



Chiltern–Mt Pilot National Park



Management Plan October 2008

This Management Plan for Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park is approved for implementation. Its purpose is to direct all aspects of management of the park until the plan is reviewed.

A Draft Management Plan for the park was published in March 2007. Twenty-nine submissions were received. All submissions have been considered in preparing this approved Management Plan.

Information

For further information about this plan, please contact

Brian Pritchard
Ranger in Charge
PO Box 483
Beechworth VIC 3747
Phone: (03) 5720 8190

Copies

This plan may be downloaded from the Parks Victoria website (www.parkweb.vic.gov.au). Copies of the plan may be purchased for \$8.80 from:

Parks Victoria Information Centre
Level 10
535 Bourke Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
13 1963

Parks Victoria Beechworth Office
La Trobe University Campus
Albert Road
Beechworth VIC 3747
Phone: (03) 5720 8190

**CHILTERN – MT PILOT NATIONAL PARK
MANAGEMENT PLAN**



October 2008

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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 Draft 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 that area of the park not covered by the Yorta Yorta Native Title Determination. It is acknowledged that any future outcomes of native title determination applications may necessitate amendment of this plan, and the implementation of this plan with regard to that area of the park not covered by the Yorta Yorta Native Title Determination may require further notifications under the procedures in Division 3 of Part 2 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth).

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

Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park protects valuable remnants of Box–Ironbark forests and provides important habitat and links between the foothills of the Australian Alps and the Murray Riverine plains. It is recognised as having the best fauna assemblage of any of the Box-Ironbark protected areas.

The park offers the people of Beechworth, Chiltern and surrounding towns a natural setting for a range of recreational activities.

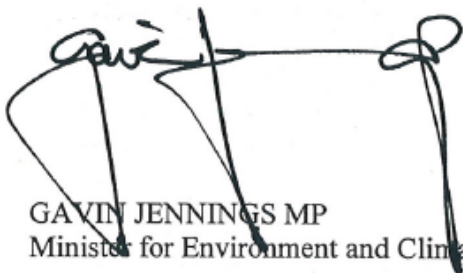
The park is of particular importance to the Traditional Owners. Parks Victoria seeks to reflect their interests and aspirations for the park in its management.

Other community groups, including Friends, Landcare and volunteer groups, play an active role in park management through monitoring programs and research activities.

The park protects many threatened plant and animal species, including Swift Parrot, Regent Honeyeater, Mountain Swainson Pea, Warby Range Swamp Gum and Woolly Ragwort.

This plan details the values and attractions in Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park and is a strategic guide for their protection and management. It was completed following careful consideration of the 29 submissions received from the public on the draft plan.

I wish to thank the members of the Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park and Beechworth Historic Park Management Plan Advisory Group for their contribution in developing the plan and other individuals and organisations who made submissions. I also encourage these people and all interested members of the broader community to continue to enjoy and appreciate the park and become involved in its management.



GAVIN JENNINGS MP
Minister for Environment and Climate Change

APPROVED MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Management Plan, prepared under Section 17 of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.), proposes the basis and directions for the future management of Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park.


Parks Victoria recognises the important contributions that members of the community who know and value the area can make to its management. Through this plan, Parks Victoria seeks to strengthen its relationships with individuals and community groups with

particular interests in the park, and encourage them to participate in its management. Parks Victoria is encouraging these groups to become further involved with the park by supporting its management with their knowledge, skills and enthusiasm.

The plan provides the basis for the future management of Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park. It was finalised following consideration of the 29 submissions received on the Draft Management Plan.



PETER HARRIS
Secretary to the
Department of Sustainability and Environment



MARK STONE
Chief Executive
Parks Victoria

INTRODUCTION TO BOX–IRONBARK PARKS

The Box–Ironbark forests and woodlands lie inland of the Great Divide 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.

Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park protects 21 560 ha of Box–Ironbark forest and granitic hills woodlands that include some of the most diverse flora and fauna assemblages in Victoria. The park is intrinsically connected to the Traditional Owners and the communities of Beechworth, Chiltern and Eldorado. A wide range of recreational opportunities are provided for visitors, in particular bushwalking, bird watching, rock climbing, car rallying and prospecting.

Box–Ironbark areas are part of *Country* of the Traditional Owners. There are many areas rich in archaeological, cultural and spiritual significance throughout the region. Many places have archaeological significance. 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. 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 since 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 73 ecological vegetation classes (EVCs) are recognised. Before European settlement the most extensive EVCs were Plains Grassy Woodland, Grassy Woodland and Box–Ironbark Forest; all three are now endangered or depleted.

Fragmentation and loss of habitat in the Box–Ironbark region is the main reason that almost 300 of its 1500 flowering plant species and 53 of its 250 vertebrate animal species are now 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 species not threatened.

One of the greatest losses has been 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, such as Chiltern – Mt Pilot and Greater Bendigo National Parks, are extensions of existing parks; others such as 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 for 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 play an important part in rebuilding 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 regional cities such as Bendigo. 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 Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park, and sets out how they will be protected and managed.

SUMMARY

Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park (21 560 ha) is situated between the townships of Beechworth and Chiltern in north-eastern Victoria. The park straddles the Hume Freeway and the main Beechworth–Chiltern Road, encompassing the low hills surrounding Chiltern and most of the striking Pilot Range.

The park has a high concentration of significant flora and fauna, particularly in the Box–Ironbark Forest of the Chiltern section. Along with the rich natural values, the park also protects many relics of the area’s pioneer gold and mining heritage.

Indigenous tradition indicates that the park lies within the country of the Dhudhuroa-Waywuru and Pangerang people. The park contains two major Aboriginal rock art sites and Aboriginal places and objects that are significant to the Traditional Owners. Aboriginal communities which value the park include the Dhudhuroa-Waywuru Traditional Owner Group, Bangerang Cultural Centre Cooperative and Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation.

The park protects a significant number of threatened species and their habitat, including the nationally threatened Swift Parrot, Regent Honeyeater, Mountain Swainson Pea, Warby Range Swamp Gum and Woolly Ragwort.

Recreational activities in the park include bird watching, bushwalking, bike riding, picnicking, camping, car rallying, rock climbing, orienteering and prospecting.

Key elements of the plan include the following:

- Respect for Indigenous knowledge relating to *Country* and appropriate reflection of the Traditional Owners’ views and aspirations in planning and management of the park.
- Protecting flora and fauna species and communities and in particular threatened species and communities.
- Protecting water quality particularly in designated catchments.
- Protecting Aboriginal and post-European settlement cultural values.
- An integrated response to extensive or emerging pest plants, animals and diseases, at a large or landscape scale.
- Offering sustainable recreational activities in appropriate locations, which enhance visitor enjoyment of the park, and minimise impacts on park values and fellow visitors.
- Minimising the impact of any works and infrastructure on the park’s natural and cultural values by careful planning, design, siting and construction.
- Enhancing visitor understanding and appreciation of the park’s natural and cultural values through a range of information, interpretation and education programs and appropriate management of recreation activities.
- A comprehensive and integrated track network catering for vehicles, walking, cycling and horse riding.
- Support for the Friends of Chiltern National Park, volunteers, and other community groups to participate in areas of park management that relate to their interests.
- Offering ongoing opportunities for individuals, groups and agencies to discuss aspirations and issues of mutual concern relating to the park.
- Promoting opportunities for community and stakeholders to work together and with Parks Victoria and the Traditional Owners to achieve common goals for the park.
- Coordination with other government and non-government agencies and community groups to facilitate integrated management, at a landscape scale with particular emphasis on promoting the Chiltern Pilot Biolink Project.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and planning area

Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park (21 560 ha) lies between Beechworth and the low hills surrounding Chiltern, 275 km north-east of Melbourne and 34 km north-east of Wangaratta (figure 1). The park straddles the Hume Freeway and the main Beechworth-Chiltern Road and includes the striking Pilot Range, Woolshed Falls and the former Chiltern Box–Ironbark National Park.

The park comprises:

- the former Chiltern Box–Ironbark National Park (4320 ha)
- the former Mt Pilot Multi-Purpose Park (14 123 ha)
- the former Barambogie Education Area (597 ha)
- part of Barambogie State Forest (2467 ha)
- part of Beechworth Historic Park (52 ha)
- a former bushland reserve near Chiltern, LCC Rec No. I89 (6 ha).

The park includes:

- White Box Reference Area (111 ha)
- Pilot Range Reference Area (517 ha)
- Barambogie and Ovens River Declared Water Supply Area (1942 ha).

Throughout the plan, the term ‘park’ refers to the entire Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park. ‘Chiltern section’ refers to the former Chiltern-Box Ironbark National Park in the north of the park and ‘Pilot Range section’ refers to the southern portion of the park, comprising the former Multi-Purpose Park and other additions.

1.2 Creation of the park

Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park was included in Schedule 2 of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.) as a result of the *National Parks (Box–Ironbark and Other*

Parks) Act 2002 (Vic.) and was proclaimed on 30 October 2002 (appendix 1).

The park is based on the recommendations of the former Environment Conservation Council (ECC) in its *Box–Ironbark Forests and Woodlands Investigation Final Report* (ECC 2001) accepted by the Government in 2002 (Government of Victoria 2002). The park includes the former Chiltern Box–Ironbark National Park, the former Mt Pilot Multi-Purpose Park and other areas of Crown land (section 1.1).

The Chiltern section of the park was originally reserved forest and was known as Chiltern State Forest.

Chiltern Regional Park (4250 ha) was included in Schedule 3 (Other Parks) of the National Parks Act on 26 April 1980 as a result of the *National Parks (Amendment) Act 1978* (Vic.). The park was established as a result of the Government’s acceptance of recommendations by the former Land Conservation Council (LCC 1977).

Several other areas were later added to Chiltern Park: 5 ha by the *National Parks (Amendment) Act 1984* (Vic.), 45 ha by the *National Parks (Amendment) Act 1989* (Vic.) and 20 ha by the *National Parks (Yarra Ranges and Other Amendments) Act 1995* (Vic.). Minor boundary changes in relation to the Hume Freeway bypass of Chiltern occurred in 1987, bringing the total area of Chiltern Park to 4320 ha.

In 1997 Chiltern Park became Chiltern Box–Ironbark National Park (4320 ha), which was included in Schedule 2 of the National Parks Act on 4 June 1997 as a result of the *National Parks (Amendment) Act 1997* (Vic.).

The Pilot Range section of Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park was reserved forest under the *Forests Act 1958* (Vic.) until the creation of the Mt Pilot Multi-Purpose Park in 1978 under Section 4 of the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* (Vic.). Mt Pilot Multi-Purpose Park was created following the Government’s acceptance of the final recommendations of the Land Conservation Council’s study for the North East Study Area Districts 3, 4 and 5 (LCC 1977).

Although the Barambogie Area was originally set aside as reserved forest, the LCC recommended

that it become uncommitted land (LCC 1977). This area then became Barambogie State Forest following the LCC review of the North-eastern area in 1986 (LCC 1986). The Barambogie Education Area was also set aside at this time.

Woolshed Falls (52 ha) was added to the Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park in 2002. This area was formerly part of Beechworth Historic Park, which was first included on Schedule 3 (Other Parks) of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.) on 26 April 1980 following LCC recommendations.

1.3 Plan development

This Management Plan for Chiltern – Mt Pilot National 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. Significant input of information and advice was sought and received from the Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park and Beechworth Historic Park Management Plan Advisory Group, community groups, individuals and agencies with particular interests in the park.

Previous management plans covering the park area include *Chiltern Box–Ironbark National Park Management Plan* (Parks Victoria 1998), and *Beechworth Historic Park Draft Management Plan* (Parks Victoria 2001) which covered management of Woolshed Falls.

This is the first management plan for Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park. The plan is a strategic guide for future management of the park. As a public document the plan establishes how Parks Victoria will protect Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park’s natural and cultural values, and describes 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 serves 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.

The Draft Management Plan was published for public comment in March 2007, and 29 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 management plan included:

- reviewing areas available for prospecting and permitting prospecting in more of the Pilot range section of the park and not in the Chiltern section, with a change from the proposed 36.5% to 37.4% of the park
- adding more information about managing water resources in the park
- updating flora and fauna information
- including the recently enacted *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic.) and strategies relating to consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties.

When approved by the Secretary to the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Minister for the Environment and Climate Change, the final management plan will guide future management of Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park.

2.1 Regional context

Located in north-eastern Victoria, spreading across the Victorian Riverina and Northern Inland Slopes bioregions, the park plays an important role in protecting the most intact Box–Ironbark fauna assemblage in Victoria, having the highest number of mammal, bird and reptile species recorded at any Box–Ironbark site (ECC 2001). A diverse range of ecological vegetation communities are represented across the landscape, from the Riverine plain through low sedimentary hills to the distinctive ridgeline of the granitic Pilot Range. The area supports many forest types that are significantly different to those in the surrounding area, including stands of Mugga Ironbark in the country north of Chiltern and Blakely’s Red Gum and Black Cypress-pine on the Mt Pilot plateau and in Woolshed Valley.

Indigenous tradition indicates that the park lies within the *Country* of the Dhudhuroa-Waywurru people and Pangerang people, and associated Bangerang and Mungabarena communities, whose occupation of the area can be understood through the many highly significant Aboriginal places and objects in the park.

The park is within the boundaries of Indigo Shire and the Rural City of Wangaratta Council, and falls within Tourism Victoria’s High Country campaign region, which is part of the North East Victoria Regional Tourism Development Region.

Aboriginal places, gold era relics and Kelly Gang hideouts highlight the park’s value in protecting cultural heritage while playing a vital role in supporting the year-round tourism industry of the region, which is promoted as a ski and adventure, food, wine, nature-based and touring holiday destination.

Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park is complemented by a number of nearby parks and other natural attractions in the region, including:

- Beechworth Historic Park — contains significant examples of the area’s gold mining heritage and has close ties with the heritage town of Beechworth.
- Warby Range State Park — a highly diverse Dry Box Woodland containing White Cypress-pine and grass-tree communities.

- Eldorado Historic Reserve — containing the 100 m long Eldorado Dredge. The dredge highlights the technical aspects and scale of the latter day gold mining or recovery method of dredging, and is the only complete example of such a dredge remaining in Victoria.
- Nine Mile Creek Historic Area — contains important examples of mining technology, including the Wallaby Mine Battery.

The park is within the Reedy Creek and Black Dog Creek subcatchments of the Ovens Basin and is influenced by activities within the catchment, which is within the North East Catchment Management Authority’s (NECMA) area of responsibility.

2.2 Park values and significance

Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park is one of 39 national parks in Victoria and makes a valuable contribution to Victoria’s parks and reserves system, which aims to protect viable, comprehensive, adequate and representative samples of the State’s natural environments. The park also provides opportunities for visitors to enjoy and appreciate the natural environment and natural and cultural features.

The park is assigned the IUCN – World Conservation Union Category II of the United Nation’s List of National Parks and Protected Areas. Category II areas are managed mainly for ecosystem conservation and recreation. On a statewide basis, the park is rated as very high for the protection of natural values.

The Chiltern Ironbark Forest and Woolshed Valley are listed on the Register of the National Estate for their natural and cultural significance. The Pilot Range section is listed as an indicative place on the register (Australian Heritage Database).

Significant features of the park are as follows:

Natural values

- The most intact Box–Ironbark fauna assemblage in Victoria including the highest number of birds, mammals and reptiles recorded at any Box–Ironbark site.

- One of 40 priority sites for Brush-tail Phascogale recovery.
- Critical habitat for Barking Owls, recovering from the 2003 Eldorado fire.
- A key site in Australia for the protection and monitoring of Regent Honeyeaters.
- Threatened ecological vegetation classes (EVCs), including Box Ironbark, Spring-soak Woodland, Gilgai Plain Woodland/Wetland Mosaic and Valley Grassy Forest.
- The only recorded population of the Mt Pilot Spider Orchid.
- The largest reserved area of Black Cypress-pine in Victoria.
- Twenty-one fauna species and 10 flora species listed as threatened under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic.) (appendices 3 and 4).
- Important site for threatened species, including the Squirrel Glider, Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, Painted Honeyeater, Turquoise Parrot, Deane's Wattle and Warby Range Swamp Gum.

Cultural values

- Numerous Aboriginal cultural and archaeological sites, including artefact scatters, scarred trees, grinding grooves and significant art sites such as Yeddonba.
- A continuing association with the area by the Traditional Owners and local Aboriginal people through past and present-day stories and involvement in park management.
- Historic mining sites that provide fascinating insights into alluvial mining technology, the use of water for mining, and quartz reef mining technology.
- The cultural landscape or physical form of the park, which reflects a significant gold mining heritage that is peculiar to this part of Victoria.
- The Magenta Quartz Mine and Wallace's Lead, listed on the Victorian Heritage Register.

Recreation and tourism values

- A diverse range of recreational opportunities in a natural setting, including bushwalking, bird watching, horse riding, cycling and camping.
- Opportunities for prospecting and car rallying in designated areas of the park.
- Opportunities to experience gold mining heritage in a natural setting.
- Links with Beechworth and Chiltern tourism themes of Gold Era Heritage and Kelly Gang sites.

2.3 Evidence of past use

The park has been affected in a number of ways by human activity. Aboriginal occupation of the area prior to European settlement is well represented by art sites, scarred trees, rock wells, stone arrangements and artefact scatters in the park. The relationship between Aboriginal people and the landscape is not fully understood, but the forests would have provided plants for food, shelter, medicines, canoes, spears, shields, *nulla nullas* (clubs), boomerangs, tools and dishes (ECC 2001).

The park has a rich gold mining history, and its landscapes include physical evidence of gold mining such as roads, races, tunnels, mullock heaps, shafts, sluiced gullies and dredge dams, created between 1852 and the 1950s. In their efforts to find gold, miners changed the landscape considerably. Diversions created to harness water power have permanently changed the flow of some creeks, including Reedy Creek. Wallace's Gully Puddling Machine Precinct is one of the best examples of puddling technology in the 1850s. The puddling machines and associated water races and shafts have altered the landscape to a degree. Remains of battery stampers and other structures can also be found around old mine sites, providing evidence of the once thriving population that flocked to the goldfields.

The Box–Ironbark forests of the Chiltern section were mostly cleared during the gold mining era of the late 1800s. This clearing is evident now in the lack of large old trees. Large trees were also removed to promote the growth of straight trees for timber. Much of the surrounding land was cleared to provide fuel for wood-fired steam engines, which were the major source of power

for many years. Stringybark was used extensively in the mines and for building, while ironbark was used mainly for posts and rails. Timber for commercial purposes continued to be taken from the Chiltern section until 1993, and firewood collection ceased in 1997.

The Pilot Range section also has a history of timber removal throughout the gold mining days and beyond. Hardwood sawlogs continued to be removed from the range until the 1980s. Minor produce in the form of posts, poles, rails and sleepers were cut in the park until the 1990s. Firewood collection ceased in 2002 when Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park was created.

Grazing may have had some impact on the park through soil compaction and the spread of weeds. Most grazing, however, took place on the plains adjacent to the range in areas cleared for this purpose, although there are historical accounts of stock roaming the ranges and disputes caused by intermingling flocks and herds (Watson 2004). Grazing ceased in the Chiltern section in 1980 and in the Pilot Range section in the early 1990s. Much of the woodlands that would have linked the Chiltern and Pilot Range sections of the park were cleared following the return of soldiers from World War 2, in particular around Eldorado where wood was cut for firewood and sent to Melbourne via the railway at Tarrawingee (A. Carey pers. comm.). Clearing also took place around Chiltern at this time. Rabbits, first recorded in the area in the 1870s (Watson 2004), have had an impact on the landscape through grazing and increasing erosion and soil disturbance.

Quarrying of gravel and sand has taken place in parts of the park, including Reedy Creek and various parts of the Chiltern section. A quarry at the Skeleton Hill site continues to remove hornfels for road surfacing (section 7.2).

2.4 The park visitor

The park attracts Victorian, interstate and some international visitors, many indirectly, because the area is on the route to the Victorian Alps and is the first Victorian park reached by southbound interstate visitors (Parks Victoria 2005c). Because the park straddles the Hume Freeway and the main Beechworth–Chiltern Road, day visitor areas are easily accessible. The park also provides valuable open space for several surrounding communities, being a short drive from

Beechworth, Wodonga and Wangaratta and within walking distance from Chiltern.

Woolshed Falls in the Pilot Range section, and Honeyeater Picnic Area in the Chiltern section of the park, are the principal visitor nodes, although the number of visitors to Yeddonba and Mt Pilot summit is increasing.

Visitation to the area in 2003 included 1.3 million domestic overnight visitors (10% of the State total) and 1.5 million domestic day visitors (6%). Almost half of all visitors to the region are engaged in nature-based tourism, which is one of the region's strengths (Tourism Victoria 2004). Cultural heritage attracts only 8% of visitors to the North East, and is viewed as a supplementary product for the region. However, the promotion of a Ned Kelly product is a focus for future development by Tourism Victoria (Tourism Victoria 2004).

The park is important to both locals and visitors as a recreational destination for a diverse range of activities, including bushwalking, car touring, prospecting, horse riding, bird watching and rock climbing. The Honeyeater Picnic Area is a popular destination for local and international bird enthusiasts.

The park offers a diverse range of experiences, including:

- appreciation of natural landscapes and cultural heritage
- physical recreational activities such as bike riding, rock climbing, abseiling and horse riding
- more passive recreation such as bushwalking, bird watching, prospecting and camping.

The park's interpretive information provides visitors with a visual history of both Aboriginal and post-European cultural heritage associated with the gold era.

The extensive road and vehicle track network provides year round two-wheel-drive access to all major visitor areas.

In terms of statewide priorities, Parks Victoria has rated Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park as a park of regional value for the provision of visitor services. The natural values of the park will be promoted as a priority, while resources for visitors will focus on Woolshed Falls and the Honeyeater

Picnic Area as the principal visitor sites in the park.

Tourism Victoria's regional campaign of 'High Country' promotes nature-based tourism as one of its primary themes. Linking the park with the heritage tourism themes of Beechworth and Chiltern will also enhance the park's profile. The Beechworth Historic Precinct is the focus of most visitors to the area, and promoting a visit to the park to see heritage relics would add to the overall experience of the area.

2.5 Legislation and ECC recommendations

Legislation

Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park is reserved and managed under the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.). The Act requires the Secretary to the Department of Sustainability and Environment (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 Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park (appendix 1).

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic.) applies to the park and protects all Aboriginal places, objects and Aboriginal human remains (section 5.1).

The *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth) applies to the management of 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, including listed threatened species and communities and listed migratory species.

The park includes parts of two declared water supply catchment areas (figure 2) proclaimed under Schedule 5 of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (Vic.).

The *Parks Victoria Act 1998* (Vic.) enables management services for Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park to be provided by Parks Victoria on

behalf of the Secretary to DSE. The National Parks (Park) Regulations 2003 apply to the park.

