

GUNAIKURNAI AND VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN

LAKE TYERS STATE PARK
— KRAUATUNGALUNG COUNTRY



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Parks Victoria Act 2018

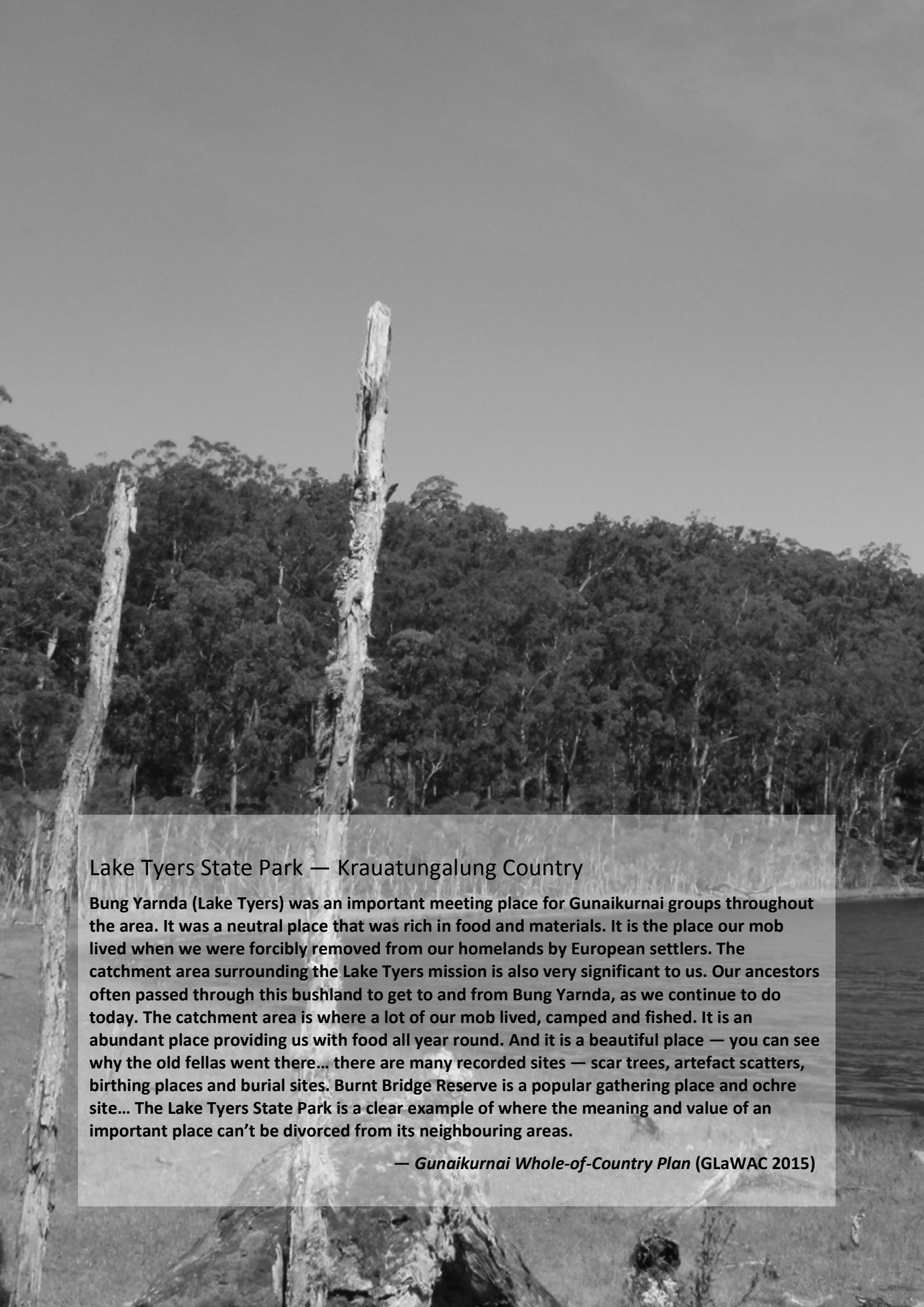
References to Parks Victoria in this plan should be read in the following context:

The *Parks Victoria Act 2018* (Vic.) will commence later in 2018. Under this Act, Parks Victoria will change from being an authority providing park management services by agreement to being an authority with park and reserve management responsibilities in its own right. It will continue to be a Committee of Management of particular reserves under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* (Vic.).

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Lake Tyers State Park — Krauatungalung Country

Bung Yarnda (Lake Tyers) was an important meeting place for Gunaikurnai groups throughout the area. It was a neutral place that was rich in food and materials. It is the place our mob lived when we were forcibly removed from our homelands by European settlers. The catchment area surrounding the Lake Tyers mission is also very significant to us. Our ancestors often passed through this bushland to get to and from Bung Yarnda, as we continue to do today. The catchment area is where a lot of our mob lived, camped and fished. It is an abundant place providing us with food all year round. And it is a beautiful place — you can see why the old fellas went there... there are many recorded sites — scar trees, artefact scatters, birthing places and burial sites. Burnt Bridge Reserve is a popular gathering place and ochre site... The Lake Tyers State Park is a clear example of where the meaning and value of an important place can't be divorced from its neighbouring areas.

— *Gunaikurnai Whole-of-Country Plan (GLaWAC 2015)*

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BASIS OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

In a 2010 Native Title Determination, the Federal Court recognised that the Gunaikurnai hold native title rights over much of Gippsland.

At the same time, the Victorian Government took additional steps to recognise Gunaikurnai peoples' traditional rights and ownership and entered into a Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA) under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* (Vic.) with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation. The Recognition Statement from the RSA is reproduced in full in the Strategic Plan.

The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) is the 'traditional owner group entity' for the purposes of the RSA. GLaWAC is also the Prescribed Body Corporate for the purposes of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth) and the Registered Aboriginal Party for the area for the purposes of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic.).

As part of the RSA, Lake Tyers State Park has been granted to the Gunaikurnai as 'Aboriginal Title' by the Victorian Government and will be managed jointly by Gunaikurnai and the Victorian Government. The Aboriginal Title grant is subject to the Gunaikurnai giving the State the right to occupy, use, control and manage the land for the same purpose as applied immediately before the grant. In the case of Lake Tyers State Park, the land continues to be managed as a state park under the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.).

This Management Plan for Lake Tyers State Park has been prepared under Section 82 of the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987* (Vic.) and the provisions of the Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Agreement 2010. It is consistent with the objects and requirements of the *National Parks Act 1975* and the requirements of the Regulations made under that Act. (Additional legislation and policies that have been considered in the preparation of the Management Plan are listed in Appendix 4 of the Strategic Plan.)

Because Lake Tyers State Park is within the area covered by the 2010 Determination and the RSA, the rights of the Gunaikurnai to undertake traditional activities apply to the park. Existing rights and interests in the park that are held by others are not affected by the Agreement, but remain subject to management policies and regulation.

The Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board (GKTOLMB) has been established in accordance with the RSA between GLaWAC and the State with the statutory objective of enabling the knowledge and culture of the Gunaikurnai to be recognised in the management of the 10 Aboriginal Title areas, including Lake Tyers State Park. The Board was responsible for preparing this management plan jointly with GLaWAC, Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

There have been few opportunities in the past for Gunaikurnai to participate in the decision-making and management of public land. Through this management plan, GLaWAC and the Victorian Government seek to:

- ensure that Lake Tyers State Park is well managed, its values and assets are protected and conserved, and the statutory requirements for park management are fulfilled, through an equitable partnership between the Victorian Government and GLaWAC;
- increase opportunities for Gunaikurnai people to connect with country, foster employment and economic development opportunities and build their capacity and skills to take a central role in joint management with the other management partners;
- benefit the Gunaikurnai and the State, by recognising, valuing, promoting and incorporating Gunaikurnai culture, knowledge, skills and decision-making into the park.

1.2 HOW TO READ THE PLAN

This plan provides a description of joint management strategies and actions that are specific to Lake Tyers State Park. The following sections provide:

- a description of values, uses and threats relating to the land, water and heritage of the park, and goals and strategies to protect and conserve those values
- a description of Traditional Owner, visitor and community connections to the park and their uses and activities; and goals and strategies for managing and enhancing those connections and uses; identification of government and community relationships and partnerships that are key to managing the park
- an integrated statement of the actions that will be undertaken over the next 10 years to achieve the goals and implement the strategies described in the plan.

In addition to the specific actions for Lake Tyers State Park in this plan, the strategic initiatives for joint management described in the Strategic Plan may include actions that relate to Lake Tyers State Park.

The *Parks Victoria Act 2018* (Vic.) will commence later in 2018. Under this Act, Parks Victoria will change from being an authority providing park management services by agreement to being an authority with park and reserve management responsibilities in its own right. It will continue to be a Committee of Management of particular reserves under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* (Vic.).

1.3 THE PARK

Lake Tyers State Park is about 20 kilometres north-east of Lakes Entrance and comprises 8680 hectares of land, extending from Lake Tyers Beach to Mount Nowa Nowa.

The park was proclaimed in 2012 on land that had largely been previously reserved under the *Forests Act 1958* (Vic.) as a forest park. It consists of undulating, densely forested country surrounding two tidal estuaries, the Toorloo Arm and the Nowa Nowa Arm, as well as a narrow spit of land between the Lake and Bass Strait. Additional land was added to the park in 2014.

