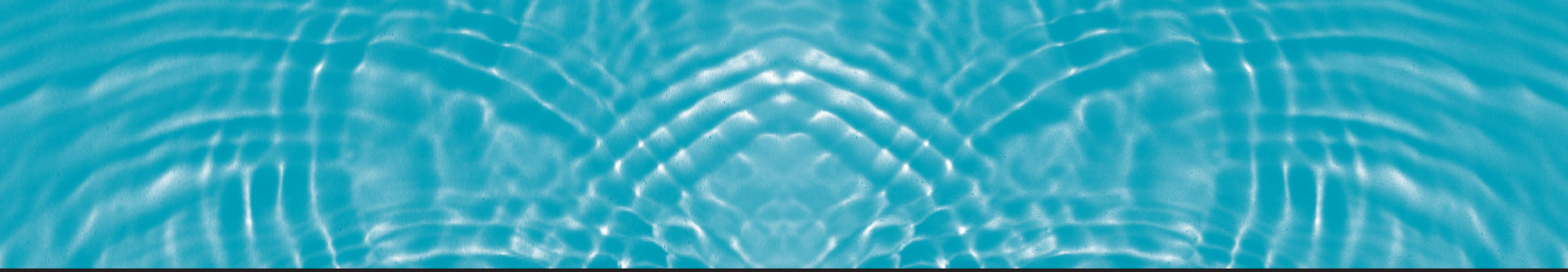
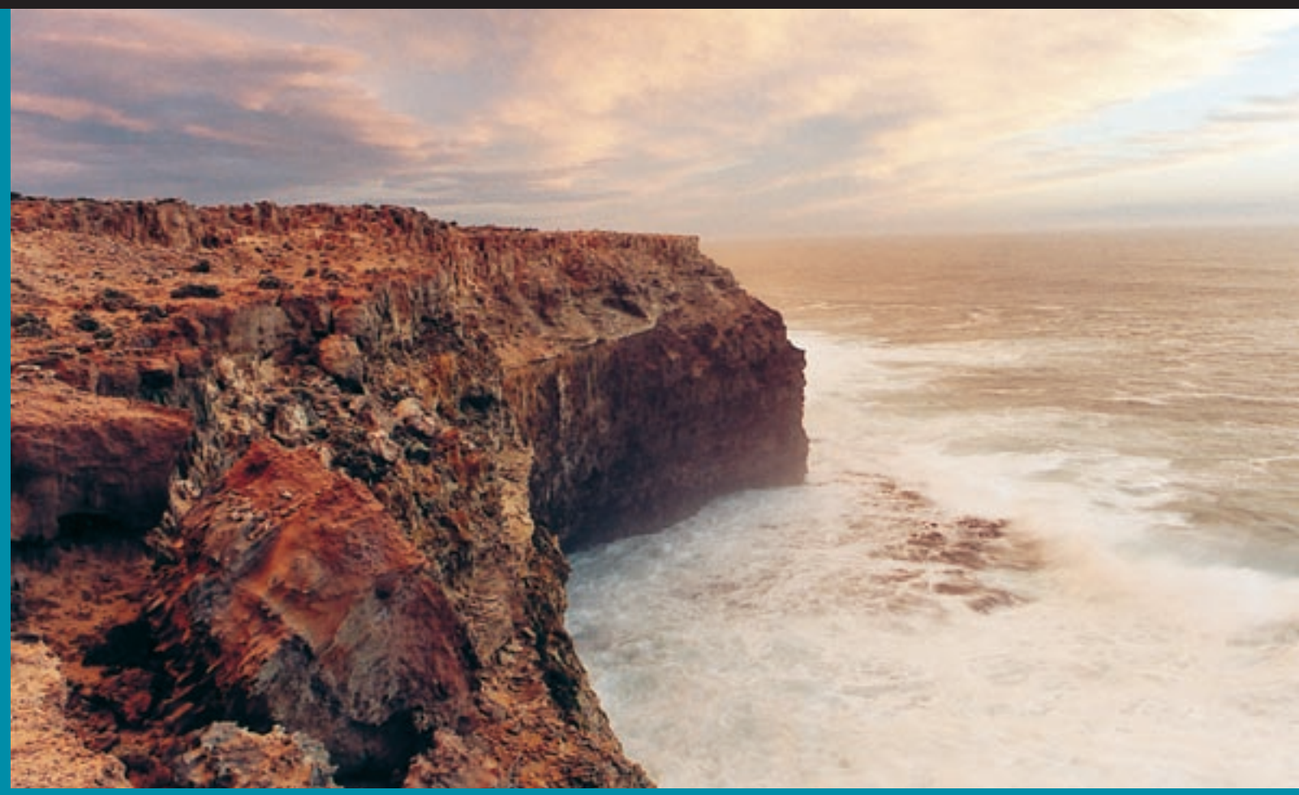


