitor works and services

VEA 8 Byaduk Caves and Mount Napier

This journey through natural and rural setting provides opportunities for driving, walking and sightseeing to and from the highest volcanic point in the Western District Plains and a caving experience in Victoria's most extensive lava cave network. The caves are especially important for their role in providing habitat for the threatened Bent-Wing Bat. Access to Harmans 1 Cave is provided through Byaduk Caves, a critical site for the planning area, with a basic level of service and a mix of facilities, including some interpretation of the geological history of the lava caves. The eyrie sites on the rim of the crater at Mount Napier summit are important habitat for the Peregrine Falcon. Walking access to the summit is only permitted on the designated walking tracks for public safety and to prevent habitat disturbance.

Goal	
Provide opportunities for sightseers to explore the volcanic history of the Western District Plains and a portion of the cave network, and enhance their understanding of geological processes and the unique habitat the caves provide for Bent-wing Bats.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Provide access to the Byaduk Caves supported by basic facilities to provide a self-reliant caving experience.	Visitor services planning
Provide for walking on designated tracks only on the Mount Napier summit.	Visitor works and services
Provide access to and promote minimal impact at Harmans 1 Cave and restrict access to other parts of the cave network to minimise the risk of damage to cave features.	Visitor works and services
Seasonally close trail access to the caves during the Bent-wing Bat torpor period (section 4.4).	Visitor works and services
Work with the Victorian Speleological Association and Australian Speleological Federation to protect caves and their features and promote safety and use of the <i>Minimal Impact Caving Code 2010</i> .	Visitor works and services

6.2.2 *Bocara Woorrowarook Mirring – River Forest Country VEAs*

The Glenelg River, caves and surrounding forests have a serene setting in River Forest Country. Princess Margaret Rose Cave is a premier tourism destination in the region while the Lower Glenelg River with its river bends and limestone cliffs surrounded by forest provide spectacular scenery for exploring the river by water and undertaking a journey by canoe. The forests, including areas along the river, are another setting for camping and other activities. The river and forest setting for the Great South West Walk provides a significant contrast to its journey through Sea Country.

VEA 9 Glenelg River

The Princess Margaret Rose Cave offers a highly developed guided caving experience for sightseers to explore the limestone cave. The visitor centre is the critical site where cave tours begin, providing a high level of service with a mix of facilities and services to support the unique activity. The destination is also a base for picnicking, camping, walking and river cruises. The natural setting of the Glenelg River also provides a base for small to large groups of campers to relax, socialise and unwind through water-based activities such as canoeing, kayaking, fishing, power boating and waterskiing. A large number of camping and picnic areas provide basic to mid levels of service with facilities tailored to the needs of overnight visitors and water use. Pritchards, Battersbys and Wilson Hall are critical visitor sites with vehicle-based camping in the planning area.



Glenelg River
– Lower Glenelg National Park

Goal	
Provide a highly serviced and engaging cave tour experience, a base for extended stays and exploration of the Lower Glenelg River, and an accessible range of camping opportunities and day visit access for small to large groups with a focus on water-based activities.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Support the provision of guided cave tours.	Visitor works and services
Continue to support the commercial lease and operation of the visitor centre, kiosk and roofed accommodation at a high to very high level of service.	Visitor services planning
Continue to provide facilities and support for river cruises.	Visitor services planning
Assess the contribution of visitor sites to determine those that are critical to providing the camping and day use experience.	Visitor works and services
Identify opportunities to enhance the design, layout and provision of facilities to maximise the diversity of camping experiences from that for those seeking a quieter more self-reliant experience to those seeking more developed and serviced camping areas.	Visitor services planning
Maintain existing waterskiing opportunities in the designated river zones in accordance with the designated times and speed limits (section 6.3).	Visitor works and services
Prohibit horse riding within Lower Glenelg National Park.	Visitor services planning

VEA 10 Lower Glenelg River Canoe Trail

The journey through the natural and semi-remote setting of the Glenelg River, with its associated birdlife and limestone cliffs, provides opportunities for visitors seeking an overnight canoe or kayak touring experience on calm waters. A number of camping areas with a basic to mid level of service are provided exclusively for canoe and kayak based camping to enhance the remote and quiet nature of the river experience. Moleside, Skipworth Springs, Bowds, Patterson and Lasletts are critical visitor sites for the planning area. Other facilities are targeted to boat based use and camping. DELWP is the designated Waterway Manager under the *Marine Safety Act 2010* (Vic.).

Goal	
Provide a river-based overnight canoe or kayak journey in a natural and semi-remote setting.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Identify opportunities to co-locate hiker and canoe camps for visitors seeking more remote experiences to achieve a net reduction in visitor sites whilst retaining appropriate distances between overnight stops.	Visitor works and services
Ensure ramps and landings are safe and adequate to facilitate entry and exit to the river for canoes and kayaks.	Visitor services planning
Liaise with DELWP regarding matters relating to park management, including waterway speed limits and boating exclusions.	Works and services with partners
Support restrictions to the extent of river available for waterskiing to retain setting values.	Works and services with partners

VEA 11 Cobboboonee Trailbike Area

A destination for trailbike riding in Cobboboonee Forest Park. An area has been set aside for trailbike use where trailbike riders are permitted to ride on a designated trailbike track under permit conditions (section 6.7). Bikes are required to be registered and the rider licensed. The trailbike site provides critical access to the area.

Goal	
Provide a designated and controlled basic trailbike experience off public roads.	
Strategy	Implementation activity
Administer a recreation permit system to permit trailbike riding in the designated trailbike area in Cobboboonee Forest Park.	Visitor works and services

VEA 12 Wood, Wine and Roses Forest Drive, VEA 13 Fitzroy River, VEA 14 Crawford River

These three VEAs provide for forest experiences. Fitzroy River in Cobboboonee National Park, and Crawford River Regional Park are destinations for remote camping in a forest or riverine setting. The journey along the Wood, Wine and Roses Forest Drive includes the camping area at Surry River in Cobboboonee National Park. Camps provide a base for activities such as fishing, walking and exploring the areas roads and tracks. Two horse trails in Cobboboonee National Park and Cobboboonee Forest Park provide for long and short distance rides. Wrights Campground and the tranquil Jackass Fern Gully Campground, a critical site for the planning area in the Fitzroy River VEA in Cobboboonee National Park, provide for overnight camping with horses.