The park borders substantial areas of private land on the western side of the Nowa Nowa Arm, including the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Reserve, which is owned by the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust. The western and eastern boundaries of the park border State forest.

2 LAKE TYERS STATE PARK UNDER JOINT MANAGEMENT

This joint management plan is the first management plan prepared for the park since its proclamation in 2012. The Plan reflects both the new arrangements and goals of joint management, as well as the change in legislated objectives for the park under the National Parks Act.

Lake Tyers has long been an important place for the local community and for visitors especially for fishing, boating and camping in a forested setting. It is highly accessible to Lakes Entrance, Bairnsdale and travellers along the Princes Highway but feels remote and natural. A large array of important bird species and other animal and plant species inhabit the waters, forest, dunes and rainforest of this special place. The richness of the land and water underpinned the use and occupation of the park by Gunaikurnai.

In more recent times recreational use of the park has been intensive and relatively informal with numerous vehicle tracks, camping areas and minimal facilities. That pattern of use has brought problems including off-road driving, uncontrolled boat launching and camping on the shoreline of the Lake in both the park and on the land of the adjacent Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust, as well as rubbish dumping and other impacts.

Lake Tyers is on the Country of the Krauatungalung clan. The *Gunaikurnai Whole-of-Country Plan* (GLaWAC 2015) sets out the following management priorities for Lake Tyers State Park:

- reducing public access points to the river
- undertaking compliance activities in the park to protect significant and vulnerable sites
- planning and developing sustainable use areas, including building playgrounds in the park
- working with authorities to help manage for sustainable fisheries
- clarifying resource extraction rights including firewood for Traditional Owners
- developing an agreement for the many significant areas that lie just outside the (Aboriginal Title) area.

While recognising these priorities, this management plan sets out actions that are consistent with and limited to the terms of the 2010 Recognition and Settlement Agreement.

The plan aims to ensure that Lake Tyers State Park continues to be a place for many visitors to enjoy for camping, fishing, boating, walking and sightseeing, but to reduce the impacts of that use on the land, water and cultural heritage of the park. To achieve this, the design and quality of visitor areas and facilities will be improved, and vehicle access and boat launching will be controlled in sensitive areas.

The plan also emphasises the broader landscape of Lake Tyers especially the links between the park, the Lake Tyers Trust Land and Nowa Nowa township. Lake Tyers, the place not just the park, is a very significant location in the history of Victoria and the interaction between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. The plan aims to conserve, interpret and promote these links.

3 ZONING

A zoning scheme has been developed to provide a geographic framework to manage the park. These zones will:

- communicate to the community and stakeholders which management aims have priority in different parts of the park
- indicate the types and levels of use allowed
- assist in minimising conflicts between uses, or between those and the protection of conservation values
- provide a basis for assessing the suitability of future activities and use proposals.

The location of the zones is shown on Map 1, and their purposes are described in Table 1. Much of the park between Toorloo Arm and Now Nowa township, (and adjacent to the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust land) is designated within the Conservation Zone in recognition of important vegetation communities and its cultural heritage as an area traditionally used by Gunaikurnai people living at the Mission and Reserve. The coastal dunes and hinterland vegetation parallel to Gibbs Beach in the south of the park, and the core areas of the section of the park north of Nowa Nowa township are also designated in this zone, to provide protection of their significant natural values.

The areas west of Toorloo Arm, including Burnt Bridge and Cherry Tree Creek day visit sites, are designated within the Conservation and Recreation Zone. Popular visitor areas on the east side of the Nowa Nowa Arm are also designated with this zone, including camping areas adjacent to the Arm, Lake Tyers, The Glasshouse and Pettmans Beach, as are key visitor areas in the northern section of the park. A key action in the plan is the development of a Camping and Access Strategy for the park. The zoning in this plan provides guidance for that Strategy based on the current pattern of access, use and facilities.

The strategy may identify the need for changes in access, activities and facilities that requires the zoning to be modified in certain locations through a future variation to this plan. Any variation to the zoning will be subject to community consultation.

Table 1: Management Zones, Lake Tyers State Park.

Zone	Description and purpose
Conservation and Recreation Zone	Areas where the management emphasis is on protection of land, water, ecological and cultural values while encouraging dispersed recreation and nature-based tourism. Low-impact recreation activities are allowed; dispersed, small-scale facilities are provided, without significant impact on natural processes and landscape character.
Recreation Development Zone	Small areas with a high-level of visitor facility development catering for a high number of visitors.
Special Protection Overlay	Areas with threatened or highly significant natural values requiring special protection.
Cultural Values Overlay (future)	Areas where the extent, nature or significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage and/or historic heritage is high. Specific protections and restrictions on use and activities may be applied.

The Cultural Values Overlay is proposed as a future overlay in all parks and reserves which would be applied through a formal variation to the plans, using the results of the TOLMB cultural mapping project when completed.

The implementation of this overlay may require amendment of the description or provisions of other zones and overlays, and integration with the Aboriginal Heritage Act and the *Heritage Act 2017* (Vic.) provisions to ensure compatibility.

Under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* (Vic.) natural resource agreements can authorise activities such as hunting wildlife and game, fishing, and gathering flora and forest produce.

No agreement over Lake Tyers State Park is currently in place. Any future agreement may require variation to the zoning scheme and provisions of this management plan.

4 CARING FOR COUNTRY

4.1 GUNAİKURNAI CULTURAL HERITAGE

Lake Tyers State Park is on the Country of the Krauatungalung clan. The landforms, features and sites of spiritual significance, and features in the Lake Tyers landscape represent stories fundamental to Gunaikurnai culture.

According to the Gunaikurnai creation story for the area, *Nark Abundhu*, the Sea, was tired from playing with fish, rushing over rocks and rolling backwards and forwards on the sand. She searched the coast until she found a quiet place with tall, shady gum trees and soft earth. Here she wriggled about and made herself comfortable before going to sleep. Lake Tyers, known as *Bung Yarnda* or 'Big Water', represents the resting place of *Nark Abundhu*.

The land and water of the park and its surrounds remain important to Gunaikurnai for fishing, collecting mussels, catching eels, hunting animals, collecting swan eggs, and gathering of various plants for food and medicine. The foreshore and forest are rich with materials for basket weaving, grinding stones, ochre for ceremony, and bark for canoes.

Over 40 Gunaikurnai cultural heritage sites have been recorded in the park, most of which are artefact scatter sites, burial sites as well as scarred trees and shell middens. However, the park has only been partially surveyed for cultural evidence. Morgans Landing and the Glasshouse area are places within the park, amongst others, that have significant traditional and contemporary Gunaikurnai cultural heritage values.

Many plants and animals are culturally important. Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*) flowers were soaked in wooden bowls to make a sweet drink. The young leaves of noon-flowers (*Carpobrotus* spp.) were eaten raw or sometimes cooked with meat. The red fruits were also eaten. The hard wood of the wattle Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), was prized for spear throwers and shields. Its bark was heated and soaked in *yarnda* for bathing rheumatic joints. Samphire and Sea Asparagus (*Sarcocornia* spp.) are important bush food plants. The strong innermost fibres of the bark were woven into string for fishing lines. Grass-trees (*Xanthorrhoea* spp.) provided a hard, waterproof resin that when softened by heating, was used to fasten axe heads and spear points and for many other purposes.

The Europeans renamed Lake Tyers after Charles Tyers, the Commissioner of Crown Land for Gippsland in the 1840s. The Lake Tyers Mission was first set up in 1861 as a reserve for the accommodation of Aboriginal people who had been forcibly removed from their families and homelands.

It was part of the colonial government's policy of the 'protection of Aborigines' and became home to Indigenous people from all over Victoria. Unlike many other Aboriginal reserves, Lake Tyers Mission provided some freedom and independence for its Indigenous residents. The Aborigines Protection Board took over the management of Lake Tyers in 1908, and from the 1930s began to force people off the reserve. This process continued in the 1950s under the government's assimilation policy.

The Bung Yarnda people fought to retain management of the land and control was handed over to the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust in 1971 under the newly established Aboriginal Lands Act. This was one of the first successful Aboriginal land rights claims in Australia's history. Today the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Reserve is the private property of the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust (see 'Community and Other Partners' below).

Lake Tyers State Park and the Lake Tyers Trust land together form one of the most significant cultural and historic places in Victoria for Aboriginal people. The Mission site was chosen in part because it was known as a traditional Gunaikurnai gathering place, and it remains one of only two mission locations where Aboriginal people continue to live in the present (Context 2009). An information shelter on the western edge of the park, adjacent to the Princes Highway, is one of the waypoints on the Bataluk Cultural Trail, a regional cultural touring route through Gippsland that extends from South Gippsland to Cape Conran.

4.2 LAND AND WATER VALUES

Lake Tyers was formed as the sea rose after the last Ice Age and flooded the valleys of Boggy and Stony creeks, with a dune barrier forming at the entrance. A thin sand spit divides the lake from Bass Strait. The lake is characterised by many small inlets and fingers of land that descend to the lake from the higher ridges.

The lake and its shores contain a variety of terrestrial and aquatic habitats that support a diverse array of plant and animal species and communities. The islands, mud banks, shoreline vegetation and saltmarsh communities found in Lake Tyers are home to a number of species including migratory birds and waders. Coastal salt marsh communities occur mainly around the southern shoreline of the lake, including The Glasshouse.

