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Beechworth Historic Park



Management Plan September 2007

**BEECHWORTH HISTORIC PARK
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement of *Country*: In their rich culture, Indigenous Australians are intrinsically connected to the continent — including the area now known as Victoria. Parks Victoria recognises that the park is part of *Country* of the Traditional Owners.

Parks Victoria is grateful to all those organisations and individuals who have contributed to this Management Plan. Special thanks go to the Chiltern–Mt Pilot National Park and Beechworth Historic Park Management Plan Advisory Group: Bob Bennett, Anthony Carey, Eileen Collins, Allan Friar, John Hawker, Michael Leahy, Jan Palmer, Susan Petzke, Christine Stewart, Rik Thwaites and Christine Watson.

Note:

Technical terms used in this plan are explained in the Glossary at the end of the plan.

Disclaimers

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 (Cwth).

The plan is also prepared without prejudice to any future negotiated outcomes between the Government/s and Victorian Indigenous 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.

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FOREWORD

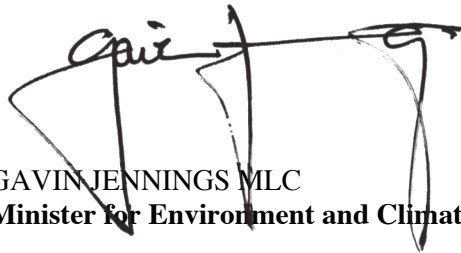
Beechworth Historic Park is one of only four parks in Victoria reserved under the *National Parks Act 1975 (Vic.)* with a principal focus on the protection of cultural heritage values. The park protects a range of historic mining sites and relics from the Beechworth gold rush of the 1850s, including sluiced gullies, water races, diversions, tunnels, shafts, and occupation sites of miners within the park.

Whilst the park is valued for its cultural features, it also protects substantial remnants of forests and woodlands, including nationally threatened Box-Ironbark flora and fauna communities. The park contains Victoria's principal site for the endangered Yellow Hyacinth-orchid.

A wealth of recreational opportunities exists for visitors, including bush walking, bike riding, picnicking, fishing and horse riding.

This plan details the values and attractions in Beechworth Historic Park and is a strategic guide in the protection and management into the future. It was completed following careful consideration of the 12 submissions received from the public on the Draft Management Plan.

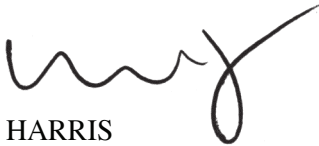
I thank the members of the Chiltern–Mt Pilot National Park and Beechworth Historic Park Management Plan Advisory Group for their valuable contribution to the plan and also wish to thank those individuals and organisations who made submissions, and encourage everyone to continue to enjoy and appreciate the park and become involved in its management.



GAVIN JENNINGS MLC
Minister for Environment and Climate Change

APPROVED MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Management Plan, prepared under Section 18(2)(d) of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.), proposes the basis and directions for the future management of Beechworth Historic Park.



PETER HARRIS
Secretary to the
Department of Sustainability and Environment

The plan provides the basis for the future management of Beechworth Historic Park. It was finalised following consideration of the 12 submissions received on the Draft Management Plan.



MARK STONE
Chief Executive
Parks Victoria

INTRODUCTION TO BOX-IRONBARK PARKS

The Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands lie inland of the Great Dividing Range in northern Victoria. Extending in a broad band from Wodonga through Chiltern, Beechworth and Benalla, they reappear near Numurkah and continue through Heathcote, Bendigo, Maryborough and St Arnaud to Ararat and Stawell. At the time of European settlement they covered almost three million ha, or 13% of Victoria.

Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands are unique to Australia, valued by local communities and celebrated in literature and art. The landscapes of the region have also inspired poets, writers and artists, both past and contemporary, including Banjo Paterson and Steele Rudd. With the creation of a highly protected system of parks and reserves in 2002, the future of these forests and woodlands is assured.

Beechworth Historic Park protects 1090 ha of forests and woodlands, including nationally threatened Box-Ironbark flora and fauna communities. The park surrounds the historic town of Beechworth and provides a natural connection with the region's historic and natural attractions.

Box-Ironbark areas are part of *Country* of Traditional Owners. There are many areas rich in archaeological, cultural and spiritual significance throughout the region. Increasingly, Indigenous communities are involved in revealing and protecting Indigenous heritage.

Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands contain some of Victoria's most significant historic gold mining landscapes and features on public land, including areas of national cultural heritage significance. This has been recognised in the establishment of Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, a first for Australia and the retention of Beechworth Historic Park. These landscapes and sites are associated with many former gold towns and settlements, and combine with them to form a region of strong historic character and interest. The historic gold mining landscapes are significant components of tourism in the region today.

The Box-Ironbark forests have been associated with agriculture, forestry and gold mining from the 1830s. The major reefs and underground ore bodies helped establish and maintain towns, and together with forest products, contributed to the state's economic development.

Different people value the forests in different ways, but local communities have strong feelings of pride in and ownership of their Box-Ironbark landscapes. The creation of the Box-Ironbark parks presents further opportunities to celebrate, protect and enhance these special landscapes.

Because much of the Box-Ironbark area was suitable for grazing and other forms of agriculture, and because it coincides with Victoria's gold country, European settlement has had a substantial impact. More than 80% of the area has been cleared, and nearly all the remainder (496 000 ha, of which 372 000 ha is on public land) has been affected by grazing, timber cutting and other pressures from settlement. Past land uses have also contributed to region-wide problems of pest plants and animals, salinity and soil erosion.

Interestingly, the gold mining, which had a significant initial impact on these environments, also contributed to their protection. To ensure supplies of timber for mining needs, the government established forest reserves. These became the setting for settlements and communities and the backyards for local people growing up in the area. Some are the basis of today's parks and reserves.

Although dominated by box and ironbark eucalypts, the Box-Ironbark forests are not uniform. Six broad vegetation and landscape types and no fewer than 73 Ecological Vegetation Classes are recognised. The most extensive classes originally were Plains Grassy Woodland, Grassy Woodland and Box-Ironbark Forest; all now considered endangered or depleted.

Fragmentation and loss of habitat mean that almost 300 Box-Ironbark plant species (out of a total of 1500 flowering plant species), and 53 of a total of 250 vertebrate fauna species, are

now considered threatened. Many species, particularly of birds, are in an ongoing state of decline. A key aim of Box-Ironbark conservation and management is therefore the recovery of species, as well as the protection of those species not currently threatened.

One of the greatest losses has been that of large old box and ironbark trees, which produce reliable and abundant nectar, supply foraging sites such as peeling bark and fallen timber for ground-dwelling animals, and have many hollows vital for native mammals and birds. Instead of a landscape of large old and widely spaced trees, much is dominated by multi-stemmed coppice regrowth.

In October 2002, after many years of study and debate, the Victorian government proclaimed a number of parks designed primarily to protect and enhance the natural and cultural values of some of the remaining original Box-Ironbark forests. The parks were also to be available for a range of appropriate recreational activities and for community enjoyment and appreciation. They comprise five national parks, five State parks, seven regional parks, two historic parks and reserves and one national heritage park. There are also some 300 conservation reserves to help link these park areas, bringing some connectivity to an otherwise fragmented landscape.

Some of the parks, like Chiltern–Mt Pilot and Greater Bendigo National Parks, are extensions of existing parks; others like Heathcote–Graytown National Park and Broken–Boosey State Park are completely new. But together they are a significant step towards halting the decline of threatened species in the Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands, increasing community recognition of the values of the forests and woodlands, and improving opportunities to develop tourism and related industries.

The parks should not be seen as separately managed ‘islands’ but as reservoirs of biodiversity within a broader landscape. Protecting and enhancing natural values on other public and private land in the region is vital, improving and connecting habitat for native species. The parks and the people who manage them are an integral part of local communities, and these communities in turn will play a key role in their protection, promotion and management.

The long-term protection of the region’s cultural heritage and biodiversity, including that of its parks and reserves, relies on the community fostering a strong sense of custodianship of the parks and reserves and the landscapes of which they are an important part. The plan seeks to rebuild the natural linkages in a fragmented landscape through the goodwill of the community together with the help of land managers and the government, while respecting cultural, economic and community associations with the land.

Because of their rich Indigenous and European heritage, in addition to their natural attractions, the Box-Ironbark parks are likely to have a growing significance for Victorians and visitors from interstate and overseas in the years ahead. The parks may not be major tourism attractions in their own right, but they are integral to the character of growing smaller communities such as Beechworth, Stanley and Chiltern. They have great potential as a complementary product for people who come to the region for other reasons, such as seeking social, recreational, sporting or heritage experiences. There is also potential for Indigenous communities and products to support the development and delivery of Box-Ironbark experiences for visitors.

This plan explains these values and attractions in detail for Beechworth Historic Park, and sets out how they will be protected and managed.

SUMMARY

Beechworth Historic Park adjoins the heritage town of Beechworth, 280 km north east of Melbourne, in an area noted for its cultural features and natural beauty.

The area contains eucalypt and cypress-pine forests, tranquil streams, steep gullies and rugged outcrops, and is notable for historic remnants from Victoria's gold rush era.

Beechworth Historic Park is one of only four heritage parks in the state. It protects a number of gold mining sites and landscapes. There are sluiced gullies, water races, diversions, tunnels, shafts, and occupation sites of miners. In addition there are numerous associated historic features including tracks, dams, forest regrowth and place names which reflect the history of the area.

Knowledge surrounding Indigenous occupation continues to be revealed through close partnerships with the local Indigenous communities and, where relevant, learnings are incorporated into the park's management.

The park also protects a number of State and nationally threatened species of flora including the principal population of Yellow Hyacinth-orchid in Victoria, several birds, a reptile (Bandy Bandy) and a marsupial (Brush-tailed Phascogale).

As part of the Nine Mile, Clear and Hurdle Creeks Special Water Catchment Protection Area, the park contributes to the provision of drinking water for the region and the maintenance of catchment values of the Ovens catchment.

Visitors to the park will continue to enjoy the diverse attractions offered, aided by quality visitor facilities and interpretation highlighting the important role of gold mining in Victoria's early development.

Integration of the recreation and information services of the park with those in the town of Beechworth will provide a natural connection to the region's historic and nature based tourism attractions.

Key elements of the plan include:

- Development of a partnership with the Indigo Shire Council to integrate the promotion and interpretation of the gold heritage assets and the provision of visitor information.
- Promotion of the Gorge Scenic Drive as a key recreational visitor attraction.
- Protection for the significant cultural landscape.
- Special protection for threatened flora, fauna, and significant historic places.
- Respect for Indigenous cultural values and sensitive management in accordance with the views of the Traditional Owners.
- Control of pest species, particularly weeds, rabbits and foxes.
- Coordinated management, promotion and interpretation of the park's heritage assets with nearby heritage assets, including those in Nine Mile Creek Historic Area and Eldorado Historic Reserve.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and planning area

Beechworth Historic Park (1090 ha) connects with the historic township of Beechworth in the north-east region of Victoria, 280 km north of Melbourne and 30 km east of Wangaratta (figure 1). The park comprises 10 separate blocks (figure 2). These are:

- The Gorge
- Kerferd
- Sheep Station Creek
- Two Mile Creek
- Three Mile Creek
- Six Mile Creek
- Flat Rock
- Graveyard
- Green Wattle
- Yack and Telegraph Rock.

Ten hectares of the Kerferd block is declared a Special Water Catchment Protection Area under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (Vic.).

Throughout this management plan, ‘the park’ refers to the whole of Beechworth Historic Park.

1.2 Creation of the park

Beechworth Historic Park was first included on Schedule Three (Other Parks) of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.) on 26 April 1980 following government acceptance of the Land Conservation Council’s (LCC) recommendations for the North-Eastern Study Area (LCC 1977). Following a subsequent North-Eastern Area (Benalla–Upper Murray) Review (LCC 1986) a further nine hectares were added to the park on 23 August 1989. At the same time, a disturbed area along Three Mile Creek was excised from the park.

In accordance with the government’s acceptance of the Environment Conservation Council’s (ECC) recommendations for the Box-Ironbark Forests and Woodlands Investigation (ECC 2001), an area including

Woolshed Falls (52 ha) was excised from the park and added to Chiltern–Mt Pilot National Park in October 2002. Several small additions were made to the park, and two cleared paddocks (7 ha) with no park value and several sections of road contributing to the council road network were excised as a result of the *National Parks (and Other Amendments Act) 2004* (Vic.), bringing the total area to 1090 ha.

The name of the park was formally changed from Beechworth Park to Beechworth Historic Park in 2004 through amendment of the National Parks Act.

1.3 Plan development

This Management Plan for Beechworth Historic Park was prepared by Parks Victoria on the basis of existing information, reports and research findings that relate to the park. The plan is informed and supported by a range of best practice management systems. Input of information and advice was sought and received from the Chiltern–Mt Pilot National Park and Beechworth Historic Park Management Plan Advisory Group, local communities, groups, individuals and agencies with particular interests in the park.

Information concerning the planning process was distributed through local community networks, and posted on Parks Victoria’s website. Opportunity to comment was made available through ‘Have Your Say’ brochures also available on Parks Victoria’s website and at local Parks Victoria offices. Several issue-specific forums were held with relevant stakeholders to resolve matters of a more complex nature, and discussion and information papers were also distributed to stakeholders and the Advisory Group.

The plan takes into account feedback from discussions with the Advisory Group, various stakeholder groups and individuals, including Indigenous communities, community groups, special interest groups and government agencies.

The plan is a proposed strategic guide for future management of Beechworth Historic Park. As a public document the plan proposes how Parks Victoria will protect Beechworth

Historic Park's natural and cultural values, and the services and facilities that will be provided to help visitors to enjoy, appreciate and understand the park in ways that are consistent with this. The plan also describes proposals to inform the community about the park, encourage interested groups to become involved in park management programs and encourage cooperative land management and participation in community-based programs involving Parks Victoria and managers of areas adjacent to the park.

As a working document for the park, the plan informs Parks Victoria's development of Corporate Plans, serves as a framework for subsequent detailed planning and governs management activities.

An initial draft management plan was released for public comment in October 2001. Finalisation of the plan was deferred pending the outcomes of the *Box-Ironbark Forests and Woodlands Investigation Final Report* (ECC 2001). Submissions received on the initial draft were considered in the development of this plan.

The Draft Management Plan was published for public comment in June 2006, and 12 submissions were received (appendix 2). All submissions on the draft plan were carefully considered and taken into account in preparation of this Final Management Plan. Where necessary, further consultation with the community and stakeholders was undertaken.

Key changes made to the draft plan in preparing this Final Management Plan included:

- reviewing access for orienteering and rogaining to take place within Special Protection Areas through allowing limited size events managed by permits
- updated information to describe links of the park's walking track network to adjacent parks and attractions
- additional information on strategies to guide the management and access of mountain bikes
- updated of flora and fauna information.

This management plan will guide future management of the Beechworth Historic Park, until reviewed (section 9.3).

2.1 Regional context

The region is characterised by a range of heritage sites and historic buildings associated with early Victorian agricultural development, gold mining, and infamous historical figures such as Ned Kelly. Major population centres include Albury–Wodonga to the north, Wangaratta to the west and Myrtleford to the south. Small rural centres such as Stanley and Wooragee are located nearby.

The park is one of a number of historic parks and reserves across the State where the landscape reflects the role of gold mining in the development of Victoria. The park surrounds the historic, National Trust listed, ‘Notable Town’ of Beechworth and is part of a network of historic places and other significant gold mining heritage locations such as Yackandandah, Eldorado, Nine Mile Creek and Chiltern. The park and other parks in the area are considered in Tourism Victoria’s *North East Regional Tourism Development Plan* (Tourism Victoria 2004) and form part of Victoria’s High Country experience.

The park also lies on the border of the significant Box-Ironbark country of north-central Victoria. An area of 606 ha of the park was considered in the ECC *Box-Ironbark Forest and Woodlands Investigation* (ECC 2001), and as such will be managed in accordance with government-accepted ECC recommendations (section 2.5).

The park is contiguous with other heritage landscapes at Beechworth and has common boundaries with a range of public and private landholders.

The park is an important link in a vegetation corridor joining the foothill forests of the Australian Alps with the riverine plain of the Murray River. It lies within the Lower and Mid Ovens catchments, within the area of responsibility of the North East Catchment Management Authority.

Indigenous tradition indicates the park is part of *Country* of the Dhudhuroa and Waywurru people. The Bangerang/Pangerang and Yaitmatang people may also have inhabited the region around Beechworth (DVC 2004).

Other significant parks and reserves in the region are:

- Chiltern–Mt Pilot National Park, including Woolshed Falls, which is contiguous with Beechworth Historic Park. Chiltern–Mt Pilot National Park is typified by dry Box Woodland and Box-Ironbark forest and contains a major concentration of threatened flora and fauna. Important Aboriginal places and objects are also protected within the national park.
- Eldorado Historic Reserve, containing the 100 m long Eldorado Dredge. The dredge highlights the technical aspects and scale of the latter-day gold production method of dredging, and is the only complete dredge remaining in Victoria.
- Nine Mile Creek Historic Area, which shares common heritage values and visitor use patterns with the park, and has close ties with the heritage town of Beechworth. The Historic Area contains an important example of mining technology, the Wallaby Mine Battery and Smelter site.
- Warby Range State Park, a highly diverse dry Box Woodland containing White Cypress-pine and grass-tree communities.