Goal	
Maintain a range of areas for remote and self-reliant camping experiences with a lower level of service.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Review visitor sites that support these VEAs and look at opportunities to decommission sites and adjust service levels consistent with a more basic and self-reliant camping experience.	Visitor works and services
Identify suitable short and medium distance horse riding routes within Cobboboonee National Park VEAs. Investigate opportunities for establishing a long distance horse trail in consultation with the community.	Visitor services planning
Work with local government and tourism bodies to promote the route and experience of the Wood, Wine and Roses Forest Drive.	Works and services with partners

VEA 15 Great South West Walk

The Great South West Walk is a 250 km semi-remote hiking journey through Cobboboonee, Mount Richmond and Lower Glenelg national parks, Cape Nelson State Park, Cobboboonee Forest Park, Discovery Bay Coastal Park, as well as several smaller reserves. The journey takes in the spectacular landscapes of both Sea Country and Forest River Country. The walk includes sections popular for half day to single and multi-day hikes. There are a number of sites with a basic to mid level of service with facilities targeted to the needs of overnight campers. Patterson, Battersbys, Simsons and Moleside sites in Lower Glenelg National Park; Cut Out, Cobboboonee and Fitzroy camps in Cobboboonee National Park; Cubbys Camping Area in Cobboboonee Forest Park; and Lake Mombeong Camp, Mallee Camp, Springs Camp, Swan Lake Camp and Trewalla Camp in Discovery Bay Coastal Park are critical sites for the planning area.

Goal	
Provide a sustainable long distance walking opportunity connecting the Countries of the South West.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Maintain the Great South West Walk as a state significant walking experience offering a range of hikes, from half day to multi-day.	Visitor works and services
Establish a system to manage walkers undertaking the Great South West Walk, which may include bookings, permits and campsite limits.	Visitor services planning
Continue to support and encourage volunteer involvement in management and maintenance of the walk.	Works and services with partners
Assess the contribution of visitor sites to determine those that are critical to providing the camping and walking experience and identify sites that could be decommissioned or have a reduction in service.	Visitor works and services

VEA 16 Mount Richmond

The extinct volcano close to the coast is a destination that provides a natural setting for sightseers and walkers to picnic, take in the views or walk through the forests and heathland. The summit is a critical visitor site for the planning area.

Goal	
Provide a sightseeing and walking opportunity to experience the coastal forests and coastal views.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Maintain the summit as the key visitor site and trailhead with basic picnic facilities.	Visitor works and services
Review visitor sites that support the Mount Richmond experience and look at opportunities to decommission sites and less used trails.	Visitor services planning
Prohibit horse riding in Mount Richmond National Park.	Visitor works and services

6.2.3 Nyamat Mirring – Sea Country VEAs

The marine and coastal environment of Sea Country is a spectacular setting for the VEAs. These destinations provide a significant tourism attraction and represent some of the finest opportunities for scenic viewing in the South West region. Key sections of the Great South West Walk travel through spectacular coastal settings and provide a significant contrast to its journey through Forest River Country.

VEA 17 Cape Nelson

Cape Nelson is a highly developed destination in a natural to rural setting for sightseers to learn about and appreciate the shipping and navigation heritage of the Victorian coast based around the Cape Nelson Lightstation. The light station is a critical site providing a high level of service through roofed accommodation, restaurant and café facilities and associated trails to explore the area. The coastline of Discovery Bay Coastal Park near Cape Nelson State Park also provides a remote and natural setting for experienced surfers. Several visitor sites give access to beaches providing for a range of surfing opportunities. The Great South West Walk passes through Cape Nelson.

Goal	
Provide a highly serviced heritage experience focused on the Cape Nelson Lightstation and maintain sustainable beach access and low key parking areas to surfing locations along the coast.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Support the provision of guided tours to enhance the learning opportunities for visitors through face-to-face expert guides.	Visitor works and services
Continue to support the commercial lease and operation of the destination in line with a high to very high level of service, including café and roofed accommodation.	Visitor works and services



Noble Rocks
– Discovery Bay Coastal Park

Strategies (cont.)	Implementation activity
Continue to provide short walk opportunities to showcase the natural and cultural landscape, while also investigating opportunities to rationalise existing visitor sites and track network.	Visitor works and services
Maintain and improve the sustainability of recognised beach access points.	Visitor works and services
Identify and close informal and unsustainable access tracks.	Visitor services planning

VEA 18 Cape Bridgewater

The rural coastal and marine setting is a destination with opportunities for sightseers to view the coastal scenery and seal colonies from some of Victoria’s highest sea cliffs and explore the petrified forest formations and blowholes through short and medium length walks. The Great South West Walk passes through the area. Visits to these features are provided through two critical visitor sites, Blowholes and Seal Colony Viewing platform, with a mid level of service and two trails. The mix of facilities and services is focused on accessibility and value adding services.

Goal	
Provide highly accessible opportunities for sightseers to experience, appreciate and learn about the coastal geology and wildlife.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Provide universal access and well developed facilities and interpretation at the Blowholes for sightseers and tourists.	Visitor works and services
Protect geological features from off-track impacts through well developed and defined trails.	Visitor services planning
Assess the contribution of visitor sites and trails to determine those that are critical to providing the Cape Bridgewater experience.	Visitor works and services

VEA 19 Bridgewater Lakes

The natural and rural lake environment is a unique destination with opportunities for power boating, fishing and exploration of nearby Tarragal Caves. There are two critical visitor sites, Bridgewater Lakes and Tarragal Caves, which support this opportunity through a basic to mid level of service with an appropriate mix of facilities. DELWP is the designated Waterway Manager under the Marine Safety Act.

Goal	
Provide opportunities for visitors to undertake safe boating and recreation pursuits and enhance understanding of nearby karst formations.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Liaise with DELWP regarding matters relating to park management, including waterway speed limits and boating exclusions.	Works and services with partners
Work with the Victorian Speleological Society and Australian Speleological Federation to protect caves and their features and promote safety and use of the <i>Minimal Impact Caving Code 2010</i> .	Works and services with partners
Implement seasonal closures of caves as required to protect bat colonies (section 4.4).	Ongoing park operations

VEA 20 Swan Lake

Swan Lake is a coastal destination that provides a base for camping in a natural setting where the use of the coastal dunes for dune buggies is permitted under licence to the Portland Dune Buggy Club (section 6.7).

Goal	
Provide for the sustainable use of coastal dunes for dune buggy driving.	
Strategy	Implementation activity
Manage and monitor licence conditions and use for the dune buggy activities at Swan Lake.	Ongoing park operations

VEA 21 Nelson

Nelson is a small developed destination at the coast near to the coastal village of Nelson with opportunities to go fishing, view birdlife and play at the beach in the protected Glenelg River Estuary.

Goal	
Provide basic access to the beach for water-based activities and viewing birdlife in the estuary.	
Strategy	Implementation activity
Continue to maintain access to the beach and trails that support bird viewing.	Visitor works and services

6.2.4 Woorowarook Mirring – Forest Country VEAs

The rolling hills of Forest Country in the north of the planning area have a natural bush setting including woodlands and tranquil waterways with great opportunities to observe birds and wildlife and a network of tracks that provide access for camping, picnicking, short walks and other activities.