Tall eucalypt forests surrounding the northern shores of Lake Tyers, and small pockets of nationally listed Littoral Rainforest communities, shoreline vegetation, fringing wetlands and the coastal barrier dunes between the estuary and Bass Strait, are of particular significance.

There are several recorded caves in the park, one of which is substantial and is used by Eastern Horseshoe Bats and other bat species. Outside but adjacent to the park, stands of seagrass cover substantial areas of the estuary, particularly the southern part of the lake, and Nowa Nowa Arm. Seagrass and salt marsh communities provide important habitat, feeding and nursery grounds for a range of aquatic biota, including fish species.

The predominant ecological vegetation classes (EVCs: the standard categorisation of vegetation communities in Victoria) are Lowland Forest (67% of the park), Limestone Box Forest (21%), Damp Forest (4%) and Blackthorn Scrub (3%). Small areas of rare Warm Temperate Rainforest and critically endangered Littoral Rainforest also occur in the park. Table 2 describes rare or threatened ecological vegetation classes in the park.

Rare or threatened species

Lake Tyers combination of estuarine, wetland, dry forest and rainforest habitats makes it a very rich location for significant plant and animal species.

A large number of rare or threatened plant and animal species have been recorded in the park (Table 3), including 44 threatened animal and plant species listed under the Commonwealth *Environment, Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) and Victoria's *Flora Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG).

DELWP's NatureKit biodiversity data products provide important information for conserving flora and fauna in the park.

Landscape and catchment context

The catchment surrounding the park largely comprises public land and native vegetation. It lies within the 'Far East Catchments' landscape area and program of the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority. The program is focused on maintaining the condition of significant and relatively undisturbed landscape of these catchments, with their large and continuous extent of natural ecosystems, from the mountains to the coast.

The Regional Catchment Strategy identifies the broad landscape objectives for public land as:

- maintenance and targeted improvement of the condition, security, diversity and integrity of natural ecosystems and the status of threatened species and communities
- maintenance of soil condition and stability on public land.

Table 2: Significant Ecological Vegetation Classes in Lake Tyers State Park.

Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC)	Description	Bioregional conservation status	Character species	High-impact weed species
Limestone Box Forest (21% of park)	Occurs on generally well-developed terra rossa soils derived from Tertiary limestones that outcrop around coastal streams, gullies and lakes. Open eucalypt forest to 20 m tall with a tall shrub layer understorey and a grass and herb-rich ground layer on sheltered aspects but may be almost completely bare on drier aspects.	vulnerable	Southern Mahogany (<i>Eucalyptusbotryoides</i>) Blue Box (<i>Eucalyptus baueriana</i>) Coast Grey Box (<i>Eucalyptus bosistoana</i>) Red Ironbark (<i>Eucalyptus tricarpa</i>)	Spear Thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>)
Warm Temperate Rainforest (0.6% of park)	Closed forest to 20 m tall occurring along gullies and river flats. Dominated by a range of non-eucalypt canopy species above an understorey of smaller trees and shrubs and usually visually dominated by ferns and climbers.	rare	Blackwood (<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>) Lilly Pilly (<i>Acmena smithii</i>) Muttonwood (<i>Rapanea howittiana</i>) Yellow Wood (<i>Acronychia oblongifolia</i>) Kanooka (<i>Tristaniopsis laurina</i>)	Blackberry (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> spp. agg.)
Littoral Rainforest (> 0.1% of park)	A complex of rainforest and coastal vine thickets. Typically, occurs within 2 km of the coast or adjacent to a large salt water body, such as an estuary and, thus, is influenced by the sea. It is naturally distributed as a series of disjunct and localised stands occurring on a diverse range of landforms derived from coastal processes. Canopy species are well adapted to coastal exposure, and protect less tolerant species and subsequent cohorts in the understorey. The canopy height varies with the degree of exposure to extreme or persistent coastal conditions, ranging from under 1 m to 25 m in height.	critically endangered (nationally)	Coast Banksia (<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>) Common Boobialla (<i>Myoporum insulare</i>) Seaberry Saltbush (<i>Rhagodia candolleana</i>) Bower Spinach (<i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i>) Coast Beard-heath (<i>Leucopogon parviflorus</i>)	Scramblers, climbers and ground cover species, including Lantana (<i>Lantana camara</i>) Bridal Creeper (<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>) Cape Ivy (<i>Delairea odorata</i>)
Coastal zone EVCs	Includes Coastal Saltmarsh, Riparian Scrub/Swampy Riparian Woodland, Wet Swale Herbland.	vulnerable/depleted	various	various

Table 3: Significant species, Lake Tyers State Park.

Scientific name	Common name	Conservation status ¹	Relevant legislation	FFG Action Statement
<i>Uperoleia martini</i>	Martin's Toadlet	critically endangered	FFG	265
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern	endangered	FFG, EPBC	—
<i>Cardamine tryssa</i>	Dainty Bitter-cress	endangered	FFG	—
<i>Coturnix chinensis victoriae</i>	King Quail	endangered	FFG	—
<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i>	Spot-tailed Quoll	endangered	FFG, EPBC	15
<i>Egretta garzetta nigripes</i>	Little Egret	endangered	FFG	120
<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon	endangered	FFG	83
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	endangered	FFG, EPBC	169
<i>Pseudoraphis paradoxa</i>	Slender Mud-grass	endangered	FFG	—
<i>Sternula nereis nereis</i>	Fairy Tern	endangered	FFG	—
<i>Tyto novaehollandiae novaehollandiae</i>	Masked Owl	endangered	FFG	124
<i>Acacia caerulescens</i>	Limestone Blue Wattle	vulnerable	FFG	222
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae novaehollandiae</i>	Grey Goshawk	vulnerable	FFG	—
<i>Ardea modesta</i>	Eastern Great Egret	vulnerable	FFG	120
<i>Caladenia peisleyi</i>	Heath Spider-orchid	vulnerable	FFG	—
<i>Caladenia tessellata</i>	Thick-lip Spider-orchid	vulnerable	EPBC	National Recovery Plan (DSE 2010)
<i>Calamanthus pyrrhopygius</i>	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	vulnerable	FFG	—
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	vulnerable	FFG	253
<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater	vulnerable	FFG	193
<i>Grevillea celata</i>	Colquhoun Grevillea	vulnerable	FFG	211
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	vulnerable	FFG	60
<i>Lewinia pectoralis pectoralis</i>	Lewin's Rail	vulnerable	FFG	—
<i>Litoria aurea</i>	Green and Golden Bell Frog	vulnerable	FFG, EPBC	—
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Square-tailed Kite	vulnerable	FFG	—
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl	vulnerable	FFG	92
<i>Olearia viscosa</i>	Viscid Daisy-bush	vulnerable	FFG	—
<i>Porzana pusilla palustris</i>	Baillon's Crane	vulnerable	FFG	—
<i>Rhinolophus megaphyllus megaphyllus</i>	Eastern Horseshoe Bat	vulnerable	FFG	—
<i>Sternula albifrons sinensis</i>	Little Tern	vulnerable	FFG, EPBC	51
<i>Thinornis rubricollis rubricollis</i>	Hooded Plover	vulnerable	FFG	9
<i>Tyto tenebricosa tenebricosa</i>	Sooty Owl	vulnerable	FFG	not numbered
<i>Anseranas semipalmata</i>	Magpie Goose	near threatened	FFG	—
<i>Cercartetus nanus</i>	Eastern Pygmy-possum	near threatened	FFG	—
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian Tern	near threatened	FFG	—

¹ DELWP's Victorian Advisory List.

Scientific name	Common name	Conservation status ¹	Relevant legislation	FFG Action Statement
<i>Isoodon obesulus obesulus</i>	Southern Brown Bandicoot	near threatened	FFG, EPBC	—
<i>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</i>	Hooded Robin	near threatened	FFG	—
<i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i>	Long-nosed Potoroo	near threatened	FFG, EPBC	254
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail	near threatened	FFG	—
<i>Acronychia oblongifolia</i>	Yellow-wood	rare	FFG	—
<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>	Common Bent-wing Bat		FFG	—

4.3 HISTORIC HERITAGE

The park contains the ruins of the Glass Factory, which was established in 1908-09 to manufacture glass telegraph insulators. There are only three such furnaces left in the world and this was the only one fuelled entirely by wood. The finished products were transported to Lakes Entrance by bullock dray when Lake Tyers entrance was closed.

When the lake was open they were taken by boat to Cross's Landing and then to Lakes Entrance by road, loaded on to a steam-ship and taken to Bairnsdale, and then finally to Melbourne by train.

The Lake Tyers Hotel was built on the eastern side of the Lake in 1886 and Lake Tyers House was established as a grand guest house on the southern shore of the lake.

The Mt Nowa Nowa Fire Tower in the northern section of the park is considered to be historically significant as a rare surviving example of an early form of timber fire tower, similar in design and appearance to many others that were erected throughout Victoria in the 1940s (Bannear 1997).

4.4 THREATS TO COUNTRY AND HERITAGE

A number of environmental factors and human activities pose threats to Country and heritage values of the park.

Invasive plants and animals

Sambar and Hog Deer wallowing, trampling and browsing are a significant problem in the park that appears to be escalating. Feral pigs are having impacts in some sections of the park, damaging soils, wetlands and vegetation by rooting and wallowing. The extent of the pig population and the location of impacts need to be assessed in detail, to develop effective control programs.