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

ECC recommendations

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

- A1(a) Use of Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park (A1) in accordance with the general recommendations for national parks including:
- A1(b) Gemstone seeking and gold prospecting, with hand tools only, be permitted in a zone including Reedy Creek.
- A1(c) The Reedy Creek area be surveyed for Aboriginal sites and places.
- A1(d) Car rallying be permitted in the Pilot Range west of the Chiltern–Beechworth Road by arrangement with the land manager.
- A1(e) Protection of the water and catchments of the Barambogie Reservoir and the creeks which supply water to Springhurst be maintained.
- 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.

These recommendations were accepted by the Victorian 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, where appropriate, with other policies and guidelines, including the following:

- *Indigenous Partnership Strategy and Action Plan* (Parks Victoria 2005a)
- *Recreation Framework for Box–Ironbark Public Land* (DSE 2003a)
- *Heritage Management Strategy* (Parks Victoria 2003)
- *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 1997)
- *North East Region Fire Protection Plan* (DSE 2003b)
- *Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land* (DSE 2006b)
- *Guidelines and Procedures for Ecological Burning on Public Land in Victoria* (DSE 2004b)
- *Draft Ecological Burn Strategy for Chiltern Box–Ironbark National Park* (Lindorff 2001)
- *Eldorado and Stanley Fire Rehabilitation Plan* (Parks Victoria & DSE 2003a)

- *Eldorado Bushfire Recovery: Assessment of Priority Flora* (DSE 2005c)
- *Statewide Public Land Ecological and Cultural Fire Recovery Plan* (Parks Victoria & DSE 2003b)
- *Heritage Action Plan for Beechworth Mining Sites* (Kaufman 2002)
- *Yeddonba–Mt Pilot Aboriginal rock art site management resource document* (Sale & Hall 1996)
- *Heritage Action Plan for Indigo Goldfields Cemetery* (Vines 2001)
- *Heritage Action Plan for Wallace's Gully* (Kaufman 2003).

The park is also managed within the 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 2004)
- *Ovens Basin Water Quality Strategy* (NECMA 2000)
- *Policy for Sustainable Recreation and Tourism on Victoria's Public Land* (NRE 2002)
- *Victoria's Heritage – Strengthening our Communities* (Heritage Victoria 2006)
- *Tourism Victoria Regional Tourism Development Plan — North East Victoria 2004–2007* (Tourism Victoria 2004).

3 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

3.1 Vision

Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park protects a landscape full of natural and cultural values. Providing a natural backdrop to the region, the park is appreciated by local communities and visitors for its unique landscape values – where the Riverina plain meets the granitic, lower outlying hills of the Great Dividing Range covered by Black Cypress-pine.

The park is a model for the management of landscape diversity. An increasing understanding of the unique flora and fauna means rare and threatened species such as the Regent Honeyeater, Warby Range Swamp Gum, Beechworth Silver Stringybark, Brush-tailed Phascogale and Barking Owl are protected and recovering. Pest plants and animals are diminishing as a result of successful and coordinated control programs. The park is a core part of an extensive network of vegetation corridors throughout the region.

The Traditional Owners' knowledge, views and aspirations for *Country* are incorporated in park planning and management. Yeddonba is particularly treasured as a place for visitors to appreciate and gain an understanding of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Reflecting and preserving the human history of the area, the park serves as a reminder of the communities that once inhabited and utilised the area. Significant gold era sites are protected and complement the heritage values of the towns in the region. Cultural values of the landscape are interpreted and appreciated.

A sense of local ownership, formed by strong partnerships between Parks Victoria, Landcare and Friends groups and park neighbours, ensures that the healthy atmosphere of the park is nurtured and maintained. Environmental programs are coordinated across government agencies, providing a catchment-wide approach to management.

The park is accessible to visitors and provides a landscape within which a wide range of visitor activities, such as bushwalking, camping, bird watching, car touring, prospecting, and horse riding, can be enjoyed. Park facilities reflect the natural character of the park, and increased visitation is managed to minimise impacts on park values.

The park is recognised as a key regional tourist attraction. High-quality interpretation at key visitor areas such as Woolshed Falls, Yeddonba, Honeyeater Picnic Area and Mt Pilot Summit, help visitors to understand and appreciate the park and its values.

3.2 Management directions

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).

Other management directions for the park are as follows:

Natural values conservation

- A natural age class distribution and floristic diversity with an emphasis on protection of large old hollow bearing trees will be promoted.
- Populations of threatened flora and fauna species will be protected and where possible improved to self-sustaining levels.
- Tree canopy cover and large old trees will be protected in fire-affected areas.
- Resourcing an integrated response to extensive or emerging threats, including pest plants and animals, at a large or landscape scale will be a high priority.
- Prescribed fire will be used to improve the long-term health of vegetation communities, guided by an ecological burn strategy for the park.
- Water quality particularly in designated catchments will be protected.
- Continued research to identify natural values will be encouraged.

Cultural values conservation

- Aboriginal places and objects will be protected from interference or damaging activities.
- Historic relics and places will be conserved by protecting them from damaging or inappropriate activities.

- The impact of any works and infrastructure on the park's cultural values will be minimised by careful planning, design, siting and construction activities.
- Research into the Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage of the park will be encouraged and supported as appropriate, in consultation with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Parties, local Aboriginal communities and the wider community groups interested in the history of the area.

The park visit

- Visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's natural and cultural values will be enhanced by a range of information services and interpretation and education programs.
- The park will be promoted as an important recreational opportunity for locals and visitors to North East Victoria, and park facilities will be managed to meet demand.
- A range of quality recreational experiences will be maintained at sustainable levels to enhance visitor enjoyment (table 2).
- Visitors will be encouraged to adopt minimal-impact techniques and to adhere to industry-developed standards appropriate to their activity.

Community awareness and involvement

- Strong collaborative partnerships will be developed with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party to facilitate the reflection of their knowledge and interests and aspirations in the park's planning and management.
- The wider community will be encouraged to become more aware of the park and appreciative of its values.
- Local communities and visitors will be encouraged to develop a sense of custodianship for the park and become involved in park management, via a range of avenues including Friends groups.

- Collaborative partnerships will be established with relevant agencies to strengthen the protection of the park and encourage the development of appropriate tourism and other products and opportunities.
- Ongoing opportunities will be given for communities, groups, individuals and other agencies to share their interests and concerns relating to the park with the park's management.

3.3 Zoning

Park management zoning:

- provides a geographic framework in which to manage the park
- reflects sensitivity, fragility of natural values
- indicates which management directions have priority in different parts of the park
- indicates the types and levels of use that are appropriate throughout the park
- assists in minimising existing and potential conflicts between uses and activities, or between activities and the protection of the park's values
- provides a basis for assessing the suitability of future activities and development proposals.

Three management zones apply to the park: Conservation and Recreation Zone, Conservation Zone, and Reference Area Zone. Eight Special Protection Area overlays (SPAs), two Special Management Area overlays (SMAs) and two Land Use Designation overlays (LUDs) are used to identify management requirements in addition to those of the underlying primary management zones (table 1 and figure 2).

TABLE 1 MANAGEMENT ZONES AND OVERLAYS

ZONE/ OVERLAY	AREA/LOCATION	VALUES	MANAGEMENT AIM
ZONES			
Conservation and Recreation	11 350 ha; 52% of the park	Important natural values and scope for recreation opportunities	Protect natural environments and provide for sustainable, dispersed recreational activities and small-scale recreational facilities without significant impact on natural processes.
Conservation	9 582 ha; 45% of the park	Broad areas containing sensitive natural environments or ecosystems	Protect sensitive, fragile or remote natural environments and provide for minimal impact recreation and simple visitor facilities, subject to ensuring minimal interference with natural processes.
Reference Area	628 ha, 3% of park White Box Reference Area and Pilot Range Reference Area	Relatively undisturbed representative land types and associated vegetation	Protect viable samples of one or more land types that are relatively undisturbed for comparative study with similar land types elsewhere, by keeping all human interference to the minimum essential and ensuring as far as practicable that the only long-term change results from natural processes in accordance with Ministerial directives and Parks Victoria operational policies.
OVERLAYS			
Land Use Designation – Prospecting	8 071 ha, shown in figure 2, 37.4% of the park.	Prospecting area	Allow suitable prospecting under the <i>National Parks Act 1975 (Vic.)</i> , Sec 32D(1) while protecting biodiversity, catchment, geological and cultural values.
Land Use Designation – Declared Water Supply Catchment	1 942 ha, shown in figure 2, 9% of the park	Large, undisturbed catchments	Protect the quality of water by restricting the level and types of recreation activities declared under <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (Vic.)</i> .
Special Protection Areas – Cultural Values	318 ha, eight areas of cultural significance, detailed in figure 2, 1.5% of the park.	Discrete significant areas requiring special attention including mining heritage relics and sites	Protect specific cultural values in specific areas and sites where a special management focus is required.
Special Management Areas – Public Safety	28 ha at Skeleton Hill and <1 ha at Woolshed Falls, <1% of the park.	Area surrounding the quarry at Skeleton Hill and around steep cliffs and waterfall at Woolshed Falls	Areas or sites where special management provisions are needed to provide for public safety.

TABLE 2 SUMMARY OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

ACTIVITY	MANAGEMENT ZONES			OVERLAYS			
	ZONE 1	ZONE 2	ZONE 3	LUD 1	LUD 2	SPA	SMA
	(52% of park)	(45% of park)	(3% of park)	(37.4% of park)	(9% of park)	(1.5% of park)	(<1% of park)
Bird watching	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Bushwalking	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Car rallies (section 6.2)	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Cycling (section 6.6)	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
Dog walking	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Camping (designated, with defined facilities) (section 6.5) ¹	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Camping (designated, limited or undefined facilities) (section 6.5) ¹	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Camping (dispersed, no facilities) ¹	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Campfires – in fireplaces provided (section 6.5) ¹	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Education/ Guided activities	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Gas or liquid-fuel stoves or BBQs (section 6.5)	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Feeding wildlife	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Filming and photography	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Firewood collection	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Fishing	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
Fossil collecting	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
4WD touring (section 6.2)	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
Horse riding (section 6.7)	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
Hunting	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Licensed tours (section 6.11)	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Motorbike and trail bike riding (section 6.2)	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
Nature photography / painting	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Orienteering / Rogaining (section 6.8)	Y	Y ²	N	Y	Y	N	N
Picnicking	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Prospecting (section 6.9)	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Rock climbing / Abseiling (section 6.10)	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
Scenic drives	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Sightseeing	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N

¹ Use of chainsaws and generators not permitted. ² Orienteering events with over 50 participants will be encouraged in Zone 1 only
Key:

Y Yes—subject to overlay prescriptions and conditions prescribed by legislation, licensed tour permits or elsewhere in the plan as indicated
N Not permitted

Zones and Overlays:

Zone 1 Conservation and Recreation
Zone 2 Conservation
Zone 3 Reference Area

LUD 1 Land Use Designation – Prospecting
LUD 2 Land Use Designation – Declared Water Supply Catchment
SPA Special Protection Area – Cultural Values
SMA Special Management Area – Public Safety

4 STRATEGIES FOR NATURAL VALUES CONSERVATION

4.1 Landscape

The park lies at the interface of the Riverine plain and the granitic outliers of the Great Divide in north-eastern Victoria. It contains two distinct sections, Chiltern and Pilot Range, both characterised by very different landscapes. The Chiltern section consists of relatively low-lying sedimentary hills which are visible from the Hume Freeway at Chiltern. Further south the distinctive ridgeline of the Pilot Range provides many impressive views of the surrounding countryside. The granite peaks and dissected valleys of the range include the Woolshed Valley along Reedy Creek and the spectacular Woolshed Falls (ECC 2001).

Lookouts are located at Donchi Hill, Mt Pilot and Woolshed Falls.

The historic cultural landscape of the park is the result of gold mining during the 19th century, which changed the land in many places, particularly the Chiltern section. Mullock heaps, diggings and other relics are scattered throughout the park and are an important part of the park's heritage. Small clearings associated with early European and Chinese settlements are also an important historical component of the landscape (section 5.2).

Much of the park is coppice regrowth forest from previous land use and clearing. Regrowth from the 2003 Eldorado fire (section 4.6) has changed the Pilot Range landscape considerably. This fire exposed the granite boulders and opened up the forest floor to enable the establishment of thick green regrowth. 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 that developments do not have adverse impacts on the visual integrity of the area.

The gravel quarry at Skeleton Hill in the Chiltern section is visible from various locations and has a major impact on landscape values. Other developments surrounding the park could compromise the landscape values and views (section 7.4). Land adjacent to the park is currently zoned Rural or Rural Living under the Shire of Indigo and Rural City of Wangaratta planning schemes. These zones allow subdivision

to minimum lot sizes of 40 ha and 8 ha respectively. Changes to the zoning to allow smaller subdivisions could affect the landscape values and views from the park.

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

Aims

- Protect the natural and cultural landscape, particularly places of high scenic beauty and cultural value.
- Where appropriate, rehabilitate, remove or ameliorate undesirable visual intrusions.

Management strategies

- *Identify and protect important natural and cultural landscape features, particularly those that can be seen from viewing sites, the towns of Beechworth and Chiltern and major travel routes.*
- *Liaise with the Indigo Shire and Rural City of Wangaratta in relation to the management of Significant Landscape Overlays and planning applications for developments that may affect landscape values.*
- *Monitor the development of industry in the landscape, and where possible encourage building features that will minimise the impact on the visual values of the park.*
- *Liaise with planning authorities to minimise impacts on views from the park (sections 7.4 and 8.3).*
- *Liaise with neighbours to promote minimal impact on the park's landscape values when considering development adjacent to park.*
- *Encourage the Indigo Shire, Rural City of Wangaratta and park neighbours to ensure that developments on park boundaries blend with the park and are set away from the boundary, to provide a firebreak and minimise tree risk to park neighbours and their assets (section 7.4).*
- *Monitor and provide input to activities of external agencies and other bodies that could affect landscape values (section 8.3).*

- *Consider and respect the significance of the landscape to Traditional Owners in planning and implementing management activities (sections 5.1, 6.1 and 8.2).*
- *Manage fire protection works and track construction to minimise their impact on landscapes in the park (section 4.6).*
- *Minimise the impact of signs, visitor facilities and other park development and management activities on the natural and cultural landscape of the park.*

4.2 Geological features

The primary geological feature of the park is the Pilot Range, developed on granite of the Mt Pilot batholith (O’Shea 1981) which runs mostly west–east, rising from 190 m near Eldorado to 544 m at the summit of Mt Pilot. Other prominent peaks are Mt Barambogie (480 m) and Skeleton Hill (350 m) in the Chiltern section. Woolshed Falls are another feature of the range, flowing most of the year but becoming more spectacular after rain. The park also includes distinctive granite tors and gemstone sites along Reedy Creek.

Small gorges with boulders and rock shelves producing rapids and falls are present in Clear and Reedy Creeks.

The second major geological formation in the park is the Ordovician Sedimentary formation of the Chiltern section. During the Ordovician period (about 545 to 490 million years ago), much of what is now Victoria was part of a deep marine basin, so nearly all the Ordovician rocks in Victoria are of deep-water sedimentary origin (sandstones, mudstones and shales). The Devonian granite intrusion of the Pilot Range was created approximately 405 to 360 million years ago (DSE 2006a). More recent Quaternary deposits surrounding the park were formed mostly in the Pleistocene epoch (about 1.8 million to 11 000 years ago).

Ordovician sediments of the Chiltern section have produced soils of low fertility and limited water-holding capacity. The Pilot Range granitic soils are highly leached and highly erodible.

The park has a long history of alluvial and quartz reef mining, resulting in extensive soil disturbance in places (section 5.2). Gravel has been quarried at Skeleton Hill since the 1970s (section 7.2). Numerous varieties of precious and semi-precious

gemstones have been found in the alluvium of the Reedy Creek system. They include quartz (as agate, amethyst, carnelian, jasper and smoky quartz), diamond, anatase, garnet, spinel, zircon, topaz, tourmaline and corundum (Dunn 1913).

The highly erodible duplex soils derived from the granite of the plateau are part of an ongoing geological process. Inappropriate recreation and management activities have the potential to increase these processes by increasing erosion, particularly on the steep slopes and susceptible duplex soils.

According to Indigenous tradition, geomorphological features of the landscape have significance for the Traditional Owners.

Aims

- Protect and encourage study of significant geological and geomorphological sites.
- Prevent and control soil erosion caused by visitor impacts and management activities.

Management strategies

- *Provide general interpretive material about the park’s geological and landform features to enhance their protection and visitor appreciation. Include sites outside the park that provide insights into the geology of the park (section 6.1).*
- *Consider and respect the significance of landforms to Indigenous communities in planning and implementing management activities (sections 4.1, 5.1 and 6.1).*
- *Encourage research to identify landforms of special significance to Indigenous communities and protect them from damaging or inappropriate activities (sections 5.1 and 8.2).*
- *Monitor the impact of visitors on sensitive geological features, in particular the slopes of the escarpment and especially those close to high-use areas, and implement appropriate management actions as required.*
- *Monitor the condition of facilities, roads and vehicle tracks to ensure that management practices and maintenance prevent erosion.*
- *Manage the impacts of fire suppression and rehabilitation on geological processes, in particular soil erosion.*

4.3 Rivers and catchments

Most of the park is in the Ovens River catchment, but a small portion is in the Upper Murray River catchment. Both catchments are part of the Murray–Darling Basin.

The park lies within the North East Catchment Management Authority’s (NECMA) area of responsibility. The NECMA area covers approximately 1.9 million hectares, including three major catchments (the Upper Murray, Kiewa and Ovens), and is bounded to the north by the Murray River (NECMA 2004). Over 55% of the catchment is reserved as public land, and includes part of the Alpine National Park, Mt Buffalo National Park and Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park.

Water and catchments

Reedy Creek flows through the park, from its beginnings near Wooragee to Eldorado, where it leaves the park and flows onto the Ovens River.

Spring Creek, which originates south of Beechworth, flows through the adjacent Beechworth Historic Park then converges with Reedy Creek and cascades over the granite slabs at Woolshed Falls. The course of Spring Creek and other creeks have been altered through mining and diversions created to aid in sluicing activities in the late 19th century (section 5.2).

Prospecting along Reedy Creek could affect water quality through the discharge of previously sluiced material (section 6.9). North East Water manages a sewage pipe that runs through the adjacent Beechworth Historic Park along Spring Creek to treatment ponds, also adjacent to the park. This infrastructure could affect water quality and riparian vegetation in the event of a pipe rupture or pond overflow into Spring Creek and downstream to Reedy Creek (section 8.3).

The park forms part of the catchment for other watercourses, including Black Dog, Clear, Deep, Hodgsons, Snake Head and Stockyard Creeks. Many unnamed ephemeral creeks also appear in the park during the wetter months or after heavy rain.

Black Dog Creek has been identified as an important remnant corridor for the protection and conservation of natural values, and provides a link between the Pilot Range and Chiltern sections (section 7.4).

The park includes two declared water supply catchments (section 3.2 and figure 2), which are declared under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (Vic). The Barambogie Water Supply Catchment forms the catchment of Barambogie and Diddah Diddah Creeks, which supply water for the towns of Chiltern and Springhurst. The Ovens River Water Supply Catchment extends over most of the Ovens Valley and a small portion of the park in the south-western corner of the Pilot Range section. This catchment provides domestic water for Wangaratta.

Wetlands

The Chiltern section and other parts of the park contain several regionally significant wetlands (DSE 2004a), which provide important habitat and nesting areas for colonial waterbirds and frogs. Goulburn–Murray Water manages water extraction from the park including from Chiltern Valley Nos 1 & 2 Dams (section 7.1). Water may also be extracted for fire fighting.

Inappropriate recreation during nesting periods and unregulated water extraction will diminish the wetlands’ values.

Aim

- Protect, maintain and improve the waterway, catchment and wetland values of the park.

Management strategies

- *Maintain the heritage values of significant streams and creeks in the park, including diversions, races and tailraces (section 5.2).*
- *Promote the management of creeklines and wetlands in the park and on adjacent land as wildlife corridors, and support the DSE–NECMA Biolink Project (section 7.4).*
- *Plan and implement all on-ground works in the park so that potential impacts on the ecological values of streams and wetlands are minimised, particularly within the declared water supply catchment areas, in accordance with the Catchment and Land Protection Act and Water Act.*
- *Establish protocols with North East Water, Goulburn–Murray Water and the Environment Protection Agency in relation to*

monitoring water quality, in particular the sewage outlet pipe.

- *Ensure appropriate erosion control measures are undertaken during management and other activities.*
- *Manage prospecting to minimise impacts on water quality in particular Reedy Creek (section 6.9).*
- *Develop a memorandum of cooperation with Goulburn–Murray Water (section 7.1) in relation to water extraction licences along Reedy Creek and wetland areas to minimise impacts on the creek and wetland. Consider:*
 - *monitoring of water levels and environmental condition*
 - *extraction locations, overall extractions and seasonal restrictions*
 - *allocations for the park.*
- *Ensure that fire management activities do not adversely affect the ecological condition of wetlands, streams and stream catchments in the park (section 4.6).*
- *Coordinate pest plant and animal control efforts with neighbouring land managers, including the North East Catchment Management Authority (section 4.7).*
- *Monitor the impact of recreation on natural and cultural values, and restrict access to streams and wetlands during breeding, nesting and other periods as appropriate.*

4.4 Vegetation

Ecological vegetation classes

Supporting over 600 native flora species and contributing to a diverse range of ecological vegetation classes (EVCs), the park is home to the most intact Box–Ironbark fauna assemblage in Victoria (ECC 2001). The park protects 18 EVCs, which are almost entirely within the Northern Inland Slopes bioregion (NIS). EVCs of particular significance in the NIS bioregion are Valley Grassy Forest (endangered), Box–Ironbark Forest (vulnerable), Grassy Woodland (endangered) and Grassy Dry Forest (depleted) (ECC 2001). Small parts of the Chiltern section are within the Victorian Riverine bioregion, which includes Gilgai Plain Woodland/Wetland Mosaic

(endangered) and Plains Grassy Woodland (endangered) EVCs.

Other EVCs of importance are the areas associated with moister conditions: Riparian Shrubland (NIS), Valley Grassy Forest, Spring-soak Woodland (NIS), and Swampy Riparian Woodland (NIS). The latter two are particularly important for the endemic and nationally threatened Warby Range Swamp Gum. EVCs present but not currently mapped in the park include Spring-soak Woodland (NIS), Herb-rich Woodland (NIS), Granitic Hills/Herb-rich Woodland (NIS) and Shrubby Granitic-outwash Grassy Woodland (NIS).