VEA 22 Baileys Rocks, VEA 23 Glenelg River Fulham

Two VEAs that are destinations for remote camping in a forest or riverine setting: at Baileys Rocks in Dergholm State Park, and Glenelg River Fulham SSR. These provide a base for camping and associated activities such as fishing, walking, bird watching and exploring the areas' roads and tracks.

Goal	
Maintain a range of areas for remote and self-reliant camping experiences with a lower level of service.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Review visitor sites that support these VEAs and maintain experiences and minimise visitor impacts by looking at opportunities to decommission sites and adjust service levels consistent with a more basic and self-reliant camping experience.	Visitor works and services
Work with Hamilton Field Naturalists Club to enhance the setting and facilities in Glenelg River Fulham SSR.	Works with the community

VEA 24 Peter Francis Points Arboretum

The Peter Francis Points Arboretum was established as a native Australian plant collection in a modified setting in a flora reserve on the outskirts of Coleraine. Situated on 37 hectares, the collection contains in excess of 10 000 plants, including over 60 rare and endangered native species. The destination now provides visitors with the opportunity to learn about indigenous plants and the preservation of natural environments.

Goal	
Provide a highly accessible opportunity for visitors to experience, appreciate and learn about indigenous vegetation of the area.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Continue to support and encourage volunteer involvement in management and maintenance of the reserve.	Works with the community
Provide universal access and well developed facilities and interpretation at the visitor area.	
Maintain appropriate views to the surrounding countryside in recognition of the Black Saturday fires.	

6.3 Recreation activities

The key features of the south-west landscape such as the river and coast support many popular water-based recreation activities: canoeing, kayaking, boating and waterskiing, river cruising, fishing, surfing, swimming and diving. The volcanic stone country and limestone formations also provide unique settings for walking and caving. Some activities are common and widespread such as walking, camping, sightseeing and scenic driving. There are a range of other more localised activities such as dog walking, horse riding, hang gliding, hunting, trailbike riding and dune buggy use that have specific management restrictions in place to ensure the activities are compatible with the natural and cultural environment and other visitors. These recreational activities have important social and economic benefits for the community. A number of these activities are also offered by commercial providers contributing to a growing local nature-based tourism industry (section 6.5). Public access for recreational activities is generally not permitted in the freehold properties of the IPAs.

Boating – Power boating

Power boating on the Glenelg River and Bridgewater Lakes is popular. The Glenelg River is a popular location and is zoned with speed limits to allow for waterskiing in some reaches. Launching and landing of watercraft is possible at many sites along the Glenelg River downstream of Moleside. DELWP is the waterway manager for the Glenelg River upstream to Crawford River and manage all boating activities. Speed limits are 8 or 10 km in defined zones of lower reaches of the Glenelg River and Bridgewater Lakes. Speed limits of 5 km apply within 200 m of the shore in the Marine National Park. Parks Victoria liaises with DELWP and Marine Safety Victoria to ensure waterway management is consistent with park management objectives.

Boating – Canoeing and kayaking

Canoeing and kayaking are popular on the Glenelg River and Bridgewater Lakes. There are a number of commercial operators offering tours, transport and hire of equipment such as canoes. There are eight designated canoe camping areas or campgrounds along the river with fireplaces and toilets available. Parks Victoria engages with Canoeing Victoria and other stakeholders. There is potential for guided canoeing on Lake Condah.

Camping

The majority of camping in the planning area is supported with basic facilities (map 3A–E). A number of sites have toilets, tables and other facilities. Camping may be subject to bookings, fees and site capacity. Lower Glenelg National Park is a popular area with camping along the Glenelg River, with some areas only accessible by canoe. The Great South West Walk links a number of these parks and along with Mount Eccles National Park, Cobboboonee National Park, Cobboboonee Forest Park, Discovery Bay Coastal Park, Dergholm State Park and Crawford River Regional Park offer camping opportunities with designated camping areas. Parks Victoria engages with Camping Association of Victoria and other groups such as Bushwalking Victoria regarding management of camping opportunities.

Campfires are permitted where fireplaces are provided and firewood collection for use in these fireplaces is permitted in a number of the parks or specified areas of parks (table 6.2).



Mount Eccles Campground
– Mount Eccles National Park

Caving

Caving is undertaken in some parts of the planning area, particularly Mount Eccles National Park, Mount Napier State Park (Byaduk Caves), Lower Glenelg National Park (Princess Margaret Rose Cave) and Bats Ridge Wildlife Reserve. Some of the caves are important habitat for bats. Caves and karst values may be highly sensitive to potential impacts from the visitors and caving. Access is restricted to a number of caves and several provisions are in place to minimise impacts (section 4.4). Parks Victoria engages with the Victorian Speleological Association Inc., the Australian Speleological Federation Inc., and the Australian Caves and Karsts Management Association to protect caves and karsts. Responsible cavers adhere to the Australian Speleological Federation's Code of Ethics and the Minimum Impact Caving Code.

Cycling and mountain biking

Cycling and mountain biking have seen an increase in popularity over the past decade and are permitted on all open roads in the planning area and the Management Vehicle Only tracks in Mount Eccles National Park and Mount Napier State Park. The Budj Bim Trail offers experiences of cultural landscapes. Mountain bike riders prefer tracks constructed specifically for their activity, which are provided in higher demand areas outside the planning area. Park Victoria works with Bicycle Network Victoria, the peak body representing cycling, and Mountain Bike Australia, which has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with Parks Victoria recognising the need to work together to manage mountain biking.

Dog walking

Dogs are permitted on lead in a variety of areas including Cubbys Camping Area, Cobboboonee Forest Park, on beach areas at Discovery Bay Coastal Park (on Bridgewater Bay Beach between the boundary of the park east of the Bridgewater Bay kiosk to Shelley Beach and the Ocean Beach at Nelson from the access track to Shipwreck Rock), Baileys Rocks visitor area within Dergholm State Park and the Princess Margaret Rose Cave carpark. Dogs are permitted off-lead on the two beach areas at Discovery Bay Coastal Park outside the Hooded Plover breeding season, which extends from July–August over summer to March–April, and areas consistent with adjacent Shire regulations and times. Dogs are generally not permitted in national parks and State parks as they can have negative impacts on a variety of natural values. Dogs are usually permitted in other areas of public land, including regional parks and state forest.

Dune buggy

Portland Dune Buggy Club has a licence to use an area near Swan Lake within Discovery Bay Coastal Park for dune buggy activities (section 6.7).

Fishing

The planning area has beaches, lakes, rivers and streams which provide fishing opportunities. Fishing along the Glenelg River is a key attraction of the area. Fishing or the removal of marine life (including bait) or artefacts is not permitted in Discovery Bay Marine National Park. Regulations relating to recreational fishing are managed by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources. VRFish, the Victorian Recreational Fishing peak body, has prepared a Code of Conduct for recreational fishing in Victoria.

Hang gliding

There are five hang gliding launch sites in the planning area, four in Discovery Bay Coastal Parks and one in Nelson Bay Coastal Reserve, which are managed under Parks Victoria licences.