Predation by foxes is a continuing threat that needs to be controlled as part of landscape-wide programs. Rainforests within the park are susceptible to fires of high intensity and frequency. Introduced Eastern Mosquito Fish pose a threat to the Green and Golden Bell Frog population in the wetlands along the coastal strip of the park.

The most threatening invasive plant species in the park are Ragwort, Cape Ivy, Bridal Creeper and Blackberry.

Visitor impacts

Longstanding patterns of visitor use has brought problems including off-road driving, uncontrolled boat launching and camping on the shoreline of the Lake in both the park and on the land of the adjacent Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust, as well as rubbish dumping and other impacts.

The extensive road and vehicle track network in the park, especially a number of parallel tracks on the eastern side of the Nowa Nowa Arm, fragments the park and creates opportunities for dispersal of

invasive plants. Although most roads and tracks are open to public access, there is a high incidence of vehicles being driven off-road, especially to access the shoreline. This has created significant damage to soils, vegetation and cultural sites in the saltmarsh areas around The Glasshouse, in the coastal dunes and wetlands around Gibbs Beach and Pettmans Beach, and along the Nowa Nowa Arm.

Off-road vehicle use is often part of attempts to access the shoreline to camp, fish or launch boats in locations away from designated visitor sites and boat ramps. In addition to direct impacts, this problem can disturb wildlife breeding sites, increase sediment flows into the Lake, spread weeds and increase bushfire risk from unsafe campfires.

The most significant cave in the park is located close to a minor visitor use area. The risk of visitor disturbance to the bat populations that roost in this cave needs to be managed.

Fire management

The park area was burnt by bushfires in the early 1970s on the western and eastern sides of the upper Nowa Nowa Arm, and near the coastal boundary of the park around Gibbs Beach.

A major bushfire in 2011 burned public land to the east of the park between the Princes Highway and the coast and was contained along Pettmans Road. Since the 1980s, planned burning has focused on the areas on the western and north-western flanks of the park for risk reduction objectives, including numerous burns in the area north of the Toorloo Arm and east of the Princes Highway.

The *Code of Practice for Bushfire Management on Public Land* (DEPI 2012) provides the framework for public land fire management across the State. Fire management on public land in non-urban areas is the responsibility of DELWP. The *Alpine – Greater Gippsland Strategic Bushfire Management Plan* (DELWP 2015) sets the direction for fire management in and around Lake Tyers State Park.

The detailed treatment of fuel risks and ecological fire requirements are considered in DELWP's Fire Operations Plan process. The natural, cultural and recreational values identified and prioritised in this Plan will inform the Fire Operations Plan process so that burning and other fuel treatments are targeted or modified where necessary.

Alteration of estuary flows

The Lake Tyers estuary entrance is subject to strong currents and wave action, and sand supply along the beach has frequently closed the entrance.

The area of land subject to inundation when the estuary closes is small. Inundation occurs at boat ramps, jetties, and fishing platforms at Nowa Nowa during periods of extended closure.

There may also be restricted access to boat ramps and walking tracks at Lake Tyers. For the period between 1983 and 2011 the estuary was closed for 75% of the time, including one closure lasting for over four years.

Strong west and south westerly winds that generate storm waves at an oblique angle to the beach appear to be the major factor influencing closures, transporting large volumes of sand across the entrance.

The East Gippsland CMA considers there to be no pattern of closures directly related to rainfall (and resultant flows), possibly due to the size of the waterway compared to the size of the catchment. The CMA and Parks Victoria have regarded a natural opening of the entrance, rather than an artificial opening, to be the preferred management approach.

Recently published traditional Gunaikurnai knowledge about the estuary reinforces this approach. It suggests that allowing floodwaters to remain in the Lake for longer periods washes food from the higher parts of the shoreline and attracts larger numbers of saltwater fish into the estuary once the sand bar is finally breached, promoting fish diversity in the lake (Thorpe 2017).

Climate change

Climate change is a potential intensifier of existing and new threats. These include changes to hydrology, increased frequency and/or severity of extreme events, changes in vegetation arising from rainfall and evaporation changes.

Climate change and severe weather such as drought and storms can alter freshwater inflows, create shoreline erosion, and impact on cultural sites and visitor access and facilities. Extensive climate modelling and impact assessments have indicated a likely increase in sea level coupled with an increase in the frequency and intensity of storms in Gippsland Lakes (EGCMA 2015).

Changes such as sea-level rise are likely to be 'slow-onset' changes while more extreme events such as storms, floods and bushfires can occur at any time. Potential impacts include physical damage to shorelines, vegetation and assets; as well as increased inundation. Storm events increase the risk of inundation and physical damage, which can affect native vegetation diversity, threatened species habitat and waterbird feeding.

Other threats

Dumping of rubbish in the park is a significant problem and creates risks of soil and water contamination, weed dispersal as well as visual impacts.

4.5 CONSERVATION STRATEGIES TO DEAL WITH THREATS

Strategies to address threats to key land and water values (Tables 2, 3) are described in Table 4.

Values are identified primarily at the level of EVCs and threatened species, using state-wide datasets.

However, it is often more practical and effective to take conservation action by targeting values at an intermediate level, for example improving the health of an assemblage of ground-cover plants in a particular EVC through weed control, rather than treating the EVC as a whole or taking action that is focused on a single threatened plant species.

An intensive conservation action planning process is required to identify the most critical groups of values given the present condition of the park and the ecological processes, such as predation or weed invasion, that are operating within it.

The strategies in Table 4 should therefore be further evaluated through a conservation planning process that takes account of their feasibility, impact and priority in the broader landscape.

Table 4: Land and water conservation strategies.

Threat	Priorities	Strategy
Littoral Rainforest Community and Warm Temperate Rainforest EVC		
Weeds, Sambar Deer, Bushfire	Weeds (scramblers, climbers and ground cover species), Feral Pigs and Sambar/Hog Deer	Prevent disturbance. Control weeds with an emphasis on surveillance and eradication of new and emerging infestations. Increase Sambar Deer control. Work with DELWP Forest Fire Management to ensure adequate risk reduction on surrounding areas using burning and other measures. Prevent fires starting inside the area through visitor education and regulatory enforcement. Implement relevant actions in FFG Action Statement 238 (DSE 2009)
Coastal strip EVCs, including Coastal Saltmarsh, Riparian Scrub/Swampy Riparian Woodland, Wet Swale Herbland		
Off-road vehicle use, boat launching and camping encroachments Invasive animals	Off road vehicles Feral Pigs, Sambar and Hog Deer	Control off-road vehicle use, boat launching and camping through access and site design and enforcement. Increase control of Sambar and Hog Deer and Feral Pigs.
All EVCs		
Invasive animals	Monitoring of deer and goat populations and impacts	Monitor size and distribution of deer and goat population and implement appropriate control programs.
Invasive plants	Ragwort, Cape Ivy, Bridal Creeper and Blackberry	Control current occurrences and prevent invasion into new areas as far as practical.
Habitat fragmentation	Road and track network	Rationalise road and track network to reduce excessive fragmentation of habitat (see Camping and Access Strategy Table 5).
Rare or threatened species		
Lack of knowledge of current condition and conservation requirements	Eastern Horseshoe Bat	Minimise disturbance to the caves and prevent entry during winter period when bats are in occupation. Investigate as part of Camping and Access Strategy the termination of vehicle access in vicinity of caves to provide a disturbance buffer.
Gunaikurnai cultural heritage values		
Physical damage to sites by off-road vehicle use, boat launching on shorelines and dispersed camping. Lack of comprehensive knowledge of sites and condition.	Protection of known sites and values Cultural survey and mapping	Identify known sites and values and implement protective measures through Camping and Access Strategy. Complete GKTOLMB Cultural mapping project and develop appropriate protection and conservation measures, including application of a Cultural Values Overlay.
Culturally important plants and animals		
Lack of knowledge of species and conservation requirements	Cultural knowledge and current status	Obtain knowledge through Joint Management Plan strategic initiatives.
Historic heritage		
Physical damage to sites by off-road vehicle use, dispersed camping and removal of objects.	Monitoring and protection of The Glasshouse and other known sites	Implement protective measures through the Camping and Access Strategy.

5 PEOPLE IN THE PARK

5.1 TRADITIONAL OWNERS CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY

Cultural values and practices in the present, as well as the past, are fundamental to Gunaikurnai people.

The park provides opportunities for the Gunaikurnai to increase and strengthen their connection to Country in an inspiring landscape, characteristic of Country in its original and traditional condition.

Joint management provides a renewed opportunity for Gunaikurnai people to hold community gatherings on Country, share lore, pass cultural skills and knowledge between generations, and meet cultural obligations to care for Country through conservation and restoration work in the park.

GLaWAC joint management ranger team members undertake conservation and maintenance works in the park, co-operatively with Parks Victoria and there is great scope to build capacity and expertise through this program. As far as possible the Gunaikurnai should be the tellers of their own cultural stories.

In addition to taking a greater role in the management and conservation of the park, Gunaikurnai people will take opportunities to gather in the park, pass on lore and cultural knowledge between generations and undertake traditional practices.

Lake Tyers State Park is one of the most important of the ten joint management areas for this reconnection and obligation to care for Country.

Many Gunaikurnai families have a recent historical experience of living in the area, at the then Mission or, later, the Trust land. The area that is now park was familiar land and water, where people practised traditional customs in the modern era, gathering, hunting and fishing.

In addition, the proximity of the park to the tourism centres of Lake Entrance and Metung provides opportunities for Gunaikurnai-operated tourism businesses that add to the range and diversity of current tourism services.