The park falls within the Indigo Shire Council and, as part of the Reedy Creek subcatchment of the Ovens Basin, is strongly influenced by the actions of the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA).

The fragmented nature of this park emphasises the importance of coordinated management at the regional level.

2.2 Park values and significance

The park makes a valuable contribution to Victoria’s parks and reserves system, which aims to protect viable representative samples of the State’s natural and cultural environments occurring on public land. Beechworth Historic Park is one of only four parks reserved under the National Parks Act with a principal focus on the protection of cultural heritage values.

The park protects a range of sites and artefacts important for the mining history of the region.

These sites, often associated with the provision of water to the goldfields, include races, tunnels, diversions and sluices. A number of sites, landscapes and artefacts are specifically protected under the *Heritage Act 1995* (Vic.), are nominated or listed on the Register of the National Estate or are registered by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). These sites are closely linked with complementary buildings and streetscapes of the township of Beechworth, especially the Ford Street precinct, which contains the best representation of goldfield governance buildings in Victoria.

Significant features of Beechworth Historic Park are summarised below.

Cultural values

- The cultural landscape or physical form of the park that reflects a significant gold mining heritage, distinctive to this part of Victoria.
- Individual historic mining sites (appendix 3) which provide fascinating insights into alluvial mining technology, use of water for mining and quartz reef mining technology.
- The park contributes to the historical setting for the town of Beechworth and has special meaning for the community.
- Historic places and a cultural landscape that contribute to the cultural heritage of the region.

Natural values

- Unusual geology and transitional vegetation types providing a diverse vegetative community with a concentration of significant flora and fauna species.
- A population of Yellow Hyacinth-orchid, critical to its conservation in the Northern Inland Slopes Bioregion.
- Twelve rare or threatened flora species including five listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic.) (appendix 4).
- Twelve rare or threatened fauna species including ten listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act* (appendix 5).

- Nine Mile, Clear and Hurdle Creeks Special Water Catchment Protection Area covering 10 ha of the Kerferd block.
- Significant landscape features listed on the Register of the National Estate, classified by the National Trust of Australia and listed in the Indigo Shire Council Planning Scheme.

Recreation and tourism values

- A key tourist attraction for visitors to the Beechworth region — one of four regional locations identified by Parks Victoria for promotion as centres for presentation, interpretation and marketing of gold mining history.
- Outdoor recreational and educational opportunities relating to the enjoyment and appreciation of cultural heritage and nature, which provide a complementary experience for visitors exploring the gold mining heritage of the region.
- A natural setting appreciated by locals as a place in which to recreate or just enjoy, creating a sense of health and wellbeing.

2.3 Evidence of past use

Records of Indigenous archaeological and cultural sites maintained for the abutting Mt Pilot Range and Beechworth region suggest a close relationship between Indigenous people and the land now protected within the park. However, the value of the park's landscape to the Indigenous people is yet to be documented (section 5.1).

The park has a rich gold mining history with landscapes that include physical remnants of gold mining endeavours such as roads, races, tunnels, mullock heaps, shafts, sluiced gullies, regenerated forests, deposited sedimentary material and dredge dams created during the period from 1852 to the 1950s. The large numbers of miners that descended on the town rapidly changed much of the landscape in their efforts to find gold. Activities caused widespread and substantial ground disturbance. In particular, shallow alluvial mining and 'sluicing' translocated most Tertiary soils from the stream network in the park, while timber removal for use in steam engines and as pit props was extensive. The floor of Spring Creek running through the Gorge block has been

heavily modified by deposits of sedimentary material, some eight metres deep, from sluicing and mining activities upstream. However, with the demise of mining activities, vegetation has gradually re-established and soils stabilised over most of the landscape. Place names and locations are often the only obvious reminders of some historical events.

A number of 19th century quarries within Beechworth Historic Park were used as a source of stone for the distinctive buildings, roads and bridges of Beechworth.

During the 20th and 21st centuries, timber, minor forest produce, firewood, and water from the Nine Mile and Hurdle Creeks catchments have been harvested for the Beechworth community.

2.4 The park visitor

The Beechworth region principally attracts visitors from Melbourne, Canberra, country Victoria, and south-eastern New South Wales, who come to experience the region's gold era heritage, cultural and natural attractions.

Visitation in the park is closely associated with visitation to the township of Beechworth. Annual visit numbers for the town are estimated at around 600 000 by the Indigo Tourism Board.

The park is easily accessed from the township of Beechworth, where accommodation is serviced by the many bed and breakfasts, hotels, motels and caravan parks.

The park offers two distinctive experiences for visitors. Visits to post-European settlement heritage features within the park provide opportunities to appreciate the gold mining history of the area, how it modified the landscape, and the connections to the other historic mining sites in the region and the township of Beechworth. Natural features such as the eucalypt and native cypress-pine forests, steep gullies, streams, waterfalls and rocky outcrops, provide opportunities to enjoy the natural beauty of the Australian landscape and to participate in a range of nature based recreation activities.

Outdoor recreational opportunities in the park are extensive. Some activities are managed because of the limited park area and to minimise conflict between park users and park

values. The Gorge Scenic Drive is a popular drive, and particularly suited to visitors with less mobility.

The park is also enjoyed by local residents and many visit the park throughout the year for bush walking, sightseeing, bike and horse riding and family/visitor outings. For some, activities enjoyed in the park are often associated with daily exercise and other recreational pursuits.

In terms of statewide priorities, Parks Victoria has rated Beechworth Historic Park as a park of regional value for the provision of visitor services. An appreciation of the park's cultural and natural values will be promoted, together with picnicking. Resources will focus on The Gorge Scenic Drive, the principal visitor site in the park.

2.5 Legislation, ECC recommendations and guidelines

Beechworth Historic Park is reserved and managed under Schedule Three of the National Parks Act. The Act requires the Secretary to DSE to preserve and protect the natural condition of the park, and its natural, cultural and other features and, subject to this, to provide for the use of the park by the public for enjoyment, recreation and education. Appropriate research activities are also provided for under the Act.

The objects and provisions of the National Parks Act set the framework for the management of Beechworth Historic Park (appendix 1). Specific legislation and ECC recommendations accepted by government also govern specific aspects of management of the park as described below and in subsequent sections of the plan.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic.) applies to the park and protects all Aboriginal places, objects and Aboriginal human remains (section 4.1).

The *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth) applies to the management of the park.

The *Heritage Act 1995* (Vic.) applies to the protection and conservation of all archaeological relics within the park.

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) applies to the

whole of the park with respect to actions that have, will have, or are likely to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental or cultural significance.

The *Parks Victoria Act 1998* (Vic.) enables management services for Beechworth Historic Park to be provided on behalf of the Secretary to DSE by Parks Victoria. The National Parks (Park) Regulations 2003 apply to the park.

Other legislation, and policies and guidelines (section 2.6) at both the Commonwealth and State levels apply to management of the park and specific activities and uses.

ECC Recommendations

The former Environment Conservation Council (ECC), in the *Box-Ironbark Forests and Woodlands Investigation Final Report* (ECC 2001), made a number of recommendations that relate to the park. The recommendations included:

Recommendation C Beechworth Historic Park (C7) be managed in accordance with the general recommendations for regional parks, but retained on Schedule Three of the National Parks Act.

R8 Land managers continue with and further develop adaptive management research and monitoring programs, develop targeted new programs and apply the results where appropriate.

R15 Planning and management relating to traditional interests and uses be based on recognition and respect for the traditional and contemporary relationship of Aboriginal peoples with the land.

R42 Box-Ironbark public lands be available for a range of recreation activities for community enjoyment and appreciation and appropriate to the land use category.

All of these recommendations were accepted by State Government in February 2002 (Government of Victoria 2002).

2.6 Policies and guidelines

The park is managed in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies, and as appropriate, consistent with other policies and guidelines, including the following:

- *Recreation Framework for Box-Ironbark Public Land* (DSE 2003a)
- *Heritage Management Strategy* (Parks Victoria 2003a)
- *Heritage Action Plan for Beechworth Mining Sites* (Kaufman 2002)
- *Victoria's Heritage – Strengthening our Communities* (Heritage Victoria 2006)
- *Linking Victoria's Gold Heritage* (Parks Victoria 1999a)
- *Indigenous Partnership Strategy and Action Plan* (Parks Victoria 2005a)
- *Guidelines for Working with Aboriginal Communities and Protection of Cultural Sites* (Parks Victoria 2002)
- *National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development* (COAG 1992)
- *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity* (ANZECC 2001)
- *Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy* (NRE 1997a)
- *North East Region Fire Protection Plan* (DSE 2003b)
- *Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land* (DSE 2006)
- *Guidelines and Procedures for Ecological Burning on Public Land in Victoria* (DSE 2004b).

The park is also managed within a broader context of a number of other plans and strategies, including:

- *Victoria's Nature Based Tourism Strategy – Draft Plan 2007–2011*, (Tourism Victoria 2007)

- North East Regional Catchment Strategy (NECMA 2003)
- *Ovens Basin Water Quality Strategy* (NECMA 2000)
- *Policy for Sustainable Recreation and Tourism on Victoria's Public Land* (NRE 2002)
- *Tourism Victoria Regional Tourism Development Plan — North East Victoria 2004–2007* (Tourism Victoria 2004).

3 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

3.1 Park vision

Beechworth Historic Park, nestled within the historic district of Beechworth, protects a range of significant heritage places, natural and cultural values. The park is valued by local residents, park neighbours and the broader community as a scenic backdrop and for its contribution to the town's heritage values.

Contributing to the 'Beechworth experience', the park provides opportunities to explore the area's mining heritage and the outstanding scenery of gorges, granitic outcrops, clear streams and bushland. A variety of walking tracks and touring routes provide access to stunning views and mining relics for a range of users including bush walkers, cyclists, horse riders and motorists. Carefully managed and sympathetically placed visitor facilities provide comfort and information while helping to protect the landscape's cultural and natural values.

The park's cultural heritage is well understood and documented through partnerships with local Indigenous communities, historical societies, the local community and individuals. Visitors' appreciation of the area is enhanced by high-quality interpretation provided in partnership with the Beechworth township as well as within the park.

The park is a natural haven within a rural landscape to many rare or threatened flora and fauna species, including Yellow Hyacinth-orchid, Warby Swamp Gum, Brush-tailed Phascogale, and Barking Owl, which are protected by comprehensive natural values programs.

Park neighbours, Landcare, historical and Indigenous groups are actively involved with park managers in environmental and cultural programs to nurture and maintain the diversity within the evolving park environment.

3.2 Zoning

A park management zoning and overlay scheme has been developed to:

- provide a geographic framework in which to manage the park

- indicate which management directions have priority in different parts of the park
- indicate the types and levels of use appropriate throughout the park
- assist in minimising existing and potential conflicts between users, or between users and the protection of park values
- provide a basis for assessing the suitability of future activities and development proposals.

One management zone applies to the park – the Conservation and Recreation Zone.

In addition, six overlays are used to highlight management requirements additional to those of the underlying management zone.

The six overlays are: Land Use Designation – Water Supply Catchment; Land Use Designation – Prospecting; Special Protection Area–Cultural Values; Special Protection Area – Natural Values; Special Management Area – Public Utilities; and Special Management Area – Public Safety. Details of zone and overlay characteristics are provided in table 1. Boundaries of the zone and overlays are shown in figure 2.

3.3 Management directions

Major management directions for the park are outlined below.

The Traditional Owners' knowledge and interests in the area and aspirations for *Country* will be reflected in the park's planning and management, in accordance with legislation and policies (Parks Victoria 2005a).

Cultural values conservation

- Historic places and values will be conserved by protecting them from damaging or inappropriate activities.
- Indigenous cultural obligations relating to *Country* will be respected, and Traditional Owners and Indigenous communities' knowledge promoted and interpreted in accordance with their views.
- Cultural heritage sites and landscapes will be documented and managed to protect

their heritage values and minimise visitor impacts.

- Historic places and landscapes will be conserved and presented in conjunction with other historic mining sites in the area to tell the story of the area's mining heritage.
- Historians and archaeologists will be encouraged to assist in improving overall understanding and appreciation of the park's heritage.

Natural values conservation

- Threatened flora and fauna species and communities will be protected.
- Prescribed burning will be managed in accordance with the *North East Region Fire Protection Plan* (DSE 2003b) and *Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land* (DSE 2006).
- Containing emerging threats including pest plants and animals and reducing these at a local scale in the long-term will be priority.
- Pest plant and animal control strategies that identify key sites, target species and control methods will be implemented in cooperation with neighbours, municipalities and other public land managers.
- Actions of the Ovens Basin Water Quality Strategy (NECMA 2000) will be supported where they affect the quality of water entering, held in or leaving the park.
- Water quality in designated catchments will be protected.

The park visit

- Visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's natural and cultural heritage values will be enhanced by a range of information services.
- Park interpretation will be delivered in conjunction with the Indigo Shire Council and tourism outlets and will complement the interpretation of Beechworth township.

- Visitor enjoyment will be enhanced by appropriate management of recreation activities and facilities.
- A range of opportunities will be provided for visitors to experience the park's post-settlement heritage.
- A range of quality recreational experiences will be maintained at sustainable levels.
- Visitors will be encouraged to adopt minimal-impact techniques and to adhere to industry developed standards appropriate to their activity.

Community awareness and involvement

- The wider community will be encouraged to become more aware of the park and appreciative of its values.
- A Community Reference Group will be formed to help build relationships and community awareness of the park.
- Local communities and individuals will be encouraged to develop a sense of custodianship for the park, and become Friends and involved in its management.
- Strong collaborative partnerships will be developed with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party to facilitate the reflection of Indigenous knowledge, interests and aspirations in the park's planning and management.
- Collaborative partnerships will be established with relevant agencies to progress areas of mutual interest which strengthen protection of the park.
- A partnership will be developed with the Indigo Shire Council to support coordination and cooperation in the promotion and interpretation of the park as an integral part of the post-settlement heritage landscape.

TABLE 1 MANAGEMENT ZONE AND OVERLAYS

ZONE/OVERLAY	AREA/LOCATION	VALUES	GENERAL MANAGEMENT AIMS
ZONE			
Conservation and Recreation Zone	Beechworth Historic Park, 1090 ha, 100% of park.	Important natural and cultural values with scope for recreation opportunities.	Protect natural and cultural environments and provide for sustainable, dispersed recreational activities and small-scale recreational facilities without significant impact on natural processes and cultural values.
OVERLAYS			
Land Use Designation – Water Supply Catchment	Kerferd block, 26 ha, 2.4% of park.	Special Water Catchment Supply Protection Area.	Protect the quality of water by restricting the level and types of recreation activities.
Land Use Designation – Prospecting	Two Mile, Three Mile and Six Mile Creek blocks, 125 ha, 11.5% of park.	Recreational prospecting area.	Allow suitable prospecting while protecting biodiversity, catchment, geological and cultural values.
Special Protection Area – Cultural Values	Four sites within the park 164.5 ha, 15% of park.	Historic sites and landscapes of State or regional significance.	Protect sensitive cultural and archaeological sites and artefacts.
Special Protection Area – Natural Values	Three sites within Sheep Station Creek and The Gorge block, 251.7 ha, 23% of park.	Highly significant natural values for FFG species.	Protect vulnerable natural values.
Special Management Area – Public Utilities	North East Region Water Authority pipelines, 15.6 ha, 1.5% of park	Maintenance and operation of water supply pipelines.	Minimise the impact of activities associated with the operation of the water supply pipelines.
Special Management Area – Public Safety	Kerferd Walking Track, 3 ha, Rocky Mountain Tunnel, 6 ha, <1% of park.	Safety buffers.	Minimise risks to park visitors.

TABLE 2 SUMMARY OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

ACTIVITY	MANAGEMENT ZONE	OVERLAYS			
	1	2	3	4	5
(percentage of park)	(100%)	(2.4%)	(11.5%)	(15%)	(23%)
Bird watching	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bushwalking (section 6.6)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Car rallies (section 6.2)	N	N	N	N	N
Camping (section 6.4)	N	N	N	N	N
Cycling (includes mountain bikes) (section 6.8)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dog walking on lead (section 6.10)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Education / Guided activities	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Firewood collection / removal	N	N	N	N	N
Fire – liquid fuel or gas (section 5.7)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Feeding wildlife	N	N	N	N	N
Fishing (section 6.3)	Y	N	N	N	N
Heritage appreciation	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Horse riding (section 6.7)	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Hunting	N	N	N	N	N
Licensed tours	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Motor bike riding (section 6.2)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nature appreciation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Orienteering / Rogaining (section 6.9)	Y	Y	Y	N	Y*
Picnicking	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Prospecting (section 6.5)	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Rock climbing/abseiling (section 6.11)	Y	N	N	N	N
Scenic driving (2WD) (section 6.2)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Scenic driving (4WD only) (section 6.2)	Y	N/A	Y	Y	Y
Swimming (section 6.3)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Trail bike riding (section 6.2)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

* Orienteering and rogaining events with less than 50 competitors will be permitted in the SPA – Natural Values, in accordance with a permit and conditions.