The Chiltern section includes one of the State's most important areas of Box–Ironbark Forest, which is largely depleted in Victoria due to extensive land clearing, timber harvesting and gold mining. Clearing and associated soil disturbance have resulted in even-aged regrowth forests with low soil fertility. The Box–Ironbark Forest in the park is distinguishable from all other Box–Ironbark Forests because of the presence of Mugga Ironbark and a denser cover of grasses (Parks Victoria 1998). Other regionally significant species and communities in the Chiltern section include White Cypress-pine woodland, mature stringybark forest, and small communities of grass-trees.

The park also contains some wetland areas on the outskirts of the Chiltern section. These areas are important breeding grounds for birds and frogs and are characterised by Red Gum, Yellow Box, Lightwood and Water Primrose, the seeds of which are an important food source for some bird species (E. Collins pers. comm.).

A condition assessment of the EVCs in the park conducted in 2004 found relatively few large trees in all EVCs (compared to the same EVC in other areas), and sometimes none. Logs are common in most EVCs except Box–Ironbark Forest. Tree canopy is in a fair to good condition, particularly in Box–Ironbark Forest and Shrubby Woodland.

To meet Government objectives following the ECC recommendations, an ecological management strategy was proposed to achieve a parks and reserves system that more closely resembles the pre-European forest and to address broader biodiversity elements including pest plants, pest animals, land degradation and fire. Ecological thinning of Box-Ironbark forests and

woodlands was recommended as the major component of this ecological management strategy.

A landscape-scale experiment to examine changes in forest structure, flora and fauna in response to ecological thinning is the major focus of a research program to support the ecological management strategy. The experiment has been established at Castlemaine Diggings NHP, Pilchards Bridge NCR, Paddys Ranges SP and Spring Plains NCR. Monitoring of forest structure, understorey flora, selected invertebrate groups, arboreal mammals and birds is being undertaken as part of the experiment. The broader application of ecological thinning in other parks will be investigated at the conclusion of the trial in approximately seven to ten years.

DPI's Biolink Project works with private landholders in the area between the park sections to improve both farm productivity and wildlife habitat by enhancing and protecting native vegetation (section 7.4).

Flora

The park's colourful floral species are best viewed during spring, when a variety of orchids, lilies, wattles and bush-peas, including many threatened species, are flowering.

The Traditional Owners recognise vegetation as an intrinsic element of *Country*, and have sophisticated knowledge of vegetation values and uses. Roots of a variety of plants, including *myrnong* (Yam Daisy), native lilies, and orchids, provide staple vegetables, eaten raw or cooked in earth ovens. Swamps and local streams provided useful plants such as bullrushes, water ribbons, sedges and reeds for materials such as string and spears. Orchids were also valued for their tubers (Hall 1994).

On Mt Pilot, *yeddonba* (Black Cypress-pine) provided an excellent strong timber and its resin was used as an adhesive. Wattle had many uses: the bark was used as a medicine, gum was eaten, and the wood was used to make many implements (Hall 1994). The Currawang, now found only in the park and one other location in the area, provided the best wood for spears.

Forty-two threatened species, including six that are nationally threatened and 10 that are listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic.) (FFG), occur within the park (appendix 3).

Of the 10 FFG-listed species, action statements have been prepared for the Crimson Spider Orchid, Mt Pilot Spider Orchid, Narrow Goodenia, Warby Range Swamp Gum and Yellow Hyacinth Orchid. Recovery plans for the Crimson Spider Orchid and Mt Pilot Spider Orchid, and a draft recovery plan for Sturdy Leek Orchid have been developed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act (EPBC Act). The park is the most important site in Victoria for Deane's Wattle, Mountain Swainson-pea and Warby Swamp Gum, and the most important site for the Yellow-Hyacinth Orchid in the ECC's Box-Ironbark Study Area (ECC 2001). Spur-wing Wattles in the park were planted during the 1960s, and were sourced from the only natural occurring population in Victoria in the Warby Range State Park in case of local extinction.

Past clearing throughout the park has reduced the number of large old trees, which provide important habitat for many fauna species (section 4.5). The impact of future climate change on the vegetation of the park is unclear and potentially severe.

The park also protects several species that are endemic to the area — the Beechworth Silver Stringybark, Warby Range Swamp Gum, Mt Pilot Spider Orchid and Small Quillwort. The Small Quillwort is possibly further threatened by recreational activities associated with the granite outcrops of the Mt Pilot summit. This nationally threatened species grows only around shallow rock pools on the summit. Lack of awareness of this species among park visitors is threatening its existence, as the rock wells are often trampled, especially when full with water (section 6.10). Cooperative management of this site will help to protect these and other sensitive species.

The park protects the largest reserved population of Black Cypress-pine in Victoria (Watson 2004). The Eldorado fire of 2003 severely affected this species and its recovery is being monitored. Areas in the Pilot Range section that were unburnt are important to protect as they contain some of the only unburnt Black Cypress-pine communities.

Fire recovery

The 2003 Eldorado fire burnt 33% of the park (section 4.6). The fire predominantly affected the vegetation of the granitic region, including Granitic Hills Woodland (dominated Blakely's

Red Gum and Black Cypress-pine), Red Stringybark, Heathy Dry and Grassy Dry Forests (dominated by Red Box) and the Grassy Woodlands of the outwash slopes and nearby metamorphic hills (DSE 2005c). A study of the fate of 19 priority (threatened) flora species known to occur in the park prior to the fire found that most are recovering well, although their progress has been hampered by pre-fire drought conditions (DSE 2005c). The study report also outlined the future management requirements of these species. The main threats identified include competition from weeds (section 4.7), inappropriate fire regimes (section 4.6) and visitor pressure (section 6.3) (Parks Victoria 2005b).

The post-fire response of Warby Swamp Gum was previously unknown. Monitoring of this species will provide valuable information on the management requirements of this nationally threatened species.

The post-fire response of the largest population of Black Cypress-pine associated with the park's granitic hills has also been studied in collaboration with Charles Sturt University and DSE, including a study of the pre and post-fire presence of Black Cypress-pine in Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park (Watson 2004). Because this species regenerates by seed, a large fire within the next 30 years might not allow time for juvenile pines to establish, mature and accumulate sufficient seed supplies to ensure population recruitment before another fire (Gill & Bradstock 1995; Watson 2004). This study has established a firm basis from which to continue to study Black Cypress-pine fire ecology.

The regenerating pine seedlings are currently in competition with eucalypts which are able to coppice and resprout, thereby enhancing their survival. Further monitoring will determine whether the Black Cypress-pine will return to its pre-fire abundance (DSE 2005c). The study has also established a baseline dataset for future studies into the effect of herbivore grazing, identified as the biggest threat to the park's natural values (Parks Victoria 2005b). Orchids and the Valley Grassy Forest EVC were also identified most at risk from threatening processes.

Aims

- Protect indigenous flora and vegetation communities, particularly threatened species and threatened EVCs.

- Increase knowledge of threatened and little-known flora species and vegetation communities.
- Improve knowledge of significant flora and threatening processes to improve management.

Management strategies

- *Implement priority actions from approved action statements or recovery plans to address threats to species or communities listed under the FFG and EPBC Acts.*
- *Maintain the structural complexity and floristic diversity of areas with a high conservation value, and restore those with a medium conservation value, to achieve a natural age-class distribution in the long-term, with an emphasis on protection of large or old hollow-bearing trees.*
- *In the long-term, restore vegetation structure and species diversity in areas affected by fire in 2003.*
- *Review EVC mapping within the park to identify the extent of Spring-soak Woodland, Herb-rich Woodland, Granitic Hills/Herb-rich Woodland, and Shrubby Granitic-outwash Grassy Woodland*
- *Work cooperatively with neighbouring landholders and with relevant government and non-government organisations to coordinate vegetation management in particular the Chiltern – Mt Pilot Biolink Project (sections 7.4 and 8.3)*
- *Conduct further condition assessments to identify priority areas for protection.*
- *Manage visitor activities to minimise impacts on flora and vegetation communities, particularly prospecting, orienteering and rock climbing (chapter 6).*
- *Provide appropriate interpretation on the significance of species threatened by visitor pressure at the Mt Pilot summit and rock wells (section 6.1).*
- *Manage authorised uses to minimise impacts on flora and vegetation communities, particularly applications for mineral exploration (chapter 7).*

- *Manage priority flora species in accordance with the recommendations in the Eldorado Bushfire Recovery: Post-fire Assessment of Priority Flora (DSE 2005c).*
- *Monitor the post-fire response of Black Cypress-pine and Warby Range Swamp Gum. Where possible, prevent fire in Black Cypress-pine areas affected by the 2003 fires.*
- *Protect wetland and riparian areas, particularly sensitive vegetation in and around the water's edge.*
- *Where appropriate, encourage research to identify Indigenous knowledge relating to vegetation/flora (section 5.1).*
- *Reflect Indigenous knowledge of vegetation in management practices as appropriate.*
- *Respect the cultural obligations of Traditional Owners in relation to plants and their significance in all management and visitor activities (section 5.1).*
- *Manage fire and the use of fire for management appropriately to reduce the risk to significant flora, by protecting large old trees and other significant sites where possible (section 4.6).*
- *Allow significant cultural landscapes to evolve naturally except where the significant historic fabric of a site is threatened.*

4.5 Fauna

Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park supports the highest number (276) of mammal, bird, and reptile species recorded at any box–ironbark site (ECC 2001). It is the most important site in Victoria for the conservation of the threatened Squirrel Glider, Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, Painted Honeyeater, Barking Owl and Turquoise Parrot and is the most important site within the ECC's Box–Ironbark Study Area for the Square-tailed Kite and Bandy Bandy (ECC 2001). Other significant species include the Spot-tailed Quoll, Brown Toadlet and Woodland Blind Snake (Parks Victoria & DSE 2003a). The park is also important as a reliable nesting site for the regionally significant White-throated Nightjar.

Overall the park contains 43 threatened fauna species, of which 21 are listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (FFG) and 10 have had Action Statements prepared (appendix 4). A

recovery plan for the Swift Parrot has been adopted by the Government, and a recovery plan is being prepared for the nationally threatened Regent Honeyeater (DEH 2006).

The population of Barking Owls in the park was one of the two densest in south-eastern Australia, but the recent drought and fire have impacted considerably on the Mt Pilot Range population. A study by Schedvin (2005) revealed a 57% reduction in breeding pairs in the Pilot Range. Nine months after the fire, only five Barking Owls were still present in their burnt ranges, and none had bred.

The highly territorial behaviour of the owls means that breeding pairs are unlikely to relocate to unburnt areas, despite severe damage to their territory that includes destruction of nest trees, loss of prey and loss of roost sites. Functional isolation due to a fragmented landscape has also been suggested as one of the reasons for an observed decline of Barking Owls in South East Australia (Schedvin 2005). Barking Owls rely on large old trees, a habitat requirement shared by many threatened species within the box–ironbark area. Past clearing practices and recent fires have reduced the number of trees suitable for the owls and other hollow-dependent species, including the threatened Brush-tailed Phascogale, Powerful Owl, Squirrel Glider and Turquoise Parrot and other hollow-dependent birds such as cockatoos, parrots, kingfishers and treecreepers (ECC 1997).

A report reviewing the presence of large old trees and potential remaining sources of habitat in Victoria identified the woodland along Reedy Creek as an important refuge (ECC 1999). The loss of hollow-bearing trees is listed as a threatening process under the FFG Act.

Swift Parrots and Regent Honeyeaters often visit the park over winter and spring to coincide with Mugga Ironbark and White Box flowering. The Chiltern section is one of the most important sites for monitoring of these species. Regent Honeyeater numbers have been down in recent years. Special Protection Areas were developed in the 1998 management plan for Chiltern Box–Ironbark National Park (Parks Victoria 1998), following recommendations in the Regent Honeyeater Action Statement for the protection of nesting areas. The Chiltern section of the park has been zoned as 'Conservation Zone' in recognition of the Regent Honeyeater and other threatened species use of the area (table 1 and figure 2).

Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park is one of 40 priority sites chosen for Brush-tailed Phascogale recovery (Alexander pers. comm.). Annual surveys are conducted each year to monitor the recovery of the species, in conjunction with pest management control (section 4.7). Post-fire surveys have reported low numbers of Brush-tailed Phascogales. Other significant species in the area include the Yellow-footed Antechinus, Spot-tailed Quoll and Tree Goanna. Important areas for Barking Owl and Brush-tailed Phascogale are protected in the Conservation Zone of the park (figure 2).

Other native mammals in the park include Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Swamp Wallabies and Koalas. There is concern that high populations of these mammals supported by browsing and watering on neighbouring farm land are impacting on the park's natural values. Soil disturbance in the park caused by kangaroo camping has been observed (E. Collins pers. comm.). This has the potential to impact on woodland birds as it inhibits recruitment of shrub and tree species.

Predation of small mammals and birds by foxes and cats has been identified as a significant threatening process (Parks Victoria 2005b). The former Chiltern Box–Ironbark National Park and Mt Pilot Multi-Purpose Park were priorities for fox control (section 4.7) because of the assemblage of threatened fauna susceptible to predation by foxes (Robley & Choquenot 2002). The European Honey Bee is also considered to affect Regent Honeyeaters and Swift Parrots through increased competition for food and habitat. Modification of habitat was identified as an impact from European Rabbits.

In the Pilot Range section of the park, some Peregrine Falcon nesting sites are located in areas used by rock climbers. Local climbers avoid using the known nesting sites during breeding periods (section 6.10)

Climate change may impact habitat structure. Links to large vegetation units outside the park will be important in fauna dispersal and re-colonisation. The Chiltern – Mt Pilot Biolink Project involves land managers in improving habitat for native wildlife by protecting and enhancing native vegetation. This project focuses on adjoining private land between parts of the park and encourages corridors that allow movement of species between larger patches of bush (section 7.4).

Aims

- Protect indigenous fauna, particularly threatened species.
- Improve knowledge of significant fauna and threatening processes to improve management, protection and appreciation.
- Maximise the presence of large, mature hollow-bearing trees.

Management strategies

- *Implement priority actions from approved action statements or recovery plans to address threats to species or communities listed under the FFG Act or Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC).*
- *Manage visitor activities to minimise impacts on fauna; in particular, protect hollow-bearing trees and Peregrine Falcon nesting sites near rock climbing sites (section 6.10).*
- *Monitor the Barking Owl population and habitat, particularly during prescribed burning and wildfire suppression.*
- *Where possible, maximise the protection and development of large hollow-bearing trees in particular protecting them during prescribed burning and wildfire where possible (section 4.6).*
- *Protect Barking Owl, Brush-tailed Phascogale, Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater habitat.*
- *Support bi-annual surveys and monitoring of Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot.*
- *Liaise with DSE and manage visitor and management activities to minimise impact on Regent Honeyeaters during breeding periods.*
- *Work cooperatively with neighbouring landholders and with relevant government and non-government organisations to coordinate the management of threatened fauna habitat within and outside the park, in particular the Chiltern – Mt Pilot Biolink Project (sections 7.4 and 8.3).*
- *Work with the DSE, the Rural City of Wangaratta and Indigo Shire to promote responsible pet ownership (sections 7.4 and 8.3).*

- *Regularly assess kangaroo and wallaby numbers and impacts on park values, and address problems should they become unacceptable, in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policy.*
- *Continue to implement the fox control program to enhance protection for park fauna, with a focus on arboreal mammals (section 4.7).*
- *Where appropriate, encourage research to identify Indigenous knowledge relating to fauna (section 5.1).*
- *Reflect Indigenous knowledge of fauna in management practices as appropriate.*
- *Respect the cultural obligations of the Traditional Owners in relation to fauna and their significance in all management and visitor activities (section 5.1).*

4.6 Fire management

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

The North East Region Fire Protection Plan indicates four zones which apply to the park:

- **Zone 2 – Strategic fuel reduction corridor:** from Eldorado to Mt Pilot Reference area along the ridgeline of the Pilot Range, and an area north of Chiltern.
- **Zone 3 – Broad area fuel reduction mosaic:** most of the Pilot Range section excluding the Reference Area and ridgeline.
- **Zone 4 – Flora and fauna management:** most of the Chiltern section and around the Mt Pilot summit.
- **Zone 5 – Exclusion of prescribed burning:** Includes the White Box and Pilot Reference

Areas and Barambogie and Ovens River Water Supply Area.

Fire in the Australian environment has played a considerable role in structuring remnant vegetation communities. Naturally occurring fires caused by lightning and other sources created a fire-adapted ecosystem long before the arrival of humans (Kemp 1981; Singh et al. 1981). Fires started by Aboriginal people are also thought to have been an influence (DSE 2003b). The fire history of the park prior to settlement, particularly the use of fire by Aboriginal people, is unknown. However, historical accounts by early explorers and settlers in northern Victoria indicate that Aboriginal people used fire to promote the fresh growth of grass, drive game, protect camp areas and attract grazing fauna (ECC 1997).

Major fires burnt through the Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park in 1899, 1912, 1927, 1940 and 2003 (Watson 2004). Fire frequency appears to have increased with the coming of Europeans and mining activity.

The most recent significant fire occurred in 2003, when the Eldorado fire started in the park 9 km north-west of Beechworth and burnt intensely over the first few days, burning in total 33% (7156 ha) of the park (Parks Victoria & DSE 2003a). The fire of 1899 covered a vast area and may have been similar in behaviour to the 2003 fire, which burnt intensely along the ridges (Watson 2004). The 2003 fire predominantly affected the vegetation of the granitic region (section 4.4).

A priority flora survey of the park found that the fire had both positive and negative effects on flora. Some species appear to have benefited by heat-triggered germination of seed or vigorous epicormic growth, while other isolated populations have not been reported since the fires, and habitat trees have been lost. Vital attribute life history data collected for all priority flora species will help in understanding the ecological requirements of these species (section 4.4).

The Draft Ecological Burn Strategy for Chiltern Box–Ironbark National Park (Lindorff 2001) will be revised to incorporate the Pilot Range. Ecological burn strategies aim to identify and prioritise areas within a land management unit where fire needs to be either introduced or excluded in order to achieve desired ecological outcomes. This approach compares the idealised

age-class distributions with known age-class distributions, derived from fire history data, for major vegetation types in the landscape.

Once updated, the ecological burn strategy will become an internal working document that guides land managers in the selection of appropriate burn units for both ecological and fuel reduction purposes. Selected burn units are then nominated for listing on a fire operations plan, which is prepared by DSE and open for public comment. The strategy will be reviewed once all nominated burns have been implemented or after a significant wildfire event. Burn plans developed using the strategy will include an assessment of natural values, in particular protection of hollow bearing trees and impacts on the recovery on Black Cypress-pine and Warby Range Swamp Gum (sections 4.4 and 4.5).

Vehicle and water point access for fire-fighting is maintained in the park (table 4 and section 4.3). DSE fire-fighting resources are maintained at Beechworth, Wangaratta and Wodonga, and there is a fire tower on Mt Pilot summit.

In general, wildfire may not be a negative impact for flora species and communities of this area, and given the age structure of the forest is likely to be positive for many. However, the impact of wildfire is of concern throughout the area where there are existing weed problems (such as St John's Wort), in areas where the fire was extremely hot (west of Chiltern–Beechworth Road, and an area of the main front through Mt Pilot itself) and where browsing of post-fire regeneration occurs and subsequent disturbance may happen, such as along roadsides and creeks (Parks Victoria & DSE 2003a).

Following the 2003 fires many Aboriginal places were uncovered because of greater accessibility and surface visibility. The walkway and platform at the Yeddonba rock art site were rebuilt following their destruction in the 2003 fires (section 5.1).

Aims

- Protect park values from the deleterious effects of wildfire or inappropriate fire regimes and build on knowledge of fire and its effects on park values.
- Cooperate with relevant agencies and land managers in the protection of human life, neighbouring properties and assets.

- Identify and implement fire regimes appropriate to the conservation of native species and communities.

Management strategies

- *Implement fire protection works in accordance with the North East Region Fire Protection Plan and the Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land.*
- *In partnership with the DSE, work towards the use of prescribed fire to reduce fuel loads, protect life and property, and meet ecological and cultural requirements, by reviewing and where necessary updating fire management plans.*
- *Ensure the application of guidelines from the Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land in suppressing wildfire in the park, in particular ensure the protection of known cultural and environmental values.*
- *Ensure that the park's natural and cultural values, and Aboriginal cultural heritage, are taken into account in planning and implementing fire protection and management operations (sections 4.4, 4.5, 5.1 and 5.2).*
- *Implement the Draft Ecological Burn Strategy for Chiltern–Box Ironbark National Park and amend it to incorporate the Pilot Range section according to the Guidelines and Procedures for Ecological Burning on Public Land in Victoria (DSE 2004b).*
- *Continue to monitor recovery of priority flora, particularly the Black Cypress-pine and Warby Range Swamp Gum, and incorporate burning requirements into the ecological burns strategy for the park (section 4.4).*
- *Continue to monitor recovery of priority fauna, particularly the Brush-tailed Phascogale and Barking Owl, and protect large trees used for nest sites during prescribed burning (section 4.5).*
- *Where appropriate, encourage research into Indigenous knowledge relating to fire, including its use and management, in cooperation with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party. Reflect Indigenous knowledge in education and management programs as appropriate.*

4.7 Pest plants and animals and diseases

Pest plants

Blackberry, Bridal Creeper, Furze (Gorse), Prickly Pear, Paterson's Curse and St John's Wort are some of the more problematic weeds within the park. Wild European Olives are also looming as an aggressive and readily spread environmental weed in roadsides and other remnants (DSE 2004a) (section 7.4). A risk assessment identified weeds as a hazard with a major impact on native flora and fauna (Parks Victoria 2005b). The impacts include limiting native species' growth, decreasing recruitment of native species, and an overall effect on structure due to a loss of native understorey, in turn decreasing suitable habitat and food sources for native fauna.

The highly invasive weed, Chilean Needle Grass is present on some roadsides outside the park, particularly in the northern part of the Chiltern section. This weed can be transported by contaminated vehicles and machinery. Hygiene measures need to be in place to ensure that the park remains clear of this weed.

EVCs most affected by weed invasion, particularly after the fires, include Riparian Shrubland, Valley Grassy Forest, Grassy Dry Forest, Grassy Woodland and Spring-soak Herbland/Woodland Mosaic (Parks Victoria & DSE 2003a). Being surrounded by agricultural land, invasive grasses such as Quaking Grass are common and pose a threat because they compete with native species.

Pest animals

Foxes and rabbits are the priority pest animal concerns for the park. Deer and goats that have escaped from neighbouring paddocks are currently in low numbers, but could become an issue if populations increase. Sheep may also enter the park from adjacent properties through damaged fences.

Foxes are a statewide problem because of their predatory nature, preying on native ground-dwelling species including antechinuses, Brush-tailed Phascogales and birds. Because of the presence of a number of threatened species susceptible to predation by foxes, the park is identified as a priority for continuing control programs (Robley & Choquenot 2002). Foxes are

also likely to compete for resources with the threatened Spot-tailed Quoll. Parks Victoria has been managing a fox control program in the Chiltern section since 1996 and in the Pilot Range section since 2002, in conjunction with Brush-tailed Phascogale monitoring in the park.