Hiking

The planning area provides opportunities for hiking from short walks to longer overnight hikes. The iconic Great South West Walk is a popular long distance track (250 km) which provides a variety of opportunities (section 6.5). Its management is actively supported by the Friends of the Great South West Walk (section 5.2). The Budj Bim Trail between Mount Eccles and the IPAs offers experiences of cultural landscapes. Parks Victoria has a Memorandum of Cooperation with Bushwalking Victoria, the peak body representing walking clubs within Victoria. Parks Victoria also works closely with Walks Victoria and the Friends of the Great South West Walk.

Horse riding

The planning area provides opportunities for horse riding, in particular in Cobboboonee National Park and Cobboboonee Forest Park. The Great Cobboboonee Horse Trail extends over 60 km of vehicle forest roads in Cobboboonee National Park. The trail has two camping areas with horse yards and water trough facilities. Dedicated horse trails are to be established on the existing track network in the Fitzroy River VEA (Cobboboonee NP), subject to public consultation as part of the review of vehicle tracks in Cobboboonee National Park. Cobboboonee Forest Park provides for shorter rides with a designated horse trail day ride. Discovery Bay Coastal Park has designated beach horse riding areas and horse riding is permitted on designated routes in Dergholm State Park. Horse riding in Lower Glenelg National Park and Mount Richmond National Park is not permitted. Previous routes in these parks have become increasingly busy with vehicles and are considered unsafe for horse riding. Alternative routes on shire roads are available.

Hunting

Game species may be hunted in Cobboboonee Forest Park, Crawford River Regional Park, State Game Reserves, Natural Features Reserves and Coastal Reserves (appendix 1) during the open season subject to game and firearms licences and other conditions outlined in the Victorian Hunting Guide. Pest species may be hunted in Cobboboonee Forest Park, Crawford River Regional Park, and the Natural Features Reserves and Coastal Reserves (appendix 1) at any time of the year and does not require a game licence. Portland North Cemetery Historic Area, Tarragal Education Area, Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve and the National Parks, State Parks, Coastal Parks, and Nature Conservation Reserves (appendix 1) are closed to hunting at all times.

Trailbike riding

Trailbike riding is permitted on open roads subject to the same conditions as other vehicle users. Trailbike riding under a DELWP recreation permit is also permitted on the designated trailbike track in Cobboboonee Forest Park (section 6.7). Trailbike riding often produces high levels of noise which can disturb wildlife, other users and local residents and can have substantial impacts on the condition of roads and tracks. To protect park values off-track riding and driving is not permitted. Normal conditions apply and bikes are required to be registered and the rider licensed.

Waterskiing

Waterskiing is a popular activity in defined zones in the lower reaches of the Glenelg River and on Bridgewater Lakes in accordance with designated speed limits and defined times (refer to Boating – Power boating).



Dog walking
– Discovery Bay Coastal Park

Other activities

Orienteering involves large groups of participants from clubs, schools and other non-commercial groups. Organised and competitive events require a permit. Large groups may have a significant impact on park values or other park users through associated activities such as camping. Currently orienteering is not allowed in Lower Glenelg and Mount Eccles national parks. Parks Victoria engages with Orienteering Victoria as the peak recreational body for the activity.

Geocaching, involving the placement of a physical cache, is not encouraged in parks and reserves and caches will be removed if park values are compromised.

Earthcaching involves natural features in an area without physical placement of a cache and is generally permitted providing the natural features are not interfered with or impacted.

Goal	
A diverse range of recreational opportunities are facilitated ensuring impacts on environmental and cultural values and the enjoyment of other visitors are minimised.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Permit activities within parks and zones as described in table 6.2.	Visitor works and services
Liaise with user and volunteer groups and promote partnerships to support management, protect values and promote visitor safety.	Works with the community
Establish dedicated horse trails in the Fitzroy River VEA and a long distance horse riding trail extending outside the Fitzroy River VEA, on the existing track network as part of the review of vehicle tracks in Cobboboonee National Park in consultation with the community.	Visitor works and services
Monitor impacts to wildlife (especially Hooded Plover and other shorebirds) from dog walking and horse riding and review provisions if required.	Visitor services planning
Manage conflicts between user groups to promote a positive experience for all visitors.	Visitor services planning

Table 6.2 Summary of recreation activities in zones, and parks and reserves

Activity	National, state and coastal parks, nature conservation reserves				Forest park	IPAs	Regional park and other reserves	
	Conservation Zone	Conservation and Recreation Zone	Reference Area Zone	Education Area Zone	All Zones	All Zones	Conservation Zone	Conservation and Recreation Zone
	Yes	Yes	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Boating (powered and non-powered)	Lower Glenelg River National Park No landing permitted in Reference Area. Launching and landing of power boats at Sandy Waterholes, Sapling Creek, Wilson Hall, Pritchards, Saunders and Pines Landing (map 3B). Mooring or anchoring continuously for more than 12 hours is not permitted. Mooring overnight for the purpose of sleeping on-board is not permitted.							
Camping – designated areas	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Cond.	Cond.
	Permitted in areas as shown on map 3A–E. Camping may be subject to bookings, fees and site capacity.							
Camping – dispersed	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Car rallies	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Caving (incl. abseil access)	Cond.	Cond.	No	n/a	Cond.	No	Cond.	Cond.
	Access to a number of caves is restricted and closures will be implemented as required to protect natural and cultural values (section 4.4).							
Cycling	Cond.	Cond.	No	No	Yes	Cond.	Yes	Yes
	Permitted on open vehicle tracks. Mount Eccles National Park and Mount Napier State Park. Cycling also permitted on management vehicle tracks. Dergholm State Park and Narrawong Flora Reserve Cycling subject to seasonal closures. IPAs Only permitted on Budj Bim Trail.							
Dog walking	No	Cond.	No	No	Cond.	No	Cond.	Cond.
	Cobboboonee Forest Park Dogs permitted on-lead within Cubbys Camping Area; permitted off-lead elsewhere. Dergholm State Park Dogs permitted on-lead at Baileys Rocks visitor area. Lower Glenelg National Park Dogs permitted on-lead in Princess Margaret Rose Cave carpark Crawford River Regional Park Dogs permitted on-lead in VEA. Discovery Bay Coastal Park Dogs permitted off-lead outside Hooded Plover breeding season (July–August to March–April) between tide marks on Bridgewater Bay Beach between the boundary of the park east of the Bridgewater Bay kiosk to Shelley Beach; and Ocean Beach at Nelson from the access track to Shipwreck Rock.							
Education activities	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fires – liquid or gas fuel stove	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

Table 6.2 cont.