Key:

1	Conservation and Recreation Zone	Y	Permitted subject to overlay prescriptions and conditions prescribed by legislation, licensed tour permits or elsewhere in the plan as indicated
2	Land Use Designation – Water Supply Catchment		
3	Land Use Designation – Prospecting		
4	Special Protection Area – Cultural Values	N	Not appropriate
5	Special Protection Area – Natural Values	N/A	Not applicable

Note: Recreation activities are not permitted in the Special Management Area – Public Safety and Special Management Area – Public Utilities

4 STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL VALUES CONSERVATION

4.1 Indigenous cultural heritage

The pattern of past Indigenous use of the park is uncertain, although a long-standing relationship with the area is highly likely given the number of records of Indigenous archaeological and cultural sites maintained for the adjoining Chiltern–Mt Pilot National Park (Sale & Hall 1993). Recent surveys in the region have identified a range of sites, including scarred trees, stone artefact scatters, rock wells and grinding grooves (DVC 2004). Eleven rock art sites, though not in the park, have been identified in the vicinity of Beechworth (DVC 2004). There are currently no records lodged with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) for sites within the park. The park's close proximity to a developing township associated with gold mining era activities most likely disturbed archaeological and cultural sites within the park.

The park has been documented as forming part of *Country* of the Dhudhuroa and Waywurru people, who may have participated in the seasonal migratory movement from the valleys to the alpine high country. The Bangerang/Pangerang and Yaitmatang people may also have inhabited the region around Beechworth (DVC 2004).

All Aboriginal places, objects and Aboriginal human remains are protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act (section 2.5). It is an offence to damage, interfere with or endanger an Aboriginal place, object or human remains except in accordance with a Cultural Heritage Management Plan developed with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party(s) or where there is no Registered Aboriginal Party with the Department of Victorian Communities (DVC).

Issues relating to the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage are approached in accordance with this Act. Issues relating to native title are dealt with according to the Native Title Act (section 2.5).

Aims

- Protect Aboriginal cultural heritage from interference or damaging activities.

- Support the views of the Traditional Owners in managing the park.

Management strategies

- *Protect all Indigenous places and objects from disturbance and damage in partnership with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party and in cooperation with DVC (section 8.3), and in accordance with:*
 - *relevant legislation including the Aboriginal Heritage Act*
 - *relevant cooperative management agreements*
 - *Parks Victoria's Guidelines for Working with Aboriginal Communities and Protection of Cultural Sites (Parks Victoria 2002).*
- *Respect the views of the Traditional Owners and the cultural obligations of Indigenous communities.*
- *Assess annual park programs to integrate relevant Indigenous practices and minimise the potential for impact of park management activities on Aboriginal cultural heritage in consultation with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party (section 8.2).*
- *Where appropriate, encourage research into the Indigenous cultural heritage relating to the park in collaboration with relevant Registered Aboriginal Party, representative bodies of the Traditional Owners and the relevant Indigenous communities and in liaison with AAV (section 8.3). Use results to target protection and other management activities.*
- *Maintain confidentiality in respect of Indigenous knowledge, places, objects and aspirations, in accordance with the views of the Traditional Owners.*
- *Work with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party to assess and identify Indigenous cultural heritage suitable for promotion and interpretation (sections 6.1 and 8.2).*

4.2 Historic heritage

European settlement of the area dates back to 1837, when squatters settled and established their runs, which were disrupted by the discovery of gold in February 1852. This find on the banks of Spring Creek, in the area previously known as Mayday Hills, began a gold rush and in just four months 5000 miners had flocked to the town now known as Beechworth (CNR 1993).

The Beechworth goldfield was principally an alluvial goldfield, with hydraulic sluicing and dredging the main methods employed. Uncovering the precious mineral resulted in the careless destruction of the surrounding forests and streams. The park now protects these previously disturbed areas, and will, over time, allow the forests to regenerate and streams to recover, however much evidence of the activities that took place during the gold era remains to be discovered.

The park's cultural values include a substantial number and range of gold mining artefacts representing various gold mining technologies and activities from the 19th and 20th centuries, including races, tunnels, mullock heaps, shafts, sluiced gullies, coppiced forests and dredge dams (section 2.3). The more subtle alluvial mining sites are concentrated in Beechworth Historic Park, while dramatic, well-preserved quartz mining relics can be found in nearby Nine Mile Creek Historic Area. Many sites are associated with the provision, transport or use of water, such as the Rocky Mountain Tunnel, Fletchers tailrace and Chevaliers Flour Mill.

The significance of these sites and landscapes has been recognised by the inclusion of the Beechworth Historic Park on the register of the National Estate. In addition, six sites in the park are listed on the Victorian Heritage Inventory because of their regional significance (appendix 3). These sites are considered significant not only in their own right but more importantly because they remain in their original landscape setting. Fifteen sites of local significance spread throughout the park represent localities, mining technologies, and artefacts (appendix 3). The restored Beechworth Powder Magazine managed by Indigo Shire and registered on the National Estate Register, although outside the park, is an important feature of Gorge Scenic Drive. Historic and cultural places are

managed in accordance with the Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS 1999). Sites of State or regional significance (appendix 3) are covered by the Special Protection Area – Cultural Heritage overlay (section 3.2).

There is a distinct relationship between the township of Beechworth, with its suite of historic buildings reflecting the theme of mining governance, and the relics and landscapes of the park showcasing the range of technology, particularly water transfer technology, used by the miners in all eras.

Heritage Action Plans have been developed for Reids Creek Goldfield and the Rocky Mountain Bucket Dredge (Kaufman 2002). No conservation actions were identified for these sites, other than allowing natural processes to operate, and avoiding management actions that would damage the historic features.

Places of historic and cultural significance are managed in accordance with the Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS and the provisions of the *Heritage Act 1995* (Vic.).

Aims

- Conserve and protect places and values of historic significance.
- Encourage learning and understanding about the historic heritage of the park.
- Integrate the presentation of the park's historic features with that of Beechworth township and the nearby historic mining reserves.

Management strategies

- *Foster partnerships with the Indigo Shire Council and Heritage Victoria to raise awareness and appreciation of the cultural heritage within the Beechworth area.*
- *Document the condition of historic features and sites in the park and add this data to Parks Victoria's asset management system.*
- *Monitor the condition of historic features and sites on a regular basis and identify emerging risks to heritage values.*
- *Further investigate the role of Chevaliers Flour Mill and the opportunity to expose and interpret foundations at the site.*

- *Ensure all new developments within the park are designed to minimise their impact on historic landscape values.*
- *Apply risk management and assessment techniques which consider heritage landscape values during risk management, fire protection and emergency works.*
- *Encourage research by the community into the social history of the park.*
- *Record, research and retain historic places names in the park.*
- *Prepare a strategy in conjunction with local community and Indigo Shire to protect and interpret the mining heritage within and outside the park (section 6.1).*
- *Support partnerships with Indigo Shire and community groups to make the most of opportunities to link the park with new initiatives and projects.*

5 STRATEGIES FOR NATURAL VALUES CONSERVATION

5.1 Landscape

The park landscape is part of a mosaic of cleared and vegetated land that typifies the Beechworth region. Ridges are mostly vegetated and valleys cleared for farming purposes. The tall, eastern mixed foothill forests provide a strong contrast to the box and cypress-pine woodlands of the drier western portion of the park. The park lies within DSE's Lower Ovens Landscape Zone (DSE 2004a), within the Northern Inland Slopes and Highlands–Northern Fall Bioregions.

The Gorge Scenic Drive offers views of the Spring Creek Gorge with its granite tors, moss beds, and waterfalls, as well as views of the surrounding countryside and overviews of the town of Beechworth. Lookout sites on granite slabs at One Tree Hill and the Precipice provide panoramic views to the north and west. The Beechworth Scenic Drive (Gorge Scenic Drive) and Lake Kerferd and have been registered as classified landscapes by the National Trust and included in Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO 2) of the Indigo Shire Council Planning Scheme (Indigo Shire Council 1999b).

The landscape is an intrinsic element of Country for Traditional Owners and is significant for Indigenous communities.

The high landscape values require careful consideration to be given to views from major roads and lookouts from within and outside the park. Care must be taken to ensure developments at key visitor sites have no adverse impacts on the visual integrity of the area.

Aim

- Protect the natural and heritage landscape, particularly places of high scenic quality or traditional significance.

Management strategies

- *Identify and protect important landscape features, particularly those that can be seen from viewing sites, the town of Beechworth and major travel routes.*

- *Liaise with the Indigo Shire Council in relation to the management of Significant Landscape Overlays and planning applications for developments that may affect landscape values.*
- *Identify and protect cultural heritage values of the landscape and provide interpretation which will assist park visitors to understand their significance (sections 4.1 and 6.1).*
- *Consider and respect the significance of the landscape to Indigenous communities in planning and implementing management activities (sections 4.1, 6.1 and 8.2).*
- *Ensure landscape values are considered in the review of the North East Region Fire Protection Plan.*
- *Ensure all developments are planned and designed to minimise their impact on landscape values.*
- *Ensure key viewing points are maintained to allow viewing of significant landscapes.*

5.2 Geological and landform features

The park is geologically complex with a distinct landform change where Devonian granites of the Mount Pilot Range to the north-west (Barambogie land system) intersect the Ordovician sedimentary structures of the Mount Stanley Range (Bowman land system) in the south-east. Small areas of Quaternary alluvial plains and terraces are associated with the Beechworth township. The age of the region's visible geology is illustrated by the presence of the Wooragee glacial formations 10 km to the north-west.

The Gorge unit contains most of the important landform features, including distinctive granite tors, cascading waterfalls and gem sites. Throughout the park, diverted streamlines, loose sedimentary deposits, and steep sluiced walls allow constant erosion and deposition.

Aim

- Identify and protect geological values, particularly those of high significance.

Management strategies

- *Encourage further research and understanding of the park's geological values.*
- *Educate visitors on the value of the park's geological features through the provision of information where appropriate (section 6.1).*

5.3 Soil conservation

Soils of the park, particularly those derived from Devonian granites, are susceptible to sheet, rill, tunnel and gully erosion. Past mining activities involving clearing of native vegetation and sluicing have left eroded, near-vertical slopes particularly in Two Mile, Three Mile and Six Mile Creek blocks. Sediment in broken slum dams in the bottom of Spring Creek is constantly mobile and being redeposited downstream.

Erosion is also evident within the Gorge walking track system. Dry conditions during summer and autumn often leave disturbed areas, which are susceptible to erosion from wind and water runoff.

Aims

- Minimise erosion impacts on water quality.
- Prevent and control erosion on roads, tracks and disturbed areas.

Management strategies

- *Regularly monitor the condition of roads, tracks and visitor destinations, and take appropriate action to minimise erosion (tables 4, 5 and 6).*
- *Rehabilitate eroded sites in areas of high visitor use and soil susceptibility.*

5.4 Rivers and catchments

The park lies within the Lower and Mid Ovens catchments, within the area of responsibility of the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA). The catchments are managed according to the *North East Regional Catchment Strategy* (NECMA 2003). Ten hectares of the Kerferd block (figure 2) is part of a Special Water Catchment Protection Area under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (Vic.). The Land Use Designation –

Water Supply Catchment applies to the section of catchment encompassed by the park (figure 2).

The park consists of many reserved fragments focused around the creeks they follow, Spring Creek being the most visited in the scenic Gorge block. Other creeks passing through the park include Sheep Station Creek, La Serena Creek, Green Wattle Creek, Silver Creek, Deep Creek, Hurdle Creek, Two Mile Creek, Three Mile Creek and Six Mile Creek.

The park has a history of significant disturbance. Traditional quartz mining techniques involved the use of mercury in the extraction of gold, and while processes included the recovery of mercury, old tailing deposits are considered the probable source of elevated mercury levels in historic gold mining areas (NRE 1998). La Trobe University measured levels of mercury in surface water samples in 1998, however the study did not locate points of concentration within the park.

Water is discharged directly from the system of table and stormwater drains within the township of Beechworth into Spring Creek, which carries pollutants and street detritus into the park. To address this issue the NECMA has prepared the Ovens Basin Water Quality Strategy which deals with a number of issues across the catchment (NECMA 2000). The Indigo Shire Council maintains the table drain and stormwater system.

The Shire also has planning responsibility for housing development within the park catchment. While 90% of the township has on-line sewers, some recent developments have been approved on the basis of utilisation of septic systems.

Aim

- Protect and enhance creek and catchment values.

Management strategies

- *Liaise with NECMA, Indigo Shire Council, the Environmental Protection Authority, North East Region Water Authority, and Goulburn Murray Water about implementation of the Ovens Basin Water Quality Strategy and park activities likely to affect water quality (section 8.3).*

- *Ensure seasonal closure of roads in the Land Use Designation – Water Supply Catchment (table 1 and figure 2) to protect water quality.*
- *Liaise with Indigo Shire Council to ensure minimal impacts from stormwater, drainage and sewage on park values.*
- *Where appropriate liaise with NECMA on aspects of park management with the potential to impact catchment health, including minimisation of disturbance to catchments and streams from park works.*

5.5 Vegetation

The park lies within the Northern Inland Slopes and Highlands – Northern Fall Bioregions and contains a range of vegetation communities. Eight Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) are represented, including Grassy Dry Forest, Shrubby Dry Forest, Herb-rich Foothill Forest, Granitic Hills Woodland and Valley Grassy Forest, an endangered community within Victoria (DSE 2005b).

Twelve flora species considered rare or threatened in Victoria have been recorded in the park (appendix 4).

The park protects 10% of the State's records for Yellow Hyacinth-orchid, an endangered flora species. Warby Swamp Gum, a nationally threatened species is also protected in the park. Both species have Action Statements under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee (FFG) Act. Yellow Hyacinth-orchid is particularly under threat from wallaby and rabbit browsing (section 5.8). Three other threatened species occurring in the park are also listed under the Act: Dookie Daisy, Granite (Beechworth) Rustyhood and Small Quillwort. Beechworth Silver Stringybark, a rare species, is considered a high priority species as it is endemic to the area (Parks Victoria 2005b).

A survey conducted at One Tree Hill in 2005 found 23 bryophytes present. More species are likely to be present in other parts of the park in particular the riparian habitats (Meagher 2005).

Known sites of threatened species are included in the Special Protection Area – Natural Values (table 1 and figure 2).

Visitor impacts must also be managed to protect stands of threatened species which can

be growing close to visitor nodes. The Gorge block contains the majority of threatened species found within the park, 75% of which are represented at One Tree Hill, a popular visitor destination. Ingrams Rock is also an important site for particularly sensitive flora species.

High fragmentation and proximity to the town mean weed cover is generally high within some sections of the park (section 5.8). This has inhibited recruitment of understorey indigenous species in most EVCs, particularly in the valleys and foothills. Past tree clearing practices have resulted in a loss of large old trees however, mid-storey species such as wattles and younger Black Cypress-pine and eucalypts maintain a good canopy cover.

The North East Victoria Comprehensive Regional Assessment (Environment Australia 1998) found endemic and disjunct species, a concentration of species at the edge of their range and a strong concentration of rare flora in the Beechworth area. The park helps to protect these values and contributes significantly to the protection of flora values in the region.

Aims

- Manage ecosystems to ensure the preservation and protection of indigenous flora and vegetation communities, particularly significant species and threatened communities.
- Encourage scientific investigation relating to the conservation of significant species and communities, particularly those largely under-studied.

Management strategies

- *Develop a flora monitoring program and establish and implement priority actions in accordance with Parks Victoria's Environmental Management Program.*
- *Implement priority actions from approved Action Statements or Recovery Plans to address threats to threatened species or communities listed under the FFG and EPBC Acts in conjunction with DSE, including:*
 - *monitoring the health and extent of Yellow Hyacinth-orchid populations*

through monitoring of flowering and pod production and establishment of permanent photographic points

- *protecting Yellow Hyacinth–orchid populations from damage by native herbivores through guards and / or fencing and implementing rabbit and weed control programs*
- *ensuring populations of Warby Swamp Gum are protected from wildfire, unintentional burning and changed hydrological conditions.*
- *Encourage park staff to train and participate in field identification and ecological monitoring of threatened species.*
- *Manage visitor activities to minimise impacts on threatened flora and vegetation communities, particularly at One Tree Hill and Ingrams Rock.*
- *Where appropriate, encourage research to identify Indigenous knowledge relating to vegetation and flora, and harvesting practices, and reflect knowledge in management practices as appropriate.*
- *Encourage research into the presence of bryophytes, fungi, lichens and algae and their functioning and significance within the park.*

5.6 Fauna

Eleven fauna species considered threatened in Victoria, including seven listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (Brush-tailed Phascogale, Bandy Bandy, Turquoise Parrot, Barking Owl, Regent Honeyeater, Speckled Warbler, Diamond Firetail) are recorded in the park (appendix 5). The range of species highlights the park’s diverse faunal values, while their threatened status highlights the importance of the park to their protection.

Known significant fauna sites are included within a Special Protection Area – Natural (table 1 and figure 2).

An FFG Action Statement and a Recovery Plan have been developed for the Brush-tailed Phascogale, a species particularly susceptible to predation by foxes (section 5.8), and restricted in its range due to loss of habitat including large old trees. As part of the

recovery plan, Beechworth Historic Park has been nominated as one of 40 priority sites across the state for the species’ recovery. Monitoring of Brush-tailed Phascogales and foxes is conducted in partnership with DSE. Management of this species will assist in the conservation of other dry forest and woodland dependent species such as the Regent Honeyeater and Turquoise Parrot (NRE 1997b) and other arboreal mammals whose numbers have also declined due to a reduction in suitable habitat, caused by clearing primarily for agriculture. The park also supports 11 species of birds associated with the FFG listed Victorian Temperate-woodland Bird Community (appendix 5).