5.2 VISITORS TO THE PARK

The park offers opportunities for picnics, bush walks and forest drives, bush camping and fishing in the lake and on the ocean beach. Surf fishing is popular at Pettmans and Gibbs Beaches. Pettmans Track is a popular point of access to the ocean beach, particularly for surf fishing and other beach activities.

Basic camping with limited facilities is provided at five camping areas in the park: Pettmans Beach, Glasshouse, Camerons Arm (No.1 Track), Ironbark and Trident Arm. Of these four, only Pettmans Beach has toilets. It is a popular place to camp for anglers accessing ocean beach beyond the park and hunters accessing Ewing Morass Wildlife Reserve.

Boat-based recreational fishing in Lake Tyers is predominantly from small powered boats that are launched from boat ramps throughout the estuary, including Number 2 boat ramp located in the township of Lake Tyers Beach, Mill Point, Fishermans Landing, Nowa Nowa and an informal boat ramp at Trident Arm. The two main target species are Dusky Flathead and Black Bream. Substantial stocks of Estuary Perch and Mulloway were released into Lake Tyers by the fisheries authority in 2016.

Under the current pattern of visitor use and deployment of facilities, the main opportunities for day visits are located on the western side of the park, around Toorloo Arm while the main camping opportunities are located on the eastern side of the park, east of the Nowa Nowa Arm and along the coastal strip between The Glasshouse and Pettmans Beach.

This pattern has the inherent benefit of providing the primary day visitor sites closest to the tourist accommodation in and around Lakes Entrance, while the camping experiences are provided in the more distant parts of the park. However, there are a number of problems with the current type and

location of access and facilities. Pettmans Beach is the only one of the four camping locations in the park with toilets.

There are no boat ramps or landings provided in the eastern part of the park, leading to problems of uncontrolled shoreline access by boats and vehicles described in 'Threats to Land and Water' above.

Actions to better control off-road vehicle use and rationalise and improve the road and track network are essential management priorities.

The eastern side of Nowa Nowa Arm has numerous parallel vehicle tracks leading along spurs from Tyers House Road. These tracks contribute to fragmentation of park vegetation and draw on park maintenance resources. They are not well linked to boat launching facilities, leading to illegal off-road driving and shoreline impacts.

Uncontrolled vehicle use occurs in the coastal section of the park between The Glasshouse and Pettmans Beach and damages saltmarsh, dune and swale vegetation, middens and other cultural sites. Some roads and tracks in the Toorloo Arm section of the park also require management attention, such as South Boundary Road which is in poor condition due to erosion. There are instances of inappropriate use of the park as a vehicle access route to freehold land, where alternative on-title alignments exist.

One track on the eastern side of the Nowa Nowa Arm extends close to a cave containing a colony of Eastern Horseshoe Bats; the feasibility of closing the last section of this track to buffer the cave from disturbance needs to be assessed in the Camping and Access Strategy.

There is scope for new visitor experiences and facilities in the park. The Gunaikurnai community is seeking opportunities to develop ecotourism accommodation businesses in or adjacent to the joint management parks and reserves. Lake Tyers State Park provides a potentially viable location, given the accessibility of the Park and the large range of potential visitor experiences in the park and nearby. There is potential to improve visitor opportunities and services in the section of the park north of Nowa Nowa that was added in 2014. The Nowa Nowa Gorge short walk on Boggy Creek is a scenic experience that is very accessible to the Lakes Entrance-Bruthen-Nowa Nowa regional travel route. The Mt Nowa Nowa Fire Tower is a historic heritage asset of potential visitor interest.

The townships of Lake Tyers Beach and Nowa Nowa are important service centres for visitor accessing the park. There is a proposal by members of the Nowa Nowa local community to construct a bike trail from Nowa Nowa to Lakes Entrance through Lake Tyers State Park via Burnt Bridge. The proposal is based on using minor existing public roads and tracks that run throughout the park. It would require the addition of several sections of track and two bridges.

Some cycling currently occurs in the park. Mountain biking is well catered for in the Nowa Nowa Mountain Bike Park adjacent to the northern section of the park, and the East Gippsland Rail Trail runs east-west through the Nowa Nowa township, providing good long-distance cycling and walking opportunities. Any new bike trail in the park should take account of these existing opportunities and complement, rather than duplicate, them.

5.3 VISITOR STRATEGIES

Detailed assessment and planning of access, visitor experience and facility improvement opportunities are needed in the park. A camping and access strategy is being developed by GKTOLMB, Parks Victoria and GLaWAC. This work will be guided by the broad goals and strategy for visitor experiences and management that are set out in Table 5.

Specific recreational activities and uses will be managed in accordance with Table 6. This table does not limit the operation or exercising of Native Title or Traditional Owner rights held by the Gunaikurnai people.

The proposed camping and access strategy may require changes to the allowable activities in the zones by means of a future variation to the Management Plan.

Table 5: Visitor experience and management goals and strategies.

Lake Tyers State Park — General

Goal

Ensure that Lake Tyers State Park continues to be a place to enjoy camping, fishing, boating, walking and other activities in a natural setting while significantly reducing the impacts on land, water and cultural heritage of the park.

Strategies

Develop and implement a Camping and Access Strategy taking into account visitor use patterns, protection of cultural and natural values, and operational management needs to:

- improve the provision, design and quality of visitor areas and facilities, and pursue opportunities to improve the range of experience, activities and supporting facilities
- determine the appropriate number and location of day visitor sites and camping sites
- review vehicle access and define a sustainable road and track access network through the park including track rationalisation and improvements, and closure of unauthorised routes
- improve opportunities for boat access
- review the non-vehicular track network and identify areas requiring control of weeds affecting visitor access
- identify visitor opportunities and service requirements in the northern section of the park, added in 2014.

Increase education and enforcement to ensure compliance with the adopted access and facility approach. Work with Nowa Nowa and Lake Tyers Beach service providers to offer information, education and interpretation to visitors prior to their visit.

Toorloo Visitor Experience Area

(Includes Burnt Bridge, Cherry Tree, Marsdenia Rainforest Walk, Chrystal Bay and other sites.)

Goal

Provide highly accessible visitor experiences in a natural setting including short walks, cycling, canoeing, fishing, cultural and environmental education and other activities while protecting the land, water and cultural heritage of the park.

Strategy

Improve the provision, design and quality of visitor areas and facilities, and pursue opportunities to improve the range of experience, activities and supporting facilities. Plan and design access, sites and facilities to minimise impacts on special protection zones. Increase education and enforcement to ensure compliance with the adopted access and facility approach. Define and implement a satisfying and sustainable network of non-vehicular tracks for walking, cycling and other activities.

Eastern Visitor Experience Area

(Includes The Glasshouse, Trident Arm, Camerons Arm No. 1, Gibbs Beach and Pettmans Beach.)

Goal

Provide accessible camping and day visit experiences in a natural setting including short walks, boating, canoeing, fishing, cultural and environmental education and other activities in a natural setting while significantly reducing the impacts on land, water and cultural heritage of uncontrolled vehicle and boating access.

Strategy

Improve the provision, design and quality of visitor areas and facilities, especially boating launching and toilets. Formalise and rationalise the road and track network and improve links between the network and designated visitor sites. Plan and design access, sites and facilities to minimise impacts on special protection zones. Pursue opportunities to improve the range of experiences, activities and supporting facilities. Increase education and enforcement to ensure compliance with the adopted access and facility approach.

Table 6: Recreational activities allowed in the management zones.

Activity ¹	Conservation Zone	Conservation and Recreation Zone	Special Protection Overlay
Boating — motorised, sailing	Yes	Yes	No
Boating — rafting, canoeing, kayaking	Yes	Yes	No
Camping — designated areas	Yes	Yes	No
Camping — dispersed vehicle-based	No	No	No
Camping — dispersed other	No	No	No
Campfires — solid fuel	Yes (only in designated campfires where provided and subject to regulations including fire bans)	Yes (only in designated campfires where provided and subject to regulations including fire bans)	No
Campfires — liquid or gas fuel stove	Yes	Yes	No
Caving	Yes	Yes	No
Competitive events	Yes (with permit, if activity type is allowed)	Yes (with permit, if activity type is allowed)	No
Cycling	Yes (on open public roads and Management Vehicle Only roads and tracks; not allowed on walking tracks)	Yes (on open public roads and Management Vehicle Only roads and tracks; not allowed on walking tracks)	No
Dogs	Yes (only on lead)	Yes (only on lead)	No
Education activities	Yes	Yes	No
Firearms	No	Only allowed in Pettmans Camping Area, for the purposes of accessing Ewings Morass State Game Reserve during gazetted hunting season. ²	No
Firewood collection	Yes (for visitor use in the area where fires are allowed; not allowed for commercial or domestic use)	Yes (for visitor use in the area where fires are allowed; not allowed for commercial or domestic use)	No
Fishing	Yes	Yes	No
Fossicking/prospecting	No	No	No
Geocaching	Yes (no excavation allowed)	Yes (no excavation allowed)	No
Guided activities	Yes	Yes	No

Activity ¹	Conservation Zone	Conservation and Recreation Zone	Special Protection Overlay
Horseriding	Yes (on open public roads)	Yes (on open public roads)	No
Hunting	No	No	No
Orienteering and rogaining	Yes (subject to permit)	Yes (subject to permit)	No
Picnicking	Yes	Yes	No
Swimming	Yes	Yes	N/A
Walking and hiking	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vehicle use (two-wheel-drive, four-wheel-drive and trail bikes)	Yes (on open public roads – not allowed on Management Vehicle only roads & tracks.	Yes (on open public roads – not allowed on Management Vehicle only roads & tracks.	Yes, on open public roads – not allowed on MVO roads and tracks.

