Wilsons Promontory Parks Landscape Conservation Action Plan

The Wilsons Promontory Parks Landscape

The Wilsons Promontory Parks Landscape covers the southern-most part of the Australian mainland with continuous coverage of parks and reserves from Yanakie Isthmus to the surrounding islands, totalling over 70,000 hectares of park estate. The landscape features a wide range of unique habitats including mountains, forests and fern gullies fringed by granite headlands, sandy beaches and sheltered coves backed by coastal dunes, heathlands and swamps. Its unique position within the adjoining land and seascapes isolates Wilsons Promontory, creating a zone of diverse marine habitats. As the southern-most area of mainland, this landscape experiences a cooler climate, making it a climate refuge for many species and ecosystems.

The National Park is surrounded by a number of other areas with high natural values. These include the Corner Inlet and Shallow Inlet Marine and Coastal Parks, Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park, Wilsons Promontory Marine Park, and Wilsons Promontory Marine Reserve.

The Wilsons Promontory Parks Landscape is home to many endangered plant and animal species and protects countless significant cultural heritage places. Across its diverse ecosystems, it contains 21% of Victoria's known vascular flora species, several biogeographically significant species and communities, including those that are threatened or at the limits of their distribution, half of Victoria's bird species, and unique populations of threatened fauna, including Pookila, Long-nosed Potoroo, Ground Parrot, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Swamp Skink, and Eastern Bristlebird.

The area covered by this plan forms part of an Aboriginal cultural landscape that contains values and places that are significant to Traditional Owners, including physical and intangible heritage. The Boonwurrung, Bunurong and Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner groups identify Wilsons Promontory as their traditional land. As Traditional Owners, the Boonwurrung, Bunurong and Gunaikurnai have been part of this landscape for tens of thousands of years and maintain a deep and continuing connection to these lands, water and places.


Heathland


Mixed Dry Forest and Woodland

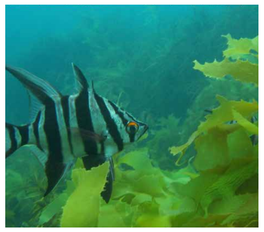

Wet Forest and Rainforest


Coastal Grassy Woodland


Riparian and Wetland

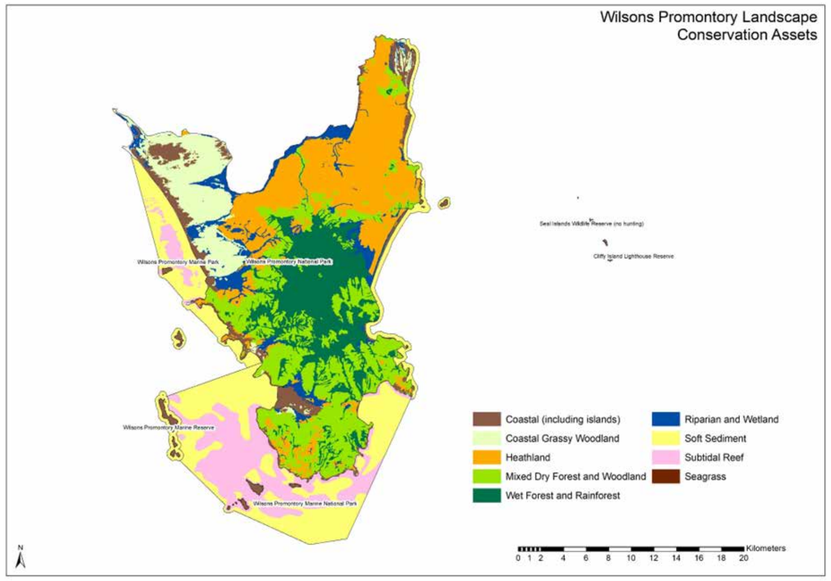

Coastal (including islands)


Unvegetated Soft Sediment


Subtidal Reefs


Seagrass Beds


Water Column



Landscape conservation vision

The resilience of natural assets in the Wilsons Promontory Parks Landscape is increased and ecosystem services are maintained in the face of climate change and other stressors

Conservation Logic

The Conservation Logic 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 Parks Landscape.

Conservation Outcomes By 2039

Heathland
Maintain the health of Heathland and improve the distribution of growth stateges to maintain floristic diversity and richness and provide high-quality habitat for ground-dwelling mammals and heathland birds.
Current condition: Fair

Mixed Dry Forest and Woodland
Improve the growth stage heterogeneity of canopy species, floristic diversity and composition, improve (and where needed restore) the open understorey of Granitic Hills Woodland EVC, and maintain high-quality habitat for mammals and woodland birds.
Current condition: Good

Wet Forest and Rainforest
Maintain rainforest extent and increase the extent of older growth stages of Wet Forest and Rainforest canopy species, increase the capacity to provide critical habitat features (such as hollows), and maintain the diversity of flora and fauna that depend on rainforest and wet forest.
Current condition: Good

Coastal Grassy Woodland
Increase the area of open woodland and the age class diversity of focal canopy species, and develop a diverse ground layer (including connected native grasses) that provide a varied habitat for ground-dwelling mammals.
Current condition: Poor