European Rabbits were identified as a hazard because of their herbivorous nature and associated impacts, including soil disturbance, weed spread, loss of native species and changes in floristic structure (Parks Victoria 2005b). Feral and domestic dogs and cats are also hazards because they prey on native fauna (section 7.4).

Diseases

No plant or animal diseases have been identified as a serious threat to park values.

Aims

- Control and where possible eradicate pest plant and animal species from the park.
- Minimise the impact of control programs on native flora and fauna.
- Restore native vegetation in areas where non-indigenous plants have been removed.

Management strategies

- *Protect threatened species such as the Brush-tailed Phascogale and Spot-tailed Quoll by continuing the fox control program in conjunction with monitoring of threatened species using monitoring protocols.*
- *Develop a pest plant and animal management strategy for the park, including reference to target areas of concern for priority flora.*
- *Control, or where possible eradicate, pest plant species in accordance with the following priorities:*
 - *eradicate vigorous new or emerging weeds before they become established*
 - *control priority weeds listed under the Catchment and Land Protection Act and regional priority weeds listed by NECMA*
 - *protect weed-free areas of the park from infestation of weeds, in particular the Chiltern section.*
- *Work in conjunction with Indigo Shire to ensure that hygiene measures are*

implemented to reduce the risk of Chilean Needle Grass spreading into the park, in particular in areas near Chiltern–Howlong, Curtain and Mt Pleasant Roads.

- *Liaise with the Department of Primary Industries, Indigo Shire, Rural City of Wangaratta and NECMA to coordinate pest plant and animal control programs across the catchment on adjoining land.*
- *Use control methods that minimise disturbance to natural systems. Avoid or carefully control soil disturbance and the use*

of chemicals, especially where this could impact on the natural or cultural values such as Aboriginal places and objects.

- *Ensure that all significant pest plant and animal control activities in the park are incorporated into Parks Victoria’s Environmental Information System.*
- *Work with relevant Registered Aboriginal Party to ensure that Aboriginal places and sites are not adversely affected by management activities such as rabbit control programs.*

5 STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL VALUES CONSERVATION

5.1 Indigenous cultural heritage

Indigenous tradition indicates that Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park lies within the *Country* of Dhudhuroa-Waywurru and the Pangerang¹ people. Other Aboriginal communities that value the park include Bangerang Cultural Centre Cooperative and Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation.

Prior to European settlement, Aboriginal people probably occupied to a greater or lesser degree all parts of the Victorian landscape. The arrival of European settlement impacted significantly on Aboriginal communities through disease, massacres, dispossession and forced removal of people to missions and reserves and separation from families (ECC 2001).

In the late 1830s and 1840s, as squatters began to occupy the land, relationships between new settlers and Aboriginals ranged from paternalistic tolerance to outright violence (Costello et al. 2004).

Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) records document 38 sites within the park (AAV 2005), including scarred trees, artefact scatters, art sites, grinding grooves, rock wells, and sites with several features. Most of these sites are in the Pilot Range section. There has been limited surveying in the Chiltern section, and sites are likely to have been disturbed or destroyed during mining activities.

A survey conducted in the Pilot Range in 1992 revealed that the Aboriginal occupants lived mostly on the flatter country in the valleys, close to rivers, creeks and billabongs where resources and food were plentiful (section 4.4). Ridgelines were used as highways for travel, especially to the higher mountains in summer to hunt for Bogong Moths.

The North East Rock Art Committee, consisting of members from Parks Victoria, DSE, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and relevant Indigenous communities and groups, was established in the 1990s to manage the rock art sites within the area,

¹ This management plan adopts the spellings used by the local Aboriginal communities. There are a number of alternative spellings and pronunciation including: Waywurru, Waveroo, Pangerang, Bangerang.

including the park. Management plans have been developed for two major rock art sites (Sale & Hall 1996; Gunn & Thorn 2000) in the Pilot Range. The 2003 Eldorado fire destroyed the walkway at Yeddonba but did not affect the art. The walkway has since been rebuilt and the interpretation has been replaced (section 6.1). The Rock Art Committee and relevant groups have expressed interest in remaining involved with the upkeep of this site and will guide its management in conjunction with Parks Victoria. The 2003 fire aided in the discovery of some Aboriginal places because of increased visibility and access through the burnt understorey.

Aboriginal communities are concerned about the increase in tourism in the area, and the associated risk to cultural and environmental values. Reedy Creek in particular contains several cultural sites, such as scarred trees and artefact scatters, which could be affected by camping (section 6.5). Other concerns include environmental weeds and prescribed fire and their impacts on cultural sites and places.

The Yorta Yorta people made application for a native title determination, concluded in 2002, over an area that included part of the western side of the park. The outcome of the determination and subsequent litigation was the extinguishment of native title across all land within the Yorta Yorta claim, including the western part of the park. The *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth) applies to the management of the part of the park not included in the Yorta Yorta native title determination area.

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 or where there is no Registered Aboriginal Party with the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD).

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

Management strategies

- *Protect all Aboriginal places and objects from disturbance and damage, in partnership with the Registered Aboriginal Party and in cooperation with DPCP (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.*
- *Liaise with the North East Rock Art Committee in all aspects of management of rock art sites in the park, and seek to involve the Registered Aboriginal Party and Traditional Owners, other relevant Indigenous communities and groups in the upkeep of these sites.*
- *Assess annual park and volunteer programs to minimise the potential for impacts from activities on Aboriginal cultural heritage, in consultation with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party*
- *Work with relevant Registered Aboriginal Party to assess and identify Aboriginal cultural heritage suitable for promotion and interpretation (sections 6.1 and 8.2).*
- *Prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan for Reedy Creek to ensure protection of places and objects (sections 6.5 and 6.9).*
- *Where appropriate, encourage and support research into Aboriginal cultural heritage in collaboration with the Registered Aboriginal*

Party, relevant Aboriginal communities and in liaison with AAV.

- *Maintain confidentiality in respect of Indigenous cultural obligations, knowledge, places, objects and aspirations, in accordance with the views of the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party (sections 6.1 and 8.2).*

5.2 Post-settlement cultural heritage

The park is rich in history associated with European settlement of the area from the mid 19th century. Mining relics from the gold era have created a cultural landscape displaying the variety of gold mining ventures and techniques undertaken in the area. Some of these relics are the most intact examples in Victoria. The park also contains other intangible heritage values associated with settlement, stock grazing and timber harvesting.

Chiltern section

Following European settlement of the area in the 1840s, a township was laid out and reserved along the Black Dog Creek in 1853. This was named Chiltern after the Chiltern Hills in England. Gold was discovered at Indigo by John Conness in 1858, and the influx of miners shifted the Chiltern settlement from Black Dog Creek to the Chiltern Lead, where the population grew along the Indigo–Beechworth goldfield route.

The remnants of puddling machines in Wallace’s Gully, named after John Alston Wallace, are the greatest concentration of the machines in Victoria (Kaufman 2003) and demonstrate the ingenuity and skills of the miners who took part in the Chiltern–Rutherglen Rush. Although the technology was first developed in Central Victoria, Wallace’s Gully has some of the best-preserved examples, and at least 25 puddlers are known to survive. Most mining in Wallace’s Gully had ceased by 1861 and no records of the area’s production are known, but the importance of the gully in developing mining skills and techniques led to the greater operations of large-scale deep lead mines in the years to come.

Remains of the shafts that were sunk to depths of over 100 feet to remove the ‘wash dirt’ from the deep leads are also visible, although some have been fenced off for public safety. The wash dirt was processed with puddling machines to extract the gold.

The Wallace Lead Gold Puddling Precinct is listed on the Register of the National Estate and Victorian Heritage Register. Deep lead mining continued until the 1920s, when the last mine closed.

The quartz reef Magenta Mine was worked almost uninterrupted from 1858 until the 1920s, although the most productive of the quartz mines was the Golden Bar on Higgins Reef which was worked sporadically from the 1860s, yielding 20 000 ounces by the turn of the century (Bannear 1999a). Remains of the foundations of batteries can be seen in the park around Magenta Mine and Frogs Hollow.

The Indigo Goldfields Cemetery, which was developed out of necessity during the 1858 gold rush, contains the remains of at least 50 and possibly 70 people. However, the ground at the site was considered too hard to dig graves, and burials ceased in 1859 when a new site was surveyed south-west of Chiltern on Two Mile Creek. This second site was found to be too swampy, and burials recommenced at the Indigo Goldfields site in 1861, ending in 1881 when the Chiltern New Cemetery was opened (Ashley 1974).

The remains of the Indigo site are marked by four concrete posts erected by the Chiltern Shire in the 1960s. The area enclosed by the posts is much smaller than the 10 acres originally reserved, but most of the graves are thought to be in the marked area. There are also a number of puddling machines associated with this site. An information board lists the names of those known to be buried in the cemetery. Although the information board also notes that the cemetery contains the remains of some Chinese miners, they may have been buried in the Chinese section of the Beechworth cemetery.

Three years after the discovery of gold at Indigo, Benjamin Bartley came to the area and erected a home on the site now known as Bartleys Block. Bartley was an important figure in the development of Chiltern. He built a number of hotels, and in 1874 became the first shire president. The brewery, built on the block, was run by Bartley for 36 years until his death in 1899. The block became part of the park in 1995, and foundations of the house and remains of the garden can be seen today, along with two brick-capped wells.

Today the Chiltern township retains its 19th century charm and is a popular destination for visitors wanting to experience the gold era heritage. Many relics and information regarding the settlement of the area are displayed in the Chiltern Athenaeum.

Pilot Range section

The area surrounding the range was first settled by Europeans in the 1830s and 1840s. Captain William Baker arrived in the area in 1840 and applied to name his selection Eldorado, after the fictitious goldfields believed by the Spaniards to exist in South America. Ironically, Captain Barker chose this name before the discovery of gold in 1852. To the south of the Eldorado run, David Reid had settled in the late 1830s. He had headed south from New South Wales along Major Mitchell's route to the Ovens River, where he turned upstream and settled on the Carraragarmungee Run. He subsequently moved a further 41 kilometres upstream when he married in 1844 and took up land that included Beechworth and Stanley.

During this period of settlement, Charles Cropper camped at a site on Reids Creek while droving his sheep from Manaroo to Laceby on the King River. A temporary structure that he built at the camp to rest his sheep under remained for some years, and became known as the Woolshed. The name became synonymous with the whole valley and is still used today.

Gold was discovered in the area in 1852 at Cadmans Point by three of Reid's shepherds. This discovery started the Beechworth Gold Rush, bringing an influx of miners to the area. Claims and mines were developed in the surrounding area as land near Beechworth was quickly taken up. Small communities also developed in the Woolshed Valley at Reids Flat, Upper Woolshed, Lower Woolshed, Sebastopol, Napoleons and Eldorado. Eldorado is the only one that remains today.

Chinese miners dominated the Beechworth Goldfields in the 1860s and remained in large numbers until the turn of the century. Unlike the Chinese miners on other goldfields in Victoria, who mainly worked over old sites, the Chinese miners in the Beechworth area, particularly Wooragee and Bowmans Forest, took up virgin ground and were the sole occupants of some areas (Bannear 1999a).

Mining was primarily alluvial workings based on the cradle and sluice, with later hydraulic sluicing and deep lead mining. Long water races and deep tailraces were constructed in all areas, often gouged through solid rock. As larger companies were formed, dredging began in the Woolshed Valley. This method was pioneered in Victoria at Woolshed Creek in the early 1890s, and continued there until 1911 (Bannear 1999b).

Reids Creek (corrupted to Reedy Creek over time) was reportedly the richest gold bearing stream in Australia. Still carrying gold, the creek remains a popular place for prospectors today (section 6.9).

Stream tin or black sand was worked profitably at Woolshed and Eldorado from the 1870s, from tributaries running down from the ridges including from the summit of Mt Pilot. These were worked over several years when it was too wet to work along Reedy Creek (Dunn 1913; Watson 2004). Diamonds and other precious gems were found in some parts of the field.

Timber harvesting has been a significant activity in the area, and timber was used extensively during the gold mining days and after the rush had passed. Hardwood sawlogs were removed regularly until the late 1980s.

Grazing began when the early settlers arrived in the 1840s and continued in the park until the 1990s (section 2.3).

A number of possible sites associated with the Kelly Gang may exist in the park, where the gang are reported to have stayed from time to time. The association of the bushrangers with Beechworth is a strong theme for tourism and provides an opportunity for interpretive links with the park (section 6.1).

Places of historic and cultural significance, including landscapes are managed in accordance with the *Heritage Act 1995* (Vic.), the *Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS* (Australia ICOMOS 1999), *Parks Victoria's Heritage Management Strategy* (Parks Victoria 2003) and Heritage Action Plans. Heritage Victoria has primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Heritage Act. A memorandum of understanding between Parks Victoria and Heritage Victoria provides for cooperation between both parties to achieve mutual objectives for heritage conservation.

Heritage Action Plans have been developed for Indigo Goldfields Cemetery (Vines 2001), Magenta Mine (Kaufman 2002), Wallace's Gully (Kaufman 2003) and Woolshed Falls (Kaufman 2002). They provide detailed practical guidance for the conservation and related management of the major cultural resources contained in the park. Heritage Action Plans for Golden Bar Mine and Woolshed Valley Mining Sites would further protect the park's heritage values.

The principal threats to cultural places and objects identified in action plans (Kaufman 2002, 2003; Vines 2001) are:

- natural processes — erosion, decay of timber in structures, destabilisation of sites by vegetation, and digging by vermin and echidnas
- visitor impacts — relic hunters, fossickers and prospectors, vandalism and lack of use
- management impacts — inappropriate maintenance, drainage, wildfire control (particularly the use of heavy machinery), inadequate monitoring, and changes in patterns of visitor use.

Aims

- Conserve places, including landscapes, that have historic or cultural significance associated with the park's mining, settlement and resource utilisation.
- Provide opportunities for people to learn about and understand the heritage values of the park.

Management strategies

- *Foster partnerships with the Indigo Shire and Heritage Victoria to raise awareness and appreciation of the cultural heritage of the park (section 8.3).*
- *Record, research and retain historic place names in the park and encourage further research into the history and culture to improve our understanding of the heritage values of the park and the community's attachment to those values.*
- *Monitor the condition of historic features and sites regularly, review existing risks to heritage values and identify emerging risks.*

- *Document the risks to and condition of historic places in the park and add with site data from Heritage Action Plan, to the Parks Victoria Asset Management System.*
- *Implement actions identified in Heritage Action Plans for sites in the parks (Vines 2001; Kaufman 2002, 2003).*
- *Develop a Heritage Action Plan for the Golden Bar Mine and Woolshed Valley mining sites.*
- *Support and encourage research into the significance of particular heritage places and values, in particular possible sites used by members of the Kelly Gang, and the development of appropriate interpretive material about the Kelly Gang era and the relationship with the park (section 6.1).*
- *Promote significant heritage values of the park at Bartleys Block, Indigo Goldfields Cemetery, Magenta Mine and Woolshed Falls, consistent with the protection of cultural significance and levels of service provisions (table 5).*
- *Identify and provide training for Parks Victoria staff in archaeological site management, including authorisation under the Heritage Act.*
- *Protect the park's sites and landscapes of historic and cultural significance by minimising damage and deterioration from natural, visitor and management impacts.*
- *Link the interpretation of the gold era heritage to Chiltern, Beechworth and other historic townships, in partnership with Indigo Shire (sections 6.1 and 8.3).*

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, licensed tour operators and phone information service (13 1963). 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 might not inspire tourism by themselves. However, Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park could become a valuable complementary experience to existing regional tourism products. The North East Regional Tourism Development Plan outlines the strategic, product and infrastructure directions for the North East region (Tourism Victoria 2004). Nature-based tourism is one of the major attractions to the North East Region. Visits to parks managed by Parks Victoria play a large role in this tourism, and occur throughout the year.

Parks Victoria's role in tourism is to work in partnership with the tourism industry and local municipal authorities to promote and facilitate appropriate and sustainable tourism (Tourism Victoria 2004). Parks Victoria provides pre-visit information on activities and facilities to visitors via its website (www.parkweb.vic.gov.au), visitor centres, Parks Victoria offices and the phone information service. The park offers many different experiences that showcase the park's natural values, Indigenous culture and post-European settlement heritage, and is promoted as a destination for visitors to build on these themes.

Indigo Shire, the Rural City of Wangaratta, and the Beechworth, Chiltern, Wangaratta, Wodonga, Myrtleford and Bright Visitor Information Centres promote tourism for the region and provide

strategic direction relating to tourism to Parks Victoria. The park is linked with other tourism sites in the area, in particular through the gold heritage towns of Beechworth, Chiltern and Rutherglen.

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. Tourism Victoria's main focus is on the heritage precinct of the town, although links to Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park could be enhanced, as well as links with nearby Beechworth Historic Park. The park's 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 towns of Beechworth and Chiltern would further promote the park's important role in the region's heritage and nature-based tourism attractions, and increase the opportunity for more visits to designated sites.

The Chiltern Ironbark Festival, held during October each year, showcases the heritage of the area along with the flora and fauna values of the national park. Parks Victoria manages a site at the event and provides face-to-face information to visitors at the festival.

The Parks Victoria office, located at the La Trobe University Campus, provides limited opportunities for interaction and promotion to passing visitors.

Woolshed Falls is the principal visitor site in the Pilot Range section. The recently upgraded facilities offer visitor parking, picnic tables, toilets and interpretation of the area as well as viewing platforms. Directly off the Hume Freeway, the Honeyeater Picnic Area in the Chiltern section is an easily accessible picturesque place with picnic tables, toilets, an information board and carparking. These two sites illustrate the diversity of vegetation and landscapes within this park, from box–ironbark in the north to Black Cypress-pine in the south.

With the exception of Woolshed Falls, which attracts up to 60 000 visitors per year, the park has low to moderate visitation (Parks Victoria 2005c).

With improved marketing and more visible information and orientation, it has the potential to attract visitors from several nearby population centres as well as becoming a stop-over for people travelling interstate. A Parks Victoria information board is located at the VicRoads Chiltern Park rest stop on the Hume Freeway, in the middle of the Chiltern section. As this is the first national park in Victoria reached by south-bound interstate visitors, there is potential to upgrade this information station, in conjunction with Indigo Shire and VicRoads, as a gateway to Victoria's park system.

For visitors to the park, orientation can be an issue because of the range of entrances and access points into the park. The Chiltern section is dissected by the Hume Freeway, and many people enter the park before having an opportunity to visit information centres or Parks Victoria offices. The Pilot Range section is accessed mainly from Beechworth and Chiltern via the Beechworth–Chiltern Road, but also via Eldorado and Wooragee. Directional signage to the park is provided by VicRoads in consultation with Parks Victoria. More signage or an upgrading of current signage, including orientation, risk and regulatory information, is needed at key visitor sites, including Mt Pilot summit and major park entrances.

Table 3 shows the information, interpretation and education themes and services for visitor sites and events.

Interpretive information boards are provided at Honeyeater Picnic Area, Indigo Goldfields Cemetery, Magenta Mine, Woolshed Falls and Yeddonba Picnic Area (table 5).

Park staff, tour operators and community groups deliver interpretive programs relating to the park's natural and cultural values. Interpretive activities are provided by Rangers for school and community groups on request whenever possible. The Parks Victoria education program offers Curriculum Standards Framework (CSF) based education units for primary and secondary students. Parks Victoria and DSE have also prepared a Box–Ironbark Education Kit for schools. Rangers provide other interpretive information, such as presentations and newsletter articles, for Friends groups and other park users.

Aims

- Promote and encourage visitors' discovery, enjoyment and appreciation of the park's natural and cultural values in a safe and appropriate manner through information, interpretation and education.
- Orientate visitors and the local community in relation to the park's features and values.
- Encourage public support for parks and park management practices.

Management strategies

- *Provide and support high-quality opportunities for visitors to discover, experience and understand the park's natural and cultural values. Target visitors across the range of user groups through a variety of tourism, information, interpretive and education mediums (table 3).*
- *Deliver messages about the following values and themes:*
 - *Box–Ironbark flora and fauna values*
 - *Aboriginal cultural heritage*
 - *heritage values which define the heritage character of the park in different locations.*
- *Deliver information, interpretation and education programs through:*
 - *Parks Victoria's website*
 - *Park Notes*
 - *Beechworth, Chiltern, Wangaratta, Wodonga, Myrtleford and Bright Visitor Information Centres*
 - *Chiltern Ironbark Festival and Beechworth and Rutherglen Festivals*
 - *local and regional tourism publications and events*
 - *interpretation boards at Honeyeater Picnic Area, Indigo Goldfields Cemetery, Magenta Mine, Mt Pilot summit, Woolshed Falls and Yeddonba Picnic Area*
 - *community networks including Landcare, Friends of Chiltern National Park, and naturalist and recreation groups*

TABLE 3 INFORMATION, INTERPRETATION, AND EDUCATION MANAGEMENT

SITE/EVENT	MAIN TOPIC	FACILITY/SERVICE	MANAGEMENT ACTION
Park visitor sites			
Woolshed Falls	Cultural heritage – gold era	Orientation and interpretive signage, self-guided walk	Maintain; alert visitors to significant risks at this site
	Geological processes – falls	Interpretive materials	Maintain
Honeyeater Picnic Area and White Box Walk	Natural values – flora and fauna	Orientation and interpretive signage	Upgrade interpretive signs on White Box Walking Track
Mt Pilot Summit Picnic Area	General park information	Orientation and interpretive signage	Develop and maintain
	Fire recovery	Interpretive materials	
	Geology	Interpretive materials	
Yeddonba Picnic Area	Cultural heritage – Aboriginal places and rock art	Orientation and interpretive signage	Maintain
Reedy Creek Camping Sites	Camping	Regulatory information	Develop and maintain
	Aboriginal places	Educational material	
Indigo Goldfields Cemetery	Cultural heritage – gold era	Orientation and interpretive signage	Upgrade
Magenta Mine Picnic Area	Cultural heritage – gold era	Chiltern Scenic Drive	Maintain and upgrade
	Mining technology – puddling machines	Educational material	
Tuan Camp Site	Camping	Regulatory information	Develop, maintain and monitor use
	Flora & fauna	Friends Arboretum	
	Rehabilitation, revegetation	Interpretive material	
	Short walks	Interpretive material	
Chiltern Park Freeway Rest Stop	General park information and short walk	Interpretive material	Maintain in conjunction with VicRoads
Events/Programs			
Chiltern Ironbark Festival	Natural and cultural values	Face-to-face interpretive activities at festival	Continue and build on Parks Victoria's involvement in festival
Community information meetings	Recognition of community involvement in park management e.g. Friends groups, Landcare	Attendance at community meetings of Friends group and Landcare etc.	Maintain liaison with local community groups to promote park management activities and reward community involvement
Recreational events	Sustainable activities in the park protecting natural and cultural values	Conditional permits for events (mountain biking, orienteering, rogaining)	Maintain
Parks Victoria Website	Natural and cultural values	Location, interpretation activities, park events	Upgrade and maintain

- *local publications, media releases and radio and television.*
- *Work in partnership with Tourism Victoria and local councils to explore collaborative ways to enhance visitor experiences and increase the tourism benefits of the park.*
- *Develop links through park interpretation with Beechworth Heritage Precinct and Beechworth Historic Park in partnership with Indigo Shire Council.*
- *Work with Tourism Victoria to ensure that park values feature prominently in regional tourism strategies.*
- *Maintain and where required upgrade directional, orientation and risk and regulatory information and key visitor sites, in particular Mt Pilot summit and park entrances.*
- *Promote greater public understanding, appreciation and respect for Indigenous culture by incorporating information about Indigenous tradition, places and objects in information, interpretation and education programs in collaboration with the Traditional Owners (sections 5.1 and 8.2).*
- *Provide appropriate opportunities and encourage and support Aboriginal communities to participate in the interpretation of Aboriginal cultural heritage relating to the park, with the agreement of the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party (section 8.2).*
- *Host a series of park visits for regional tourism stakeholders to familiarise them with park opportunities, and explore the role that Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park can play in complementing regional tourism products and experiences.*
- *Inform visitors of appropriate behaviour during their park visit, to conserve and protect park values and maximise visitor safety, and encourage them to adopt minimal impact techniques and to adhere to codes of conduct appropriate to their activity.*
- *Continue to allow sustainable educational use by school and community groups. Ensure that school and formal interpretive groups adopt the minimal impact guidelines.*

- *Regularly evaluate information and interpretation programs related to the park.*

6.2 Vehicle access

The park is easily accessible from the surrounding townships of Beechworth, Chiltern, Wangaratta, Wodonga and Barnawartha, providing these local communities and other visitors with opportunities to experience natural vales, gold rush relics and Indigenous values in a natural setting (Parks Victoria 2005c). Access to the park is via two primary roads — the Hume Freeway and Beechworth–Chiltern Road. Other sealed roads that provide access include Beechworth–Wangaratta Road, Chiltern–Howlong Road, Chiltern–Rutherglen Road and Eldorado–Wangaratta Road. These sealed roads are managed by VicRoads, Indigo Shire and Rural City of Wangaratta (figure 3 and table 4).