Activity	National, state and coastal parks, nature conservation reserves				Forest park	IPAs	Regional park and other reserves	
	Conservation Zone	Conservation and Recreation Zone	Reference Area Zone	Education Area Zone	All Zones	All Zones	Conservation Zone	Conservation and Recreation Zone
Fires – solid fuel campfires	Cond.	Cond.	No	No	Cond.	No	Yes	Yes
	Fires only permitted in the fireplaces provided.							
Fires – solid fuel commercial BBQ appliances	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Firewood collection for campfires	Cond.	Cond.	No	No	Cond.	No	Yes	Yes
	National Parks Act areas: Permitted only for use in fireplaces provided. Forest Park: Not permitted to be collected from SPZ, permitted in GMZ and SMZ only for use in fireplaces provided. Note: Domestic firewood collection generally not permitted (section 6.7).							
Fishing	Cond.	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	Discovery Bay Marine National Park Not permitted.							
Fossicking and prospecting	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Fossil collection	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Four-wheel driving	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Geocaching	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Guided activities	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hang gliding	No	Cond.	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Discovery Bay Coastal Park and Nelson Bay Coastal Reserve Permitted from licensed launch sites.							
Hiking	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Yes	Yes
	IPAs Walker access restricted to Tyrendarra IPA and Budj Bim Trail.							
Horse riding	Cond.	Cond.	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	Discovery Bay Coastal Park Permitted between tide marks on Bridgewater Bay Beach between the park boundary east of Bridgewater Bay kiosk to Shelley Beach, and between tide marks on the section of beach between Bridgewater Lakes and Lake Mombeong, and on Discovery Bay Road access track. Cobboboonee National Park and Cobboboonee Forest Park In daylight hours. Dergholm State Park On Baileys Rocks entrance road, Sharam Rd, Nolans Creek Rd, Dergholm–Chetwynd Rd and Tallengower Rd. Not permitted in other National Parks Act areas.							

Table 6.2 cont.

Activity	National, state and coastal parks, nature conservation reserves				Forest park	IPAs	Regional park and other reserves	
	Conservation Zone	Conservation and Recreation Zone	Reference Area Zone	Education Area Zone	All Zones	All Zones	Conservation Zone	Conservation and Recreation Zone
Horse riding – camping	Cond.	Cond.	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
	Cobboboonee National Park Permitted in designated horse camps at Wrights Campground and Jackass Fern Gully Campground (map 3C).							
Hunting	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Cond.	Cond.
	Hunting is subject to game and firearms licences and conditions. Cobboboonee Forest Park, Crawford River Regional Park and Natural Features Reserves and Coastal Reserves (appendix 1) Game hunting is permitted during the open season and pest animal hunting is permitted. State Game Reserves (appendix 1) Game hunting only is permitted during the open season, pest animal hunting is not permitted.							
Organised or competitive events	Cond. Subject to permit		No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Orienteering and rogaining	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Rock climbing and abseiling	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Trailbike riding	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Vehicle access	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Cond.	Yes	Yes
	Tyrendarra IPA Vehicles permitted on entrance track and carpark							
Water sports - inland (swimming, skiing etc.)	Cond.	Cond.	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Subject to speed and time restrictions. Lower Glenelg National Park Waterskiing permitted in designated zones on Lower Glenelg River. Discovery Bay Coastal Park Waterskiing permitted in designated zones on Bridgewater Lakes							
Water sports - marine (sailing, surfing, diving etc.)	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	



Lightstation signage
– Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve

6.4 Information, interpretation and education

Information for visitors regarding the parks and their values is provided through accredited visitor information centres, websites, social media and brochures, such as Park Notes. Information is also provided on-site through signs that orientate visitors, interpret a site’s environmental, historic or cultural values or outline the recreational opportunities.

Advice on expected visitor behaviour and public safety is provided through signs, and off-site promotional material (interpretation, information and education), helping to conserve and protect park values, promote enjoyment and understanding of values and support for management policies and practices.

There are purpose built education facilities at Tyrendarra IPA. Gunditjmara traditional and contemporary connections with Country, ecological significance and recreational opportunities provide the key themes for information, interpretation and education (table 5.1).

Goal	
Visitors feel welcomed, are well informed of the planning area’s values and are aware of the range of visitor opportunities available.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Continue developing information and welcome signs that recognise Gunditjmara across Country to strongly reflect Gunditjmara presence in the landscape.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Provide and maintain information at key visitor sites within VEAs regarding park values, access, facilities and visitor opportunities available (map 3A–E).	Visitor services planning
Provide opportunities to learn about the Budj Bim cultural landscape, including promoting recognition of cooperative management of Mount Eccles National Park.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara

Goal	
Visitors and locals appreciate the landscapes, its ancient and recent history, cultural and ecological richness and the interwoven nature of peoples' connections.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Develop a landscape-scale, rather than site-based, interpretive program in partnership between PV and Gunditjmarra and potentially other public land managers that tells the 'bigger' stories that cross countries and boundaries.	Visitor services planning
Continue to make Gunditjmarra culture more visible and appreciated, including interpreting key stories related to the Gunditjmarra creation stories, significant events, key landscapes and geological and other features (table 5.1).	Works and services with the Gunditjmarra
Deliver targeted education and interpretation programs and materials at some key visitor sites (map 3A–E) to promote safety and environmental protection and to build knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment.	Ongoing park operations
Utilise the key themes and stories of the countries (table 5.1) and the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape as a key theme for interpretation of Stone Country.	Visitor services planning
Support Gunditjmarra to develop and deliver a variety of participatory interpretation activities such as storytelling, walking and looking for resources that offer visitor opportunities to experience and appreciate Country in new ways.	Works and services with the Gunditjmarra
Goal	
Students are provided with a range of enjoyable educational experiences that inspire a strong appreciation of the planning area and its values.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Promote a web-based presence for pre-visit information and activities for teachers and students.	Visitor works and services
Provide opportunities for students to be involved in 'on Country' activities.	Visitor works and services



Lake Surprise lookout
– Mount Eccles National Park

6.5 Tourism

There are number of key tourism attractions in the planning area including Gunditjmara cultural heritage at Tyrendarra IPA, Mount Eccles National Park, and Lake Condah accessed through Gunditjmara hosted tours; coastal scenery; Cape Nelson Lightstation; Discovery Bay Coastal Park; Cape Bridgewater; the Great South West Walk; Lower Glenelg River riverside camping, boating, canoeing, bird watching and fishing; seals at Cape Bridgewater; and whale watching from Portland around all the capes to Cape Bridgewater. Princess Margaret Rose Cave is one of the few show caves in Victoria. The spectacular 250 km Great South West Walk treks through several parks and other areas and has some ‘step on step off’ hikes allowing for shorter or longer overnight combinations.

The Budj Bim Sustainable Development Partnership aims to develop the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape as a major eco and cultural tourism attraction and a major demonstration project exploring pathways to sustainable development. The project is based on strong local leadership and a positive vision for prosperity for the communities of south-west Victoria.

The Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape Sustainable Tourism Plan, an outcome of the partnership, identified the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape as a potentially significant and authentic Aboriginal tourism experience. The *Budj Bim Master Plan* for the National Heritage Landscape by Gunditj Mirring TOAC aims to bring together the current activities and plans into a single vision that will guide the development of sustainable tourism from which the Gunditjmara people and the broader community can gain economic and social benefit. The Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape has the potential to support tourism development through its unique Indigenous heritage and proximity to the Great Ocean Road, Great South Coast and Grampians Tourism Regions providing the opportunity to draw visitors to south-west Victoria. The Master Plan also outlines how the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape could become an international tourism icon.

The planning area is part of Tourism Victoria’s Great Ocean Road region and the Great Ocean Road National Landscape zone. In response to the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission’s 2012 report on the Victorian tourism industry, guidelines for private tourism investment on public land have been developed. A number of licensed tour operators offer a range of activities, from support for canoeing, riding, fishing and hiking to guided tours of the area.

Goal	
Nature based and cultural tourism experiences are supported.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Work with regional tourism bodies, tour operators and other land managers to promote experiences that deliver economic, social and environmental benefits.	Works and services with partners
Support the promotion of the planning area, focussing on the IPAs, as a key destination for visitors seeking an Indigenous cultural experience.	Visitor services planning
Investigate opportunities for partnerships that create sustainable tourism experiences such as equipment hire, accommodation, and mountain biking and walking tours.	Visitor services planning
Support Gunditjmara in the development and delivery of tourism products on IPAs such as guided tours and bush tucker and eel aquaculture.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Increase Licensed Tour Operators' understanding of Gunditjmara culture.	Visitor services planning
Support the implementation of the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape Sustainable Tourism Plan and the implementation of the <i>Budj Bim Master Plan</i> .	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Manage tourism activities to minimise disturbance of seal colonies.	Visitor services planning

6.6 Risks and safety

Victoria Police has the primary responsibility for emergency response relating to public safety. Land managers prepare policies and procedures that guide initial response in relation to parks and reserves and are responsible for rehabilitation, clearing and restoration of roads and other assets in areas they manage after fire, flood and other emergencies. Parks Victoria prepares Emergency Management Plans for all parks in the planning area. Gunditj Mirring TOAC and Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation have emergency response policies covering their properties and IPAs.

Land managers undertake risk mitigation works, ensuring buildings and facilities are maintained at the required standards on the properties they are responsible for.

Being in the outdoors and recreation activities can be, by their nature, inherently dangerous and elements of risk will always be present. It is not desirable or feasible to remove all risk from recreation as risk is an intrinsic part of visitors' experience. However, managers have a duty of care to visitors to ensure that they avoid foreseeable risks or injury.

Visitors need to be aware of risks and take personal responsibility for the activities they plan and pursue to ensure safety during their visit. Providing information and educating visitors are the most effective ways to increase awareness of risks and promote safety. This is done through both pre-visit and on-site information where appropriate.

Goal	
Visitor, volunteer and staff safety is a key consideration in all aspects of management.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Develop and maintain Emergency Management Plans for all areas.	Ongoing park operations
Ensure staff are trained and prepared to respond appropriately to emergency situations.	Ongoing park operations
Ensure timely response with partner organisations to emergencies such as flood, infestation, oil spills, cetacean strandings, and search and rescue.	Ongoing park operations
Maintain facilities in a condition that allows for safe use.	Visitor works and services
Promote visitor awareness of potential risks associated with key sites and activities.	Ongoing park operations

6.7 Authorised uses

There are a number of uses and activities that may be permitted in the planning area subject to land status and reservation purpose. In addition, the 2007 Native Title consent determination recognises that the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners have non-exclusive rights to access, camp and enjoy the parks and reserves, to protect places and areas of importance and take resources of the land and water.

Authorised uses include apiculture, mining and minor forest produce and stock grazing in reserves. Many areas of the parks, reserves and other public land in the planning area are important for beekeeping and apiculture under licence or permit has been a longstanding use. Information on the location of bee sites is available to the community through Forest Explorer at the DELWP website.

In relation to areas reserved under the National Parks Act, except for a small area of Cobboboonee National Park that is subject to a pre-existing exploration licence, the national and state parks and marine national park are not available for mining or stone exploration, mining or quarrying. Such activities may only occur in Discovery Bay Coastal Park with the consent of the Minister. Petroleum and geothermal energy exploration and extraction are not permitted in the national, state and coastal parks except with the consent of the Minister. Petroleum exploration in the marine national park is not permitted except in very limited circumstances with the consent of the Minister. Stone, mineral, petroleum or geothermal exploration, in the forest park and reserves, requires the consent of the Minister.

Firewood collection in areas reserved under the National Parks Act is allowed for personal use in campfires where this is permitted in the park (table 6.2). Use of some minor forest products may be permitted outside the Special Protection Zones in the forest park and firewood collection for personal use is allowed in designated firewood collection areas during firewood collection seasons.

Public utilities include the light station and navigational aid at Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve (leased by Australian Maritime Safety Authority), the Telstra cable to north of Heddichs Hill in Lower Glenelg National Park, a sewerage outlet in

Nelson Bay Coastal Reserve, and trigonometrical stations on the summits of Mount Eccles and Mount Napier and at Bulleys Range in Lower Glenelg National Park.

Private occupancies and uses permitted include leases of Princess Margaret Rose Cave in Lower Glenelg National Park and Cape Nelson Lighthouse within Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve for tourism; the use of the Designated Dune Buggy Area and Designated Swan Lake Camping Area in Discovery Bay Coastal Park by the Portland Dune Buggy Club; the clubhouse at Bridgewater Lakes in Discovery Bay Coastal Park by Bridgewater Lakes Aquatic Club; maintenance of drainage schemes in certain areas (including parts of Cobboboonee National Park); Cobboboonee Enduro Trailbike Area in Cobboboonee Forest Park; and commercial eel or bait fishing licences, which are managed by DELWP. Some areas are subject to occasional uses such as for research, filming, education, and for training by the Defence Forces and Victoria Police.

DELWP manages the commercial take of pipi from the beaches of Discovery Bay Coastal Park and is currently working to establish a management regime that supports the sustainable use and development of the pipi resource in a way that does not compromise the high conservation and cultural values of the park and safety of visitors.