Another hollow-dependent species, the Barking Owl, is the most threatened owl in Victoria and suffered significant decline in the area due to the loss of habitat and prey base resulting from years of drought and more recently the 2003 fires. The territorial nature of Barking Owls means pairs are unlikely to relocate to new areas. Beechworth Historic Park is home to at least one breeding pair, occupying a site which has been used for over 20 years. This site is close to a management vehicle track and there is concern illegal access may disrupt the owls. The Beechworth owls are an important source of offspring for recolonisation to the area affected by the extensive fires in 2003 (N. Schedvin pers. comm. 2005).

Four amphibians and 11 reptiles, including the near threatened Bandy Bandy are also recorded in the park. There are no current park records for invertebrates.

Loss of coarse woody debris from Victorian native forests and woodlands is recognised as a threatening process under the FFG Act. Retention of fallen timber on the ground is critical for the protection of woodland bird community species (appendix 5), small ground-foraging mammals and reptiles, currently recorded in low numbers in the park.

Aims

- Manage ecosystems to ensure the preservation and protection of indigenous fauna, particularly significant species.

- Improve knowledge of significant fauna and threatening processes to improve management, protection and appreciation.

Management strategies

- *Implement priority actions from approved FFG Action Statements and recovery plans in conjunction with DSE, including participation in the Phascogale recovery program.*
- *Monitor continuing nest occupation of identified populations of Barking Owls.*
- *Enable Parks Victoria staff to participate in training to facilitate field identification and ecological monitoring of threatened species.*
- *Promote the further development of Action Statements for all FFG species within the park.*
- *Encourage research to improve knowledge on the importance and function of invertebrates in the park environment.*
- *Where appropriate, encourage research to identify Indigenous knowledge relating to fauna, and reflect knowledge in management practices as appropriate.*
- *Enhance existing habitat for ground foraging mammals and reptiles by prohibiting the collection of fallen timber from within the park.*
- *Undertake measures to reduce the risk of illegal access disturbing the breeding of Barking Owls in the park (section 6.2).*

5.7 Fire management

The National Parks Act requires the Secretary to ensure that appropriate and sufficient measures are taken to protect parks from injury by fire. Current fire protection measures for the park are carried out in accordance with the *North East Region Fire Protection Plan* (DSE 2003b), the *Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land* (DSE 2006) and Parks Victoria's operational policies.

The Code of Practice requires that fire management activities ensure that environmental values, including the vigour and diversity of the State's indigenous flora, are protected, as far as practical, from the harmful

effects of wildfire and inappropriate fire regimes.

Fire protection measures on adjacent freehold land are outlined in the *Indigo Shire Municipal Fire Prevention Strategy* (Indigo Shire Council 1999a).

Parks Victoria and DSE maintain fire-fighting resources at Beechworth, Wodonga and Wangaratta. DSE maintains fire lookout towers at Mount Pilot and Mount Stanley.

The use of fire for ecological management is an established principle, and where appropriate may be undertaken for the enhancement of ecological values (DSE 2004b).

Fuel reduction burning is currently undertaken to protect specific assets, primarily the town of Beechworth and high-value pine plantations, in accordance with the *North East Region Fire Protection Plan* (DSE 2003b).

Burning zones include:

- Zone 2—Spring Creek in the Gorge block for township protection
- Zone 3—most other areas.

In January 2003, a fire known as the Stanley fire burnt approximately 5% (51 ha) of the park in the Silver Creek block. This fire was part of a series of wildfires spread throughout the Alpine region, collectively burning over one million hectares. The *Statewide Public Land Ecological and Cultural Fire Recovery Plan* (Parks Victoria 2003b) has been developed to address the recovery of the fire-affected areas.

Aims

- Protect park values from the deleterious effects of wildfire or inappropriate fire regimes.
- Cooperate with relevant agencies and land managers in the protection of human life, neighbouring properties and assets.
- Implement fire regimes appropriate to the conservation and management of native flora and fauna.

Management strategies

- *Undertake fuel reduction burning in accordance with the North East Region Fire Protection Plan (DSE 2003b).*

- *Ensure water points and management tracks (table 4 and figure 3) are maintained in a condition suitable for access by fire-fighting units.*
- *Maintain close and effective liaison with DSE, the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Indigo Shire Council, and park neighbours with regard to hazard management and fire preparedness.*
- *Encourage use of liquid or gas fuel cooking appliances by visitors in picnic areas.*
- *Review current fuel-reduction burning zones during the North East Region Fire Protection Plan Review.*
- *In conjunction with DSE, develop a management regime for fires in the park that meets fire protection and ecological requirements in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies.*
- *Ensure implementation of the Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land to provide protection of park values from mechanical damage, weed spread and disease during protection burning, ecological burning and wildfire suppression.*
- *Identify fire-sensitive historic relics and cultural landscapes that may be damaged by fire or fire suppression activities (section 4.2).*
- *Following wildfire, ensure a Fire Rehabilitation Plan is prepared and implemented, and fire breaks are closed and rehabilitated in accordance with the Code of Practice.*
- *Encourage research into Indigenous knowledge relating to use of fire, in cooperation with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party. Reflect Indigenous knowledge in education and management programs as appropriate.*

5.8 Pest plants and animals

The park contains no known State or regionally prohibited pest plants, but is subject to heavy infestations of 14 Regional Priority pest plants and 11 major environmental weeds (appendix 6). Pest plant infestations of greatest concern are those that directly compete with

FFG species, are new or emerging, threaten significant values, disturb streambanks or appear on park boundaries. These infestations often provide harbour for pest animals.

Control strategies for pest plants and animals in the region have been proposed with due consideration to priorities set by the North East Catchment Management Authority, and management strategies will be developed with the objective of maintaining ecosystem integrity and improving biodiversity.

North East Catchment Management Authority priorities include Paterson's Curse, Blackberry, St. John's Wort, Broom and Gorse, all of which exist in the park. Emerging environmental weeds of most concern are Bridal Creeper and Himalayan Honeysuckle. A draft Beechworth Historic Park Weed Management Strategy was prepared in 1996 (CNR 1996).

Weed management works are heavily focused along streambanks. Rabbits are concentrated in granitic soils and heavily weed infested streambanks, where they inhibit growth and regeneration of the FFG-listed Yellow Hyacinth-orchid, compete with native grazers for fodder and affect neighbouring farming properties. Rabbit numbers are not increasing at present. The long-term combined influence of rabbit calicivirus disease (RCD) and myxomatosis on the local population is unpredictable.

The urban – rural interface of the park poses particular problems for the control of rabbits, foxes and cats due to high food sources, restrictions on control techniques due to proximity to urban areas, close harbour and high repopulation sources. Threatened species, including the Brush-tail Phascogale and Bandy Bandy, are vulnerable to predation by foxes. Roaming dogs, stock and feral bee populations are occasionally found in the park.

The Wooragee Landcare Group and the newly formed Beechworth Landcare Group are active in the immediate Beechworth district, and close liaison is maintained with these groups.

The community is becoming increasingly aware of the problem created for wildlife by cats, both unowned and owned but inappropriately managed. Cats are prohibited in parks under the National Parks (Parks) Regulations 2003. The *Domestic (Feral and*

Nuisance) Animals Act 1994 (Vic.) provides the legislative framework for management of cats.

Aims

- Control and where possible eradicate pest plants and animals in the park.
- Develop a catchment-wide perspective of pest plant and animal management, and coordinate actions with local area action plans and strategies.
- Minimise the impact of control programs on non-target flora and fauna.
- Protect the park from new infestations of pest plants, animals and diseases.
- Cooperate with adjacent landholders to control the spread of weeds and pest animals into and from the park.

Management strategies

- *Develop and implement an integrated approach to pest plant management in accordance with the Parks Victoria Environmental Management Program to deliver:*
 - *cooperative control programs with neighbours on priority weeds*
 - *weed control measures to protect vegetation communities with high flora values at risk from weeds*
 - *control of weed communities that harbour rabbits*
 - *weed control on sites with high cultural and heritage values*

- *priority control of new and emerging species, particularly those with highly invasive characteristics and potential to impact park values*
- *eradication of new or existing weeds when infestation numbers are low*
- *effective measurement and monitoring of weed populations and the effectiveness of control techniques.*
- *Develop and implement an integrated approach to pest animal management in accordance with Parks Victoria's Environmental Management Program to deliver:*
 - *control of pest animals grazing on vulnerable flora and preying on native fauna*
 - *rabbit control programs at the private property interface in cooperation with neighbours*
 - *cooperative fox control programs*
 - *monitoring of feral animal populations and the effectiveness of control techniques.*
- *Destroy feral bee colonies within the park.*
- *Develop a plan to manage exotic species identified as having cultural or historic significance.*
- *Work with Indigo Shire Council on the promotion of responsible pet ownership to address the presence of cats in the park.*

6 STRATEGIES FOR VISITORS

6.1 Information, interpretation and education

Providing information, interpretation and education can help orientate and inform visitors, foster an understanding and appreciation of the park's special natural and cultural values, build understanding of management activities and help visitors to experience, understand and appreciate the park in a safe and appropriate manner. Parks Victoria delivers information, interpretation and education to visitors by various means, including its website, ranger patrols, Park Notes, signage, tourism brochures and other publications, displays, and licensed tour operators. These services may be developed and provided in collaboration with other agencies.

Although many of Victoria's parks and reserves play an integral role in the delivery of nature based tourism, the Box-Ironbark parks are unlikely to become a key destination themselves. However, there is potential for Beechworth Historic Park to become a valuable complementary product to existing regional tourism products.

Beechworth Historic Park lies within one of several regions within Victoria subject to some of the greatest gold rushes of the 19th century. The park's distinctive and accessible gold mining sites present excellent opportunities for interpreting, educating and informing the public about its heritage values and management.

The park lies within Tourism Victoria's High Country region, supported by the North East Regional Tourism Development Plan which promotes Beechworth as one of Victoria's best-preserved gold rush towns. Although mentioning a visit to the nearby park, Tourism Victoria's main focus is on the heritage precinct of the town.

The park's distinctive and accessible gold mining sites present excellent opportunities for interpreting, educating and informing the public about the heritage values remaining from the gold era. Integration of the recreation

and information services of the park with those in the town of Beechworth would further promote the park's important role in the region's heritage and nature-based tourism attractions, and increase the opportunity for higher visitation.

Park visitor information is currently provided by a Park Note. A general information board is provided at the Powder Magazine (Gorge) managed by Indigo Shire Council, and fixed orientation maps are provided at the heads of most walking trails. Park information is provided at the Gorge picnic site. Signage within the park is generally well located, but varies in condition. Parks Victoria's website and the Parks Victoria Information Centre also provide detailed pre-visit information.

Parks Victoria's office, located at the La Trobe University Beechworth Campus, provides very limited opportunity for interaction and promotion to passing visitors.

The Parks Victoria education program offers Curriculum Standards Framework (CSF) based education units for primary and secondary students. In addition, Parks Victoria and DSE have prepared a Box-Ironbark education kit for use in schools.

Aims

- Orientate visitors and the local community to the park's history, features and values via Park Notes and signage.
- Encourage visitors' discovery, enjoyment and appreciation of the park's natural and cultural values, and support for park management.

Management strategies

- *Promote and market the recreational, cultural and natural heritage values of the park via an integrated strategy developed with the Indigo Shire Council (section 8.3).*
- *Develop and maintain interpretive facilities listed in table 3.*

TABLE 3 INTERPRETATION THEMES AND FACILITIES

AREA	THEME	SITES	FACILITIES
Whole of park	Association of gold mining governance with park heritage values	Beechworth Visitor Information Centre (Indigo Shire Council)	Interpretive display Park Note
Kerferd Block	Mining techniques	Hurdle Creek flumes, tunnels, ruins, dredge, dams, shafts, Chinese camp	Interpretive walk connected to Spring Creek and Woolshed Falls (Chiltern Mt–Pilot National Park)
Spring Creek	Role of water	Fletchers tailrace, Chevaliers Mill, Rocky Mountain Tunnel, Cascades	Interpretive walk connected to Kerferd and Woolshed Falls (Chiltern Mt–Pilot National Park)
Gorge Quarries	Links to Beechworth Traditional techniques	Fiddes Quarry Fiddes Quarry	Interpretive panel
Gorge Scenic Drive	Landscape, vegetation, flora	Scenic drive	Park Note
Gorge Walk Tracks	Regional landscape vegetation, fauna	Precipice lookout, One Tree Hill	Park Note

- *Ensure park orientation and information:*
 - *interprets the values and features of the park and its place in the mining heritage of the area*
 - *informs park users about public safety*
 - *provides guidelines for appropriate behaviour and activity*
 - *generates links to the town of Beechworth, particularly through signage*
 - *generates links to other parks in the district, and to touring routes*
 - *is appropriate in form and content for the range of visitors to the park, in particular children, the elderly, and people with limited mobility.*
- *Work with Indigo Shire, Tourism Campaign Committee and other relevant groups to coordinate provision of orientation and interpretation information.*
- *Encourage visitors to adopt minimum impact techniques and to adhere to codes of conduct appropriate to their activity.*
- *Ensure the regular update of information maintained on the Parks Victoria website and at the Parks Victoria Information Centre.*
- *Continue to allow sustainable educational use by school and community groups. Ensure school and formal interpretive groups adopt the Minimal Impact Guidelines.*
- *Regularly evaluate information and interpretive programs related to the park.*

6.2 Access

The park is bisected by several arterial roads and a number of Indigo Shire Council roads providing access to the park. The Gorge Scenic Drive is the primary entrance point to the park for visitors. The existing road and track network includes roads suitable for all-season 2WD touring (table 4).

Some tracks are steep and rugged and unsuitable for all-season access or are in protected water catchments. These tracks are classified as management vehicle (MV) tracks. Management vehicle roads and tracks will be available for use by horse riders, walkers and non-motorised bicycles. Scenic driving along the Gorge Scenic Drive is a popular visitor activity. The five kilometre, mostly bitumen road is a one-way route supported by information in a Park Note.

TABLE 4 MANAGEMENT OF VEHICULAR ROADS AND TRACKS

ROAD/TRACK	CURRENT CLASSIFI'N	PLANNED CLASSIF'N	CURRENT AND PLANNED USE	ACTIONS / COMMENTS
Collins Track	5D	5D	M4	Maintain drainage. PV Road for visitor and management access and fire.
Dixons Track	5D	5D	M4	Maintain drainage. PV Road for visitor or management access and fire.
Fiddes Track	5E	5E	MV	PV Road for management access and fire.
Gorge Road (Gorge Scenic Drive)	5B	5B	M2	Complete surfacing and maintain drainage. One way scenic drive with five tonne load limit bridge. Access to inlier freehold. PV Road for park and other access
Graveyard Creek Track	5E	5E	M2 to MV	Restrict access to management vehicles. PV Road for management access and fire.
Gum Ridge Track	5D	5D	MV	Maintain drainage. PV Road for management access and fire.
Kerferd Track	5D	5D	M4	Maintain drainage. PV Road for visitor and management access and fire.
Middle Track	5D	5D	M2	Maintain drainage. PV Road for visitor and management access and fire.
One Tree Hill Road	5C	5D	M2	Maintain drainage. PV Road for visitor or management access and fire.
One Tree Track	5C	5C	MV	PV Road management access and fire.
Otts Track	5E	5E	M2 to MV	Restrict access to management vehicles. PV Road for management access and fire.
Pine Track	5E	5E	MV	PV Road for management access and fire.
Pipeline Track	5D	5D	M2	Maintain drainage. PV Road for park and management access.
Ponds Track	5E	5E	MV	PV Road for management access and fire.
Red Hill Road	5C	5C	M2	Park access and fire. Maintain drainage. PV Road for visitor and management access.
Robinson Track	5E	5E	M2 to MV	Restrict access to management vehicles. PV Road for management access and fire.

Key:

Parks Victoria Road classification:

- 5A Primary Road — all weather, two-laned, mainly sealed road.
- 5B Secondary Road — all weather, two-laned formed and gravelled, or single lane sealed with gravel shoulders.
- 5C Minor Road — Single lane unsealed, formed road usually lightly gravelled.
- 5D Access Track — Single lane, dry weather formed (from natural materials).
- 5E Rough Track — Single lane, unformed earth track at or near the natural surface.

Use:

- M2 Visitors in 2WD and 4WD motor vehicles
- M4 Visitors in 4WD motor vehicles
- MV Management vehicles

Note:

Bicycles, walkers and horses are permitted on all vehicular roads and tracks.

Roads managed by Shire and other authorities that run through the park are not included in the table.

The drive provides panoramic views of the surrounding countryside as well as views of granite tors, wildflowers, waterfalls, and mining landscapes. The narrow winding road is not suitable for large touring coaches. The bridge crossing Spring Creek is subject to a five tonne load limit.

Aims

- Provide and maintain access for visitor enjoyment and management purposes.
- Minimise the effect of the road network on cultural and natural values of the park, including designated catchments.

Management strategies

- *Maintain vehicle roads and tracks in accordance with table 4 and figure 3.*
- *Complete bitumen surfacing of the Gorge Scenic Drive.*
- *Ensure emergency agencies are aware of the bridge load limit over Spring Creek on the Gorge Scenic Drive.*
- *Ensure signposting to key nodes, particularly from major roads and the town of Beechworth, are installed and maintained.*
- *Install gates on management vehicle tracks to prevent illegal access to high value areas (figure 3).*

6.3 Day visitors

The Gorge Scenic Drive is the key visitor attraction in Beechworth Historic Park.