Much of the park is readily accessible via two-wheel-drive roads. An extensive network of vehicle and walking tracks in the park provides access for a range of activities, including cycling, horse riding, car touring and bushwalking. Some vehicle tracks within the park provide access to private property and are managed by the Indigo Shire and Rural City of Wangaratta in conjunction with Parks Victoria. Almost 400 km of unsealed roads in the park are open to the public; other unsealed roads are reserved for management purposes (table 4). Many of these tracks were developed for fire protection and past uses such as agriculture and timber harvesting. The Chiltern section in particular has a history of extensive timber harvesting and mining, which led to the formation of many informal tracks that are no longer necessary for management or access. These informal tracks have resulted in significant fragmentation of vegetation and habitats (CEM 2005). Rationalisation and rehabilitation of some tracks will help reduce fragmentation and assist in the protection of the park’s natural values. Some road easements that are excised from the park to provide access to freehold inliers and adjacent land do not align with the actual access routes.

Popular touring routes in the park include the 25 km long Chiltern Scenic Drive which starts in Chiltern and provides access to some of the historic sites of the park, including Indigo Goldfields Cemetery and Magenta Mine.

Other popular roads include Woolshed Road, which follows Reedy Creek from Woolshed Falls

to Eldorado, Old Coach Road, which follows the ridge line of the Pilot Range from Eldorado to the Mt Pilot summit, and Cyanide Road, which provides access to Honeyeater Picnic Area.

The park is popular with car rally enthusiasts. Consistent with the *Recreation Framework for Box Ironbark Public Land* (DSE 2003a), car rallies approved by the Confederation of Australian Motor Sports (CAMS), with time and /or speed competitive components will continue to be permitted west of the Beechworth-Chiltern Road in the Pilot Range section of the park. CAMS-approved car rallies without any time and/or speed components may also be permitted in the other sections of the park but organisers will be encouraged to use the Conservation and Recreation Zone.

Motor vehicles are permitted only on open roads and vehicle tracks as shown in table 4.

Trail bike riding is a popular activity in the park. Registered trail bikes are permitted on all open roads within the park. Off-road riding is illegal and will not be permitted. Impacts of off-road riding include noise disturbance to wildlife and visitors, soil disturbance and loss of native vegetation.

The *Road Management Act 2004* (Vic.) determines the specific powers and duties of a road authority (Parks Victoria) in relation to public roads within a park, and outlines the statutory duties to inspect, maintain and repair these roads. This requirement is fulfilled by Parks Victoria through an ongoing road maintenance program within the park.

Aims

- Provide and maintain a safe and sustainable network of vehicle tracks appropriate for visitor use and management.
- Minimise the impact of vehicle and track management on the park's cultural and natural values.
- Provide a range of opportunities for recreational driving while minimising the impact on park values.

Management strategies

- *Manage and maintain roads for motor vehicles in accordance with table 4 and figure 3, and the park's management directions.*

- *Permit CAMS-approved car rallies with or without any time and/or speed competitive components on open vehicle tracks in the Conservation and Recreation Zone in accordance with Parks Victoria operational policies.*
- *Ensure permit conditions for CAMS-approved car rallies address frequency, timing, locations and repair of track damage to minimise impact on park values and other park visitors.*
- *Work with CAMS to establish methods for advising the wider community of event programs and locations to reduce conflicts with other park users.*
- *Ensure that signposts to key visitor sites, particularly from major roads, are installed and maintained.*
- *Ensure that roads and vehicle tracks (table 4 and figure 3) are properly formed and drained.*
- *Rationalise and rehabilitate unnecessary informal tracks, and liaise with DSE and local councils to align necessary road easements with appropriate access tracks.*
- *Promote Four Wheel Drive Victoria's Code of Ethics for the use of 4WD vehicles in the park.*
- *Encourage trail bike riders to adopt minimal impact guidelines outlined in the Trail Bike Riding Code (DSE 2003d).*
- *Monitor the use of trail bikes in the park and promote legal on-road riding as the only acceptable use of trail bikes in the park.*

6.3 Visitor site activities

Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park provides visitors with a diverse range of sites to visit, where they can undertake a variety of activities. The park's history of mining provides many opportunities for interpretation at the sites through information boards and self-guided walks.

Activities in the park include bushwalking, cycling, horse riding, picnicking, prospecting and camping.

TABLE 4 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCESS MANAGEMENT

ROAD/TRACK	CURRENT CLASSIF'N AND USE	PLANNED CLASSIF'N AND USE	OTHER USES	ACTION / COMMENTS
Managed by VicRoads				
Beechworth–Chiltern Road	5A/M2			Major road between townships, sealed.
Chiltern–Howlong Road	5A/M2			Major road between townships, sealed.
Chiltern–Rutherglen Road	5A/M2			Major road between townships, sealed.
Managed by Indigo Shire				
Chiltern–Barnawatha Road	5A/M2			Major road between townships, sealed.
Chiltern–Yackandandah Road	5A/M2			Major road between townships, sealed.
Deep Creek Road	5D/M2			Provides through access for private property and park access, two-laned.
McFeeters Road	5B/M2			Provides through access for private property and park access, two-laned.
Old Cemetery Road	5D/M2			Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
Toveys Road	5B/M2			Provides through access for private property and park access, two-laned.
West Triangle Road	5D/M2			Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
Woolshed Road	5B/M2			Provides through access for private property and park access, two-laned.
Managed by Rural City of Wangaratta				
Masons Road	5D/M2			Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
Nieoffs Road	5D/M2			Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
Old Coach Road (west of Souters Track)	5D/M2			Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
Managed by Parks Victoria				
Aarons Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
All Nations Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Alpina Track]	5E/M4	5E/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Formerly unnamed track. Provides park access and management.
[Andersons Track]	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Formerly Andersons Fire Trail. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.

Table 4 contd.

ROAD/TRACK	CURRENT CLASSIF'N AND USE	PLANNED CLASSIF'N AND USE	OTHER USES	ACTION / COMMENTS
Amies Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Babbler Track]	5E/M4	5E/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Formerly unnamed track. Provides park access and management.
Bagleys Track	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Ballarat Road	5C/M2	5C/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain all-weather access. Provides park access and management, two-laned.
[Bar Track]	5E/MV	5E/MV	Wa	Formerly Bar Trail. Provides for fire and park management.
[Barambogie Road]	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Track name changed from Water Trust Road to avoid duplication with Shire road. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
Barnawartha Depot Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Bartleys Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Battery Hill Road	5C/M2	5C/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain all-weather access. Provides park access and management, two-laned.
Baynes Gully Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Baynes Track	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Bear Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Bernies Road]	5E/M2	5E/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Formerly unnamed track. Provides park access and management.
[Bests Road]	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Formerly unnamed track. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Brick Kiln Track	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Brickworks Lane	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Brittle Gum Track]	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Track name changed from Goldings No. 2 Track to avoid duplication. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Brocks Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Browns Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Buffer Track	5E/MV	5E/MV	Wa	Provides for fire and park management.
Bullant Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Cadens Road]	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Formerly unnamed track. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.

Table 4 contd.

ROAD/TRACK	CURRENT CLASSIF'N AND USE	PLANNED CLASSIF'N AND USE	OTHER USES	ACTION / COMMENTS
Callitris Track	5E/M4	5E/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Provides park access and management.
CFA Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Chandlers Track]	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Formerly Chandlers Boundary Track. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Cheesley Gate Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Cheesley Track	5D/MV	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Chinese Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Corkhill Track]	5E/MV	5E/MV	Wa	Formerly unnamed track. Provides for fire and park management.
Coyles Track	5E/MV	5E/MV	Wa	Provides for fire and park management.
Crusher Road	5B/MV	5B/MV	Wa	Provides access to utilities.
[Currawang Track]	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Name changed from Masons No 2 Track to avoid duplication. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Cyanide Road	5C/M2	5C/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain all-weather access. Provides park access and management, two-laned.
[Cypress Track]	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Name changed from Masons No 1 Track to avoid duplication. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Davis Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Davitts Swamp Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Depot Road	5C/M2	5C/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain all-weather access. Provides park access and management, two-laned.
[Devonshire Road]	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Name changed from Curtain Road to align with Shire named road. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Dillwynia Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Donchi Hill Road	5C/M2	5C/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain all-weather access. Provides park access and management, two-laned.
East Triangle Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
Echidna Track	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Edgars Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Egans Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.

Table 4 contd.

ROAD/TRACK	CURRENT CLASSIF'N AND USE	PLANNED CLASSIF'N AND USE	OTHER USES	ACTION / COMMENTS
Elligates Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Excelsior Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
Flat Rock Track	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Gidleys Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Gillmans Track	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Gladstone Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Glider Track	5E/MV	5E/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Provides park access and management.
Goldings Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Grasstree Track	5D/MV	5D/MV	Cy, Ho, Wa	Provides for fire and park management.
Gravel Pit Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Green Hill Road	5C/M2	5C/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain all-weather access. Provides park access and management, two-laned.
Greenbreak Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Greenhood Track]	5E/MV	5E/MV	Wa	Name changed from Cheesley Track to avoid duplication. Provides for fire and park management.
Grevillea Track	5E/M4	5E/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Provides park access and management.
Hill Gum Track	5E/M4	5E/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Provides park access and management.
Holdens Track	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Honeysuckle Creek Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Honeysuckle Track	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Indigo Cemetery Road]	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Formerly Cemetery Road. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Ironbark Track	5E/M2	5E/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Provides park access and management.
[Joycea Track]	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Formerly unnamed track. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Junction Track	5D/MV	5D/MV	Wa	Provides for fire and park management.
Kangaroo Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Kellys Track]	5E/M4	5E/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Formerly unnamed track. Provides park access and management.
Klotz Track	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.

Table 4 contd.

ROAD/TRACK	CURRENT CLASSIF'N AND USE	PLANNED CLASSIF'N AND USE	OTHER USES	ACTION / COMMENTS
Koala Track	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Lancashire Gap Road	5C/M2	5C/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain all-weather access. Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
Langs Track	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Lappins Track	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Link Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Little Pilot Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Little Pilot Track	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Lomandra Track]	5E/M4	5E/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Formerly unnamed track. Provides park access and management.
Long Range Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Lonies Gap Road	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
[Mabhah Track]	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Formerly unnamed track. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Magenta Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Marshalls Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Martins Track	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
McGowans Track	5D/MV	5D/MV	Wa	Provides for fire and park management.
McGuinness Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Moloneys Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Moloneys Track	5D/MV	5D/MV	Wa	Provides for fire and park management.
Mosquito Track	5E/M4	5E/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Provides park access and management.
Moss Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Mount Pilot Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Mount Pleasant Road	5C/M2	5C/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain all-weather access. Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
Mountains Lane	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Muffler Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.

Table 4 contd.

ROAD/TRACK	CURRENT CLASSIF'N AND USE	PLANNED CLASSIF'N AND USE	OTHER USES	ACTION / COMMENTS
Mulls Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Nankeen Track]	5D/MV	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Formerly Chiltern Valley No. 2 Track. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Ninox Track]	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Name changed from Goldings No. 3 Track to avoid duplication. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Oates Track	5E/MV	5E/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Provides park access and management
Old Coach Road (east of Souters Track)	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
[Paradoxa Track]	5E/M2	5E/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Formerly unnamed track. Provides park access and management.
Peakes Track	5E/M4	5E/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Provides park access and management.
Perimeter Track	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Phragmites Track]	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Formerly unnamed track. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Pilot Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Pine Gap Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Pipeline Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
Places Track	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Pooleys Track	5E/M4	5E/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Provides park access and management.
Poyntz Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
PX Road	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Ramrod Track]	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Name changed from Goldings No. 4 Track to avoid duplication. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Ramsays Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Red Box Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Reeces Track	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Track name changed from Reeces No. 1 Track to avoid duplication. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned
Reedy Creek Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Richards Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.

Table 4 contd.

ROAD/TRACK	CURRENT CLASSIF'N AND USE	PLANNED CLASSIF'N AND USE	OTHER USES	ACTION / COMMENTS
Ridge Track	5E/MV	5E/MV	Wa	Provides for fire and park management.
Rileys Road	5C/M2	5C/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain all-weather access. Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
Rocky Track	5D/MV	5D/MV	Wa	Provides for fire and park management.
[Rubida Track]	5E/MV	5E/MV	Wa	Name changed from Link Track to avoid duplication. Provides for fire and park management.
Ryans Road	5C/M2	5C/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain all-weather access. Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
[Sedge Track]	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Named changed from Reeces No. 2 Track to avoid duplication. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Senigum Track	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Settlers Road]	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Name changes from Oates Road to align with Shire managed road. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Skeleton Hill Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Slaughteryard Track]	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Name changed from Slaughter Yard Gap track. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Snows Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
Souters Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Southern Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
Stringybark Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Sugarloaf Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned. Formerly part of Warners Track.
Tank Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Teal Track]	5E/M4	5E/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Formerly unnamed track. Provides park access and management.
Three Sisters Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Tower Hill Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Triangle Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Tuan Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Turquoise Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.

Table 4 contd.

ROAD/TRACK	CURRENT CLASSIF'N AND USE	PLANNED CLASSIF'N AND USE	OTHER USES	ACTION / COMMENTS
Varnish Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Wallaby Track	5E/M4	5E/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Provides park access and management.
Wallace Gully Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
[Warbler Track]	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Name changed from Masons No. 3 Track to avoid duplication. Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Wardens Road	5C/M2	5C/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain all-weather access. Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
Warners Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned. Alignment changed with Sugarloaf Track.
Whistler Track	5D/M4	5D/M4	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
White Box Road	5D/M2	5D/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain dry-weather access. Provides park access and management, single-laned.
Woolshed Falls Road	5B/M2	5B/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Maintain all-weather access. Provides park access and management, two-laned.
[Yeddonba Road]	5C/M2	5C/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Formerly Toveys Forest Road. Maintain all-weather access. Provides through access for private property and park access, single-laned.
[Yuilles Track]	5E/M2	5E/M2	Cy, Ho, Wa	Formerly unnamed track. Provides park access and management.

Key:

[] Newly named road

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

Other uses:

- Cy Cycling (including mountain bikes)
- Wa Walking
- Ho Horse riding

Motor vehicle use:

- M2 Suitable for 2WD vehicles
- M4 Suitable only for 4WD vehicles
- MV Management vehicles only

The park promotes two principal visitor sites: Honeyeater Picnic Area and Woolshed Falls. Honeyeater Picnic Area in the Chiltern section provides access to the White Box Walking Track and Cyanide Dam. This site is popular with day visitors and birdwatchers.

Woolshed Falls in the Pilot Range section is the most popular visitor site in the park. The site includes an information board, picnic tables and

toilet facilities. A short self-guided walk from the carpark provides an opportunity to view mining heritage relics, natural values and the spectacular Woolshed Falls.

Yeddonba Picnic Area is the primary site in the park for visitors to experience the region's Indigenous culture. Interpretive signs along a self-guided walk to the rock art site tell the story of the

park's original inhabitants (section 5.1). A picnic table and fireplace are located at the site.

Other picnic facilities in the park are provided at Chiltern Valley No. 1 Dam, Magenta Mine and Mt Pilot summit (table 5 and figure 3). Dispersed camping is permitted at sites along Reedy Creek and at the old depot site, renamed Tuan Campsite, in the Chiltern section (section 6.5).

The Woolshed School site was developed and maintained by a committee of management prior to the reserve being added to the park in 2002. The site will continue to be maintained in partnership with the local community.

The Woolshed Falls lookout and toilets are maintained to a standard suitable for visitors with limited mobility.

Aim

- Establish and maintain visitor facilities that enhance visitor enjoyment and are consistent with the protection of park values.

Management strategies

- *Provide and maintain visitor facilities in accordance with table 5 and figure 3.*
- *Promote Honeyeater Picnic Area and Woolshed Falls as the main visitor sites in the park.*
- *Maintain Woolshed Falls lookout access and toilet facilities to a standard suitable for visitors with limited mobility.*

6.4 Bushwalking

Walking tracks in the park give visitors the opportunity to experience cultural heritage sites, unique vegetation and peaceful settings.

The self-guided White Box Walking Track is particularly popular in spring when wildflowers are in full bloom. The track starts at Honeyeater Picnic Area and takes in the historic Golden Bar Mine, Cyanide Dam, meandering for 8.5 km through Mugga Ironbark, Red Stringybark, Grey and Red Box forest. The Take a Walk walking track starts at the VicRoads rest stop on the Hume Freeway. This walk has interpretive signs and is a good introduction to the features of box-ironbark forests.

Woolshed Falls has a short interpretive walk starting and finishing at the falls carpark. The

walk passes historic mining relics, including sluiced gullies, diversion tunnels and water races, and provides access to a viewing platform for magnificent views of the falls.

There are short walks at Magenta Mine leading to the open cut quartz mine and battery, and at Mt Pilot from the carpark to the summit. Rock climbers access areas in the Pilot Range section park via informal walking tracks. The key tracks need to be formalised and maintained in partnership with the local climbing groups to minimise impact on natural values at and around the climbing sites (section 6.10).

Although the park only has one designated walking track longer than 5 km the extensive network of vehicle tracks provides visitors with many opportunities for extended walks, especially in the Chiltern section where the history of mining and timber cutting is evident in the number of tracks and roads. A number of minor roads in the Pilot Range section of the park are suitable for bushwalking.

Abundant mine sites are a potential risk to bushwalkers; some of these shafts have been fenced off for safety reasons, but bushwalking off defined tracks may be dangerous and is not encouraged (section 6.12).

Because Box-Ironbark parks are in relatively flat areas, they are regularly included in walking and cycling trails. The ECC recommended that the development of suitable new trails for recreation and tourism be encouraged (ECC 2001). Links between walking and cycling routes in the park and trails outside the park, including the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail, are promoted through Tourist Information Centres. The opportunities to extend current trails networks will be investigated in partnership with local municipalities and recreation groups.

The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs' Tread Softly brochure outlines minimal impact practices for bushwalkers (FVWC 2003).

Aim

- Provide and maintain a range of walking opportunities from short easy walks to challenging walks to enhance visitors' experiences in the park, while minimising impacts on park values.

TABLE 5 CURRENT AND PLANNED RECREATION FACILITIES

SITE	LOS CURRENT/ PLANNED	TOILET	PICNIC TABLE	PICNIC SHELTER	FIREPLACE OR BBQ	PARK INFO	LOOK OUT	PARKING CAR/BUS
Camping areas								
Reedy Creek Campsites	B / B	–	E	–	P	P	–	E / –
Tuan Camp	– / VB	–	–	–	–	P	–	P / P
Other visitor sites								
Woolshed Falls	M / M	E*	E	–	E	E	E	E / E
Honeyeater Picnic Area	B / M	E	E	–	E	E	–	E / E
Mt Pilot Summit Picnic Area	M / M	–	E	–	E	P	E	E / E
Yeddonba Picnic Area	M / M	–	E	–	E	E	–	E / E
Chiltern Valley No. 1 Dam	B / B	–	E	–	E	–	–	E / –
Donchi Hill	B / B	–	E	–	E	–	E	E / –
Frogs Hollow	B / VB	–	R	–	R	–	–	E / –
Indigo Goldfields Cemetery	B / B	–	–	–	R	U	–	E / –
Magenta Mine Picnic Area	B / B	–	E	–	E	U	–	E / E
Woolshed School	– / B	–	E	–	E	–	–	E / –

Key:

LOS Levels of Service:

- VH Very High — very high level of visitor facilities and amenities provided
- H High — high level of visitor facilities and amenities provided
- M Mid — moderate levels of visitor facilities and amenities provided
- B Basic — limited visitor facilities and amenities provided
- VB Very Basic — some visitor facilities provided

Facilities:

- E existing facility
- U upgrade existing facility
- P provide facility
- R remove facility
- no facility
- * Suitable for visitors with limited mobility

Management strategies

- *Maintain walking tracks listed in table 6 as walker only tracks.*
- *Promote White Box Walking Track as the primary bushwalking experience in the park and investigate with the Friends group upgrading interpretive signage along the walk.*
- *Promote extended walking in the park along minor vehicle access tracks (table 4).*
- *Formalise key walking tracks that access rock climbing areas, and maintain as Grade 4 in partnership with local climbing groups (section 6.10).*
- *Ensure that maintenance works do not damage natural or cultural values.*
- *Monitor the impacts of rock climbing and walking on park values and implement protection measures where appropriate, in particular in the Mt Pilot summit area (sections 4.4, 4.5 and 6.10).*

TABLE 6 MANAGEMENT OF WALKING TRACKS

TRACK	LENGTH	CURRENT GRADE	PLANNED GRADE	OTHER USES	ACTIONS/COMMENTS
White Box Walking Track	8.5 km	3	3	None	Upgrade interpretive signage
'Take A Walk' Walking Track	1 km	2	2	None	Maintain
Magenta Mine Track	0.5 km	3	3	None	Maintain
Cyanide Dam Track	1 km	3	3	None	Maintain
Yeddonba Walking Track	1 km	2	2	None	Maintain
Mt Pilot Summit Walking Track	0.2 km	3	3	None	Maintain
Woolshed Falls Walking Track	0.5 km	2	2	None	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.