For more information contact the **Parks Victoria Information Centre** on **13 1963**, or visit **www.parkweb.vic.gov.au**

Discovery Bay Marine National Park



Management Plan **February 2007**

Victoria
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Healthy Parks Healthy People

Parks VICTORIA

This Management Plan for Discovery Bay Marine 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 May 2006. Five submissions were received and have been considered in preparing this approved Management Plan.

Information

For further information about this plan, please contact:

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Grampians District
Cnr Mair and Doveton Streets
Ballarat VIC 3350
Phone: (03) 5336 6817

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 (including GST) from:

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

Parks Victoria
Portland Office
8-12 Julia Street
Portland VIC 3305
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DISCOVERY BAY MARINE NATIONAL PARK
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Parks VICTORIA

February 2007

Published in February 2007 by Parks Victoria

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1. Marine parks and reserves - Victoria - Discovery Bay Region - Management. 2. Discovery Bay Marine National Park (Vic.). I. Parks Victoria.

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Acknowledgements

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

Parks Victoria is grateful to all those organisations and individuals who have contributed to this Management Plan. Special thanks go to members of the Discovery Bay Marine National Park Management Plan Advisory Group: Stephen Douglass, Graham Grant, Rob Farnes, Phillip Kerr, Denise Lovett and Cameron McCallum.

Note

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

FOREWORD

The care of Discovery Bay Marine National Park is not a task for the government alone, nor only for those who live on the coast. It is a task for the whole Victorian community. This Management Plan sets out the ways in which we can work together to learn about, protect and sustain an important part of our marine environment.

Discovery Bay Marine National Park makes a significant contribution towards Victoria's system of Marine Protected Areas. The western-most of Victoria's Marine protected areas, this 2770 ha Marine National Park contains important examples of Victoria's marine habitats, including sandy beaches, intertidal reef, limestone reefs, basalt reef, sand and sediment. The park supports colourful seaweeds, many invertebrates and schools of fish. Oceanic sea birds, Australian Fur Seals and Blue, Sperm and Southern Right Whales, are often seen in the park.

Due to its close proximity to the continental shelf, and being Victoria's only Marine Protected Area directly benefiting from the Bonney Upwelling, Discovery Bay Marine National Park provides excellent habitat to a large range of sessile organisms including sponges, ascidians, bryozoans and gorgonians, as well as offering opportunities for vertebrate species including the larger pelagic species.

Sites of geomorphological significance adjacent to Discovery Bay Marine National Park include Cape Duquesne, which is characterised by calcarenite cliff with caves and blowholes overlying basalt.

The area included in the park is significant to the Traditional Owners and other people with traditional attachments to these areas.

Sea *Country* is central to the culture of Indigenous communities in south-west Victoria, particularly the Gournditch-Mara. The park is an integral part of this sea *Country* and the Traditional Owners are connected to the area by tradition.

Discovery Bay Marine National Park and the surrounding landscape have particular spiritual significance and have provided resources for thousands of years.

Discovery Bay Marine National Park makes a valuable contribution to Victoria's parks system, which aims to protect viable representative samples of the State's natural marine and terrestrial environments. Parks also provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy and appreciate natural and cultural values, and many make important contributions to tourism.

Implementation of this approved plan will assist in the protection and conservation of the planning area's natural and cultural values, improve the community's knowledge of the planning area, and ensure visitors enjoy and respect its importance for both current and future generations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Discovery Bay Marine National Park Advisory Group for their valuable contribution to the plan, and also to thank those organisations who made submissions on the draft plan, and I look forward to the community's ongoing support for the management of Discovery Bay Marine National Park.