Goal	
Authorised uses of public land in the planning area are subject to conditions that minimise the effects on values and visitors.	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Encourage and manage beekeeping in accordance with policies and procedures and licences and permits under the relevant legislation.	Ongoing park operations
Manage earth resources in accordance with relevant legislation and minimise any impacts in the reserves.	Ongoing park operations
Permit firewood collection for personal use in the forest park within designated domestic firewood collection areas, and only during firewood collection seasons.	Ongoing park operations
Continue licensing and leasing subject to results of monitoring conditions to minimise impacts.	Ongoing park operations
Support measures to improve the sustainability of any pipi fishery in Discovery Bay Coastal Park. Adopt measures to prevent impacts to Hooded Plovers and other threatened shorebirds, Aboriginal middens and safety of visitor on access tracks and beaches, such as access restrictions to areas and during the Hooded Plover breeding season from July–August to March–April.	Ongoing park operations
Consistent with the <i>Victorian Aboriginal Fishing Strategy</i> , collaborate with the Guditjmara Traditional Owners on the sustainable management of commercial licences and support opportunities to realise commercial business aspirations such as commercial eel fishing.	Works and services with the Guditjmara
Seek advice from Budj Bim Council on authorised uses including apiculture in Mount Eccles National Park.	Works and services with Budj Bim Council



Sponge Crab
– Discovery Bay Marine National Park

7 Understanding Country

The knowledge and practices of Gunditjmara Traditional Owners, scientists, land managers and communities forms the basis for improving our understanding and developing clear, long-term goals and management strategies.

7.1 Research and monitoring

Research and monitoring are essential components of adaptive management, providing objective evidence to support decision making. Research for park management includes ecology, cultural heritage, recreation and social sciences. Research can be applied (targeted to specific objectives), fundamental (to improve basic knowledge) or opportunistic. Parks Victoria uses Signs of Healthy Parks as the basis for monitoring of particular focus areas, assets and threats.

Partner agencies including DELWP and Glenelg Hopkins CMA undertake research and monitoring on issues including water quality, threatened species, pests and fire effects. The Gunditjmara Traditional Owners, Parks Victoria and the CMA are developing the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners Ecological Tool Kit to document traditional land management knowledge to inform new ways of managing the land using traditional practices. Parks Victoria has a collaborative Research Partners Program with leading universities and research institutions. The Budj Bim rangers also undertake partnership and education programs such as the collaboration with Museum Victoria's Bush Blitz survey of the biodiversity of Lake Condah.

Goal	
Strategies	Implementation activity
Management decisions and techniques are improved through focussed research and the effectiveness of management programs is monitored and evaluated.	
Explore new ways to share knowledge such as establishing regional science and knowledge partnerships.	Works and services with partners
Explore new ways to bring a cultural approach to management that supports evidenced based adaptive management.	Ongoing park operations
Support research and monitoring by partner agencies to improve management effectiveness and build the knowledge base.	Works and services with partners
Work with Research Partners in coordinating, applying and promoting research to address management questions and knowledge gaps (table 7.1).	Works and services with partners
Encourage Gunditjmara Traditional Owners' families to monitor priority totem and culturally significant species, communities, places and features.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara

CARING FOR COUNTRY

Strategies (cont.)	Implementation activity
Work with the community and volunteers to increase knowledge and monitor threatened and culturally significant species and communities (e.g. Mount Eccles NP Koala Management).	Works with the community
Extend Signs of Healthy Parks monitoring plans incorporating priority ecological values and pests programs.	Targeted research and monitoring
Trial and monitor use of the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners Ecological Tool Kit in meeting management goals in IPAs and investigate application in parks to meet ecological goals.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Work with Gunditjmara to better understand traditional Aboriginal fire management.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Encourage collaborative biodiversity surveys across land tenure that also explore cultural value of species and communities.	Works and services with partners
Promote fire management and ecology research; including Gunditjmara knowledge of burning for ecological and cultural purposes, and pre and post burn ecological surveys.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results
Trial and monitor cultural burning in wetlands to increase open water habitat and abundance of aquatic and bird resources in IPAs.	Planned burns include ecological and risk mitigation results

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Strategies (cont.)	Implementation activity
Assist Gunditjmara to establish and maintain a GIS based cultural heritage knowledge repository including an ongoing oral history program run by the Gunditjmara for the Gunditjmara.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Monitor cultural values and assets at particular risk from impacts of visitor activities or fire management.	Ongoing park operations
Prioritise future research, field recording and survey on thematic gaps identified in the Cultural Heritage and Social Values Assessment and less surveyed areas such as Dergholm SP, Cobboboonee NP and newly acquired Aboriginal community owned properties.	Works and services with the Gunditjmara
Increase knowledge of significant historic and cultural places and protection measures.	Targeted research and monitoring



PEOPLE ON COUNTRY

Strategies (cont.)	Implementation activity
Encourage research to increase knowledge and understanding of tourism trends, visitor use patterns, experiences being sought, levels of satisfaction and methods for managing impacts and conflicts.	Targeted research and monitoring
Encourage research to investigate and plot the spatial relationships between stone circles and eel traps and interpret as part of Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape.	Targeted research and monitoring
Utilise visitor research to ensure that access, facilities and services are targeted to the needs of visitors and the activities that they are participating in.	Ongoing park operations

Table 7.1 Key ecological research gaps

Ecosystems, communities and species
Presence, abundance and population status of species, in particular of fauna (Dergholm SP) and threatened species.
Trends in ecosystem health within the planning area.
Trends in older growth forest.
Impact of various koala population management strategies on long term tree and vegetation condition.
Impacts of Deer grazing and browsing on vegetation.
Long term impact on vegetation structure and condition from native animal overbrowsing.
Control techniques for Coast Wattle.
Extent and impact of high risk invasive pest plants.
Distribution of amphibian Chytrid fungus within freshwater wetlands.
Impact of climate on foraging resources (e.g. seed production, nectar availability, invertebrate abundance).
Trends in numbers of arboreal species such as gliders.
Impacts on food trees for the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo from pathogens and pests.
Water
Flow and flooding regimes for maintaining and improving the condition of wetland and riparian vegetation communities, and threatened aquatic flora and fauna.
Appropriate ecological water regimes for regulated wetlands.
Regular, representative and systematic monitoring of water quality, flow and chemistry (pH, turbidity etc.) for key waterways and wetlands.
Impact of climate change on water quality parameters.
Flood requirements of the Glenelg River system and key regulated wetlands.
Fire
Appropriate ecological burning regimes of rare or threatened ground storey plant species including orchids.
Long term impact of burning regimes on ecosystems, including the effect on both common and threatened fauna and flora, and habitat values such as tree hollows.
Identification of sites and areas supporting threatened vegetation communities, fauna or flora with specific fire regime requirements.