- *Work with Indigo Shire, the Rural City of Wangaratta, local community groups and other agencies to develop appropriate walking trails for the park and surrounding area using the existing road and track network.*
- *Promote FVWC's Tread Softly minimal impact and bushwalking ethics.*
- *Provide appropriate information to tourist information centres and other organisations on bushwalking opportunities in the park (section 6.1).*

6.5 Camping

The natural setting and picturesque qualities of the park make it an attractive setting for camping. Dispersed camping was permitted in the Pilot Range section of the park before it became part of the park. Dispersed camping along Reedy Creek is

common, particularly during holiday periods when up to 25 individual camps can be found. There is concern that camping is impacting on Aboriginal places and objects as well as the surrounding natural values.

Camping will continue to be permitted along Reedy Creek, and designated camping areas with defined campsites will be established at existing preferred sites, flat areas, and areas with sufficient access so that parking will not impact on park values. Campers will be encouraged to follow camping guidelines and must camp at least 20 metres away from streams. Collection of firewood for immediate use in provided fireplaces only, will be permitted but the use of liquid fuel stoves or bringing in firewood will be encouraged. Unsuitable disturbed areas that are no longer used for camping will be revegetated.

Designated camping with undefined campsites will also be permitted in the Box–Ironbark setting

of the Chiltern section at the planned Tuan Camp, located at the old depot site. The Friends of Chiltern National Park have worked with Parks Victoria in rehabilitating the old depot site to a standard suitable for dispersed camping with no facilities. Camping is not permitted in Declared Water Supply Catchments (table 1 and figure 2).

Visitors need to bring their own drinking water as drinking water is not available in the park. Campers are encouraged to bring portable toilets.

Aim

- Provide opportunities for camping consistent with the protection of park values.

Management strategies

- *Maintain camping sites and facilities as shown in table 5.*
- *Permit solid fuel campfires in existing fireplaces constructed by Parks Victoria, and permit the use of portable liquid fuel or gas stoves at designated visitor sites throughout the park.*
- *Permit camping along Reedy Creek at defined campsites only, and at Tuan Camp in the Chiltern section of the park.*
- *Allow camping along Reedy Creek only in designated camping areas and at least 20 metres from watercourses.*
- *Permit the collection of fallen timber around visitor sites for use in the park's designated fire places. Regularly observe the impacts of firewood collection and take appropriate action to minimise any impacts.*

6.6 Cycling

Cycling, particularly mountain bike riding, is a popular activity in the park. Cycling is permitted on all formed roads and tracks open to public vehicles (table 4). It is not permitted on walking tracks because of their narrow width, potential conflicts with walkers and potential environmental impacts.

Parks Victoria has a memorandum of cooperation with Mountain Bike Australia to facilitate partnerships with local groups and provide suitable opportunities and access for park users.

In the future, mountain bike riding may be permitted on designated shared or single use

tracks, subject to identifying suitable areas that do not threaten values in the park. The requirement for future mountain bike tracks will need to be investigated in consultation with mountain bike groups and key stakeholders.

Off-road cycling can degrade the natural and cultural values of the park and damage vegetation and soil, leading to fragmentation of habitat and erosion.

Mountain bike clubs conduct many rides utilising both parks and other land. Clubs are issued a permit for each specific event, with conditions for track management and rehabilitation.

The *Mountain Bike Code* (DSE 2003c) sets out guidelines for safe cycling and minimising the impacts of cycling on park values.

Aim

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

Management strategies

- *Permit cycling on vehicle roads and tracks in accordance with table 4 and figure 3.*
- *Permit cycling and mountain bike events in the park in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational guidelines, relevant permit conditions and the memorandum of cooperation with Mountain Bike Australia but do not allow off-road riding or BMX events.*
- *Promote the Mountain Biking Code, integrate minimal-impact messages into park information and interpretation, and encourage cyclists to adhere to the code.*
- *Liaise with Mountain Bike Australia and local groups to promote minimal-impact riding techniques through their website and riding networks.*
- *Liaise with Mountain Bike Australia as per the memorandum of cooperation with Parks Victoria.*
- *Investigate the potential for designated mountain bike tracks in the Conservation and Recreation Zone in partnership with local riding groups.*
- *Work with Indigo Shire, the Rural City of Wangaratta, local community groups and*

other agencies to develop appropriate cycling trails for the park and surrounding area using the existing road and track network.

6.7 Horse riding

Horse riding by individuals, small groups and local riding clubs is an occasional activity in the park. Horse riding is permitted on all public roads in the park (table 4 and figure 3). Organised horse riding events are managed through the issuing of an event permit.

At its current level, horse riding poses little threat to the park, but if demand increases it may be necessary to provide tethering points at designated visitor sites to reduce the potential for conflict between other park users. As most riders are from the local area and use the park for day visits, a horse-based camping area is not required.

Trampling of vegetation and disturbance to ground-dwelling mammals and birds are the main impacts to natural values associated with horse riding. For these reasons riding is restricted to tracks and no dispersed riding is allowed in the park.

Horses and horse dung can also cause annoyance and distress to other park visitors, and could spread some weeds. Because of these potential impacts on park values and the potential for increased erosion, horses are excluded from designated walking tracks within 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 vehicle roads and tracks open to the public as shown in table 4 and figure 3.*
- *Encourage adoption of the Horse Riding Code (Parks Victoria 2006) and minimal impact practice.*
- *Monitor the impact of horses on tracks through the annual roads maintenance program (section 6.2) and repair or alter access where necessary.*

6.8 Orienteering and rogaining

The dense track networks, open forests, undulating terrain, complexity of features due to past mining and natural outcrops and low level of potential conflict with other users make the park particularly attractive for orienteering events (DSE 2003a).

Local clubs hold a number of events in the park, attracting up to 300 competitors for large events. Events are permitted in the park subject to approval of an application that outlines marshalling points, the size of event and other relevant logistical arrangements. Seasonal restrictions apply and applications are assessed in accordance with the current condition of the park to minimise impacts on natural and cultural values. Event organisers are required to identify marshalling areas outside the park for large events.

Mine shafts can pose a safety risk for off-track activities (section 6.12). Event organisers and participants need to be aware of all hazards associated with the landscape.

Organisers will be encouraged to use the Conservation and Recreation Zone for most events. Events in the Conservation Zone may be permitted at times when impacts on natural values are unlikely. Events are not permitted in the Reference Area Zone. Bicycle-based orienteering events are permitted, subject to a permit, on roads and tracks as shown in table 4.

Aim

- Permit orienteering and rogaining while minimising the impact on park values.

Management strategies

- *Allow orienteering and rogaining in the Conservation and Recreation Zone (figure 2) through the issue of permits with conditions and, in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies.*
- *Allow orienteering and rogaining in the Conservation Zone only from 1 November to 31 May to protect natural values.*
- *Work with event organisers, representative organisations and schools 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.*

6.9 Prospecting

Prospecting activities reflect a strong link to the park's association with the history of gold discovery, in particular along Reedy Creek (section 5.2). Prospecting activities, including gemstone seeking, gold panning and metal detecting are all undertaken in designated areas of the park.

Prospecting is generally not permitted in national parks, but the Government recognises that prospecting is a legitimate and popular recreational activity and a significant component of the region's tourism industry and is therefore allowing prospecting through zoning and the provision of prospecting guidelines (DSE 2003a).

Prospecting is permitted in the park, under Section 32D of the National Parks Act. Prospecting is permitted in the designated areas of the park (figure 2), subject to a Miner's Right or Tourist Fossicking Authority (TFA) using non-mechanical hand tools. Pumps and motorised equipment must not be used when removing material, but may be used to pump water over a sluice box where gravel has been removed by hand.

Prospecting should not be confused with 'treasure hunting' (searching for archaeological relics such as bottles or coins), which is not permitted in the park. The disturbance of archaeological relics without a permit is an offence under the Heritage Act.

The ECC recommended that prospecting be permitted in designated zones located away from significant park values, notably where vegetation and ground-dwelling animals may be disturbed by prospecting, and that the zones be developed as part of the management plan process (ECC 2001).

This plan redefines the area available for prospecting (table 1 and figure 2). This is to protect significant natural and cultural values in the Chiltern and Pilot Range section. Prospecting will be permitted in the Pilot Range section west of the Chiltern-Beechworth Road and south of Settlers Road excluding Declared Water Supply Area as shown on figure 2.

Parks Victoria seeks to manage prospecting in cooperation with prospecting clubs and organisations in a manner that protects the natural and cultural features of the park. The Prospectors and Miners Association of Victoria (PMAV), in conjunction with the Department of Primary Industries and Parks Victoria (DPI 2003), has developed a Prospectors and Miners Code which sets out guidelines for safe prospecting and mining, and minimising the impacts of prospecting and mining on park values. Prospectors are also encouraged to be aware of how to recognise possible Aboriginal places and post-European settlement heritage sites and avoid disturbing these areas.

Aim

- Provide opportunities for prospecting in the park, consistent with the protection of park values.

Management strategies

- *Permit prospecting in the Land Use Designation – Prospecting Overlay area (table 1 and figure 2).*
- *Monitor the impacts of prospecting on the cultural and environmental values of the park, with priority given to Reedy Creek and Mt Pilot Spider Orchid sites in the Pilot Range section.*
- *Review available prospecting areas if impacts on the park's natural and cultural heritage values become unacceptable.*
- *Develop and implement solutions to address existing or potential adverse effects or impacts of prospecting identified through monitoring, in consultation with the PMAV and other relevant stakeholder groups.*
- *Work cooperatively with the PMAV to encourage prospectors to adhere to the 'Prospectors and Miners Code'.*
- *Include information about prospecting areas in the park at visitor sites and information boards.*

6.10 Rock climbing and abseiling

Rock climbing

Rock climbing is generally infrequent in the park but is increasing in popularity. Climbers have

been visiting areas of the park since the 1970s, in particular the Mt Pilot summit and surrounding rock faces. In recent years local climbing groups have worked cooperatively with Parks Victoria to build a relationship that benefits both climbers and environmental values.

An online guide developed by the Victorian Climbing Club (VCC 2006) describes rock climbing opportunities in the park. The use of some sites is resulting in adverse impacts on the park, including damage to vegetation (particularly threatened orchid species), soil compaction and erosion. Climbing sites are currently accessed via informal tracks. Parks Victoria will work with local clubs and individuals to manage access that will minimise risks to significant values. This may include realignment of tracks, development of designated mustering areas and seasonal closure of some sites. Currently rock climbers are encouraged to avoid areas known to have Peregrine Falcon nesting near them, from June and October inclusive (VCC 2006).

Many climbing routes have had anchor points installed. The use of fixed anchor points is discouraged under Parks Victoria's operational policies.

Abseiling

Local groups, including schools, universities and emergency services, use areas of the park for abseiling. This activity can cause impacts on concentrated areas used as mustering points. These high-use areas need to be situated away from threatened plant species that grow in potential abseiling areas.

Other deleterious impacts that can occur through rock climbing and abseiling result from the use of chalk, wire brushing, removal of mosses and other vegetation, and the use of trees as lowering off or anchoring points. The use of clean climbing techniques (techniques that do not damage or deface the rock) are encouraged to reduce impacts on the sites.

Aim

- Provide opportunities for rock climbing and abseiling in the park while minimising the impact of these activities.

Management strategies

- *Allow rock climbing and abseiling in accordance with Parks Victoria's guidelines.*
- *Investigate the management of access to sites and establish interpretive signage to minimise impacts on park values, in collaboration with local climbing clubs.*
- *Liaise with the Victorian Climbing Club to update its online guide for Mount Pilot to formalise changes in access routes and management and provide information to users on the natural values associated with climbing sites (section 6.4).*
- *Establish a monitoring program to assess the impact of rock climbing and abseiling on park values.*
- *Liaise with local groups to identify several abseiling muster areas for use by groups that will avoid sensitive areas and minimise impacts on park values.*
- *Educate park users and commercial operators about reducing impacts on park values by using these designated areas for abseiling.*
- *Promote the use of minimal-impact rock climbing techniques to visitors and climbers.*
- *Monitor the location and condition of existing bolts through liaison with local climbers and climbing groups and establish and maintain an appropriate schedule to monitor the condition.*
- *Prohibit the use of wire brushing while climbing and the development of new climbing routes. The placement of additional permanently placed climbing protection such as bolts and lower off points will only be conducted in liaison with Parks Victoria.*

6.11 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.

There are currently seven licensed tour operators offering guided activities within the park, including bird watching, bushwalking, prospecting, rock climbing, sight-seeing and cycling tours. Historical sites and landscapes

could be included in coach and guided tours, especially when combined with the features of the Beechworth and Chiltern townships.

Adventure Activity Standards and Minimal Impact Guidelines have been developed by Sport and Recreation Victoria, DSE, Parks Victoria and Tourism Victoria to guide tour operators using the park (ORC 2006).

Aim

- Encourage the provision of licensed tourism services that are consistent with the park's management objectives (appendix 1) and directions (section 3.3).

Management strategies

- *Ensure that all tour operators using the park are licensed and promote awareness of Adventure Activity Standards and Minimal Impact Guidelines.*
- *Continue to work with licensed tour operators and the tourism industry to assist with the delivery of appropriate park information.*
- *Liaise with Tourism Victoria 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.*
- *Liaise with licensed tour operators to provide information and advice on appropriate activities and on the park's values.*
- *Monitor the effectiveness of tourism services in contributing to the objects of the National Parks Act.*
- *Encourage the Traditional Owners, or other Aboriginal people who have their support, to develop interpretive and educational tours relating to cultural heritage, and to seek a tour operator licence.*

6.12 Public safety

Many sites in the park contain artefacts of mining, such as shafts, races and open cuts, that present inherent risks to visitors and park staff. Steep cliffs in the Pilot Range section are also a danger, and visitors are advised to stay on designated vehicle or walking tracks. Because of its steep waterfalls and escarpment and large number of

visitors, the Woolshed Falls area poses a risk to public safety. The current condition of facilities at this site is adequate but will need to be monitored annually. Magenta Mine also has steep cliff areas that have been fenced off to protect visitors. Structures in the park such as lookouts, walkways and footbridges are also part of ongoing condition assessments.

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

Special Management Areas – Public Safety have been applied to areas which may pose a particular risk to park visitors, including Skeleton Hill Quarry and Woolshed Falls (table 1 and figure 2).

Visitors need to be aware that drinking water is not provided in the park.

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 and Rural City of Wangaratta Municipal Emergency Response Plans. Parks Victoria's response to emergency incidents during normal operating activities within the park is guided by an emergency management plan (Parks Victoria 2005d).

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 in responding to emergency situations.

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.*
- *Regularly monitor, maintain and report, using the Parks Victoria's Asset Management System, on the condition of facilities to ensure visitor safety.*

- *Regularly review the Beechworth Emergency Management Plan, which covers the park, to ensure that it is up-to-date.*
- *Liaise with Indigo Shire and the Rural City of Wangaratta to ensure that the Municipal Emergency Response Plans make adequate provision for likely incidents in the park.*
- *Encourage visitors to seek information on activities they intend to undertake in the park.*
- *Monitor risks to visitor safety at the Magenta Mine area and Woolshed Falls and, where necessary, undertake appropriate works for the protection and safety of visitors.*
- *Include information on the dangers of mine shafts, adits and tunnels, steep slopes and associated mining hazards on information boards and in brochures.*
- *Provide information on the risks of rock climbing and abseiling at the planned Mt Pilot Summit information board (table 5, sections 6.1 and 6.10).*
- *Provide information through interpretive material that no drinking water is available in the park (section 6.1).*
- *Cooperate with and support responsible agencies in emergency response and ensure that that Parks Victoria staff have adequate levels of training in emergency procedures, including incident reporting.*
- *Provide information on and encourage visitor behaviour that is consistent with codes of practice and park regulations.*

7 STRATEGIES FOR AUTHORISED AND ADJACENT USES

7.1 Infrastructure

There are several public utilities installations within the park. Except in the case of hydrocarbon pipelines, their operation is subject to consent from the Secretary to DSE, who may impose conditions to minimise effects on the park and visitors.

A water storage tank managed by North East Water (NEW) is located on Tank Track near the park boundary, north of Chiltern. Consent has been issued for this site under Section 27 of the National Parks Act with conditions relating to the management of the site. NEW also manages an underground pipeline in the Barambogie Water Supply Area (figure 2) that supplies water for the Chiltern township from springs within the park, delivered to an adjacent reservoir.

Water extraction licences have been managed by Goulburn–Murray Water (GMW) for Chiltern Valley Dams Nos 1 and 2 that existed prior to the creation of the park. A memorandum of cooperation between Parks Victoria and GMW could facilitate the future use of water (section 4.3)

A number of water extractions by the owners of land adjacent to Reedy Creek were in place before the creation of the national park. These existing uses include licensed extractions managed by GMW and others that were not detected until the gazettal as national park that are yet to be licensed.

Telstra maintains a number of underground cables within the park boundary, mainly to provide services to private land inliers and adjacent properties. The locations of these cables are documented and managed through a consent under Section 27 of the National Parks Act.

A gas pipeline maintained by GasNet Australia runs through the park along Pipeline Track in the Chiltern section. Consent for this pipeline is covered by a Governor-in-Council order under Section 20 of the *Pipelines Act 1967* (Vic.).

A number of other utilities, including underground optical fibre cables and overhead transmission lines, are located on road and railway easements through or adjacent to the park.

Aim

- Manage authorised uses in accordance with the National Parks Act and other legislation as appropriate, and minimise their impact on park values.

Management strategies

- *Liaise with NEW regarding compliance with conditions relating to management of the water storage tank and Barambogie springs.*
- *Develop a Section 27 consent and memorandum of cooperation with GMW to minimise impacts from water extraction on the creek and wetlands from Chiltern Valley Dams Nos 1 & 2 and Reedy Creek.*
- *Liaise with Telstra regarding management of the Telstra underground cables in accordance with the National Parks Act.*
- *Review all authorised uses in the park to identify those that do not conform to the objects of the National Parks Act. Allow uses to continue only in accordance with authorisations that are consistent with legislation, and include conditions that effectively minimise the impacts of uses on the park.*
- *Seek permission from the Secretary to DSE for all existing but as yet unauthorised 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.*

7.2 Private occupancies

Apiaries

The park currently has 33 licensed apiary sites, for which licences are issued under Section 21(1)(b) of the National Parks Act for a period not exceeding six months.

Apiarists have a long association with the Chiltern – Mt Pilot Box–Ironbark forests, which are used regularly for overwintering sites.

The introduced European Honey Bee may compete for floral resources and hollows with native species. The threat that feral (unmanaged) European Honey Bees pose to flora and fauna has

been recognised as a threatening process under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

Competition between feral (unmanaged) European Honey Bees and native nectar-feeding and hollow-dependent species is not fully understood, and further research is warranted. Parks Victoria will work in association with the Victorian Apiarists' Association and local apiarists to minimise risks to park values.

Access to apiary sites is maintained through the vehicle track network (section 6.2).

Earth resources

Rinker Australia operates the quarry at Skeleton Hill through a consent issued under Section 40 of the National Parks Act. The consent contains detailed conditions relating to the protection of park values, restoration and revegetation, fire protection, and operation of the quarry. In addition, Readymix has prepared a work plan for operations and rehabilitation. The current quarry is due to close in 2009. Parks Victoria will work closely with Rinker Australia to review and implement the rehabilitation plan for the area. Some risk management assessments will need to be undertaken to review the future use of the area because of the large amount of quarry material removed. Associated with the quarry is a licence for a stockpile and weighbridge, this licence under Section 26A of the National Parks Act will cease when the Section 40 consent expires in 2009.

Mineral exploration licences held by Osprey Gold and Providence Gold & Minerals cover areas of the park. Exploration can occur only 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 work with companies in developing work plans in any future explorations and applications for consent under the Act.

Grazing

One grazing licence existed when the ECC recommendations were released in 2001. This licence has since expired and has not been renewed. The National Parks Act does not allow for any grazing in Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park.

Aim

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

Management strategies

- *Continue to allow up to 33 apiary sites in accordance with the government-accepted ECC recommendations and Parks Victoria's operational policies.*
- *Maintain the location of apiary sites away from visitor areas as appropriate and at least 2 km from the Reference Areas in consultation with the Victorian Apiarists' Association and relevant apiarists.*
- *Liaise with Rinker Australia to ensure that gravel extraction and restoration and revegetation of the quarry are carried out in accordance with the Section 40 consent.*
- *Liaise with Rinker Australia to develop a rehabilitation plan for the quarry before the work authority expires.*
- *Ensure that any mineral exploration is carried out in accordance with relevant Section 40 consent.*
- *Ensure flora surveys required prior to mineral exploration or ground disturbing activities are undertaken at appropriate times (spring) to achieve accurate results.*

7.3 Occasional uses

All research and monitoring undertaken in a park requires a research permit under the National Parks Act. Local university students undertaking research in the park provide valuable information on park values and are supported by Parks Victoria.

Organised events or functions with large numbers of participants have the potential to impact on park values and require permit to be issued prior to the event.

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 park. 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 photographs or videos for personal or hobby interest do not require a permit.

Protected areas are generally avoided as locations for military and emergency services training exercises, although they are sometimes used for search and rescue, field navigation and incident response training activities. The Australian Defence Force occasionally uses the park but has no special rights to use parks or reserves for its activities. Parks Victoria, as the manager of the land, may grant the Australian Defence Force permission for training activities, subject to appropriate conditions.

Military training that took place in the former Mt Pilot Multi-purpose Park may not be appropriate in the new national park. In general, exercises with up to 30 participants are permitted in the park, providing activities and uses that do not conform with the objects of the National Parks Act are not involved (e.g. firearms, pyrotechnics, digging). Adjoining State forest may be available for some activities that are not appropriate in national parks.