JOHN THWAITES MP
Minister for Environment

APPROVED MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Management Plan has been prepared under section 17D of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.) and is approved for implementation.

The plan provides the basis for the future management of Discovery Bay Marine National Park. It was finalised following consideration of the five 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 THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Victorians are custodians of some of the most remarkable, diverse, and culturally important marine environments on Earth. These include deep open water, shallow embayments, rocky reefs, canyons, seagrass meadows, tidal sand flats and mudflats, and estuaries, and they support more than 12 000 known species. Around 90% of these marine species are found only in the waters of southern Australia.

Broadly speaking, Victoria has responsibility for the waters which extend offshore to three nautical miles and cover around 70 000 square kilometres. Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries make up about 5% of this area, but protect a range of significant species and important habitats as well as maritime artefacts and evidence of Indigenous occupation and use.

The vast three-dimensional marine environment has characteristics that are very different from those of the land and atmosphere. The fundamental physical properties — pressure, temperature, salinity, density and availability of nutrients and gases — are all very different. There are also great differences in the types of substrates, and the physical and biological processes that occur, such as tides, currents, light penetration, erosion, sedimentation, oxygen uptake, life cycles and even the food chains.

The organisms that occupy the marine environment are different as well. On land vascular plants dominate, but in marine habitats they are very rare, occurring only in very shallow water on sheltered coastlines. In most marine environments their ecological roles in photosynthesis and oxygen production are undertaken by algae, which range in size from giant kelps to minute single-celled species. Other single-celled organisms such as diatoms, cyanobacteria, dinoflagellates and forams, together with invertebrate larvae and marine fungi, make up most of the abundant marine plankton that is the basis of all marine food chains.

As on land, invertebrates, including molluscs (e.g. octopuses, abalones, snails), crustaceans (e.g. crabs, lobsters, tiny amphipods) and echinoderms (e.g. sea cucumbers, sea stars and sea urchins), dominate the marine fauna, but insects — the most abundant invertebrates on land — are almost absent. The dominant vertebrates are fish, although mammals and reptiles also inhabit the marine environment and many birds inhabit both realms.

Although they are very different physically and biologically, the land, atmosphere and marine environments are interconnected. Water and gases are transferred between oceans and the atmosphere. There are animals with both marine and freshwater life stages, and some species breed in estuaries where fresh water from the land mixes with oceanic salt water. Fresh water and sediments from catchments far inland are dispersed into coastal waters, bringing with them nutrients needed to maintain inshore marine ecosystems, but also pollution from human activities.

The sea interconnects marine habitats over great distances. Tides and currents move sediments, plankton and organic matter into and through habitats, along with flotsam, jetsam, ballast water, runoff and oils from catchments or inshore waters, released from ships on the open seas or washed from the shores of other countries. Many marine animals migrate long distances, passing freely into and out of Victorian waters and spending much of their lives in the open ocean.

A vision for Victoria's system of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries

'A world-class system of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries that conserves the diversity of Victoria's marine environments, protected and enjoyed by Victorians and visitors, forever.'

This vision for Victoria's system of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries is detailed in the *Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries Management Strategy 2003–2010* (Parks Victoria 2003). It is described in the following extract:

'The vision for Victoria's system of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries is to maintain marine ecosystems in their natural state, enjoyed by visitors and protected from the effects of inappropriate activities. The system will safeguard representative examples of undisturbed natural marine habitats, respect

cultural heritage values, and be a place of inspiration, enjoyment and renewal for all people. The system will complement our world-class National Parks system on land.

This vision aims to preserve the diversity of our marine environment, its flora and fauna, its natural beauty, and the diversity of activities that may be enjoyed there. It is a vision that invites all Victorians to become involved, to take pride in our Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries, and to share in their stewardship.'

Contribution of park to the statewide system

Discovery Bay Marine National Park protects representative habitats in the Otways bioregion, including intertidal and subtidal rocky reefs, sandy beaches and subtidal soft sediments.

