

# Wimmera Park Landscape Conservation Action Plan 2018–2023

## The Wimmera Park Landscape

The Wimmera Park Landscape covers more than 350 parks and reserves with a combined area of about 198 000 ha, including:

- Little Desert National Park
- Lake Hindmarsh Lake Reserve
- Jilpanger Nature Conservation Reserve
- Mount Arapiles – Toon State Park
- Tallageira Nature Conservation Reserve
- Wimmera River Heritage Area Park.

The Wimmera Park Landscape is within the traditional lands of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk peoples. They have been caring for this Country for thousands of years, and this will continue through Barengi Gadjin Land Council's ongoing collaborative partnership with Parks Victoria.

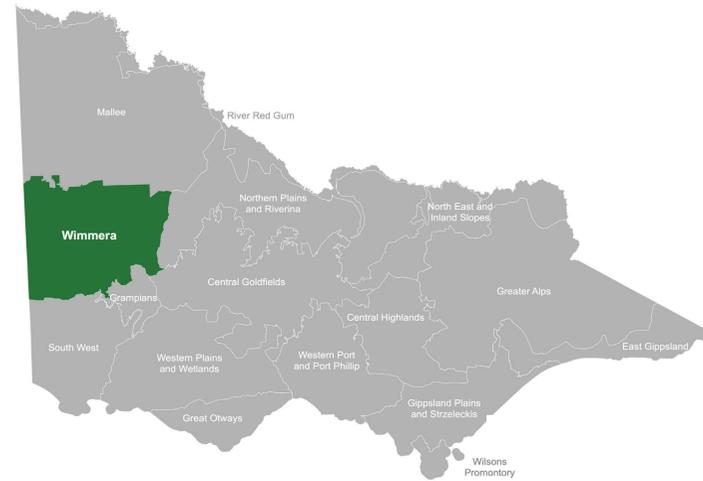
Barrnggi Gadyin (the Wimmera River) is the lifeblood flowing through and linking the landscape together, and Gurru (Lake Hindmarsh in the Wergaia language) was a large traditional trading route.

Some parks and reserves in the Wimmera Park Landscape were set aside to protect Malleefowl, before the establishment of the Little Desert National Park in the

late 1960s. The Park Landscape includes nationally important wetlands, particularly stretches of the Wimmera River, the Natimuk–Douglas chain of lakes, Outlet Creek, and Lake Hindmarsh, which is Victoria's largest freshwater lake.

Five vegetation communities in the Park Landscape are threatened nationally: Buloke Woodlands of the Riverina and Murray–Darling Depression Bioregions, Grey Box Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia, Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains, Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains, and White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland.

Eighty nationally threatened species of flora and fauna have been recorded in the Wimmera Park Landscape, including the critically endangered Golden Sun Moth and Wimmera Bottlebrush and the endangered Malleefowl, Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Wimmera Spider-orchid, Winged Peppergrass, Whipstick Westringia, Southern Pipewort and Golden-rayed Blue Butterfly.



Heathlands and Heathy Woodlands



Mallee and Broombrush



Dry Forests and Woodlands



Riverine Forests and Woodlands



Freshwater Wetlands



Saline Wetlands

## Conservation vision

The resilience of natural assets in the Wimmera 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.

## Conservation Outcomes

By 2033

### Heathlands and Heathy Woodlands

Improve the vegetation growth stage structure to support more heterogeneous vegetation structure and habitat complexity, and maintain heathland dependent flora and fauna richness.

Current condition: fair but improving

### Mallee and Broombrush

Increase the heterogeneity of vegetation structure to improve the extent and distribution of long unburnt areas, and improve the habitat complexity to increase the occupancy and richness of flora and fauna species.

Current condition: fair but improving

### Dry Forests and Woodlands

Maintain the extent of vegetation and sustain or improve its condition to promote heterogeneity of vegetation structure and the occupancy and richness of flora and fauna species.

Current condition: fair but improving

### Performance measures

To quantify the effectiveness of implementing the conservation strategies, interim performance measures have been set for the Wimmera Park 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 (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.

### Riverine Forests and Woodlands

Maintain the extent and improve the connectivity and condition of riparian vegetation structure to provide habitat for fauna and refugia during dry periods.

Current condition: fair

### Freshwater Wetlands

Maintain the structure and diversity of the aquatic habitat to support the persistence of waterbirds and aquatic flora and fauna under variable wet and dry cycles.

Current condition: fair

### Saline Wetlands

Maintain the extent and connectivity, and improve the condition of habitat (aquatic vegetation) to support saline-dependent flora and waterbirds.

Current condition: fair

## Threat Objectives

By 2023

### Total grazing pressure

Reduce rabbit, feral goat and deer impacts across the landscape, and review native herbivore population management at key locations where they are affecting ground-layer flora and woodland structure.

### Predation by introduced species

Reduce Red Fox and Feral Cat predation at key locations to support increases in the populations of priority native fauna species.

### Fire regimes and management

Reduce the severity, extent, and impacts of severe, large-scale bushfires and promote a growth stage distribution that is related to, and informed by, the optimal geometric mean abundance and growth stage structure.

### Weed invasion

Eradicate new and emerging weeds, contain the spread of identified established populations, and eradicate high priority species from high value locations.

### Alteration to natural hydrology

Reduce the impacts of pest plant and animal invasion and soil disturbance in flood-dependent assets to support improved vegetation condition and water flow conditions.

## Action — Conservation Strategies

### Establishment of collaborative partnerships

Strengthen effective collaboration and partnership between Parks Victoria and restoration partners to help build landscape connectivity and cross-tenure management to address the impacts of fragmentation.



### Management of total grazing pressure

Effectively manage invasive or overabundant animals that impact conservation assets across the Park Landscape through competition for resources or habitat degradation.



### Ongoing control of introduced predators

Support the persistence and increase of priority native fauna vulnerable to predation, and their occurrence at high-priority locations.



### Fire management for healthy assets

Work in partnership with fire management agencies to support the ecological health of the Park Landscape through appropriate fire regimes and fire management activities.



### Environmental weed management

Reduce the spread, establishment and impact of weeds, focusing on species that have, or are likely to have, significant impacts on the health of conservation assets and ecological processes.



### Management of water-dependent ecosystems

Work in partnership with other government agencies to manage the hydrology of waterways and wetlands that support the ecological health of the Park Landscape.