Aim

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

Management strategies

- *Permit events and functions that:*
 - *have minimal environmental impacts*
 - *do not damage the cultural values of the park*
 - *do not unduly disturb or disadvantage other visitors*
 - *do not unduly increase Parks Victoria's liability risk exposure*
 - *can be appropriately managed with available resources.*
- *Favour events and functions that provide community benefits or complement park values.*
- *Ensure that relevant Indigenous communities are consulted and involved in the planning and participation of relevant events.*

- *Manage commercial filming and photography in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies.*
- *Review all occasional uses of the park that do not conform with the objects of the National Parks Act. Allow uses to continue only in accordance with authorisations that are consistent with legislation and include conditions that effectively minimise the impacts of uses on the park.*
- *Monitor authorised activities to ensure compliance with conditions. Assess the effectiveness of conditions in protecting park values, and seek a review of authorisations if necessary to arrest impacts.*
- *Permit Australian Defence Force training for up to 30 participants (Level 2) in the Conservation and Recreation Zone, in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies and relevant permit conditions.*

7.4 Park boundaries and adjacent uses

The park is mostly bounded by private land that has been cleared for agriculture. A section of remnant vegetation exists along Black Dog Creek. This water frontage was recommended by the ECC to become part of the park, but because of existing uses such as grazing and stock movement the recommendation was not accepted by Government, and the area is managed by DSE as a Natural Features Reserve (figure 2). This vegetation corridor plays an important role in linking the Chiltern and Pilot Range sections of the park. A DPI Biolink Project works with private landholders in the area between the park sections to improve both farm productivity and wildlife habitat by enhancing and protecting native vegetation (section 4.5) (DPI 2004).

The park is also contiguous with other areas of public land, including Beechworth Historic Park, a section of Barambogie State Forest and Eldorado Historic Reserve.

The Chiltern section is highly fragmented and is dissected by the Hume Freeway, and a number of outliers are disconnected from the main sections of the park (figure 2).

Most boundaries with freehold land have stock-proof fences, though some are in poor condition. Part of the boundary with the Hume Freeway in the Chiltern Section has a wildlife-proof fence.

The park surrounds several small inliers of freehold land. A section of reserved forest off Honeysuckle Creek Road was recommended by the ECC to become part of the park. This land is currently managed by DSE in accordance with the Forests Act. Unused road reserve easements also cross some sections of the park and are currently managed as part of the park. Where possible these easements could be incorporated into the park estate.

Land use and development on land surrounding the park is regulated by Indigo Shire and the Rural City of Wangaratta through local planning schemes. Land adjacent to the park is zoned Rural or Rural Living, which allow for subdivisions down to 40 ha and 8 ha respectively. Changes to zoning adjacent to park and an increase in subdivision could impact significantly on park values and increase conflicts involving wildlife, pest plants and domestic animals.

There are several olive plantations near the park. Wild olives are an issue on roadsides outside the park, and seeds could be spread into the park by birds. A stand of pine managed by Victoria Plantations is adjacent to the park near Mt Barambogie, and the encroachment of pine seedlings is an ongoing issue (section 4.7).

Aims

- Cooperate with adjoining landholders and local municipalities to managed boundary and adjacent land use issues.
- Increase awareness and support for the park and maintain good relations with neighbours.

Management strategies

- *Support the DPI–NECMA Biolink Project, in particular along Black Dog Creek Natural*

Features Reserve. Encourage park neighbours to support vegetation and habitat links across the landscape.

- *Encourage the application of the Good Neighbour Policy to manage issues on or near the boundary of the park, implement programs and encourage the use of schemes such as Land for Wildlife, complementary pest plant and animal control programs and Landcare on neighbouring land.*
- *Liaise with local community groups and landholders and involve them in relevant aspects of the park's planning and management.*
- *Encourage landholders to maintain fences along the park boundary and discourage the use of private access gates from private land into the park.*
- *Investigate the potential incorporation into the park of the reserved forest off Honeysuckle Creek Road.*
- *Investigate with DSE, the Rural City of Wangaratta and Indigo Shire the use of unreserved road easements through the park and, if they are no longer required, their incorporation into the park.*
- *Liaise with Indigo Shire and the Rural City of Wangaratta Council to seek the application of appropriate zoning and overlays on land surrounding the park, to ensure that development and land use changes are compatible with the protection of park values.*
- *Liaise with Indigo Shire and the Rural City of Wangaratta to ensure that new developments adjacent to the park are set back an adequate distance to minimise risks from tree fall and fire.*

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 develop 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.

Existing community networks, particularly those with a strong commitment to the park such as Friends of Chiltern National Park, provide an opportunity to increase awareness in the wider community about the park and its values. The Chiltern Ironbark Festival held in October each year provides an opportunity to build the community's awareness of the park and its values. The festival focuses on the values of the area, and Parks Victoria is a key partner in the continuation of the event.

Increasing awareness among the community on key threatening processes to the park's values can assist in minimising the potential for further impacts. Management issues that would benefit from greater community awareness include fire management (section 4.6), pest plant and animal control programs (section 4.7) with an emphasis on the importance of preventing the introduction and establishment of weeds, and threatened species management (sections 4.4 and 4.5).

Through information, interpretation and education programs, there are also opportunities to build broader community awareness of the significance of the park to the Indigenous communities. This will help to develop a greater recognition of and

respect for Indigenous culture in the broader community.

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 among community groups and individuals.

Management strategies

- *Promote opportunities for community members to improve park management through taking shared responsibility and becoming directly involved through Friends groups and events.*
- *Through the local media, inform the public of pest plant and animal control programs, fire protection activities, visitor service developments and other significant management activities in the park.*
- *Liaise with councils, local community groups and landholders and, where appropriate, involve them in planning and management for the park.*
- *Increase community awareness of the significance of the park to Indigenous communities through information, interpretation and education programs, developed in consultation with the Traditional Owners.*

8.2 Community participation

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

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

planning and management, and the reconciliation of their interests and aspirations with those of other members of the community.

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 Friends of Chiltern National Park was established in 1992 and has grown with the park to encompass the Pilot Range section. The group holds regular excursions to the park, involving themselves in a variety of park management activities including weed control, threatened species monitoring (particularly Regent Honeyeater and orchid surveys), walking track maintenance and the establishment and maintenance of nesting boxes.

The North East Rock Art Committee was established in the 1990s and is involved in the management of Aboriginal places in the area, including those in the park. The group is consulted in relation to management programs involving sites, particularly the Yeddonba rock art site (section 5.1).

The involvement of Landcare and Friends groups in particular research activities and monitoring programs could further enhance the protection of park values and benefit linkages within the landscape.

Aim

- Support and encourage the whole community including community groups and volunteers to actively assist in the park's management by participating and contributing their knowledge and skills.

Management strategies

- *Work to continue to build, strengthen and maintain relationships with relevant Indigenous communities. In particular, seek to*

further develop a close inclusive working partnership with the relevant registered Aboriginal Party in managing Aboriginal heritage.

- *Continue to work with the North East Rock Art Committee and local Indigenous community groups in accordance with legislation and operational policies, and explore ways to involve them in reflecting the Traditional Owner's views in the management of the park (section 5.1).*
- *Seek to establish a memorandum of understanding and working protocols with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party, regarding the assessment of annual works and volunteer programs.*
- *Encourage volunteer involvement from the wider community and actively promote opportunities for community groups to assist Parks Victoria in the park's management.*
- *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.*
- *Provide opportunities for, and encourage and support, tertiary students to undertake research that assists park management and are consistent with park goals.*
- *Seek to establish, maintain and strengthen relationships with Friends, volunteers and other community groups that use or have a particular interest in the park. Encourage and support such groups to work with each other and Parks Victoria and the Traditional Owners to achieve shared goals for the park.*
- *Ensure that Friends and community groups participating in the park's management have sustainable and rewarding volunteer experiences.*
- *Maintain liaison with Friends, volunteers and community groups that participate in the park's management to provide guidance and support and to ensure they have opportunities to appropriately exercise their interests and utilise their knowledge and skills.*

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 other 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 strategic direction and policy advice for the management of parks, including flora and fauna values and threatening processes, fire management and catchment protection.

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) advises on pest plant and animals, salinity and sustainable production practices.

The North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA) 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 4.3). Strategic directions for the NECMA are outlined in the Regional Catchment Strategy, which broadly states its vision as 'vibrant and diverse communities, healthy and diverse natural systems that are appreciated by local communities and vibrant and diverse industries that produce more with less' (NECMA 2004).

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) is a volunteer-based community service that responds to a variety of fire and emergency incidents.

The 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 including monitoring of the adjacent Beechworth sewerage treatment plant (section 4.3).

Indigo Shire and the Rural City of Wangaratta administer the planning schemes for land adjacent to the park, which includes the assessment of developments that could have an impact on park

values. Parks Victoria provides input into planning applications to ensure that park values are protected. The shire and city are also responsible for the management of a number of roads that pass through the park (table 4, section 6.2).

Through Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV), the Department for Planning and Victorian Community Development has responsibility for administering legislation protecting cultural heritage (section 5.1). DPCP, AAV, the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party and the North East Cultural Heritage Unit advise Parks Victoria on Aboriginal cultural heritage matters (section 5.1)..

Heritage Victoria (DSE) 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.

Trust for Nature (TFN) conservation covenants cover a number of properties adjacent or near the park. Parks Victoria liaises with TFN to ensure complementary management of the park and these properties.

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's vision and direction. In particular work with:*
 - *DSE regarding planning and management, including fire management and the protection of flora and fauna from potentially threatening processes*

- *North East CMA to reduce the impacts of land use and management on the park and the development of appropriate actions in regional catchment strategies*
- *the CFA and DSE to ensure the safety and protection of park values in managing fire within and around the park*
- *AAV, the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party and the North East Cultural Heritage Unit on issues relating to cultural heritage protection*
- *Heritage Victoria on heritage management and compliance with the Heritage Act*
- *Goulburn–Murray Water and the North East Water Authority to ensure that the management of water infrastructure in the park is consistent with the protection of park values (section 7.1)*
- *Tourism Victoria and regional tourism authorities to promote the park in regional visitor information centres and regional tourism strategies*
- *Indigo Shire Council and the Rural City of Wangaratta regarding administration of the planning scheme, including input into adjacent or nearby developments that may impact on the park and the promotion of responsible pet ownership (section 7.3)*
- *the Victoria EPA to minimise impacts associated with the discharge of waste into the environment, particularly those from the Beechworth sewerage system*
- *Trust for Nature to ensure complementary management of properties near the park*
- *the 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 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 the implementation of the plan, Parks Victoria will work in partnership with the Traditional Owners. Ongoing collaborative activities with interested members of Indigenous communities, 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.

The 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. The threat of accelerated climate change on the parks ecosystems is of increasing concern. Parks Victoria is changing practices to reduce greenhouse emissions and its environmental footprint.

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 ongoing 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 report on the evaluation of the plan (section 9.3) at the start of a 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 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, as appropriate.

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

Throughout the life of the plan, Parks Victoria will periodically 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

- Progress towards a natural age class distribution and floristic diversity with an emphasis on protection of large or old hollow-bearing trees in the long-term.
- Maintenance of hollow-bearing trees for hollow-dependent fauna.
- Progress towards the restoration or maintenance of viable populations of threatened flora and fauna species to sustainable levels to prevent local extinction.
- Protection of the tree canopy cover and large old trees in fire-affected areas.
- Timely management intervention to minimise the threats from foxes, rabbits etc.
- Use of prescribed fire to improve the long-term health of vegetation communities, guided by an ecological burn strategy for the park.

- Protection of water quality in designated catchments by controlling recreational activities and visitor use.

Protecting cultural values

- Progress in working with relevant Registered Aboriginal Party in managing the park and in protecting and interpreting Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- Timely management intervention to minimise damaging activities and threats.
- Meeting community expectations as a good manager of historic places.

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 vehicle track standards (table 4).
- Maintaining all 2WD roads in at least fair to good condition.
- Minimal impact from visitors, including individuals and school and tour groups.
- Maintaining visitor use levels.
- Maintaining visitor satisfaction with adequacy of recreational opportunities.
- Meeting community expectations in relation to Parks Victoria's management of the park.
- Improving community and visitor awareness.

Providing for research and promoting understanding

- Progress in reflecting the Traditional Owners' views and aspirations in the park's planning and management.
- Improving understanding of the key threats such as pest plant, pest animals and inappropriate fire regimes.
- Ongoing participation by the Traditional Owners and the wider community.

-
- Ongoing Indigenous and broader community participation.

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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- E. Collins – Friends of Chiltern National Park
- J. Alexander – DSE Flora and Fauna Officer

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.

Defined campsite – a camping area usually defined in some manner such as fencing, bollards or natural barriers.

Designated camping – camping in an area set aside as a campground. This may be vehicle based or walk-in and generally has some facilities.

Dispersed camping – camping in an area set aside for camping usually in existing cleared sites. This is generally walk-in camping with no facilities.

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.

Ecological vegetation community (EVC) – an EVC comprises of one or several vegetation communities based on landscape, structural, floristic and ecological features.

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

Fire management – all activities associated with the management of fire on public land, including the use of fire to meet land management goals and objectives, and wildfire suppression.

Freehold land – land held in private ownership.

Geomorphology – the scientific study of landforms and geological formations and the processes that shape them.

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.

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. Can refer to either terrestrial or marine species.

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

Registered Aboriginal Party – a body 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.

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.

Undefined campsites – campsites within a camping area are not defined by markers etc.

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).

NRE – the former Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

APPENDIX 1 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR NATIONAL PARKS

Management objectives for national parks included on Schedule 2 of the National Parks Act are listed below.

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.

4. Objects of the Act

The objects of this Act are —

- (a) to make provision, in respect of national parks ...—
 - (i) for the preservation and protection of the natural environment including wilderness areas and remote and natural areas in those parks;
 - (ii) for the protection and preservation of indigenous flora and fauna and features of scenic or archaeological, ecological, geological, historic or other scientific interest in those parks; and
 - (iii) for the study of ecology, geology, botany, zoology and other sciences relating to the conservation of the natural environment in those parks; and
 - (iv) for the responsible management of the land in those parks;
 - (aa) to make further provision in respect of designated water supply catchment areas in national parks—
 - (i) for the protection of those areas; and
 - (ii) for the maintenance of the water quality and otherwise for the protection of the water resources in those areas; and
 - (iii) for the restriction of human activity in those areas for the purposes of sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii);
 - (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.
- Under Section 17(2) the Secretary shall, subject to the Act—
- (a) ensure that each national park ... is controlled and managed, in accordance with the objects of this Act, in a manner that will—
 - (i) preserve and protect the park in its natural condition for the use, enjoyment and education of the public;
 - (ii) preserve and protect indigenous flora and fauna in the park;
 - (iii) exterminate or control exotic fauna in the park;
 - (iv) eradicate or control exotic flora in the park; and
 - (v) preserve and protect wilderness areas in the park and features in the park of scenic, archaeological, ecological, geological, historic or other scientific interest;
 - (aa) have regard to all classes of management actions that may be implemented for the purposes of maintaining and improving the ecological function of the park;
 - (b) ensure that appropriate and sufficient measures are taken to protect each national park and State park from injury by fire;
 - (ba) ensure that appropriate and sufficient measures are taken:
 - (i) to protect designated water supply catchment areas; and
 - (ii) to maintain water quality of and otherwise protect the water resources in those areas; and
 - (iii) to restrict human activity in those areas for the purposes of sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii);
 - (c) promote and encourage the use and enjoyment of national parks and State parks by the public and the understanding and recognition of the purpose and significance of national parks and State parks; and
 - (d) prepare a plan of management in respect of each national park and State park.

APPENDIX 2 SUBMISSIONS ON THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

A total of 29 submissions were received on the Draft Management Plan (March –May 2007), from the following organisations and individuals. One submission was marked confidential.

ORGANISATION	SUBMISSION No.	NAME	SUBMISSION No.
Submissions from groups	Total: 15	Submissions from individuals	Total: 14
Convenor, Bushwalking Victoria Environment Committee	3	Cecilia Browne	1
Border Climbing Club	4	Gil Langfield	2
Birds Australia	8	Eileen Collins	5
Bird Observers Club of Australia (Ballarat branch)	10	John McDonald	6
PMAV	14	Mark Carey	7
North East Branch PMAV	15	Confidential	9
Victorian Orienteering Association	17	Martin O'Brien*	11
NE Catchment Management Authority	19	Martin O'Brien*	12
Bird Observers Club of Australia	20	Martin O'Brien*	13
IW Jack and Associates Pty Ltd	21	Neville Bartlett	16
Wooragee Landcare Group	23	Sean Dooley	18
Aboriginal Affairs Victoria	24	Jennifer Davidson	22
DSE Biodiversity, North East (Kelly)	26	Rik Thwaites	25
DSE Biodiversity, North East (Johnson)	27	Bill Hotson	29
PMAV	28		

* separate submissions from the same individual

APPENDIX 3 RARE AND THREATENED FLORA

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS			ENDEMIC
		AUST	Vic	FFG	
<i>Acacia deanei</i> subsp. <i>deanei</i>	Deane's Wattle		r	L	
<i>Acacia deanei</i> subsp. <i>paucijuga</i>	Deane's Wattle		r		
<i>Acacia doratoxylon</i>	Currawang		r		
<i>Acacia triptera</i>	Spur-wing Wattle		r		
<i>Acianthus collinus</i>	Inland Pixie-caps		v	L	
<i>Austrodanthonia monticola</i>	Small-flower Wallaby-grass		r		
<i>Brachyscome gracilis</i>	Dookie Daisy		v	L	
<i>Caladenia concolor</i>	Crimson Spider Orchid	Vul	e	L, A	
<i>Caladenia pilotensis</i>	Mt Pilot Spider Orchid		e	L, A	Yes
<i>Calochilus imberbis</i>	Naked Beard Orchid		r		
<i>Centipeda nidiformis</i>	Cotton Sneezeweed		r		
<i>Daviesia genistifolia</i> s.s.	Broom Bitter-pea		r		
<i>Desmodium varians</i>	Slender Tick-trefoil		k		
<i>Dipodium hamiltonianum</i>	Yellow Hyacinth Orchid		e	L	
<i>Diuris punctata</i> var. <i>punctata</i>	Purple Diuris		v	L	
<i>Dodonaea boroniifolia</i>	Hairy Hop-bush		r		
<i>Eucalyptus</i> aff. <i>cinerea</i> (Beechworth)	Beechworth Silver Stringybark		v		Yes
<i>Eucalyptus cadens</i>	Warby Range Swamp-gum	Vul	v	L, A	Yes
<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i> s.s.	Mugga		r		
<i>Fimbristylis velata</i>	Veiled Fringe-sedge		r		
<i>Gonocarpus micranthus</i> subsp. <i>ramosissimus</i>	Branching Raspwort		k		
<i>Goodenia macbarronii</i>	Narrow Goodenia	Vul	v	L, A	
<i>Goodia medicaginea</i>	Western Golden-tip		r		
<i>Haeckeria ozothamnoides</i>	Cottony Haeckeria		r		
<i>Indigofera adesmiifolia</i>	Tick Indigo		v		
<i>Isoetes pusilla</i>	Small Quillwort		e	L	Yes
<i>Lipocarpha microcephala</i>	Button Rush		v		
<i>Poa sieberiana</i> var. <i>cyanophylla</i>	Blue-leaf Tussock-grass		k		
<i>Prasophyllum</i> aff. <i>validum</i> B	Woodland Leek-orchid	Vul	e		
<i>Prasophyllum validum</i>	Sturdy Leek Orchid	Vul	e		
<i>Prostanthera nivea</i> var. <i>nivea</i>	Snowy Mint-bush		r		
<i>Pterostylis aciculiformis</i>	Slender Ruddyhood		k		
<i>Pterostylis boormanii</i>	Beechworth Rustyhood		r	L	
<i>Pterostylis bicolor</i>	Black-tip Greenhood		k		
<i>Pterostylis hamata</i>	Scaly Greenhood		r		
<i>Pultenaea foliolosa</i>	Small-leaf Bush-pea		r		
<i>Pultenaea platyphylla</i>	Flat-leaf Bush-pea		r		

Appendix 3 contd.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS			ENDEMIC
		AUST	Vic	FFG	
<i>Pultenaea polifolia</i>	Dusky Bush-pea		r		
<i>Pultenaea vrolandii</i>	Cupped Bush-pea		r		
<i>Senecio garlandii</i>	Woolly Ragwort	Vul	e	L	
<i>Swainsona recta</i>	Mountain Swainson-pea	End	e	L	
<i>Trachymene humilis</i>	Alpine Trachymene		r		
<i>Utricularia uniflora</i>	Single Bladderwort		k		

Sources: DSE (2005a, d)

Key:

Conservation status:

Aust:

End endangered in Australian under the EPBC Act

Vul vulnerable in Australian under the EPBC Act

R rare in Australian under the EPBC Act

Vic:

e endangered in Victoria

v vulnerable in Victoria

r rare in Victoria

k status uncertain in Victoria

FFG:

L listed under the FFG Act

A an action statement has been prepared under the FFG Act

APPENDIX 4 RARE AND THREATENED FAUNA

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS				
		AUST	VIC	FFG	JAMBA	CAMBA
MAMMALS						
<i>Myotis macropus</i>	Southern Myotis		NT			
<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>	Squirrel Glider		End	L, A		
<i>Phascogale tapoatafa</i>	Brush-tailed Phascogale		Vul	L, A		
BIRDS						
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	Grey Goshawk		Vul	L		
<i>Alcedo azurea</i>	Azure Kingfisher		NT			
<i>Anas rhynchotis</i>	Australasian Shoveler		Vul			
<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great Egret		Vul	L, A	L	L
<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	Intermediate Egret		CEn	L, A		
<i>Aythya australis</i>	Hardhead		Vul			
<i>Biziura lobata</i>	Musk Duck		Vul			
<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	Bush Stone-curlew		End	L, LC		
<i>Chrysococcyx osculans</i>	Black-eared Cuckoo		NT			
<i>Chthonicola sagittata</i>	Speckled Warbler		Vul	L, LC		
<i>Cinlosoma punctatum</i>	Spotted Quail-thrush		NT			
<i>Climacteris picumnus</i>	Brown Treecreeper		NT	LC		
<i>Coturnix ypsilophora</i>	Brown Quail		NT			
<i>Egretta Garzetta</i>	Little Egret		End	L, A		
<i>Falco subniger</i>	Black Falcon		Vul			
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe		NT		L	L
<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater		Vul	L, LC		
<i>Hylacola pyrrhopygia</i>	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren		Vul	L		
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	E	End	L, A, LC		
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Square-tailed Kite		Vul	L		
<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>	Hooded Robin		NT	L, LC	L	L
<i>Melithreptus gularis</i>	Black-chinned Honeyeater		NT	LC		
<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	Turquoise Parrot		NT	L, LC		
<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Barking Owl		End	L, A, LC		
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl		Vul	L,A		
<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>	Nankeen Night Heron		NT			
<i>Oreoica gutturalis</i>	Crested Bellbird		NT	L		
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Blue-billed Duck		End	L,A		
<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Pied Cormorant		NT			
<i>Platalea regia</i>	Royal Spoonbill		Vul			
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Glossy Ibis		NT		L	L

