

# Grampians (Gariwerd) Conservation Action Plan

## Overview

Achieving our conservation vision to:

**Increase the resilience of natural assets in the Grampians (Gariwerd) Parks Landscape and maintain ecosystem services in the face of climate change and other stressors**

The Grampians (Gariwerd) is an iconic national heritage listed landscape, which is dominated by the Grampians National Park (Gariwerd) and Black Range State Park (Burrinj) with characteristic sandstone peaks rising abruptly from the surrounding plains. It has a stunning and diverse array of natural and cultural values, hosting over a third of the state's indigenous flora species, iconic geological formations, and the largest collection of Aboriginal rock art in the state.

The Grampians (Gariwerd) Parks 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, Guditjmarra, 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 Plains 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.

### Global Practice

Conservation action planning is an internationally recognised process developed by The Nature Conservancy, and used by many conservation managers around Australia. Adaptive management is a critical component of the model.

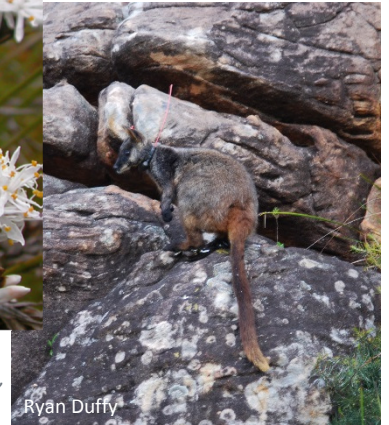
The Plan provides directions for environmental conservation management for the next 15 years. After 5 years, the plan will be reviewed, and progress will be evaluated against the plan's identified outcomes.



Neville Walsh

Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby,  
Grampians National Park

Resurrection Plant, *Borya mirabilis*,  
Grampians National Park



Ryan Duffy

### Conservation Assets

Nine ecosystems have been identified as conservation assets in the Grampians (Gariwerd) Parks Landscape. Within each of these assets a range of nested assets, such as threatened species and important ecological assemblages, have also been identified.

### Condition

The plan also identifies a range of key ecological attributes (components that are believed to best reflect the health of the asset). The plan describes their current condition (very good, good, fair, poor) and the trend in condition (improving, stable, declining), and sets the anticipated future condition of each key ecological attribute. These measures then allow the overall condition of each asset to be assessed:

- Wetlands are largely in good condition.
- Riparian, Heathland, Heathy Forest and Woodland, Rocky Knoll, Montane, and Wet Forest assets are in fair condition.
- Herb Forest and Woodland and Mixed Forest are in poor condition.

The terrestrial conservation assets have been heavily impacted by recent landscape-scale bushfires which have resulted in a reduction in their structural complexity, subsequent weed invasion and reductions in key faunal groups. Modifications to hydrological regimes have similarly resulted in a reduction in the condition of water-dependent conservation assets and impacts to aquatic fauna assemblages.

The Conservation Action Plan identifies strategies that target our conservation efforts to achieve the best outcomes for ecosystems and species with the available resources.

### Threats

Six key threats to the conservation assets in the Park Landscape are described in the plan. They are:

- predation by foxes and cats
- fire regimes and management
- alteration to natural hydrology
- over-grazing / over-browsing
- invasion by terrestrial weeds
- diseases.

### Conservation strategies

The following conservation strategies will be undertaken to tackle these threats. They have been selected for their impact, feasibility and cost in achieving the desired conservation.

- **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 species and habitats 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.
- **Manage predation pressure at a landscape scale** — implement landscape-scale poison baiting combined with targeted control (i.e. trapping) for foxes and cats in priority fauna refugia.
- **Environmental weed program** — surveillance and rapid management intervention to prevent the establishment of new and emerging weeds, and contain Sallow Wattle to its current extent and density.
- **Herbivore management**— reduce the distribution and abundance of herbivores (goat, rabbit, red deer and fallow deer) in priority areas across the Landscape.
- **Collaborative partnerships to address key knowledge gaps** — develop research partnerships and integrate applied research to help inform and improve management efficacy.

### Performance measurement

For each strategy, component actions and monitoring indicators have been developed. These will be used to track the achievement of threat mitigation objectives and conservation outcomes defined for each of the assets.

### Implementing the plan

The Conservation Action Plan will be implemented by a regional team in partnership with Traditional Owners, and with detailed planning and design often assisted by restoration partners, researchers, other agencies, Friends groups and volunteers.

### More information

Copies of the plan may be downloaded from the Parks Victoria website ([www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au))

**10 Step Process:**  
Parks Victoria uses a ten-step process for conservation action planning: the Plan covers the first seven steps in the process