Along the drive there are a number of minor carparks as it winds around the gorge. Basic picnic facilities are provided at the Spring Creek Bridge and the old gravel pit on Shire-owned freehold land. Inappropriate car parking on granite outcrops is common. Current gorge facilities that directly abut the road are of concern for visitor safety due to the proximity to passing vehicles. The Gorge Scenic Drive intersects the Gorge Walking Track network at a number of places and is often used to access this facility.

Visitor satisfaction surveys (Parks Victoria 1999b) reinforced the need to improve existing facilities in the park. Low satisfaction levels were expressed about the provision of picnic facilities in the Gorge.

Aims

- Establish and maintain day visitor facilities that enhance visitor enjoyment in a healthy and safe environment.
- Provide an appropriate and sustainable level of service for a broad range of visitors to the park.

Management strategies

- *Provide visitor facilities as described in table 5.*
- *Review and upgrade Gorge Scenic Drive signage and associated roadside car parking to reduce inappropriate car parking on granite outcrops.*
- *Remove inappropriate facilities at the Spring Creek Bridge and the old gravel pit.*
- *Continue to monitor visitor satisfaction levels in relation to facilities provided.*

6.4 Camping

There are no camp grounds within the park, and camping is not permitted due to the close proximity of the park to Beechworth township and the park's role as a water supply catchment. Beechworth township offers ample camping at two caravan parks and provides many motel and hotel beds for overnight stays. Opportunities for camping are also provided in the adjoining Chiltern–Mt Pilot National Park.

Aim

- Provide information to park visitors on appropriate opportunities for camping.

Management strategy

- *Provide information in interpretation and promotion articles on alternative camping opportunities in the region.*

TABLE 5 EXISTING AND PLANNED VISITOR FACILITIES

SITE	CURRENT LOS	PLANNED LOS	TOILET	PICNIC TABLE	FIRE PLACE	CAR PARK	ACCESS FROM DRIVE ROUTE	LOOK OUT	PARK INFO/ SIGNAGE
Spring Creek Bridge	B	VB	-	E	-	R	E	-	-
Gravel Pit site	-	-	-	R	R	R	E	-	-
Gorge Scenic Drive	M	M	-	-	-	U	-	-	U
Newtown Falls	-	-	-	-	-	E	E	E	-
One Tree Hill	VB	VB	-	-	-	E	-	-	-
Precipice Lookout	B	B	-	-	-	-	-	E	-
Powder Magazine *	N/A	N/A	-	E	-	E	E	-	E

Key:

LOS Levels of service:

- M - Mid – moderate levels of visitor facilities and amenities provided
- B - Basic- limited visitor facilities and amenities provided
- VB – Very Basic- offer very basic level of service and basic access only
- N/A not applicable

* located outside the park, facilities managed in partnership with the Shire

Facilities:

- E existing facility
- U upgrade existing facility
- P provide facility
- R remove facility
- N no facility

6.5 Prospecting

Prospecting activities demonstrate a strong link to the park's association with the history of gold discovery (section 4.2).

Parks Victoria seeks to manage prospecting in cooperation with prospecting clubs and organisations in a manner that protects the natural and cultural values of the park.

Prospecting is permitted under section 32D of the National Parks Act in the Two Mile, Three Mile and Six Mile Creek blocks of the park (figure 2). A Miner's Right or a current Tourist Fossicking Authority (TFA) is required. These authorisations restrict any prospecting to the use of non-mechanical hand tools, which may include a pick, a shovel, a panning dish, a sluice box, a portable cradle and a metal detector. Prospecting does not permit the disturbance of historical objects or relics. These are protected by the *Heritage Act 1995* (Vic.).

Prospecting is also permitted in designated areas of nearby Nine Mile Creek Historic Area and Chiltern Mt–Pilot National Park.

The Prospectors and Miners Association of Victoria (PMAV) in partnership with the Victorian Government has developed a Code of Conduct, which sets out guidelines for safe prospecting and methods to minimise the impacts of prospecting on park values.

Aim

- Provide opportunities for prospecting consistent with the protection of cultural and environmental values.

Management strategies

- *Allow prospecting in the park in areas shown in figure 2 as areas permitting prospecting and in accordance with the Code of Conduct developed by the PMAV.*
- *In conjunction with PMAV, monitor prospecting activities regularly and address any environmental consequences.*
- *Liaise with the Minerals and Petroleum Division of the Department of Primary Industries on all Miner's Right matters.*

6.6 Walking

A feature of the park is the variety of walking tracks which provide various grades of walking (table 6 and figure 3). The Gorge block is the key destination for walking, with a network of 12 km of tracks leading to many points of interest. A five km walking track connects Lake Sambell in the township of Beechworth to Lake Kerferd in the Kerferd block of the park. Roads, particularly the Gorge Scenic Drive, and management vehicle tracks are also used regularly by walkers.

The proximity of the park to the Beechworth township provides opportunities for visitors to access the park's walking tracks for day visits. Walks beginning from the Powder Magazine provide links to One Tree Hill, Spring Creek Bridge and The Cascades. The tracks also provide links to attractions adjacent to the park including Woolshed Falls in Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park, and a range of heritage attractions that form part of the Beechworth Historic and Cultural Precinct.

A Park Note provides walkers with information on sites of interest along the main walking tracks in the park.

Aim

- Provide a range of walking opportunities while minimising impacts on the park's values.

Management strategies

- *Maintain walking tracks, signposting and information to provide a safe environment to walkers consistent with the Australian Standards and Parks Victoria standards, as shown in table 6.*
- *Provide the public with information on the walking track network and its management at the Beechworth Visitor Information Centre, on information boards and through Park Notes.*

6.7 Horse riding

Horse riding is a minor activity in the park as its steep and confined nature make most tracks unsuitable.

Horse riding is permitted on roads and vehicle tracks open to the public and management

vehicle (MV) tracks (figure 3). Horse camping is not permitted in the park.

Aim

- Provide opportunities for horse riding where appropriate, while minimising impacts on park values and other users.

Management strategies

- *Permit horse riding on vehicular roads and tracks including MV tracks as shown in table 4 and figure 3.*
- *Encourage adoption of the 'Horse Riding Code' (Parks Victoria 2006).*

6.8 Cycling and mountain bike riding

The park is easily accessed by bicycle from the Beechworth township. Cycling is permitted on all formed roads and vehicle tracks open to the public as well as those restricted to management vehicles (table 4). In the past, cyclists have used walking tracks in an inappropriate manner, leading to conflict with other park users. Cycling is not permitted on walking tracks in the park. Some environmental degradation has occurred from development of unauthorised tracks.

Mountain bike events and access will only be permitted in the park where there is no significant threat to natural and cultural values or conflict with other park users. A strategy to guide the management and access of mountain bikes will be developed in conjunction with DSE, local municipalities, Tourism Victoria and local mountain bike riding groups.

The 'Mountain Bike Code' sets out guidelines for safe cycling and methods to minimise the impacts of bicycle riding on park values (DSE 2003d). Parks Victoria has a Memorandum of Cooperation with Mountain Bike Australia (MTBA) to facilitate partnerships with local groups and provide suitable opportunity and access for users of the park.

Aim

- Provide opportunities for cyclists while minimising the impact of cycling on park values and other users.

TABLE 6 MANAGEMENT OF WALKING TRACKS

WALKING TRACK SECTION	LENGTH (KM)	CURRENT GRADE	PLANNED GRADE	ACTIONS / COMMENTS
Gorge Network				
Ingrams – One Tree Hill	1.5	3	3	Maintain
Ingrams – Fiddes	0.7	3	3	Maintain
Fiddes – Precipice	0.5	3	3	Maintain
Precipice – Ingrams	0.6	3	3	Maintain
Precipice – Spring Creek Bridge	1.0	3	3	Maintain
Spring Creek Bridge – Gorge Road	0.8	3	3	Maintain
Gorge Rd – One Tree Hill	0.7	3	3	Maintain
Gorge Rd – Powder Magazine	0.5	3	3	Maintain
Spring Creek Bridge – Woolshed Falls	2.8	3	3	Maintain
Kerferd Walk				
Lake Sambell – Lake Kerferd	5	3	3	Maintain

Key:

Australian Standards Classification for walking tracks (AS 2156.1—2001)

Grade 1 For a large number of visitors, including those with reduced mobility, with frequent encounters and high levels of interpretation and facilities.

Grade 2 For a large number of visitors to walk easily in a natural environment with frequent encounters and a moderate to high level of interpretation and facilities.

Grade 3 For visitors to walk in slightly disturbed natural environments, requiring moderate levels of fitness with occasional encounters and perhaps signage—interpretation and facilities are not common.

Grade 4 For visitors to explore and discover relatively undisturbed natural environments along defined and distinct tracks with few encounters and no interpretive signage.

Grade 5 For visitors with advanced outdoor knowledge and skills to find their way along often-indistinct trails to remote locations with frequent opportunities for solitude and few encounters.

Grade 6 For highly experienced walkers to explore remote and challenging natural areas without reliance on managed tracks and with extended periods of solitude and few encounters.

Management strategies

- *Permit cycling on vehicular roads and tracks, including management vehicle tracks, as shown in table 4 and figure 3.*
- *Allow for competitive cycling events in accordance with Parks Victoria's guidelines, but not off-road riding or BMX events.*
- *Liaise with Mountain Bike Australia (MTBA) and the Beechworth Chain Gang (section 7.4) to promote minimal-impact riding techniques through their website and riding networks.*
- *Coordinate with DSE, local municipalities, Tourism Victoria and local groups in development of a mountain bike access strategy for Beechworth Historic Park and surrounding region.*
- *Manage the encroachment of informal tracks from adjacent land, in particular the Green Wattle block, in conjunction with DSE. Monitor the impacts in this area and where necessary take action to minimise the threats to park values.*
- *Liaise with MTBA as per conditions of the Memorandum of Cooperation with Parks Victoria.*
- *Promote the 'Mountain Biking Code' (DSE 2003d), integrate minimal-impact messages into park information and*

interpretation, and encourage bike riders to adhere to the code.

6.9 Orienteering and rogaining

The park provides limited scope for orienteering and rogaining events due to its disjointed, narrow and steep nature; however it is occasionally used for events. Mine shafts associated with the landscape can pose a safety risk to cross-country walkers. Event organisers should be made aware of the hazards associated with the landscape.

Events are permitted in the park subject to approval of an application, outlining marshalling points, size of event and other relevant logistical arrangements. In general, events with more than 50 competitors will be encouraged to take place in the adjacent State forest or Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park. Seasonal restrictions will apply and applications assessed in accordance with current conditions of the park so as not to impact on natural values.

Aim

- Provide for small-scale orienteering and rogaining events where appropriate, that will not result in unacceptable impacts.

Management strategies

- *Permit orienteering and rogaining in accordance with table 2 and figure 2, and Parks Victoria's permit and guidelines, while minimising the impact on park values.*
- *Work with event organisers to identify and protect sensitive values or features in proposed event areas.*
- *Apply a set of standard conditions for events with provision for additional special conditions to address individual situations.*

6.10 Dog walking

Dogs are considered incompatible with the aims and objectives of areas managed under the National Parks Act, and are generally prohibited from these areas. However, a number of parks have areas set aside to allow dog walking, provided dogs are leashed, under

control and restrained from causing annoyance to people and wildlife or damage to property.

The walking of dogs by residents is a popular pastime, particularly in the Gorge block due to its accessibility to residential areas. Dogs are permitted on leash on roads and tracks within the park. Dogs must remain on leash and under control while in day use areas. Native fauna is at risk from predation from unsupervised domestic dogs, with normal foraging patterns affected by dog scent, faeces and noise. Dog droppings are also a potential source of pollution and can reduce the amenity of visitor sites.

Dog owners are encouraged to be responsible and immediately collect their dog's droppings and remove them from the park at the end of their visit. This limits the impacts of this activity on park values and other visitor's enjoyment of the park.

Aim

- Permit dogs where consistent with the protection of native fauna and visitor experiences.

Management strategies

- *Allow dogs, on a leash, on formed roads and tracks (tables 4 and 6) and in day use areas (table 5) within the park.*
- *Promote and encourage responsible dog walking practices through park information (section 6.1).*

6.11 Rock climbing and abseiling

The granitic outcrops of Beechworth's landscape make it suitable for basic-level rock climbing and abseiling and the park attracts commercial operators and the occasional school group.

The activity is conducted in areas of the park mostly accessed along the Gorge Road. The level of use is generally low, and at present not causing adverse impacts on park values. A number of threatened flora species are located close to where the activity occurs and may be placed at risk should the activity increase.

Aim

- Provide opportunities for rock climbing and abseiling while minimising the impact on park values and other users.

Management strategies

- *Permit rock climbing and abseiling while minimising the impact on park values.*
- *Monitor the impacts from rock climbing and abseiling on natural values, particularly threatened flora, and manage as required.*
- *Liaise with schools and licensed tour operators on sensitive use of the area.*

6.12 Tourism services

Licensed tour operators play a key role in nature based tourism in Victoria by offering guided park tours and supported recreation activities, and information that promotes park values and appropriate use.

Several active recreation and nature-based licensed tour operators currently provide guided activities in the park. Historical sites and landscapes have potential for promotion by coach and guided tours, especially when combined with the features of the Beechworth township.

Activities which can be undertaken as part of an organised tour include birdwatching, bushwalking, prospecting, sightseeing and cycling tours.

Adventure Activity Standards and Minimal Impact Guidelines have been developed by Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV), Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), Parks Victoria (PV) and Tourism Victoria (TV) to guide tour operators using the park (Outdoor Recreation Centre 2006).

Aim

- Provide opportunities and encourage provision of external tourism services while minimising impacts on natural and cultural values of the park.

Management strategies

- *Ensure all tour operators using the park are licensed and promote awareness of*

Adventure Activity Standards and Minimal Impact Guidelines.

- *Encourage licensed tour operators to develop and deliver guided tours that enhance the park experience of visitors. Conduct familiarisation sessions with operators (section 6.1).*
- *Liaise with State and local tourism bodies to encourage a coordinated approach in developing and managing regional tourism opportunities and to ensure appropriate tourism promotion of cultural heritage.*
- *Continue to work with licensed tour operators to facilitate the delivery of appropriate messages relating to park values and their protection and to minimise potential impacts on park values and other park users.*

6.13 Public safety

The experience of exploring natural areas and past mining areas presents inherent risks to visitors due to the presence of shafts, steep slopes and hazardous mining by-products. Built access is provided to facilitate safe access and visitors are encouraged to keep to designated walking tracks. A number of locations have been excluded from public access for visitor safety and are subject to Special Management Area – Public Safety zoning (section 3.2 and figure 2).

Walkers, horse riders, cyclists and other vehicles share roads and vehicle tracks. Vehicles, horses and bicycles travelling at excessive speed or out of control may pose a risk to other users. Codes of Practice and park regulations have been developed to assist in providing a safe recreational environment.

Parks Victoria is not the lead agency for most emergency response situations, but provides a support role for emergency incidents where required.

Relevant agencies respond to incidents within the park in accordance with the Indigo Shire Municipal Emergency Response Plan. Parks Victoria's response to emergency incidents during normal operating activities within the park is guided by the Beechworth Ranger in Charge (RIC) Area Emergency Management Plan (Parks Victoria 2005c).

Aims

- Promote visitor safety and awareness of safety issues and risks within the park associated with access and use.
- Promote and observe safe practices, and cooperate with emergency services.

Management strategies

- *Increase visitors' awareness of safety issues and potential hazards in the park through the use of Park Notes, Parks Victoria's website and information signs.*
- *Monitor, maintain and report, using the Parks Victoria asset database, on the condition and effectiveness of safety barriers, grates, signs and other safety provisions on a regular basis.*
- *Ensure the Beechworth RIC Area Emergency Management Plan remains up to date by a regular review.*

- *Encourage visitors to seek information on activities they intend to undertake in the park.*
- *Install and maintain regulatory signage to advise the public of Special Management Areas for public safety.*
- *Include information on the dangers of mine shafts, adits and tunnels, steep slopes and associated mining hazards on information boards and in brochures.*
- *Cooperate with and support responsible agencies in emergency response and ensure that Parks Victoria staff have adequate levels of training in emergency procedures, including incident reporting.*
- *Provide information on and encourage visitor behaviour consistent with codes of practice and park regulations.*

7 STRATEGIES FOR AUTHORISED AND ADJACENT USES

7.1 Infrastructure

There are a number of uses and activities that may be permitted in the park, subject to specified conditions to minimise impacts.

Public utilities

The operation of public utilities in the park is subject to permission from the Secretary to DSE with conditions to minimise effects on the park and visitors. Currently there is an occupation, without consent, by North East Region Water Authority for a sewage pump site and pipelines within the park. A Special Management Area – Public Utilities (section 3.2, figure 2) has been assigned to these locations.

Underground and above-ground telecommunication cables and powerlines are located and maintained along adjoining roadside reserves and cross the park to access freehold property. It is desirable to keep all cables underground. Above ground powerlines are subject to the Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance (Vegetation) (Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector 1999).

Water resources

The park's catchments and waterways are subject to a number of competing demands for water supply, treated water discharge, recreation and the maintenance of natural flows. Part of the Kerferd block supplies water to the towns of Beechworth.

Sedimentation, eutrophication and heavy metal contamination can adversely affect benthic (streambed) communities and water quality. A study by La Trobe University (Churchill 1998) identified elevated levels of mercury in surface water near the park (section 5.4).