¹ Camping, vehicle access and other activities will be reviewed as part of the proposed Camping and Access Strategy.

² Firearms may not be discharged in the Lake Tyers State Park and must be unloaded within 100 metres of the camping/picnic area, and remain unloaded and concealed while being carried in vehicles.

6 WORKING TOGETHER

6.1 THE JOINT MANAGEMENT DELIVERY PARTNERS — GLaWAC, PARKS VICTORIA, DELWP, GKTOLMB

The park is assigned by the State to Parks Victoria to jointly manage as part of Victoria's parks and conservation reserves system. Parks Victoria rangers operate from Bairnsdale.

Regional and state-wide technical specialist staff from other locations in eastern Victoria and Melbourne provide environmental, cultural and visitor expertise and services to assist management of the park.

Parks Victoria and GLaWAC have an agreement for GLaWAC to undertake works in the Lake Tyers State Park, and other jointly managed areas, which has been operating since 2013.

DELWP is responsible for fire management on non-urban public land and provides legislative and policy support to the GKTOLMB and Parks Victoria. The GLaWAC joint management ranger team has recently commenced participation in DELWP's fire management program.

The GKTOLMB, Parks Victoria, GLaWAC and DELWP have identified the potential for these partnerships to expand and evolve significantly over time through mentoring, training, information sharing and employment and contractual opportunities.

This process should operate in multiple directions with expertise and knowledge of park and public land management being shared by Parks Victoria and DELWP, and cultural and local knowledge and expertise being shared by GLaWAC. The GKTOLMB provides a central forum for coordinating these partnerships, and provides the strategic management directions for the partnerships through this joint management plan.

6.2 COMMUNITY AND OTHER PARTNERS

Lake Tyers Reserve (Bung Yarnda) is the most significant neighbouring property to the park. It is managed by the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust which is constituted under the *Aboriginal Lands Act 1970* (Vic.). The Trust owns the Reserve as freehold land for Victorian Aboriginal people who were originally removed from their homes to the then Lake Tyers Mission and who continued to live, or came to settle later, at the Reserve. Gunaikurnai and other Aboriginal people were residents at the Mission.

The reserve and the park share an extensive common boundary. People on the then mission and later the reserve moved between the two areas to travel, fish, hunt and for other purposes. In the present day, the park and the reserve have common interests in land management as well as the management of visitors.

Much of the reserve land is still forested and is in a similar condition to the park. The Trust accepts visitors to the reserve but requires them to obtain the consent of the Trust and observe a code of conduct.

Park visitors, particularly boating visitors, are known to sometimes land on the shoreline of the reserve without consent, to fish or for other reasons. A number of other private landholdings abut the park and these landholders are likely to have an interest in park operations such as fire management and invasive plant and animal control. They may also potentially wish to provide services to park visitors.

There is a need to work with the Trust to manage this issue through signage, pre-visit information and others means, and to collaborate where possible on management of land, water and cultural heritage.

Fishing clubs and other organised groups that frequently camp in the park are important stakeholders. The Sporting Shooters Association Australia and the Australian Deer Association provide volunteers to assist with deer and invasive animal control programs.

Other agency partners are important in the management of the Park including:

- Aboriginal Victoria is the primary Government agency responsible for policy and regulation of Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria
- The East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority provides significant funding for conservation works on public land in the region and provides strategic co-ordination of catchment and land protection, and restoration investment. The CMA is responsible for implementation of the Victorian Coastal Strategy in East Gippsland to achieve integrated management, conservation and sustainable use of the coastal zone. It also provides executive personnel and support to the GKTOLMB.
- Fisheries Victoria manages the Lake Tyers Fisheries Reserve with the aim of achieving sustainable habitat and recreational fishing
- DELWP manages State forest to the west and east of the Park and VicForests manages timber harvesting within these areas
- Destination Gippsland co-ordinates marketing and promotion of tourism in the region including nature-based and cultural tourism

The area is situated within the Shire of East Gippsland which is responsible for local planning regulation, road maintenance and traffic management around the area, as well as other municipal responsibilities.

6.3 AUTHORISED USES

Access to private property enclosed within the park occurs via the extensive road network. One utility lease (telecommunications) and a large number of apiary licences operate in the park. A number of licensed tour operators undertake activities in the park.

6.4 PARK BOUNDARIES

The park boundaries in the area between Nowa Nowa and The Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust land are complex due to interfaces with a number of areas of private land. There are several significant inlying landholdings between Trident Arm Track and the Glasshouse. Where opportunities arise to simplify boundaries through acquisitions or management agreements these will be pursued.

7 GOALS AND ACTIONS

The following goals and actions should be read in conjunction with goals and strategic initiatives for the Joint Management Area as a whole.

Caring for Country

Goal

The land, water and cultural values of Lake Tyers State Park are protected and cared for using the combined values, knowledge and skills of the Gunaikurnai, Parks Victoria, community and partners.

Land and water

No.	Action
LT1	Apply the zoning set out in Table 1.
LT2	Protect and restore the area by implementing the land, water and cultural heritage conservation strategies detailed in Table 4.
LT3	Implement action statements and recovery plans for threatened and endangered species in the area as detailed in Table 3.
LT4	Work with East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority to control invasive plants and animals as identified in Table 4.
LT5	Assess the extent of the deer and feral pig population in the park and its impacts to inform control programs.
LT6	Undertake stabilisation and restoration of shorelines, marsh and dune areas affected by erosion.
LT7	Work with DELWP to protect the area, assets and communities from bushfire through fuel management strategies that do not adversely affect rainforest and other fire-sensitive values.
LT8	Identify areas where planned burning is required to achieve conservation objectives for park ecosystems and habitats and seek burns to be programmed and implemented as part of DELWP's fire operations planning process.
LT9	Ensure collaboration between East Gippsland CMA, Parks Victoria, GLaWAC and Gippsland Ports to maintain a natural opening regime as far as practical for the Lake Tyers estuary.
LT10	Work with caving groups and researchers to identify and record caves in the park, and monitor bats and other cave fauna and flora.
LT11	Include the area in the development of a comprehensive conservation action plan aligned to the Gunaikurnai Whole-of-Country Plan and broader East Gippsland park landscape conservation.

Cultural heritage

LT12	Increase the visibility of Gunaikurnai cultural values in the area through <i>Welcome to Country</i> and other appropriate signage, based on the Krauatungalung clan at entry points and visitor nodes. Consider establishing a totemic plant or animal emblem for the park.
LT13	Undertake mapping and survey of Gunaikurnai cultural values in the Park and implement a cultural values overlay as part of the management zoning scheme, based on the outcomes of mapping.
LT14	Increase the protection of cultural sites from off-road driving and other visitor disturbances by

	developing and implementing a Camping and Access Strategy and increasing visitor education and regulatory enforcement.
LT15	Build knowledge and undertake surveys and mapping of plants and animals of cultural importance to the Gunaikurnai.
LT16	Create opportunities for greater Gunaikurnai connection through visiting the park and undertaking community cultural activities.
LT17	Interpret and promote the historic heritage of the park and its surrounds to the public and facilitate further research.
LT18	Seek opportunities to implement traditional cultural burning practices as part of planned burning programs through liaison and partnership with DELWP fire managers.
LT19	Incorporate cultural values information into induction processes for contractors and others working in the area.
LT20	Ensure Gunaikurnai are included in the assessment and approval of applications to undertake research in the park in accordance with the Aboriginal Heritage Act.
LT21	Implement the existing provisions of the Native Title Act, and any future Land Use Activity Agreement that is established under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act, relating to Gunaikurnai rights to negotiate long-term and high-impact leases and comment on lower impact authorisations in the park.

People in the Park

Goals

Gunaikurnai increase their connection with the area through management, operations and the opportunity to undertake cultural practices.

Visitor and community enjoyment, experience and understanding of the park are enhanced by joint management

No.	Actions
LT22	Prepare and implement a Camping and Access Strategy for the park consistent with the goal and strategy in Table 5.
LT23	Manage visitor access and activities in accordance with Table 6. Generally, maintain existing regulatory settings for activities and uses in the park, apart from changes set out in this plan (including approved variations) or changes arising from statutory requirements.
LT24	Assess proposals and opportunities for ecotourism, bike riding and other experiences and facilities in or adjacent to the park as part of the Camping and Access Strategy.
LT25	Increase education and enforcement to ensure that access, visitor activity and rubbish dumping restrictions are complied with. Pursue opportunities to relocate vehicle access for freehold land from informal routes in the park to on-title alignments, as development applications are made, or in response to changes in park facilities or requirements.
LT26	Control risks to visitor safety especially in relation to campfires, surf fishing and safe boating.
LT27	Ensure all tour operators undertake cultural awareness training conducted by Gunaikurnai, to enhance knowledge and protection of cultural heritage, and to improve interpretation of Gunaikurnai culture to visitors.
LT28	Establish Gunaikurnai interpretative information for visitors along park tracks about culturally important plants, animals and features.

Working Together

Goal

Joint management of Lake Tyers State Park operates as an effective partnership in which Gunaikurnai build their capacity to play a central role.

