Grampians (Gariwerd) Park Landscape Conservation Action Plan 2018–2023

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The Grampians (Gariwerd) Park Landscape

The Grampians (Gariwerd) Park Landscape covers 12 parks and reserves with a combined area of 278 164 ha, including. The Park Landscape is dominated by the Grampians National Park (Gariwerd) and Black Range State Park (Burrinj), with their characteristic sandstone peaks rising abruptly from the surrounding plain. It is an iconic landscape with a national heritage listing.

The Park Landscape has had intensive Aboriginal occupation for tens of thousands of years. It is a place where food, water and shelter have always been abundant and is the origin of many dreaming stories. The area is significant to the Traditional Owners of the Wotjobaluk, Gunditjmara and Eastern Maar nations, who maintain strong associations with the area.

A diversity of ecosystems, ranging from montane communities adapted to occasional snow cover to woodland communities baked dry in the summer, support a high level of floristic endemism and form a habitat stronghold for a number of rare or endangered species.
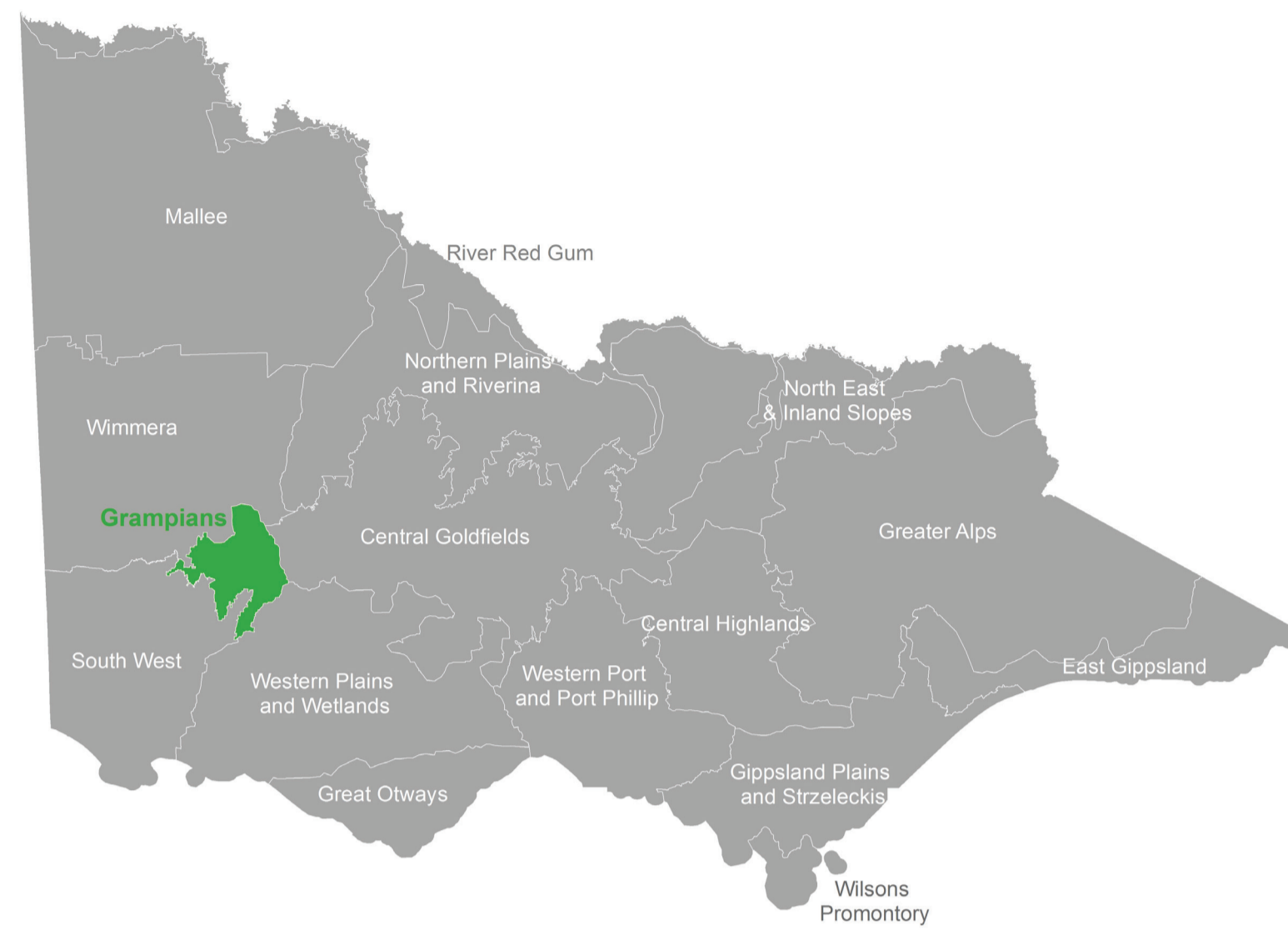
The Park Landscape encompasses nine ecosystems but is dominated by Heathy Forest and Woodland, which covers almost half of the landscape.