In the Gorge block an Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) licensed discharge point for the Beechworth sewage works is located 300 metres upstream of the popular visitor node at Woolshed Falls in neighbouring Chiltern–Mt Pilot National Park. Throughout the park water extraction licences have been issued by Goulburn–Murray Water for stock and domestic purposes.

Aims

- Manage authorised uses in accordance with the National Parks Act and minimise their impact on cultural and natural values.
- Ensure public utility occupations comply with legislation.
- Protect water quality in the Land Use Designation – Water Catchment.
- Provide for appropriate use of water resources.

Management strategies

- *Seek permission from the Secretary to DSE for all existing public authority installations and services, including conditions to ensure construction, operation and maintenance are consistent with protection of the park's natural and cultural values and amenity of visitors, including North East Region Water Authority to operate and maintain its facilities within the park.*
- *Liaise with power supply companies to develop an agreement in accordance with Section 27A of the National Parks Act, with conditions to minimise the impacts on vegetation near power lines.*
- *Liaise with public authorities to minimise the impacts of cables.*
- *Liaise with North East Region Water Authority on strategies to maintain water quality.*
- *Review existing Water Extraction Licences and liaise with Goulburn-Murray Water to develop a protocol for the issuing of water extraction licences.*
- *Remove unauthorised water extraction appliances from the park.*
- *Establish protocols with Goulburn Murray Water and the EPA in relation to monitoring of water quality and the provisions of the EPA discharge licence.*

7.2 Private occupancies

Mining, quarrying and exploration

Mineral exploration licences administered by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) occasionally cover areas of the park.

Exploration can only occur in the park in accordance with a consent granted under section 40 of the National Parks Act. Consents include detailed conditions relating to the protection of park values. Parks Victoria will ensure that activities are appropriately authorised and that impacts are minimised through working with companies and DPI in developing work plans in future explorations and application for consent under the Act.

A section of the park at Flat Rock block abuts a mining licence that mines feldspar.

A number of small abandoned quarries are also within the park.

Apiculture

The park's small size, disjunct nature, high concentration of visitors and close proximity to urban areas provides limited opportunity for the placement of beehives. No permanent or temporary apiary sites are currently provided. However a number of bee sites are located on adjoining lands.

Illegal occupations

The range of illegal or unauthorised occupations that occur within the park create on-going problems for management. These include:

- grazing occupations continuing after the expiry of licences
- occupations, often long standing (traditional), that have never been licensed or approved, including service lines and water pipelines.

Aim

- Manage authorised occupancies and activities in accordance with the National Parks Act, and minimise their impacts on park values.

Management strategies

- *Identify and review activities occurring in the park against legislative requirements*

and issue licences, leases or consents, where appropriate.

- *Remove inappropriate occupations.*
- *Ensure any exploration or mining for minerals or quarrying in the park is subject to the consent of the Minister under Section 40 of the National Parks Act.*
- *Liaise with Minerals and Petroleum Division (DPI) with the aim of minimising the impacts of mining works abutting the park on park values.*
- *Maintain the park free of apiary sites.*

7.3 Occasional uses

All research and monitoring planned in a park by external organisations or individuals requires a research permit under the National Parks Act, issued by the Department of Sustainability and Environment, available at www.dse.vic.gov.au.

Parks Victoria recognises the significant role that the filming and photography industry plays in the social and economic well-being of the community, and in providing for these activities seeks to ensure protection of the natural and cultural values of the planning area. This is achieved through a permit system for all filming and photography conducted as part of a trade or a business. Amateur photographers or people taking film or video for personal or hobby interest do not require a permit.

No recent applications have been received from the Defence Forces to use land within the park for training purposes. The park is small and military activity may threaten many of its sensitive features.

Aim

- Manage authorised occasional uses in accordance with the National Parks Act and regulations, and minimise their impacts on park values.

Management strategies

- *Permit events and functions that:*
 - *have acceptable environmental impacts*

- *do not damage cultural values of the park*
- *do not unduly disturb and disadvantage other visitors*
- *do not unduly increase liability risk exposure*
- *can be appropriately managed with available resources.*
- *Favour events and functions that provide community benefits or complement park values.*
- *Manage commercial filming and photography in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies.*
- *Permit Defence Force training or field navigation exercises in the park in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies and relevant permit conditions.*

7.4 Park boundaries and adjacent uses

Boundaries

The park, comprising 10 separate blocks, has a boundary that is sometimes irregular and subject to a number of encroachments (both intentional and unknown). Boundary alignments are complicated by the presence of a number of freehold inliers.

Adjacent uses

The Indigo Shire Council owns eight hectares of freehold land within the Gorge block which has traditionally been used for park activities. It contains a small picnic area and a portion of the Gorge Scenic Drive.

A property, of approximately five hectares, including a substantial home, is located within the Gorge block abutting the Gorge Scenic Drive. A second freehold inlier adjoins the Gorge Scenic Drive near the Powder Magazine (figure 3).

The Beechworth Chain Gang is an active Mountain Bike Club in Beechworth, and conducts many rides utilising both parks and other land. A purpose-built Mountain Bike Park maintained by the Beechworth Chain Gang is adjacent to the Green Wattle block of

Beechworth Historic Park, and is encroaching on the park (section 6.8).

Neighbours hold a number of concerns in relation to management of the park, including fire, pest plant and animal management, and impacts on quality of life from visitors, litter and park activities. Where residential developments adjoin the park, potential impacts on park values include loss of landscape values, uncontrolled access and encroachments.

Land use and development on land surrounding the park is regulated by the Indigo Shire Council through the local planning scheme (Indigo Shire Council 1999b). Land surrounding the park is predominantly zoned Rural Zone. Other zones that have been applied include Rural Living Zone, Residential Zone 1, Low Density Residential Zone, Environmental Rural Zone and Special Use Zone 1. The park is also covered by a Heritage Overlay. The purpose of this overlay is to conserve and enhance significant heritage values and ensure that development does not adversely affect these places.

Aims

- Consolidate and rationalise park boundaries.
- Cooperate with adjoining landholders and the Indigo Shire Council to manage boundary and adjacent land use issues.

Management strategies

- *Identify legal boundaries, particularly at the following key locations:*
 - *Gorge unit south-west boundary with township of Beechworth*
 - *Kerferd unit west boundary.*
- *Seek consolidation of practical boundaries and removal of unauthorised occupations as opportunities arise.*
- *Seek to close contiguous, unused and unformed road reserves that are no longer required and add these to the park.*
- *Negotiate with the Indigo Shire Council and DSE in relation to the management of the Shire's freehold land in the Gorge block.*

- *Liaise with the Beechworth Chain Gang to remove constructed tracks encroaching on the park to limit any disturbance and to prevent further encroachments.*
- *Apply and encourage the application of the Good Neighbour Policy to management issues on or near park boundaries.*
- *Encourage landholders to maintain fences along the park boundary.*
- *Liaise with Indigo Shire Council to seek application of appropriate zoning and overlays on land surrounding the park, to ensure development and land use changes are compatible with the protection of park values.*

8 STRATEGIES FOR COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

8.1 Community awareness

Raising the community's awareness of the park's values is an essential step to developing its sense of custodianship for the park and engagement in the area's management. The community is more likely to develop a sense of custodianship for the park if its views and values are respected and park-related social networks are encouraged and supported. A strong connection with the park among visitors and in the local and wider community will assist in broader public education, raising awareness and reaching others in the community.

Education and interpretation programs (section 6.1) play an important role in raising the awareness of the park in the wider community. Parks Victoria aims to communicate the benefits of a healthy parks system and its contribution to the health of individuals and society through the 'Healthy Parks Healthy People' program.

The community generally has a low level of awareness of the purpose and role of Beechworth Historic Park. Increased community awareness will help to reduce activities which currently threaten the park's values, including firewood poaching, illegal occupation, littering, unrestrained dogs, and horse and mountain bike riding on walking tracks.

Aims

- Increase the community's awareness and understanding of the park's values and management activities.
- Build a sense of shared ownership and custodianship for the park in community groups and individuals.

Management strategies

- *Encourage a better understanding and appreciation of the park by neighbours and the Beechworth community through a targeted information program, community*

activities, and formation of a Friends group.

- *Utilise local press and media to inform the public of pest plant and animal control programs, fire protection activities, visitor service developments and other significant management activities being undertaken.*
- *Liaise with council, local community groups and landholders and, as appropriate, involve them in relevant aspects of planning and management.*
- *Promote community awareness of responsible pet ownership and the need to control stock, in collaboration with the Indigo Shire Council.*

8.2 Community participation

The participation of community groups and individuals in the park's management is pivotal to the effective long-term planning, use and care of the park's values.

Volunteers and community groups make valuable contributions to park management projects. They bring diverse and valuable information, knowledge, skills and experience to the park that may otherwise not be available to the park's managers. Volunteers also bring great enthusiasm and add valuable resources to assist with the care of the park.

The interests of community groups in the park often overlap and may not be complementary. There can be considerable mutual benefits where such groups work together and with Parks Victoria to achieve common goals.

The Traditional Owners have considerable interest in and aspirations for the park as part of *Country*. They are an important potential source of traditional knowledge about the area that has yet to be documented. A strong working relationship with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party will be essential to the Traditional Owners' views of the park's planning and management and reconciliation of their interests and aspirations with those of other members of the community.

Bangerang Cultural Centre Cooperative, Dhurderoa-Waveroo Traditional Owner Group, Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation and Taungurong Clans have been consulted for their input into this plan.

Assisting students to undertake research projects within the park where required as part of their study is also a positive approach to understanding more about the park and its management.

There are currently no Friends groups and limited community activity in the park. A Community Reference Group that works with Parks Victoria could help ensure that community awareness is ongoing, a cohesive plan to involve special interest groups in the park is developed, and knowledge and understanding of the value of the park is shared through the wider community. Such a group could make a significant contribution to the conservation and protection of the natural and cultural values of the park.

Aims

- Encourage neighbours and the wider community to participate in the park's management where practical.
- Support and encourage community groups and volunteers to actively assist in the park's management by participating and contributing their knowledge and skills

Management strategies

- *Encourage and support the development of a Beechworth Historic Park Community Reference Group.*
- *Encourage volunteer and historical groups' involvement and actively promote opportunities for community groups to assist Parks Victoria in the park's management.*
- *Work to establish, and strengthen and maintain relationships with relevant Indigenous communities. In particular, seek to further develop a close inclusive working partnership with the Registered Aboriginal Party in managing the park.*
- *Encourage and support groups that use or have an interest in the park to work together to pursue sources of funding, including Parks Victoria grants, for*

projects in the park. Encourage joint grants with other groups as appropriate.

- *Provide opportunities for, and encourage and support, tertiary students to undertake research activities that assist park management and are consistent with park goals.*

8.3 Agency partnerships

Although Parks Victoria is responsible for overall management of the park, other agencies are responsible for planning, managing or regulating certain activities in the park.

All activities relating to the park that are carried out by Parks Victoria or other agencies need to accord with all legislation and government policy and, as far as practicable, be consistent with agencies' policies and guidelines. To ensure this occurs, park staff must work closely with staff of relevant agencies and collaborate in implementing activities where appropriate.

DSE establishes parks, and provides regulations, strategic direction and policy advice for the management of the park, including flora and fauna values and threatening processes, fire management, statutory planning and catchment protection. The Country Fire Authority (CFA) is a volunteer-based community service which responds to a variety of fire and emergency incidents.

North East Catchment Management Authority is responsible for ensuring the protection and sustainable development of land, vegetation and water resources within the region, including the preparation of the regional catchment strategy to address the impact of land use and management on the catchment (section 5.4).

North East Region Water Authority and Goulburn–Murray Water are responsible for providing retail, urban and rural water customers with water and wastewater services in the park area (section 7.1).

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA Victoria) is responsible for coordinating all activities relating to the discharge of waste into the environment (section 7.1).

Indigo Shire Council administers the planning scheme for land adjacent to the park, including

assessing developments that could have an impact on park values (Indigo Shire Council 1999b). Parks Victoria provides input into planning applications to ensure that park values are protected. The Council has recently developed a heritage precinct in the centre of Beechworth township by upgrading the existing Visitor Information Centre and establishing a Cultural and Heritage Centre.

Through Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV), the Department for Victorian Communities has responsibility for administering legislation protecting cultural heritage (sections 2.5 and 4.1). The Department for Victorian Communities, AAV and the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party advise Parks Victoria on Aboriginal cultural heritage matters (section 4.1).

Heritage Victoria is the central government agency which provides information and advice about places listed on the Victorian Heritage Register and Archaeological Inventory. It supports the Heritage Council through research, recommends additions to the Register and issues permits for alterations to heritage places.

Tourism Victoria is the State government authority responsible for developing and marketing Victoria to Australian and international travellers.

Victorian agencies work cooperatively with the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Water Resources on the management of regional ecosystem conservation issues.

Aim

- Enhance park management by collaborating with other agencies to ensure they give appropriate consideration to park values in planning and implementing activities that relate to the park.

Management strategy

- *Work collaboratively with all agencies to implement the plan vision and direction. In particular work with:*
 - *DSE regarding future planning and management, including protection of flora and fauna from potentially*

threatening processes and fire management

- *North East CMA to reduce the impacts of land use and management on the park and the development of appropriate actions in the Regional Catchment Strategies*
- *Country Fire Authority and DSE to ensure safety and protection of park values in managing fire within and around the park*
- *AAV and the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party on Aboriginal cultural heritage matters and compliance with the Aboriginal Heritage Act.*
- *Heritage Victoria on heritage management, and compliance with the Heritage Act*
- *North East Region and Goulburn–Murray Water Authorities to ensure management of water infrastructure in the park is consistent with the protection of park values (section 7.1)*
- *State and regional tourism authorities to promote the park in regional visitor information centres and in regional tourism strategies*
- *Indigo Shire Council regarding administration of the planning scheme, including input into adjacent or nearby developments that may impact on the park, the promotion of responsible pet ownership (section 5.8), and promotion of the park’s cultural heritage in conjunction with Beechworth’s heritage precinct (sections 4.1 and 4.2)*
- *EPA Victoria to minimise impacts associated with the discharge of waste into the environment particularly those from Beechworth sewage*
- *Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Water Resources on the management of regional ecosystem conservation issues.*

9 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

9.1 Delivery and reporting

A range of approaches will be used to implement strategies in this plan. Some will be undertaken as part of routine management activities such as ranger visits; others will be addressed as part of regional programs undertaken across the state each year.

A priority list of all the strategies in the plan will be used to guide routine management, and to identify detailed actions in annual regional programs. Priorities for regional programs vary from year to year depending on available resources and government priorities.

At the end of each year, progress towards implementing the plan will be reviewed and the priority list updated. Staff report internally against 'on time and within budget' delivery of regional programs and whether the completed strategy has achieved the objective. Parks Victoria reports annually to government on the overall delivery of regional and divisional programs. This broader reporting on management performance is available in annual reports prepared on the National Parks Act and Parks Victoria.

During implementation of the plan, Parks Victoria will work in partnership with the Traditional Owners. Ongoing collaborative activities with Indigenous communities, interested members of the wider community, scientists and agencies in realising the vision and management directions for the park will be especially important as outlined in previous sections of the plan.

Implementation of the plan will be consistent with Parks Victoria's commitment to sustainable practices, which involves the delivery of operations, services and facilities in an ecologically and socially responsible manner with minimal use of expendable resources and minimal generation of waste.

In implementing the plan, management will respond to monitoring and research information as it emerges. Parks Victoria's environmental management framework makes this possible. Based on the International Standard for Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14001), the framework ensures

that the future condition of values is considered in identifying threats and developing actions to ameliorate them. Over time the success of actions is reviewed against set objectives to ensure on-going learning and refinement of management. The selection of actions and treatments of threats are guided by the precautionary principle. Management options are evaluated on the basis of least impact on the environment. Treatment of threats with a potential for serious damage that is not addressed in the plan will not be postponed for lack of information.

Parks Victoria will use a variety of means to report to the community about the progress of implementation of the plan. The primary means will be through routine liaison between Parks Victoria, interested groups and individuals from the local community and relevant government agencies. In addition to giving regular updates, there will be opportunities for input by interested members of the community into annual priority setting and feedback on management performance. Events such as park open days, and community and volunteer forums will offer similar opportunities for reporting and discussions about annual programs.

The results of monitoring and research work will continue to be available to the community as technical reports available on Parks Victoria's website www.parkweb.vic.gov.au.

Parks Victoria will also report on evaluation of the plan (section 9.3) at the start of the new or revised plan, through routine liaison and community forums and in the subsequent draft plan.

Future State of the Parks reports, which will be available on the Parks Victoria's website, will also include information on management performance in the park.

9.2 Plan amendment

During the 10-year life of the plan, amendments to the plan may only be made by the Secretary to DSE, following an authorised process which includes community consultation.

Circumstances that might lead to amendment of the plan include:

- the results of monitoring or research, management experience or new information (such as greater understanding of new threatening processes) which indicate the need for a change in management direction
- significant changes in visitation or use
- a change in policy that calls into question plan objectives
- new legislation (such as significant boundary changes).

The plan may also be amended if an activity, development or use which conflicts with the provisions of the plan is approved by government (such as native title outcomes).

9.3 Evaluation and review

Periodically through the life of the plan, Parks Victoria will assess overall progress towards implementing the strategies in the plan and also assess progress towards achieving the plan vision and directions. These evaluations will inform a decision about whether a new or revised plan is required. The achievements of the plan will be assessed by considering performance areas such as:

Protecting natural values

- Overall progress towards achieving environmental conservation objectives.
- Maintaining populations of threatened flora and fauna with emphasis on:
 - increasing Yellow Hyacinth-orchid populations by reducing the threat of browsing by herbivores
 - ensuring the protection of Warby Swamp Gum from inappropriate fire regimes
 - ensuring protection of potential and existing Brush-tailed Phascogale habitat.
- Meeting fuel-reduction burning and ecological targets.
- Meeting community expectations as a good environmental manager.