Community and stakeholders support and contribute to the protection and conservation of the park.

No.	Actions
LT29	Work closely with the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust to manage the cultural and natural values of the Bung Yarnda landscape, and visitor access in an integrated way.
LT30	Collaborate with tourism and community groups and businesses in Nowa Nowa, Lake Tyers Beach and Lakes Entrance to promote the park and provide services to visitors.
LT31	Collaborate with the Victorian Fisheries Authority and recreational fishing groups to ensure the sustainability of fish populations in the lake and arms, and to manage shoreline impacts.
LT32	Increase participation and input of Gunaikurnai in DELWP fire management programs in and around the park.
LT33	Provide opportunities for Parks Victoria rangers in the area to interact with other parks and partners in the Settlement Area to develop their understanding and knowledge of joint management approaches.
LT34	Extend existing partnerships with recreational hunting groups to implement feral animal control programs, especially pigs and deer.
LT35	Maintain close collaboration with the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and DELWP biodiversity and fire staff in relation to management programs and priorities in and around the park landscape.
LT36	Maintain effective neighbour relations.
LT37	Monitor opportunities to simplify boundary interfaces of the park through land exchanges or acquisitions.

8 PLAN MONITORING AND REVIEW

An annual rolling plan will be used to implement the actions in Section 7. The progress and effectiveness in implementing these actions will be tracked by collecting two types of data:

- data on *activities* — what is being done under joint management
- data on *outcomes* — what changes are occurring as a result of what is being done.

Table 7 provides further detail on both types of data, and describes how they will be collected.

To minimise the burden of additional data collection processes, the methodology outlined below builds on existing project management processes and data wherever possible. Progress on actions that apply to more than one of the joint managed parks (for example, Gunaikurnai capacity building) will be reported under the Strategic Plan actions while tracking the initiatives in specific parks that contribute to that broader action.

Table 7: Data used to track progress in implementing the Joint Management Plan.

Data type	Description	Data source and method
Activities	<p>Activities are the things we are doing under joint management.</p> <p>Tracking activities is important for understanding whether we are successfully implementing the projects and activities that we planned. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the activities of each of the strategic initiatives documented in Table 5 in Section 4 of the Strategic Plan • the actions described in this management plan for the Lake Tyers State Park. 	<p>The activities and actions outlined in both parts 1 and 2 of the JMP will be tracked based on the project management tools that the partners will use to guide implementation.</p> <p>Existing project management tools should provide sufficient evidence and information on how implementation is progressing, what has been completed, any bottlenecks or issues to be addressed, and the staff responsible.</p>
Outcomes	<p>Outcomes are the changes that occur as a result of what we are doing.</p> <p>Tracking outcomes is important for understanding whether we are achieving the changes that we have set out to make, and therefore whether we are achieving our goals for the first five-year period.</p> <p>Outcomes are documented in Table 3 and Table 4 of the Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>Some outcomes identified for the five-year goals can be tracked by using existing project management tools, while others will require additional data collection.</p> <p>Appendix 2 of the Strategic Plan specifies potential indicators and timings for outcomes.</p>

Table 8 provides an example of the data that we will collect on the outcomes of joint management. It is an excerpt from the complete outcomes framework which is contained in Appendix 2 of Strategic Plan.

Table 8: Excerpt of outcomes framework.

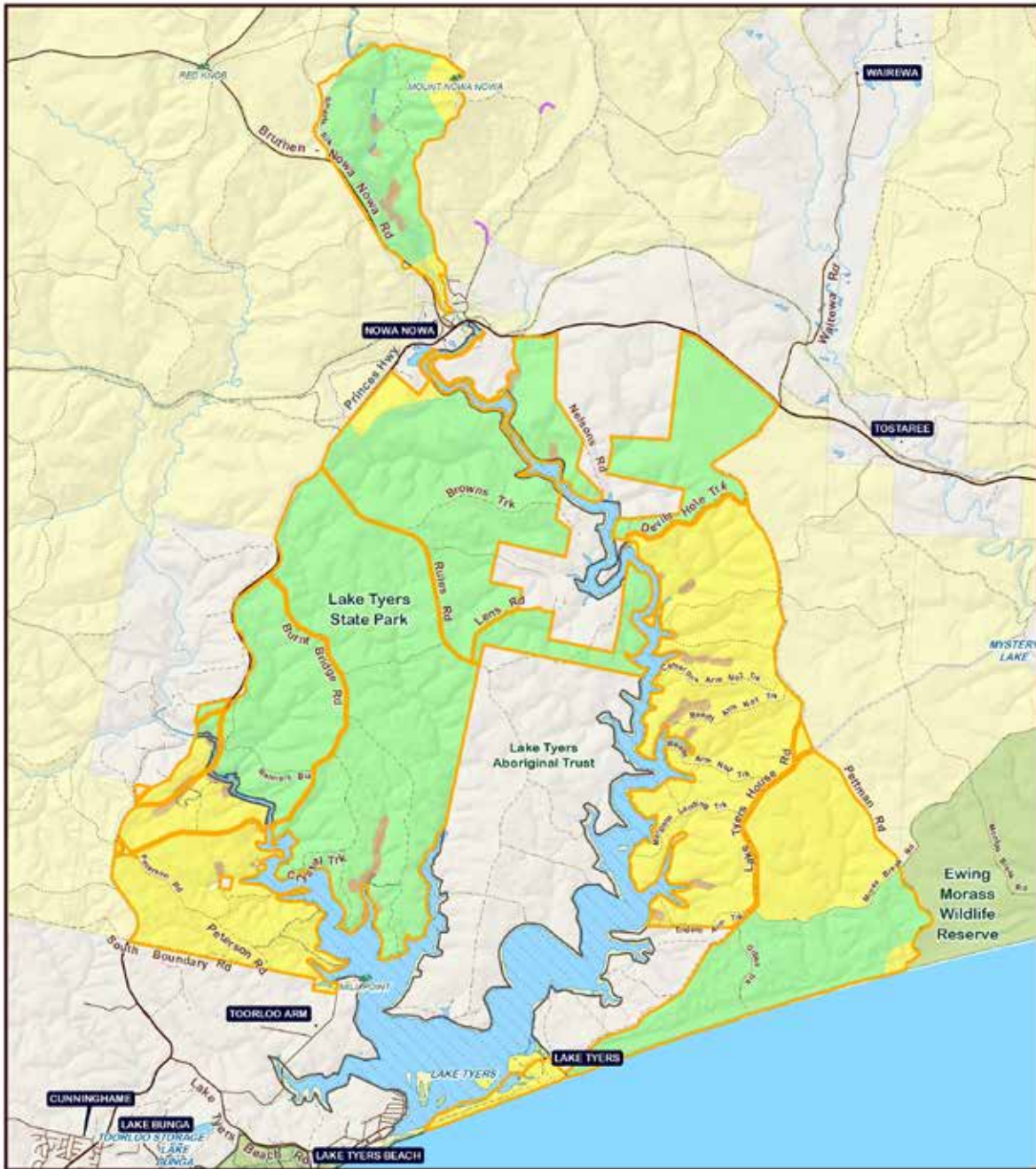
Theme	Example of outcome <i>The desired change</i>	Description <i>Further detail</i>	Indicators and frequency <i>How will the changes be assessed?</i>
People	More visitors see, engage with, and learn from Gunaikurnai and non-Gunaikurnai staff on parks.	Gunaikurnai and non-Gunaikurnai rangers and other management staff will be more visible in parks, engaging with visitors and educating them about park values and Gunaikurnai heritage.	Number of rangers and other staff working in roles such as guides and educators. Detail on programs implemented to build capacity of rangers and staff as guides and educators (e.g. number of participants). <i>Annual</i>
Culture	Protections are in place for all identified cultural sites	Measures will be put in place to protect all culturally important sites from erosion, park use and other threats.	Percentage of identified cultural sites that have protections in place. <i>Annual</i>
Country	Rangers and management staff have the knowledge, skills and resources to implement sustainable, integrated land management practices.	Partners aim to continue capacity-building and training programs for rangers and other management staff in sustainable land management practices that integrate Gunaikurnai traditional practices with modern conventional practices.	Details on program (e.g. content, forms of capacity building implemented, number of rangers completing capacity building initiatives). <i>Annual</i>
Working Together	Decision-making processes are embedded.	The JMP specifies the decision-making processes in the governance structure. Partners will embed these by demonstrating they have put them into practice and are using them to make decisions.	Reflection on how decision-making processes and governance arrangements have been followed and complied with in the previous 12-month period, and lessons for the future. <i>Annual</i>

The monitoring regime, especially for Caring for Country and People in the Parks actions, will use measures and data specified in regional Conservation Action Plans and state-wide monitoring programs conducted across the broader park and reserve estate, including the *State of the Parks* and *State of the Forests*. This will be particularly important for monitoring outcomes, which are often complex and can only be monitored efficiently at selected locations rather than in every park.

This management plan has effect for 10 years and will be formally reviewed and renewed at the end of that period. After the five-year review of the Strategic Plan, any consequential variations to this management plan will be made at that time through a consultative process.