Appendix 1

Parks, Reserves and Indigenous Protected Areas and Zoning

NATIONAL, STATE AND COASTAL PARKS

Cape Nelson State Park
Cobboboonee National Park
Dergholm State Park
Discovery Bay Coastal Park
Discovery Bay Marine National Park
Lower Glenelg National Park
Mount Eccles National Park
Mount Napier State Park
Mount Richmond National Park

FOREST PARK

Cobboboonee Forest Park ^(a)

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY OWNED PROPERTIES

Lake Condah IPA
Kurtonitj IPA
Tyrendarra IPA
Peters
Lake Gorrie
Bryants

RESERVES

Nature Conservation Reserves

Balmoral N.C.R.
Bats Ridge W.R.
Bullawin F.R.
Burgess Swamp W.R.
Dorodong N.C.R.
Drik Drik F.R.
Gatum Gatum F.R.
Johnstones Creek F.R.
Kaladbro W.R.
Kanawinka F.R.
Lawrence Rocks W.R.
Mocamboro F.R.
Mumbannar N.C.R.
Narrowong F.R.
Nigretta Falls F.R.
Nine Mile F.F.R.
Peter Francis Points Arboretum F.R.
The Stones W.R.
Tooloy F.R.
Tyrendarra F.R.
Wannon Rapids F.R.
Wilkin F.F.R.

Natural Features Reserves ^(a)

Annya B.R.
Ardno B.R.
Bahgallah B.R.
Balmoral B.R.
Balrook B.R.
Barrys Swamp B.R.
Bochara N.F.R.
Bolwarra H43 B.R.
Bolwarra H44 B.R.
Bolwarra H45 B.R.
Bourkes Bridge SS.R.
Brimboal SS.R.
Cavendish B.R.
Dartmoor B.R.
Dergholm SS.R.
Digby H30 B.R.
Digby H31 B.R.
Digby H32 B.R.
Digby H5 B.R.
Doling Doling Swamp L.R.
Drik Drik H51 B.R.
Drik Drik H9 B.R.
Drumborg B.R.
Dundas Range S.R.
Dunmore B.R.
Fitzroy River SS.R.
Freshwater Lake L.R.
Ganoo Ganoo B.R.
Geerak B.R.
Giant Rock S.R.
Glenelg River (1) SS.R.
Glenelg River (2) SS.R.
Glenelg River (3) SS.R.
Glenelg River (4) SS.R.
Glenelg River (5) SS.R.
Glenelg River (6) SS.R.
Glenelg River (7) SS.R.
Glenelg River (8) SS.R.
Glenelg River J12 SS.R.
Glenelg River Fulham SS.R.
Gorae B.R.
Grassy Swamp B.R.
Greenhills B.R.
Gritjurk B.R.
Hedditch Hill S.R.
Henty Creek B.R.
Heywood B.R.
Hotspur B.R.
Jones Creek SS.R.
Kadnook I29 B.R.

Kadnook I30 B.R.
Kadnook I31 B.R.
Kaladbro H20 B.R.
Kaladbro H3 B.R.
Kanawinka H16 B.R.
Kentbruck H14 B.R.
Kentbruck H50 B.R.
Lyons H12 B.R.
Lyons H37 B.R.
Malanagnee H24 B.R.
Malanganee H25 B.R.
Malanganee H7 B.R.
Mirranatwa B.R.
Mocamboro H29 B.R.
Mouzie B.R.
Mouzie N.F.R.
Mumbannar B.R.
Murndal L.R.
Myamyn B.R.
Nagwarry H17 B.R.
Nagwarry H18 B.R.
Nagwarry H19 B.R.
Nelson SS.R.
Portland H46 B.R.
Portland H47 B.R.
Powers Creek School B.R.
Red Cap Creek SS.R.
Sandford SS.R.
Steep Bank Creek B.R.
Stokes River (1) SS.R.
Stokes River (2) SS.R.
Stokes River (3) SS.R.
Stokes River (4) SS.R.
Stokes River (5) SS.R.
Tarragal E.A.
Tarrayoukyan B.R.
Trewalla H48 B.R.
Trewalla H49 B.R.
Wando River SS.R.
Wannon River (1) SS.R.
Wannon River (2) SS.R.
Warrock SS.R.
Werriko B.R.
Winyayung B.R.
Wookurkook B.R.

State Game Reserves ^(b)

Beniagh Swamp W.R.
Black Swamp, Balmoral W.R.
Bryan Swamp W.R.
Church Swamp W.R.
Kerr Swamp W.R.

Lake Crawford W.R.
Lake Sinclair W.R.
Pieracle Swamp W.R.
Red Hill Swamp W.R.
Tooloy-Lake Mundi W.R.
Victoria Lagoon W.R.

Historic Area

Portland North Cemetery H.A.

Regional Park, Coastal and other Reserve

Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve
Crawford River Regional Park ^(a)
Narrowong Coastal Reserve ^(a)
Nelson Bay Coastal Reserve ^(a)

B.R. Bushland Reserve
E.A. Education Area
F.F.R. Flora and Fauna Reserve
F.R. Flora Reserve
H.A. Historic Area
IPA Indigenous Protected Area
L.R. Lake Reserve
N.C.R. Nature Conservation Reserve
N.F.R. Natural Features Reserve
S.R. Scenic Reserve
SS.R. Streamside Reserve
W.R. Wildlife Reserve

KEY TO ZONING

Black – for details of zoning refer to map 2A – B
Green is Conservation Zone
Brown is Conservation and Recreation Zone
Blue is Education Zone

KEY TO HUNTING

Not permitted except:

(a) Game hunting permitted during the open season. Pest animal hunting permitted.

(b) Game hunting permitted during the open season. Pest animal hunting not permitted.

Appendix 2

Submissions on the draft management plan

A total of 54 written submissions were received on the draft management plan, which was released for comment from 27 August 2013 to 11 November 2013. Submissions were received from 22 organisations and 32 individuals as listed below. Seven marked as confidential are not listed.

Organisation	Submission No.
Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association	47
BirdLife Australia	42
BirdLife Australia, Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Recovery Project	43
Bushwalking Victoria	24
Four Wheel Drive Victoria	44
Friends of the Great South West Walk	46
Friends of the Peter Francis Points Arboretum	53
Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority	23
Hamilton Field Naturalist Club	22
Heritage Council	20
Portland Field Naturalists' Club Inc	26
South West Touring Club	45
The Wilderness Society Vic	51
Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages (Melbourne)	36
Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages (Kirkstall)	37
Victorian Apiarists Association	27
Victorian Hunting Advisory Committee	54
Victorian National Parks Association	52

Individual	Submission No.
Ian Anderson	2
Robert Bartlett	48
Damein Bell	35
Laura Bell	34
Paul Bennett	30
Nicolas Bertin	5
Ben Church	13
Frank Clarke	14
Andrew Creek	4
Stephen Douglass	25
Meg and John Gallpen	6
Rochelle Hine	40
Robert Hodgett	50
Corey Ilsley	17
Jamaica Ilsley	15
Raelene Lovett	39
Andrew Pettingill	49
Leo Pitts	29
Denis Rose	32
Sarah Rose	41
Gordon Slade	10
Gordon Stokes	28
Joanne Symonds	7
Stephanie Tashkoff	38
Amy Walker	33
John Whitton	1
Mathew Wills	3
Christine Wrench	21



Corawortj Mawmil
Traditional Owners
Binjural Corporation



Redj Binj Council