- Timely management intervention to minimise threats from rabbits and foxes.
- Minimal impact of permitted uses.
- Compliance with park regulations.

Protecting cultural values

- Meeting community expectations as a good manager of historic places.
- Progress towards implementation of Heritage Actions Plans.
- Ongoing identification and documentation of historic sites and places in conjunction with community.
- Progress towards working with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party in managing the park and in protecting and interpreting Indigenous cultural heritage.
- Overall progress towards achieving directions for Aboriginal places and objects
- Timely management intervention to minimise damaging activities and threats.

Managing recreation and visitor use

- Maintaining the levels of information and interpretation (section 6.1).
- Meeting and maintaining the levels of service for facilities (table 5).
- All facilities meet public safety standards and the majority of facilities with more than five years life expectancy.
- Meeting agreed road and track standards (tables 4 and 6).
- All 2WD roads in at least fair to good condition.
- Minimal impact from visitors, including individuals, schools and tour groups.
- Maintaining visitor use levels.
- Maintaining visitor satisfaction with adequacy of recreational experiences (table 2).
- Meeting community expectations in relation to Parks Victoria's management of the park.

-
- Improving community and visitor awareness.

Providing for research and promoting understanding

- Ongoing partnerships with Indigenous communities and wider community participation.
- Progress towards Indigenous views and aspirations in the park's planning and management
- Improved understanding of the ecosystem function of understudied flora and fauna.
- Improved understanding of the threats to, and habitat requirements of Brush-tailed Phascogales and Barking Owls.

Methods for evaluating the benefits of the plan are likely to be refined over time. Parks Victoria has introduced a range of structured monitoring practices to collect standardised and scientifically robust information. In particular these will improve understanding of the outcomes of management on natural values, and allow improved reporting and assessment of performance. Parks Victoria also partners external research agencies to enhance knowledge and understanding of the values and features of the park and inform management decisions particularly in relation to pest and fire management. By using sound monitoring and assessment methods this monitoring and research work will strengthen the basis for comparing management performance over time.

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GLOSSARY

Aboriginal cultural heritage – Aboriginal places, objects and Aboriginal human remains.

Biodiversity – the natural diversity of all life: the sum of all our native species of flora and fauna, the genetic variation within them, their habitats and the ecosystems of which they are an integral part.

Bioregion – an area with unique underlying environmental and ecological features.

Catchment – the area of land that drains to a watercourse or estuary.

Country – all of nature, culture and spirituality relating to an area.

Crown land – land belonging to the State.

Customs – observances and practices of people (includes land management and resource use) in accordance with tradition.

Ecological values – the importance of natural assets in maintaining natural ecosystems and ecological processes, of which it is a part.

Ecologically sustainable development (ESD) – development that improves the total quality of life both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends.

Ecologically sustainable use – the use of a species or ecosystem at a level that enables it to recover naturally.

Ecosystem – a dynamic complex of interacting organisms and their associated non-living environment.

Freehold land – land held in private ownership.

Heritage – a place, activity, cultural way of life, structure or group of structures that has aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for the past, present or future generations.

Indigenous communities – Indigenous people who share cultural values and activities relating to the park.

Indigenous people – people who are descendants of Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islanders.

Infrastructure – physical structures that facilitate the human use of an area (e.g. roads, paths, toilet blocks).

Levels of Service Framework – a strategic framework for visitor services and asset management that is used to support resource allocation decision-making to best provide

appropriate recreational infrastructure in a consistent manner.

Matters of National Environmental Significance – defined by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act to include: World Heritage Properties; Ramsar wetlands; nationally threatened species and communities; migratory species protected under international agreements; the Commonwealth marine environment; and nuclear actions.

Monitoring – the process of systematic observation of one or more elements of the environment over time.

Nature-based tourism – tourism that provides a range of experiences that rely on attractions directly related to the natural environment.

Pest – exotic organisms (plants, animals or pathogens) that, if introduced outside their natural or previous distribution, they cause significant changes to habitats, food chains, ecosystems or human health by feeding on or competing with native species.

Prospecting – the search for minerals (including gemstones) under a Miner's Right or Tourist Fossicking Authority.

Registered Aboriginal Party – registered under part 10 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act by the Aboriginal Heritage Council.

Sediment – insoluble material suspended in water, consisting mainly of particles derived from rock, soil and organic material.

Stakeholders – those people and organisations who may affect, be affected by, or perceive themselves to be affected by, a decision or activity.

Stormwater – runoff from land during and following rain. Stormwater removes accumulated material including litter, soil, nutrients, pathogens, chemicals, pesticides, oils and grease.

Threatening processes – a source of potential harm or a situation with a potential to cause loss.

Tor – a rocky peak of a hill or mountain, specifically one exposed by the weathering of surrounding rock.

Tradition – the body of knowledge, belief and customs that is passed from generation to generation.

Traditional Owners – person with traditional or familial links, an Aboriginal person with particular knowledge about traditions, observances, customs

or beliefs associated with the area, and the person has responsibility under Aboriginal tradition for significant aboriginal places located in, or significant Aboriginal objects originating from, the area; or is a member of a family or clan group that is recognized as having responsibility under Aboriginal tradition for significant aboriginal places located in or significant Aboriginal objects originating from, the area.

Values – natural and cultural assets (e.g. historic artefacts, features, landscapes, flora and fauna species, flora communities) that have been given worth or are considered to be desirable.

Acronyms

AAV – Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.

ANZECC – former Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council. ANZECC was represented by government Ministers and guided national policy and programs relating to the

management of the environment and its conservation.

DPI – Department of Primary Industries.

DSE – Department of Sustainability and Environment.

DVC – Department for Victorian Communities.

ECC – former Environment Conservation Council.

EPA – Environment Protection Authority (Victoria).

LCC – former Land Conservation Council.

NRE – former Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

PMAV – Prospectors and Miners Association of Victoria

PV – Parks Victoria.

APPENDIX 1 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR HISTORIC PARKS

Part 8 of Schedule Four of the National

Parks Act provides that the Objects included in Sections 4(b) and 4(c) of the Act (as listed below) apply to the Beechworth Historic Park.

For an up-to-date copy of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.), refer to Victorian Acts on the Victorian Legislation and Parliamentary Documents website, www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au.

Section 4 Objects of the Act

- (b) in respect of parks described in Schedule Three –
 - (i) to make provision, insofar as is appropriate to each such park, for the protection and preservation of indigenous flora and fauna and of features of scenic or archaeological, ecological, historic or other scientific interest; and
 - (ii) subject to such provision as is made under sub-paragraph (i), to make provision for the public to observe, experience or otherwise become acquainted in those parks with the countryside and rural skills activities and pursuits and for carrying on, in those parks and for those purposes, agricultural, horticultural, or other agrarian projects and botanical, biological, ecological, geological, zoological, or other scientific studies or projects; and
- (c) to make provision in accordance with the foregoing for the use of parks by the public for the purposes of enjoyment, recreation or education and for the encouragement and control of that use.

Section 18 Other Parks

- (2) The Secretary shall, subject to this Act –
 - (a) ensure that each park [described in Schedule 3] is controlled and managed in accordance with the objects of the Act in a manner that will, insofar as is appropriate to the park –
 - (i) preserve, protect and re-establish indigenous flora and fauna in the park;
 - (ii) preserve and protect features in the park of scenic, archaeological, ecological, geological, historic or other scientific interest;
 - (iii) enable the park to be used by the public for the enjoyment, observation and study of the countryside and its pursuits, its flora and fauna, its ecology and geology and other features; and
 - (iv) control exotic flora and fauna in the park;
 - (b) ensure that proper and sufficient measures are taken to protect each park referred to [in Schedule 3] from injury by fire;
 - (c) promote and encourage the use and enjoyment of parks referred to in [in Schedule 3] by the public; and
 - (d) prepare a plan of management in respect of each park referred to [in Schedule 3].

APPENDIX 2 SUBMISSIONS ON THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

A total of 12 submissions were received on the Draft Management Plan (June to September 2006), from the following organisations and individuals.

ORGANISATION	SUBMISSION No.	INDIVIDUAL	SUBMISSION No.
Submissions from groups	Total: 9	Submissions from Individuals	Total: 3
Aboriginal Affairs Victoria	10	Andrew Banks	8
Adventure Guides Australia	11	Ray Saunders	4
Albury-Wodonga Orienteering Club	9	Stuart & Rhonda Smith	3
Beechworth Chain Gang	12		
Department of Primary Industries	5		
Department of Sustainability and Environment	1		
Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs	7		
NE Cultural Heritage Program	2		
Orienteering Victoria	6		

APPENDIX 3 HISTORIC PLACES

PLACE NAME	LEVEL OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE	NATIONAL ESTATE OR VICTORIAN HERITAGE ACT LISTING	COMMENT
Beechworth Historic Park	State	Registered on the National Estate	Significant due to its aesthetic, educational and recreational values, and the historical significance of its goldmining relics (e.g. the Powder Magazine).
Beechworth Scenic Drive	Regional	Indicative place	Granite tors of major significance, and views out to major sites
Beechworth Historic Park, gorge and cascades	Unknown	Indicative area	Gold mining
Sheep-station Creek alluvial workings	Regional	Victorian Heritage Inventory	Gold mining
Fletchers Tailrace	Regional	Victorian Heritage Inventory	Gold mining
Rocky Mountain Tunnel	Regional	Victorian Heritage Inventory	Gold mining
Chinamans Flat alluvial workings	Regional	Victorian Heritage Inventory	Gold mining
Six Mile Creek alluvial workings	Regional	Victorian Heritage Inventory	Gold mining
Collins Claim locality, Bartsh Road	Local	-	Gold mining
One Tree Hill locality, North Beechworth	Local	-	Gold mining
Gimlets locality, West Beechworth	Local	-	Gold mining
Flume, Hurdle Creek	Local	-	Gold mining
Ruins, Hurdle Creek	Local	-	Gold mining
Tunnel, Otts Track	Local	-	
Patterson dam, Otts Track	Local	-	
Morgans Flat locality, Sheep Station Creek	Local	-	
Flume, Silver Creek	Local	-	Gold mining
Shafts, Spring Creek	Local	-	Gold mining
Pipes (sluicing), Spring Creek	Local	-	Gold mining
Shafts, Stanley Road	Local	-	Gold mining
Wiltshire tin mine (Cheesewring), Three Sisters Rock	Local	-	
Chevaliers Mill, Tp.B west	Local	-	Gold mining
Chinese camp, Tp.B.CA 6/H2	Local	-	Gold mining

Key :

- Not applicable

APPENDIX 4 RARE AND THREATENED FLORA

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS		
		AUSTRALIA	VICTORIA	FFG
<i>Brachyscome gracilis</i>	Dookie Daisy		v	L
<i>Dipodium hamiltonianum</i>	Yellow Hyacinth-orchid		e	L
<i>Dodonaea boroniifolia</i>	Hairy Hop-bush		r	
<i>Eucalyptus</i> aff. <i>cinerea</i> (Beechworth)	Beechworth Silver Stringybark		r	
<i>Eucalyptus cadens</i>	Warby Swamp Gum	V	v	L
<i>Indigofera adesmiifolia</i>	Tick Indigo		v	
<i>Isoetes pusilla</i>	Small Quillwort		e	L
<i>Leptospermum multicaule</i>	Silver Tea-tree		v	
<i>Pterostylis hamata</i>	Scaly Greenhood		r	
<i>Pterostylis</i> sp. aff. <i>boormanii</i> (Beechworth)	Granite (Beechworth) Rustyhood		e	L
<i>Pultenaea platyphylla</i>	Flat-leaf Bush pea		r	
<i>Pultenaea foliolosa</i>	Small-leaf Bush-pea		r	

Sources: DSE (database) 2005b, DSE 2005a

Conservation status:

Australia (under Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act):

V Vulnerable

Victoria:

e endangered

v vulnerable

r rare

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (FFG):

L listed under the FFG Act

APPENDIX 5 RARE AND THREATENED FAUNA

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS		
		AUSTRALIA	VICTORIA	FFG
MAMMAL				
<i>Phascogale tapoatafa</i>	Brush-tailed Phascogale		v	L
BIRDS				
<i>Aythya australis</i>	Hardhead		v	
<i>Biziura lobata</i>	Musk Duck		v	
<i>Chthonicola sagittata</i>	Speckled Warbler		v	L, LC
<i>Cinclosoma punctatum</i>	Spotted Quail-thrush		nt	
<i>Circus assimilis</i>	Spotted Harrier		nt	
<i>Climacteris picumnus</i>	Brown Treecreeper		nt	LC
<i>Falco subniger</i>	Black Falcon		v	
<i>Hylacola pyrrhopygia</i>	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren		v	L
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Square-tailed Kite		v	L
<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	Turquoise Parrot		nt	L, LC
<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Barking Owl		e	L, LC
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Blue-billed Duck		e	L
<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Pied Cormorant		nt	
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail		c	L, LC
<i>Xanthomyza phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	EN	ce	L, LC
ASSOCIATED WITH VICTORIAN TEMPERATE-WOODLAND BIRD COMMUNITY				
<i>Gerygone fusca</i>	Western Gerygone			LC
<i>Lichenostomus fuscus</i>	Fuscous Honeyeater			LC
<i>Lichenostomus melanops</i>	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater			LC
<i>Melithreptus brevirostris</i>	Brown-headed Honeyeater			LC
<i>Microeca fascinans</i>	Jacky Winter			LC
<i>Petroica goodenovii</i>	Red-capped Robin			LC
REPTILES				
<i>Pogona barbata</i>	Eastern Bearded Dragon		dd	
<i>Varanus varius</i>	Tree Goanna		v	
<i>Vermicella annulata</i>	Bandy Bandy		nt	L

Source: DSE 2003c, DSE (database) 2005a

Conservation status:	v	vulnerable
Australia (under Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act):	nt	lower risk or near threatened
EN	endangered	dd
Victoria:	FFG:	
ce	critically endangered	L
e	endangered	LC
		listed under Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act
		associated with the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act listed Victorian temperate-woodland bird community

APPENDIX 6 PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	REGIONAL PRIORITY WEED	MAJOR ENVIRONMENT WEED	LOCAL PRIORITY WEED	PEST ANIMAL HARBOUR
Pest plant					
<i>Aralanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven	✓			
<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	Bridal Veil		✓		
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	✓			
<i>Conyza albida</i>	Fleabane		✓		
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	✓			✓
<i>Cytisus palmensis</i>	Tagasaste		✓		✓
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom	✓		✓	
<i>Dipsacus fullomum</i>	Wild Teasel	✓			
<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i>	Stinkwort	✓			
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Paterson's Curse	✓		✓	
<i>Erica lustanica</i>	Spanish Heath		✓		
<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	Cape Broom	✓		✓	✓
<i>Hyperium perforatum</i>	St John's Wort	✓		✓	
<i>Lavendula stoechas</i>	Topped Lavender	✓			
<i>Leycesteria formosa</i>	Himalayan Honeysuckle		✓		
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Privet		✓		✓
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Monterey Pine		✓		
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Sweet Pittosporum		✓		
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black Locust		✓		
<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Sweet Briar	✓			✓
<i>Rubus</i> sp.	Blackberry	✓		✓	✓
<i>Salix</i> spp.	Willows		✓		
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	✓		✓	✓
<i>Vinca major</i>	Blue Periwinkle		✓		
<i>Watsonia meriana</i>	Wild Watsonia	✓			
Pest animal					
<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	European Rabbit				
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Red Fox				
<i>Felis catus</i>	Feral Cat				