Riparian and Wetland
Improve water quality and habitat quality to support diverse riparian and wetland flora and fauna.
Current condition: Good

Coastal (including islands)
Maintain suitable conditions for fur seal haul-outs and breeding, and maintain the extent and heterogeneity of coastal vegetation to provide suitable nesting habitat for colonial nesting seabirds, shorebirds and ground-dwelling mammals.
Current condition: Very Good

Unvegetated Soft Sediment
Maintain and improve patches of habitat-forming algae and sessile invertebrates that provide cover and food for a diverse assemblage of invertebrates in the intertidal reef ecosystems of Marine Protected Areas in the Parks Landscape.
Current condition: Very Good

Subtidal Reefs
Maintain the highly productive dense stands of habitat-forming macroalgae that provide cover and food for the diverse assemblage of fish and macroinvertebrates inhabiting subtidal reefs.
Current condition: Very Good

Seagrass Beds
Maintain the extent, cover and connectivity of intertidal and subtidal seagrass communities in order to support an abundant and diverse assemblage of invertebrate and fish communities including listed pipefish species in the seagrass beds of the Marine National Park.
Current condition: Very Good

Water Column
Maintain a well-connected and highly productive water column ecosystem in the Marine National Park that supports planktonic health and nutrient cycles, to provide the trophic base for higher-order species including the Great White Shark, fur seals, seabirds, whales and dolphins.
Current condition: Very Good

Threat Objectives By 2029

Inappropriate fire regimes
Increase the area and extent of Heathland, Coastal Grassy Woodland, Mixed Dry Forest and Woodland, Wet Forest and Rainforest, and Riparian and Wetland assets that are managed in accordance with tolerable fire intervals and appropriate growth stage distributions.

Weed and pathogen invasion
Eradicate any new and emerging weeds wherever they occur and control existing weeds at sites where high priority biodiversity values are at risk.

Total grazing and browsing pressure
Ensure that total grazing pressure in Coastal Grassy Woodland, Mixed Dry Forest and Woodland, Heathland, Wet Forest and Rainforest, and Riparian and Wetland is managed to improve key ecological attributes.

Predation by foxes and cats
Reduce the impact of predation sufficiently to ensure that predation-sensitive species occupy at least 50% of their potential habitat.

Marine invasive and overabundant species
Maintain and enhance effective pest surveillance and monitoring programs, and if necessary and feasible, eradicate new and existing marine pests and overabundant native species to maintain the health of key ecological attributes.

Human disturbance
Ensure that recreational and commercial activities are undertaken in ecologically appropriate areas with low/no impact on natural values, and reduce the incidence of illegal activities in marine and terrestrial parks.

Climate change
Fire risk is reduced in areas designated as refugia and the impacts of coastal erosion, sea level rise, storm surge and sea surface temperature on coastal and marine assets are minimised.

Strategy Summaries

Landscape-scale ecological burn program
A coordinated and well-informed approach to fire management will ensure planned burns are conducted within an appropriate fire regime and protect high value assets and areas from future fire, and that fire management and conservation needs are met before, during and after bushfire.

Integrated weed and pathogen control
Weeds, overabundant native flora species and pathogens are managed to reduce their spread, establishment and impact with a focus on high risk species in high value sites.

Herbivore management
Targeted monitoring and control of deer, rabbits and key native species through integrated control methods to achieve very low herbivore population densities and improved vegetation quality.

Sustained control of introduced predators
Sustained control of foxes and cats using a range of control methods and consistent monitoring will reduce introduced predators to very low levels, supporting key native species.

Managing marine pests and overabundant species
Increasing community awareness of marine pest impacts, consistent monitoring and the ability to respond rapidly to detected pest incursions or overabundant species will reduce the likelihood of new populations establishing.

Restoration of Coastal Grassy Woodlands, Heathland and Wet Forests
The development of tools to assess condition and support adaptive decision-making to restore Coastal Grassy Woodland, Heathland and Wet Forests will increase recruitment of key species and the overall health of conservation assets.

Reducing the impacts of human disturbance
Targeted education and compliance reduce the impacts of recreation, illegal activities and resource extraction, encouraging the public to enjoy sustainable nature-based tourism while reducing the impacts of illegal activities.

Augmentation, reintroduction and introduction of key native species
Establishing partnerships, eliminating threats to terrestrial conservation assets and assessing the viability of translocation or reintroduction of key native species supports endangered species and the role of Wilsons Promontory as a climate refuge.

Collaborative partnerships to address key knowledge gaps
The development and maintenance of partnerships and collaborations with Traditional Owners, research institutes and agencies and community groups will increase the effectiveness and efficiency of management at Wilsons Promontory and build knowledge to support responses to climate change.

Building climate resilience and refugia
Optimising current management, identifying knowledge gaps, modelling and protecting refugia, and proactively preparing for extreme climate scenarios will maintain, restore or direct ecosystems and species.

Performance measures

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

Activity measures
Activity measures represent the quantity and quality of management actions that have been delivered.

Threat measures
Threat measures represent the impacts of management actions on threats, measuring the extent of threat reduction that has been achieved.

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

Parks Victoria