Implications for management

The differences and connections in the marine environment mean that Victoria's Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries must be managed somewhat differently from land environments. Natural, recreational and cultural values may be affected by the use of both land and marine areas some distance away, over which park managers have no direct control. Impacts on one marine habitat can quickly affect another and human activities and natural events on land and in the atmosphere can have widespread consequences for the marine environment. Boundaries in the ocean can be difficult to define, and the effects of human activities can be hidden from view. Like the atmosphere, but in contrast to land, the marine environment is a common resource which is rarely in private ownership, and there are few natural or artificial barriers to movement. Many of the strategies used to concentrate the impacts of recreational activities in terrestrial parks (e.g. the creation of walking tracks and picnic areas) are not feasible in the marine context.

Conserving historic and cultural places and objects is also a challenge because it is difficult to identify an underwater place or monitor activities that take place on the open sea or under water. Sea *Country*, and cultural association with, or past use of, underwater places which were exposed before the sea level rose, must also be considered.

The long-term protection of the Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries relies on the support and goodwill of the community, together with the help of coastal managers and government agencies. This plan seeks to foster a strong sense of custodianship of the Discovery Bay Marine National Park and strengthen its protection, at the same time respecting cultural and community associations with these area.

SUMMARY

This Management Plan covers Discovery Bay Marine National Park (2770 ha). The park is adjacent to Cape Bridgewater, a prominent landmark and part of a significant cultural landscape.

Discovery Bay Marine National Park contains important examples of Victoria's marine habitats, including sandy beaches, intertidal reef, limestone reefs, basalt reef and sand. The park supports colourful seaweeds, many invertebrates and schools of fish. Oceanic sea birds, Australian Fur Seals, Blue Whales and Southern Right Whales are often seen in the park.

Unlike areas closer to Portland, relatively few people are involved in surfing, boating or diving in the park. Opportunities for aquatic activities are often restricted by weather on this exposed coastline. On land, the crashing waves, cold winds and salt spray provide a stimulating taste of the Southern Ocean and this extreme Marine National Park. Many visitors enjoy spectacular views over the park from viewing points high above the water at The Blowholes or on the Great South West Walk.

Future management will seek to protect the overall biodiversity of the park. This will require a sound basis of scientific knowledge and long-term support from local communities.

The special values of the park are not yet well known, but the development of community awareness over time will result in a local culture of stewardship. This will also enable visitors and local residents to embrace Indigenous perspectives of sea *Country*.

Key aspects of the plan include the following.

- Baseline information about marine biodiversity, marine habitats, threatening processes and management requirements will be developed progressively.
- Local community connections to the marine environment will be respected and acknowledged through ongoing opportunities for participation in planning and management.
- Visitor understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural values of the park will be enhanced by a range of information services and interpretive information in the adjacent Discovery Bay Coastal Park.
- Opportunities will be provided for the local community, visitors, schools and interested people to learn about the park.
- Indigenous knowledge, interests in and aspirations for the park will be acknowledged, respected and reflected in planning and management, in cooperation with relevant Indigenous communities.
- Community and interest groups, including the Indigenous community, will be encouraged and supported to become actively involved in all areas of park management, especially those that relate to their interests.

CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and planning area

The planning area comprises Discovery Bay Marine National Park (2770 ha), situated adjacent to Cape Bridgewater on the far south west Victorian coast. It is located 20 km west of Portland and 300 km west of Melbourne (figure 1).

Discovery Bay Marine National Park adjoins the coastline between Blacks Beach and Whites Beach. In this area it extends from the high water mark, offshore approximately three nautical miles to the limit of Victorian waters. Between Whites Beach and Cape Duquesne the park boundary commences 500 metres from the coastline and extends to the State limits (figure 2). The park extends 200 metres beneath the sea bed.

1.2 Creation of the park

Discovery Bay Marine National Park forms part of the system of 13 Marine National Parks and 11 Marine Sanctuaries in Victorian waters. The selection of these areas was based on more than 10 years of research, investigation and community consultation by the former Land Conservation Council (LCC) and Environment Conservation Council (ECC), summarised in the Marine, Coastal and Estuarine Investigation Final Report (ECC 2000). The recommendations of the ECC accepted by government (Government of Victoria 2002) included reservation of the new park under the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.). Discovery Bay Marine National Park was included in Schedule 7 of the National Parks Act on 16 November 2002 (appendix 1).