Sources: DSE (database) 2005a; 2005b

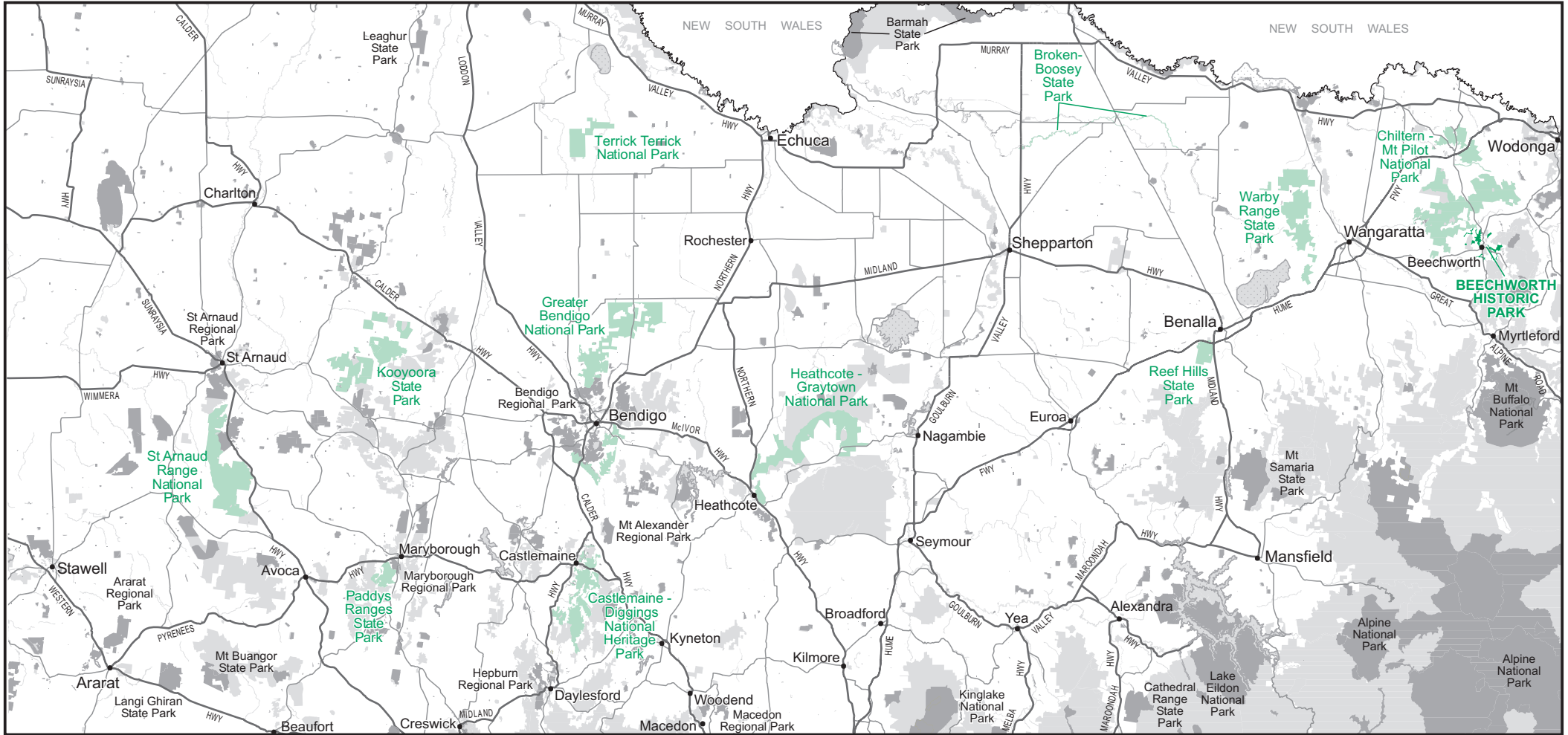


Figure 1 REGIONAL LOCALITY PLAN
BEECHWORTH HISTORIC PARK

- Freeway/Highway
- Other major road
- Beechworth Historic Park
- Other Box-Ironbark Parks
- Other Parks & Reserves
- Other Public Land
- Waterbody

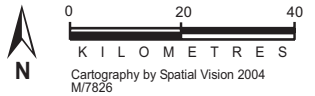
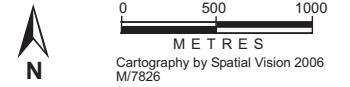


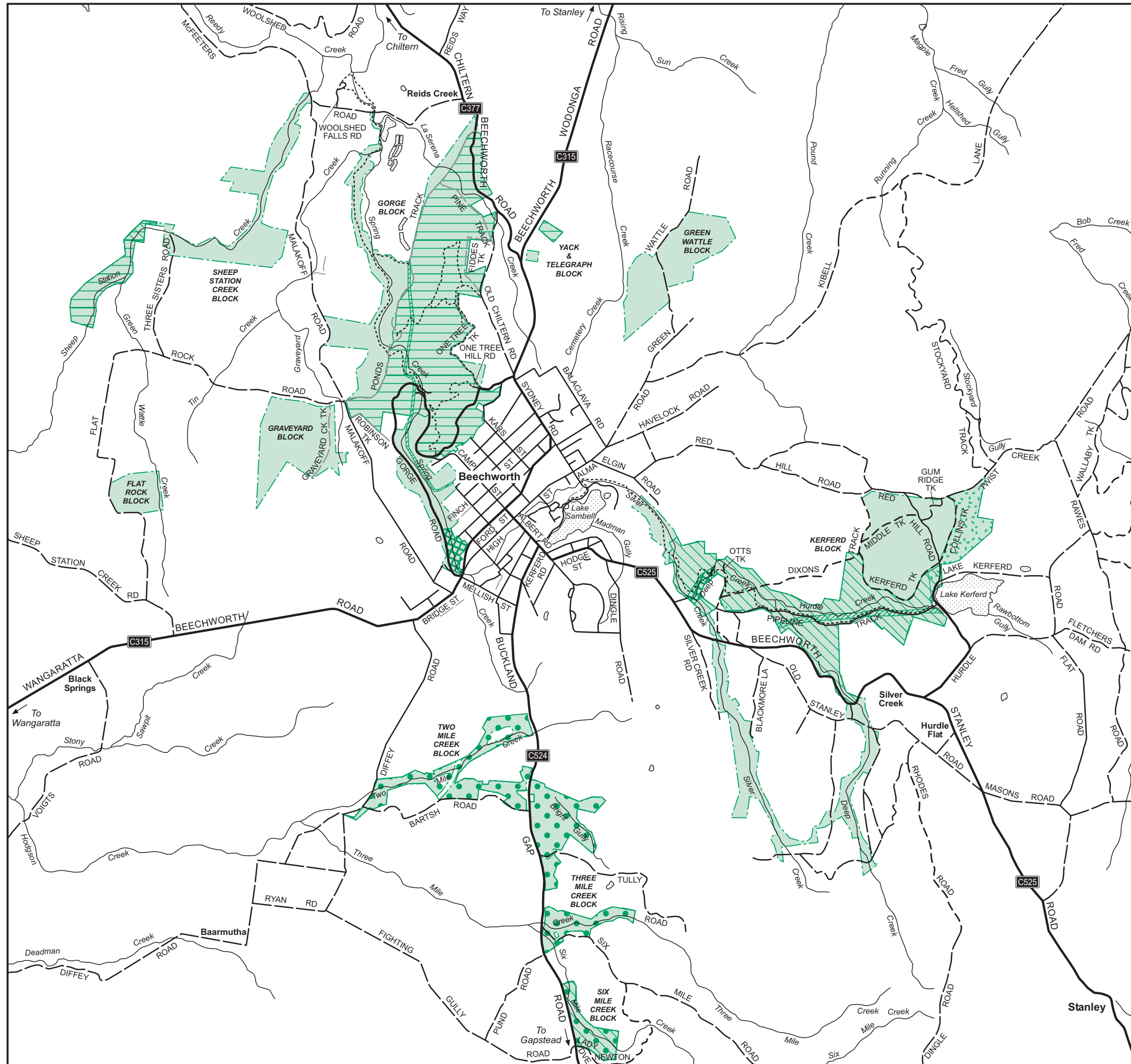
Figure 2 MANAGEMENT ZONES
BEECHWORTH HISTORIC PARK



- Major sealed road
- Minor sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4 wheel drive road
- Management Vehicle access
- Walking track
- Waterbody

- ZONE**
- Conservation & Recreation

- OVERLAY**
- Special Protection Area - Natural Values
 - Special Protection Area - Cultural Values
 - Special Management Area - Public Safety
 - Special Management Area - Public Utilities
 - Land Use Designation - Prospecting
 - Land Use Designation - Water Supply



Lake Mountain

- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Walking track
- Ski Trail
- Day Loop
- Leadbeaters Loop
- Summit Loop
- Trail (Winter Only)
- National Park
- Alpine Resort
- Other Public Land

Recreational Facilities

- Barbecue - Gas
- Bistro
- Facilities for people with disabilities
- Information
- Lookout
- Picnic shelter
- Picnic table
- Toilets

Cartography by Spatial Vision 2004
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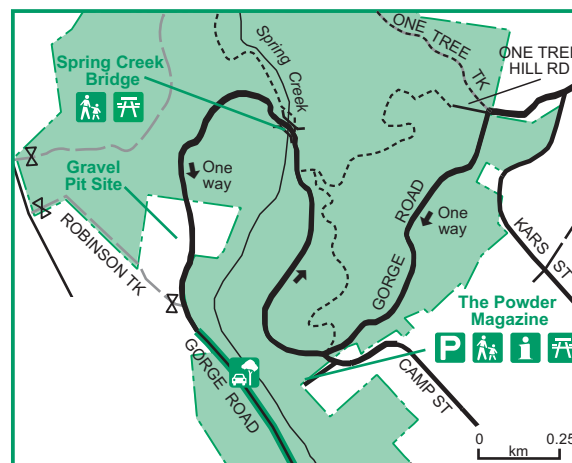
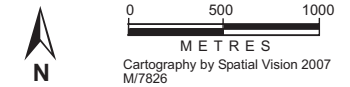
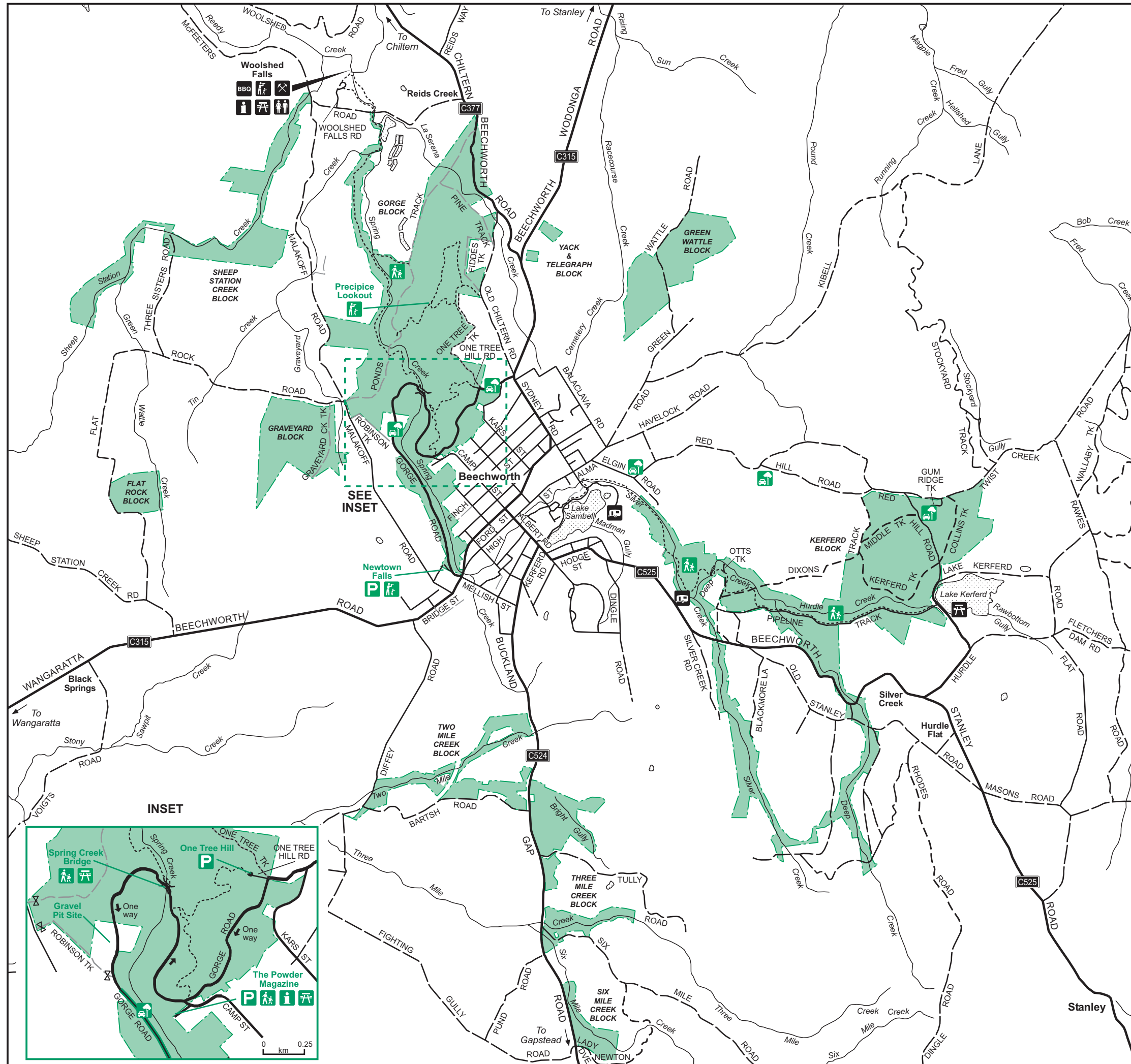


Figure 3 VISITOR ACCESS & FACILITIES
BEECHWORTH HISTORIC PARK

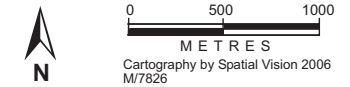
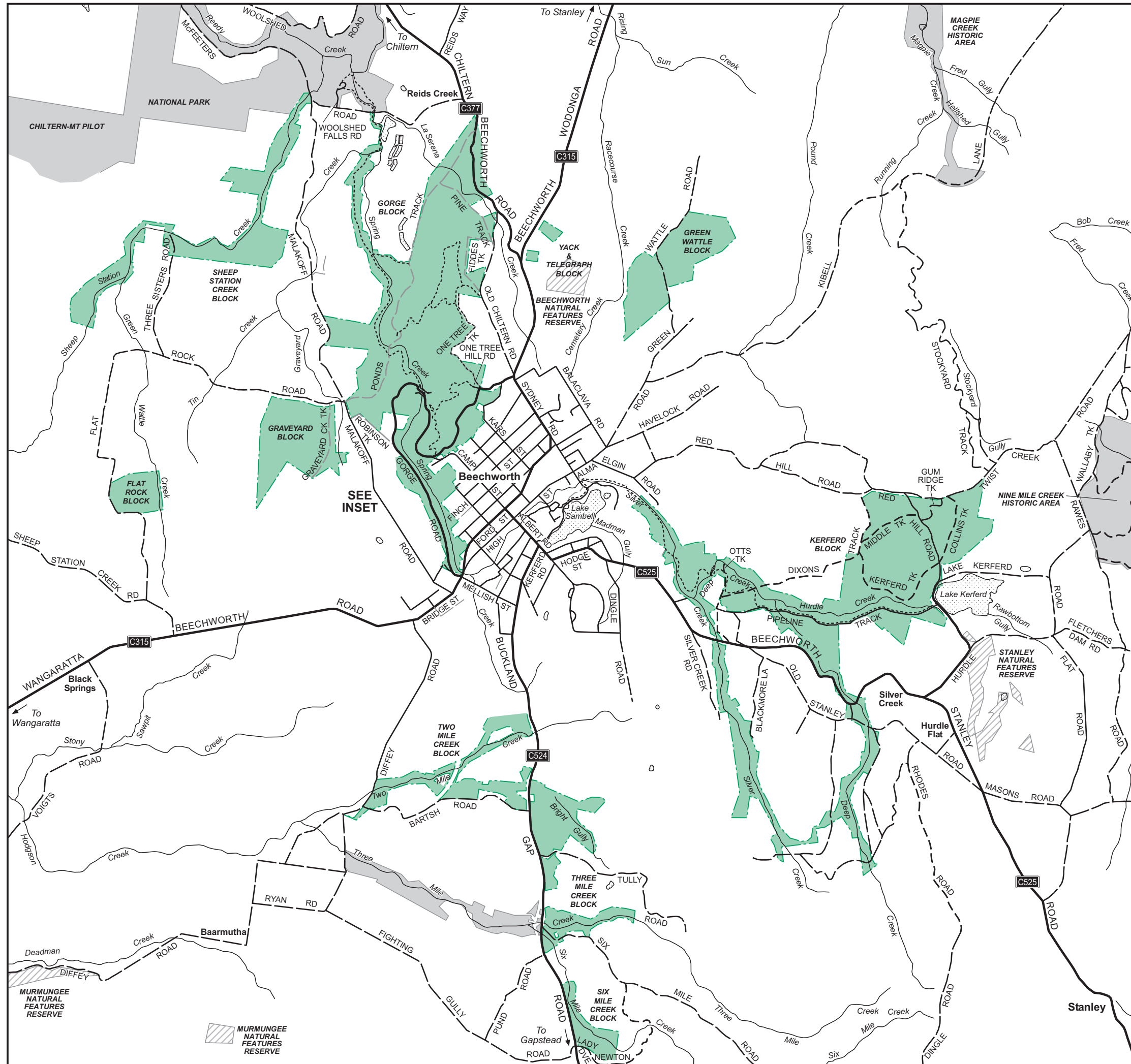


- Major sealed road
- Minor sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4 wheel drive road
- Management Vehicle access
- Walking track
- Waterbody
- Beechworth Historic Park

Recreational Facilities

- Carpark
- Family walk
- Lookout
- Park information
- Picnic table
- Scenic drive →
- Toilets
- Adjacent Caravan Park
- Mine site

Figure 4 PARK AND ADJACENT LAND TENURE
BEECHWORTH HISTORIC PARK



- Major sealed road
- Minor sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4 wheel drive road
- Management Vehicle access
- Walking track
- Waterbody
- Beechworth Historic Park
- Other Reserves
- Other Public Land

Lake Mountain

- Sealed road
- - - Unsealed road
- Walking track
- - - Ski Trail
- ▬ Day Loop
- ▬ Leadbeaters Loop
- Summit Loop
- Trail (Winter Only)
- National Park
- ▨ Alpine Resort
- ▨ Other Public Land

Recreational Facilities

- 🍖 Barbecue - Gas
- ☕ Bistro
- ♿ Facilities for people with disabilities
- ℹ Information
- 👁 Lookout
- 🏠 Picnic shelter
- 🪵 Picnic table
- 🚻 Toilets

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