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**Lake Tyers State Park
Joint Management Plan**

24/05/2018
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 VICSRD94
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic



- Walking track
- 4WD
- Unsealed road
- Sealed road
- Arterial road
- Highway
- Management Vehicles Only

- Joint Management
- Public Land
- Park and Reserve

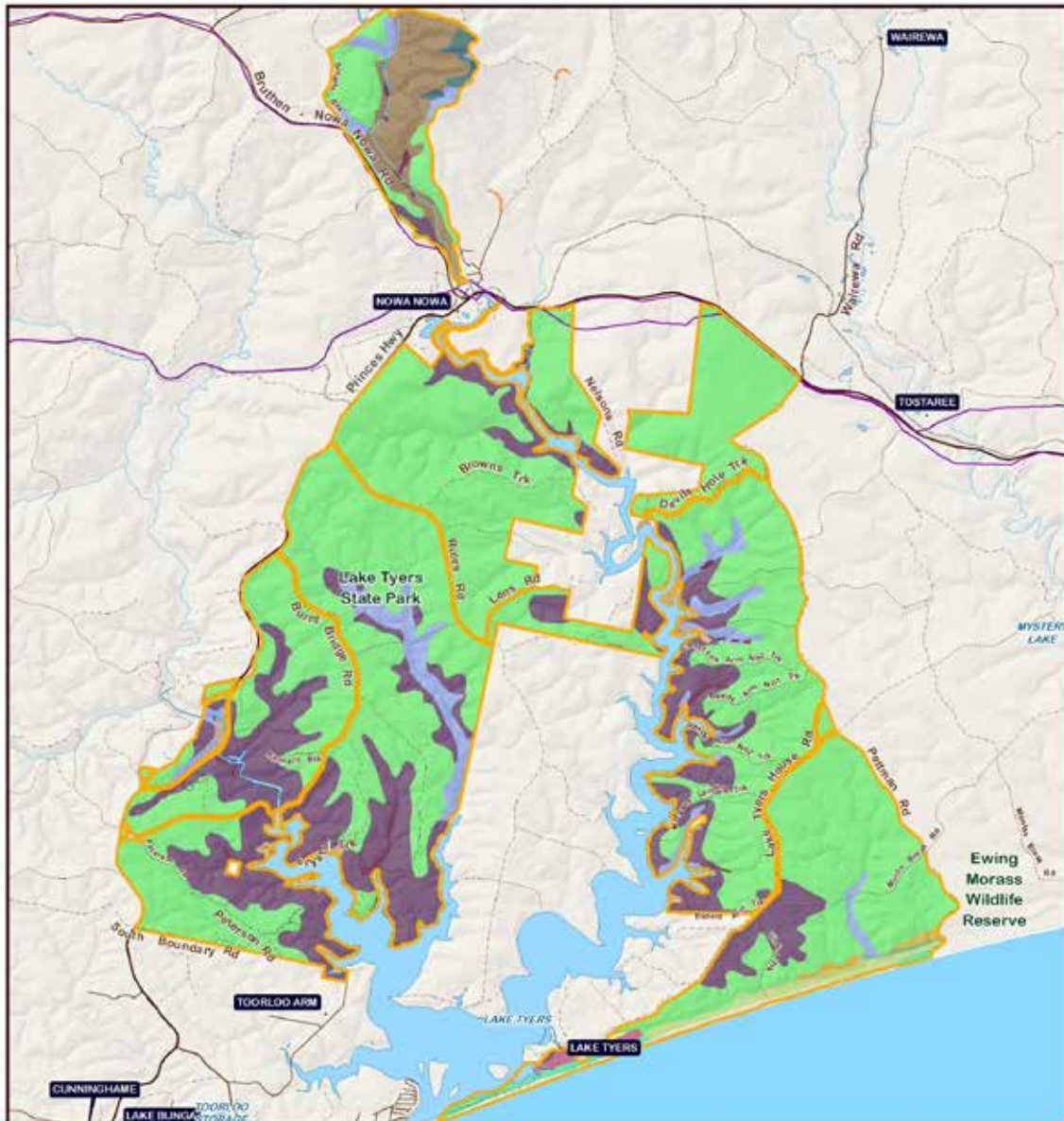
Management Zones and Overlays

- Conservation Zone
- Conservation & Recreation Zone
- Special Protection Overlay
- Ramsar Wetland

Department of Parks, Victoria, does not guarantee that this data is correct. Users of this data and its derivatives do so at their own risk. For more information, please contact the Department of Parks, Victoria, at 1300 370 000.



Map 1: Management zones and overlays, Lake Tyers State Park.



Lake Tyers State Park Joint Management Plan

28/03/2018
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 VICGRID94
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic



- Walking track
- 4WD
- Unsealed road
- Sealed road
- Arterial road
- Highway
- Management Vehicles Only
- Joint Management

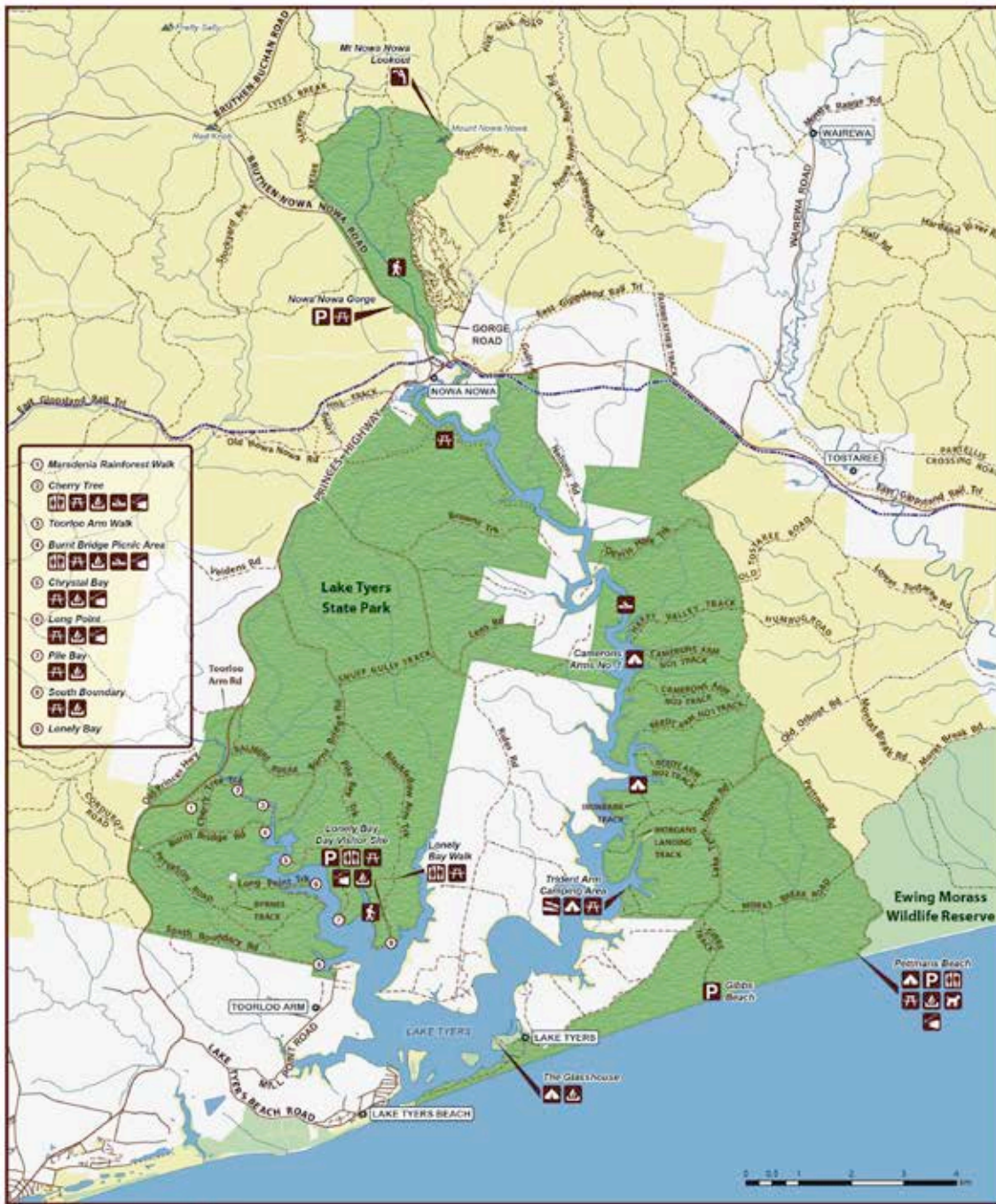
Ecological Vegetation Class		
Littoral Rainforest	Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland	Riparian Scrub/Swampy
Blackthorn Scrub	Dry Rainforest	Riparian Woodland Complex
Clay Heathland	Estuarine Wetland	Shrubby Dry Forest
Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic	Limestone Box Forest	Warm Temperate Rainforest
Coastal Saltmarsh	Lowland Forest	Water Body-estuary
Damp Forest	Riparian Forest	Wet Swale Herbland



Disclaimer: Parks Victoria does not guarantee the accuracy of any data and therefore does not accept any liability for any loss or damage arising from the information. This version acknowledges: Lake Digital Solutions, The State of Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.



Map 2: Ecological Vegetation Classes, Lake Tyers State Park.



Lake Tyers State Park

Joint Management Plan

18/5/2018
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 VICGRD94
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic



- Arterial Roads
- Sealed Roads
- Unsealed Roads
- Walking Tracks
- 4WD
- Management Vehicles Only
- Joint Management
- Park and Reserve
- Public Land



Map 3: Visitor sites and facilities, Lake Tyers State Park.