The diversity of ecosystems creates a high level of floristic endemism and diversity, with more than one-third of Victoria's native plant species occurring in 44 ecological vegetation classes.

The Grampians National Park provides more than 80% of the suitable habitat in Victoria for 40 nationally threatened species, including the Heath Mouse, Smoky Mouse, Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby and Grampians Pincushion-lily.

About three-quarters of the park is designated as a Special Water Supply Catchment Area, providing high-quality water for communities across a wide area of western Victoria.

Fire has had a profound effect on the landscape, particularly the recent bushfires in 2006, 2013, 2014 and 2015, which burnt more than 85% of the landscape.

Mallee
River Red Gum
Northern Plains and Riverina
Wimmera
North East & Inland Slopes
Grampians
Central Goldfields
Greater Alps
Central Highlands
South West
Western Plains and Wetlands
Western Port and Port Phillip
East Gippsland
Great Otways
Gippsland Plains and Strzeleckis
Wilsons Promontory

Riparian

Wetlands

Heathland (treeless)

Heathy Forest and Woodland

Herb Forest and Woodland

Mixed Forest
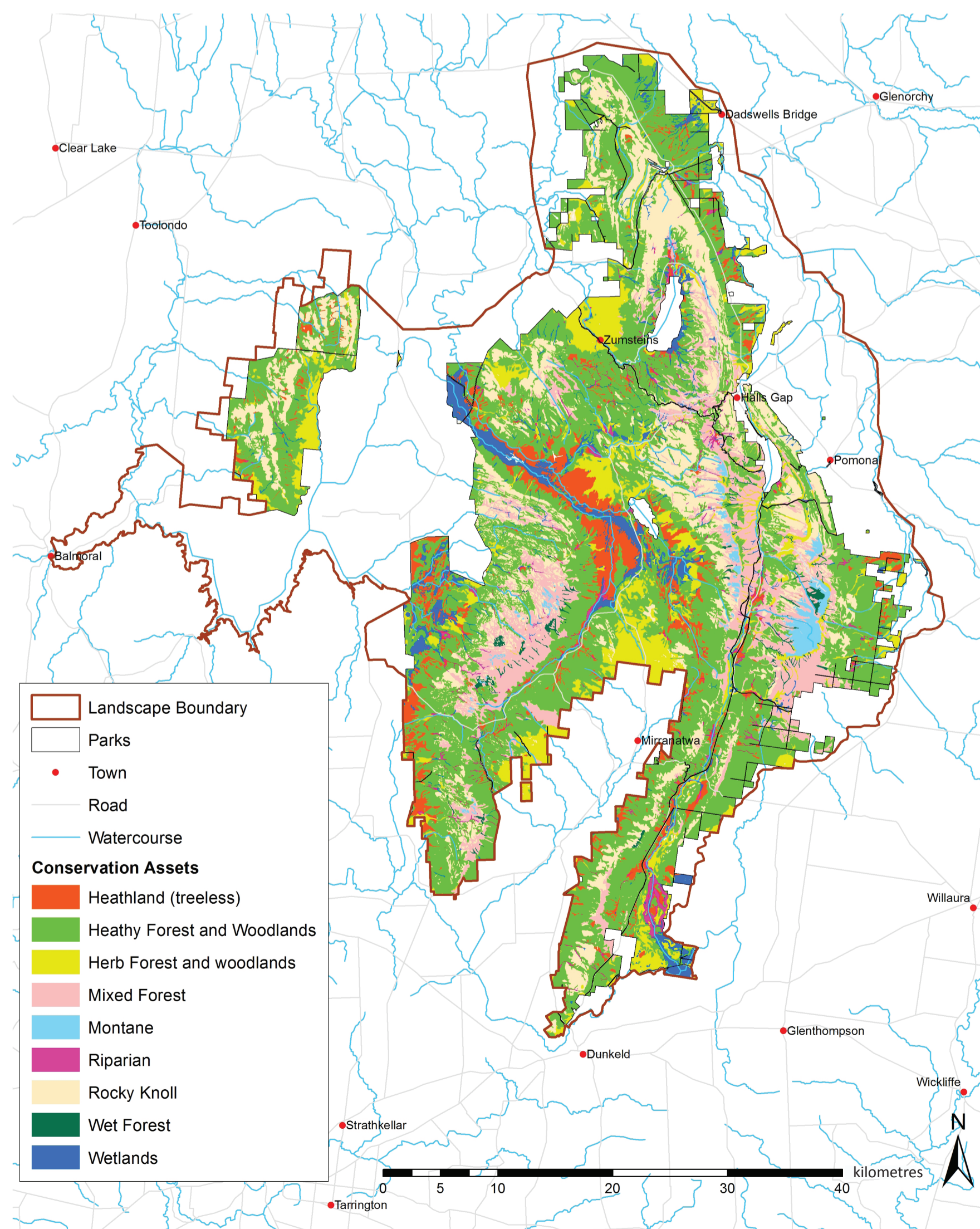

Rocky Knoll

Montane

Wet Forest

Conservation vision

The resilience of natural assets in the Grampians (Gariwerd) Park Landscape is increased and ecosystem services are maintained in the face of climate change and other stressors.