Appendix 4 contd.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS				
		AUST	Vic	FFG	JAMBA	CAMBA
<i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i>	Grey-crowned Babbler		End	L, A, LC		
<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	Baillon's Crake		Vul	L		
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail		Vul	L, LC		
<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>	Freckled Duck		End	L		
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper		Vul		L	L
<i>Turnix pyrrhotorax</i>	Red-chested Button-quail		Vul	L		
<i>Turnix velox</i>	Little Button-quail		NT			
<i>Xanthomyza phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	E	CEn	L, A, LC		
ASSOCIATED WITH VICTORIAN TEMPERATE-WOODLAND BIRD COMMUNITY						
<i>Gerygone fusca</i>	Western Gerygone			LC		
<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	Little Lorikeet			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		
<i>Turnix varia</i>	Painted Button-quail			LC		
REPTILES						
<i>Pagona barbata</i>	Eastern Bearded Dragon		DD			
<i>Ramphotyphlops proximus</i>	Woodland Blind Snake		NT			
<i>Varanus varius</i>	Tree Goanna		Vul			
<i>Vermicella annulata</i>	Bandy Bandy		NT	L		
AMPHIBIANS						
<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Growling Grass Frog	V	End	L		
<i>Pseudophryne bibroni</i>	Brown Toadlet		End	N		

Sources: DSE (2005b; 2007)

Key:

Conservation status:

Aust:

E endangered in Australia under the EPBC Act

Vic:

CEn critically endangered in Victoria

End endangered in Victoria

Vul vulnerable in Victoria

NT near threatened in Victoria

DD data deficient in Victoria

FFG:

L listed under the FFG Act

A an action statement has been prepared under FFG Act

LC Associated with the FFG listed Victorian temperate-woodland bird community

JAMBA listed under Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

CAMBA listed under China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

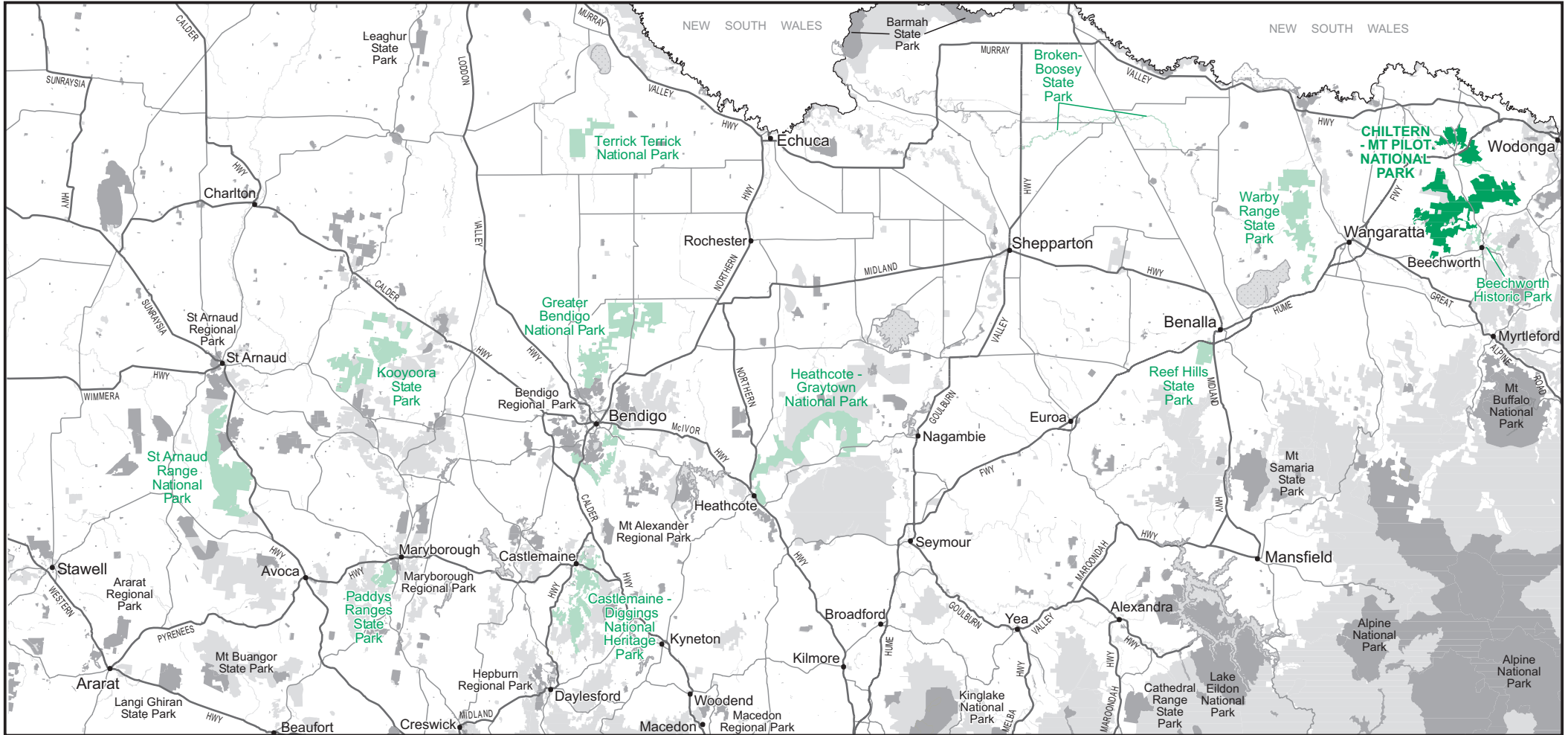







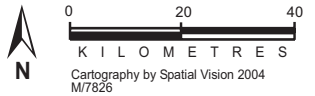


Figure 1 REGIONAL LOCALITY PLAN
CHILTERN-MT PILOT NATIONAL PARK

-  Freeway/Highway
-  Other major road
-  Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park
-  Other Box-Ironbark Parks
-  Other Parks & Reserves
-  Other Public Land
-  Waterbody



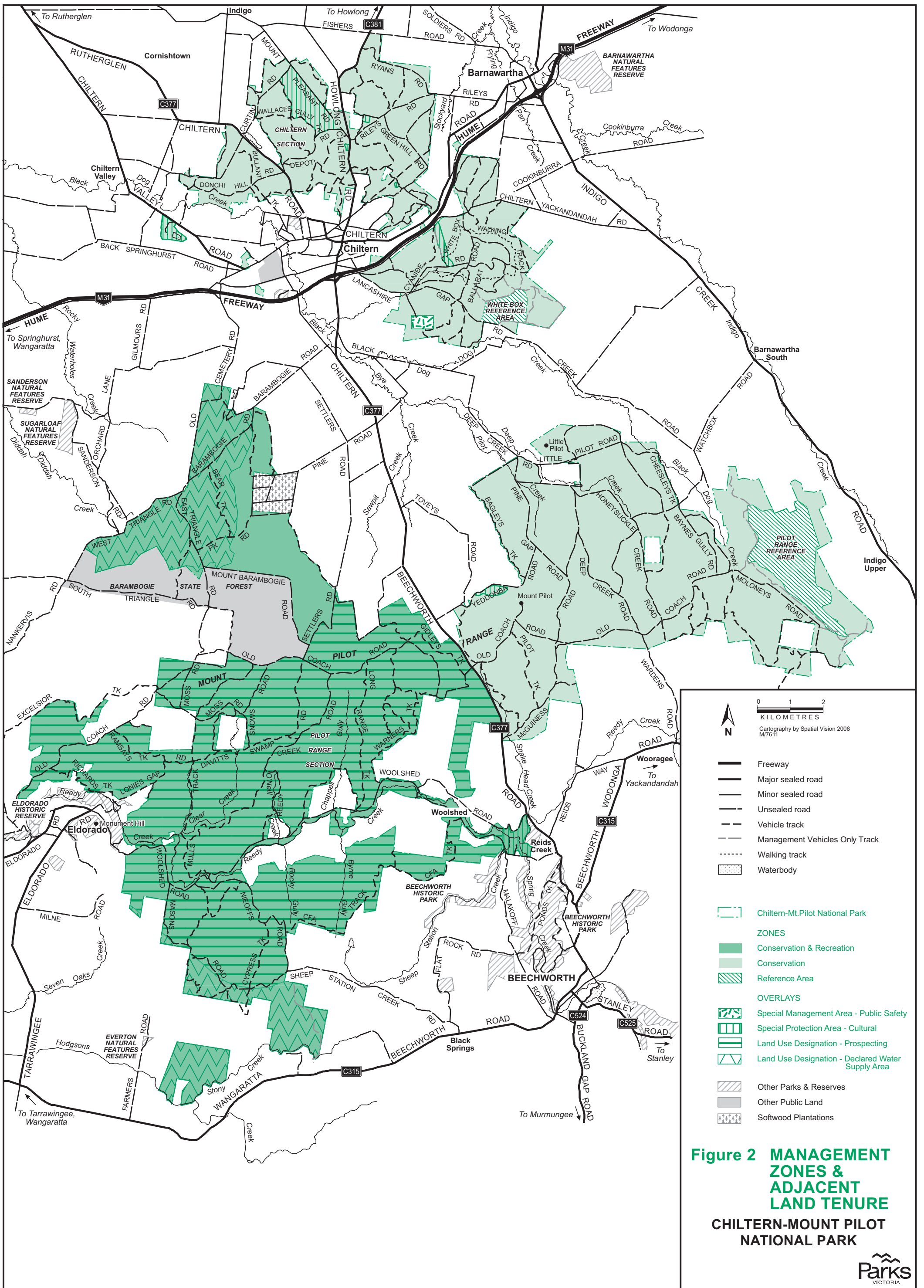


Figure 2 MANAGEMENT ZONES & ADJACENT LAND TENURE CHILTERN-MOUNT PILOT NATIONAL PARK

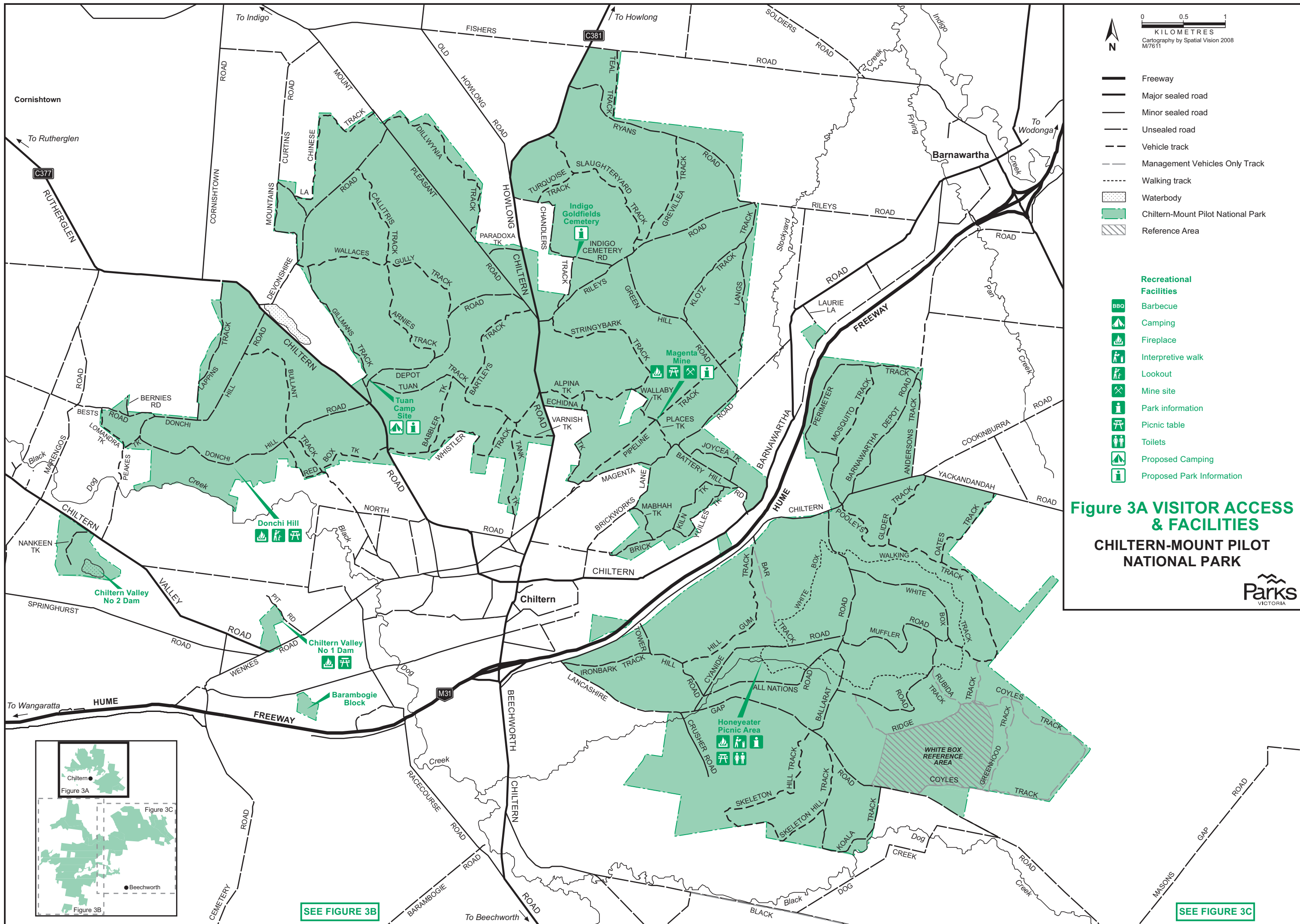
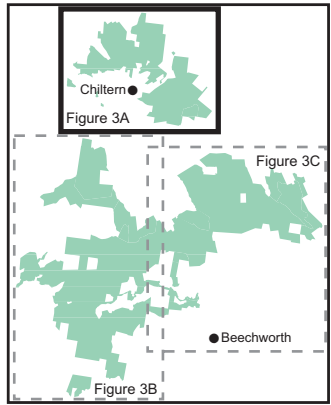


Figure 3A VISITOR ACCESS & FACILITIES
CHILTERN-MOUNT PILOT NATIONAL PARK



SEE FIGURE 3B

SEE FIGURE 3C









SEE FIGURE 3A



SEE FIGURE 3C



0 1 2
KILOMETRES

Cartography by Spatial Vision 2006
M/7611

-  Major sealed road
-  Minor sealed road
-  Unsealed road
-  Vehicle track
-  Management Vehicles Only Track
-  Waterbody

-  Chiltern-Mount Pilot National Park
-  Other Public Land

Recreational Facilities





-  Camping
-  Mine site
-  Park information
-  Picnic table

Figure 3B VISITOR ACCESS & FACILITIES

CHILTERN-MOUNT PILOT NATIONAL PARK

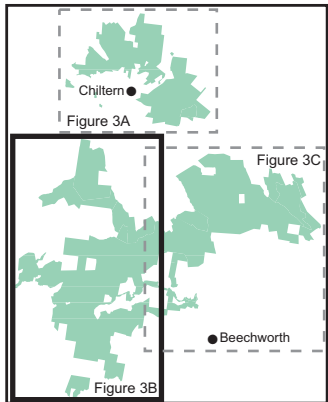
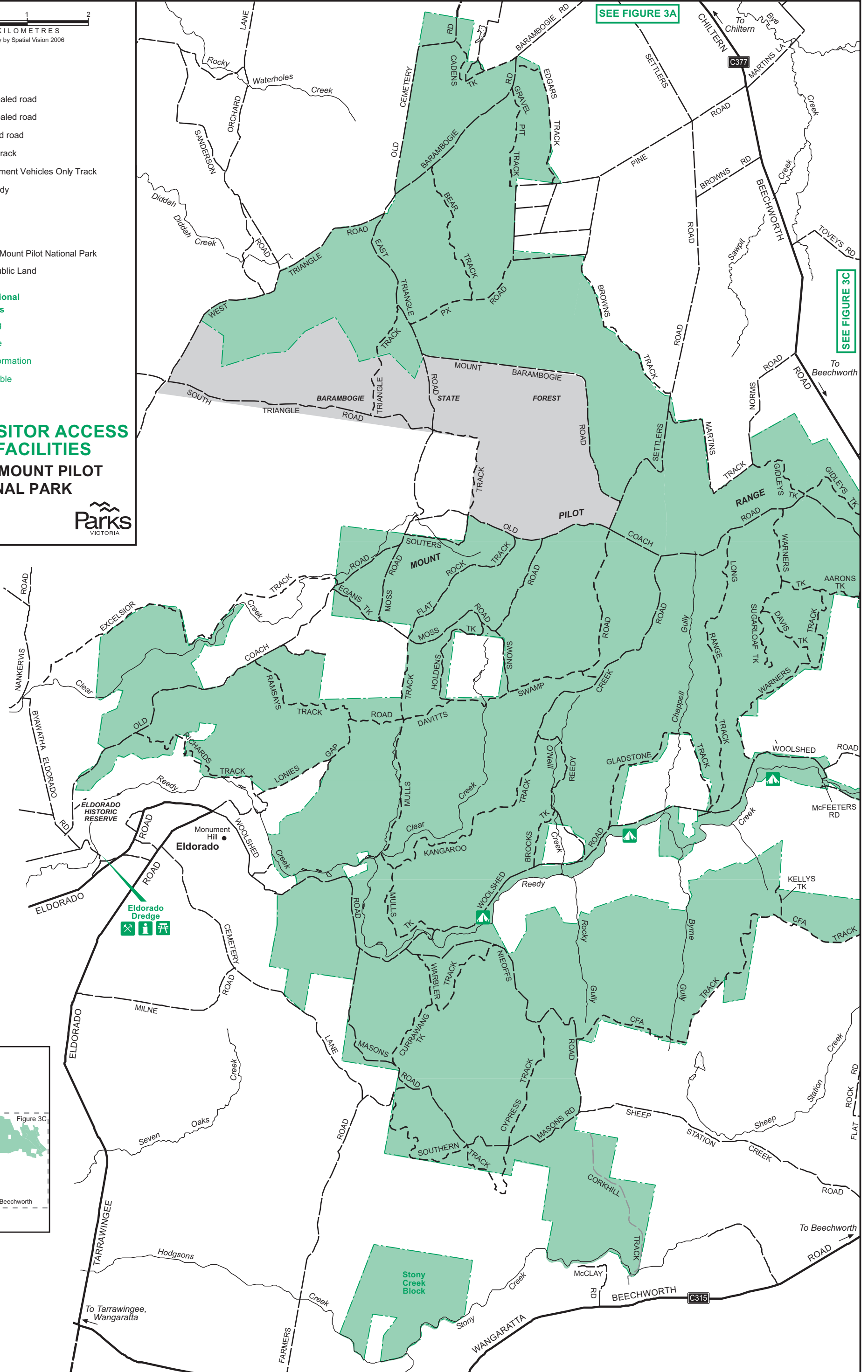
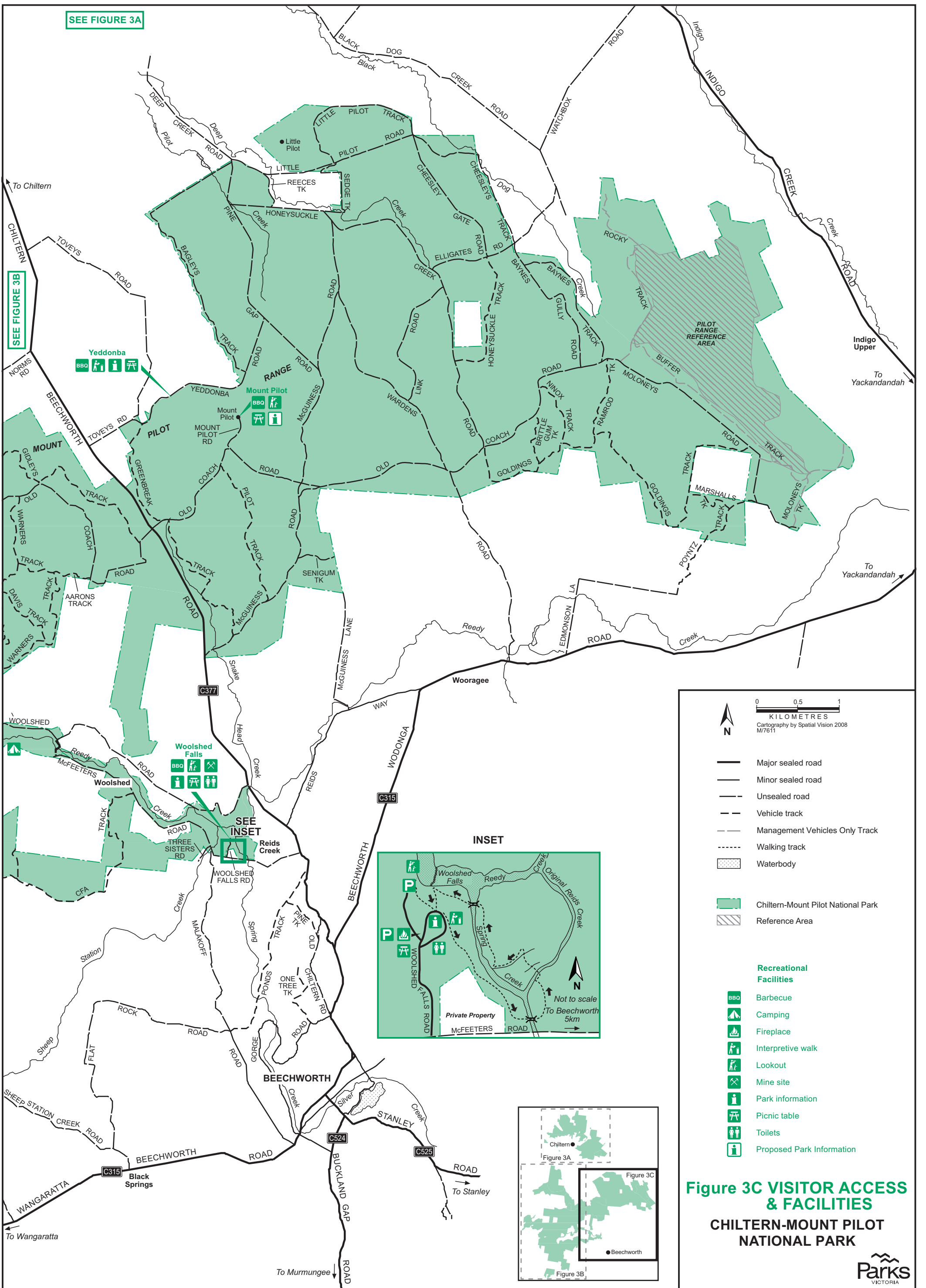


FIGURE 3B





For more information contact the **Parks Victoria Information Centre** on **13 1963**, or visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au