Conservation Logic Chart

The Conservation Logic Chart shown here describes the relationship between the on-ground actions, strategies, threat objectives and the outcomes for each of the conservation assets, and the vision for the Park Landscape.

Map legend

- Landscape Boundary
- Parks
- Town
- Road
- Watercourse

Conservation Assets
- Heathland (treeless)
- Heathy Forest and Woodlands
- Herb Forest and woodlands
- Mixed Forest
- Montane
- Riparian
- Rocky Knoll
- Wet Forest
- Wetlands

kilometres
0 5 10 20 30 40

Clear Lake, Glenorchy, Dadswells Bridge, Toolondo, Zumsteins, Halls Gap, Pomonal, Balmoral, Moora moora, Willaura, Dunkeld, Glenthompson, Wickliffe, Strathkellar, Tarrington

Conservation Logic Chart table

Conservation Outcomes By 2033

Riparian
Improve the condition of critical habitat features (e.g. vegetation structure, refugia), functions (e.g. hydrology, water quality) and connectivity of riparian and in-stream ecosystems to provide habitat and refugia across the landscape.
Current condition: fair and stable

Wetlands
Maintain or improve the condition of critical habitat features (e.g. vegetation structure), functions (e.g. hydrology and water quality) and connectivity of priority wetland ecosystems across the landscape to support wetland-dependant flora and fauna.
Current condition: good and stable

Heathland (treeless)
Improve the connectivity, structural complexity and species diversity of heathland habitat..
Current condition: fair and declining

Heathy Forest and Woodland
Improve the age class, structural and floristic diversity of woodlands and increase the diversity and occupancy of woodland fauna.
Current condition: fair and declining

Herb Forest and Woodland
Improve open woodland structure, floristically rich ground layer and critical habitat features (hollow-bearing trees, coarse woody debris, complex native grass layer).
Current condition: poor and declining

Mixed Forest
Allow the development of mature vegetation growth stages and complex vegetation structure of Mixed Forests, including habitat for important fauna.
Current condition: poor and stable

Rocky Knoll
Protect Rocky Knoll substrate and habitat features at key locations to maintain attributes of key species.
Current condition: fair and declining

Montane
Allow the development of mature vegetation growth stages within the Montane asset to benefit fauna (especially Smoky Mouse) and regulate hydrological processes.
Current condition: fair and declining

Wet Forest
Maintain areas of mature Wet Forest and allow areas to reach growth stage maturity to provide fauna refuge and high water quality and yield.
Current condition: fair and stable

Performance measures

To quantify the effectiveness of implementing the conservation strategies, interim performance measures have been set for the Grampians (Gariwerd) Park Landscape Conservation Action Plan. These will enable an assessment of the effects of management actions in relation to the desired state of conservation assets and their key ecological attributes.

Activity (short-term) measures
Activity measures represent the quantity and quality of management actions that have been delivered.

Threat (medium-term) measures
Threat measures represent the impacts of management action on threats, measuring the extent of threat reduction that has been achieved.

Outcome (long-term) measures
Outcome measures represent the results of management on the state of the conservation assets, which generally only respond over a longer term.

Threat Objectives By 2023

Predation by foxes and cats
Reduce fox and feral cat predation pressure at the landscape scale to support populations of ground-dwelling mammals, including the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, Long-nosed Potoroo, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Smoky Mouse and Spot-tailed Quoll.

Fire regimes and management
Reduce the average size and intensity of bushfire from 2011–2016 averages, reducing the likelihood of ecosystems having large, connected areas of a single vegetation age.

Alteration to natural hydrology
Reduce the impact of water harvesting activities and water diversion infrastructure to restore more natural flows to priority wetlands and mitigate the impacts of floods and droughts on waterway function and ecological services.

Over-grazing / over-browsing
Reduce deer, rabbit, and goat impacts and monitor overabundant native herbivore populations.

Invasion by terrestrial weeds
Eradicate all identified new and emerging weeds and contain the spread of Sallow Wattle, ensuring it does not spread beyond its 2018 distribution.

Diseases
Contain the spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* to currently infected areas.

Action — Conservation Strategies

Manage predation pressure at a landscape scale
Implement landscape-scale poison baiting, combined with targeted control (i.e. trapping) for foxes and cats around priority fauna refugia.

Fire management for healthy ecosystems
Use fire as a tool to maintain fire-dependent habitat or species, exclude planned fire from fire-sensitive habitats, and apply fire to the periphery of priority habitats and species to provide protection.

Support partnerships to improve water regimes
Support partnerships to improve water-dependent conservation assets by maintaining and improving the hydrological regimes that support them in the landscape.

Herbivore management
Control introduced herbivores (goats, rabbits, Red Deer and Fallow Deer) to improve the structure and composition of native vegetation across the Park Landscape.

Environmental weed program
Control environmental weeds through surveillance and rapid management intervention to prevent the establishment of new and emerging weeds, and by containing Sallow Wattle to its current extent.

Collaborative partnerships to address key knowledge gaps
Integrate research and management activities to improve management effectiveness.