When created, much stronger penalties were applied for all forms of fishing, including shellfish collection, in Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries than apply for taking or damaging other fauna, plants or objects from these areas.

Discovery Bay Marine National Park includes the areas between high and low water mark that were formerly part of Discovery Bay Coastal Park.

1.3 Plan development

This first Management Plan for the park was prepared by Parks Victoria, with significant input from the Discovery Bay Marine National Park Management Plan Advisory Group and other stakeholders. It takes into account existing information, reports and research findings that relate to the park and is informed and supported by a range of best practice management systems.

The strategies outlined in this plan have been guided by the statewide *Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries Management Strategy 2003–2010* (Parks Victoria 2003a).

The plan is a strategic guide for future management of the park. As a public document, the plan establishes how Parks Victoria will protect the natural and cultural values of the park 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 and encourage cooperative land management and participation in community-based programs between Parks Victoria and the 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 2006, and five submissions were received (appendix 2).

Where necessary, further consultation with the community and stakeholders was undertaken.

Minor improvements and clarifications have been made to the Draft Plan in preparing this Final Management Plan, including updated information on Indigenous archaeological sites.

The final management plan will direct future management of the Discovery Bay Marine National Park, until reviewed.

2 BASIS

2.1 Regional context

Discovery Bay Marine National Park forms part of a representative system of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries in Victoria, established within the broader context of a National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (NRSMPA). The NRSMPA contributes to the establishment of a global representative system of marine protected areas (ANZECC TFMPA 1999).

The park forms part of the Otway marine bioregion, as identified by the Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia (IMCRA). This identified 60 marine bioregions, five of which apply to Victorian waters (IMCRA Technical Group 1998).

The Otway bioregion encompasses waters from the coastline to the edge of the continental shelf and extends in an arc from Cape Jaffa in South Australia to Cape Otway in Victoria, King Island and the north-western tip of Tasmania. It is characterised by cold water, high wave energy, steep offshore gradient and nutrient upwellings associated with the edge of the continental shelf (IMCRA Technical Group 1998).

The park is one of five marine protected areas in the Otway marine bioregion: four in Victorian waters and one in South Australian waters. Discovery Bay Marine National Park forms 27% of the total protected area within this bioregion.

Indigenous tradition indicates that the park is part of Gournditch-Mara *Country* (section 5.1).

Discovery Bay Marine National Park abuts Discovery Bay Coastal Park, which is part of a network of coastal national parks between Portland and the South Australian border. Limestone headlands covered by dune scrub complexes adjoin the park between Whites Beach and Blacks Beach (Parks Victoria 2004a). Together, the Discovery Bay Marine National Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park create a large contiguous protected area, encompassing diverse values over land, coast and sea.

The Glenelg River estuary is located approximately 50 km to the west. As part of the Glenelg River Basin, the park could be influenced by activities within the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's (CMA) area of responsibility.

The park is within Tourism Victoria's Great Ocean Road product region. Portland and Bridgewater have a range of accommodation options reasonably close to the park. There are also opportunities for camping in nearby Discovery Bay Coastal Park and Lower Glenelg National Park.

The Great Ocean Road product region receives 14% of all tourist visits to Victoria, comprising 2.6 million domestic overnight visitors, 4.6 million domestic day visitors, and 164 000 international overnight visitors (Tourism Victoria 2004a).

2.2 Park significance and values

Discovery Bay Marine National Park makes a valuable contribution to Victoria's parks system, which aims to protect viable representative samples of the State's natural marine and terrestrial environments. Parks also provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy and appreciate natural and cultural values, and many make important contributions to tourism.

Discovery Bay Marine National Park is assigned the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Category II of the United Nation's List of National Parks and Protected Areas. Category II areas are managed primarily for ecosystem protection and recreation.

In recognition of the area's outstanding values and its heritage importance, the following sites adjacent to the park have been listed on the Register of the National Estate:

- Cape Bridgewater, in recognition of its rare volcanic and coastal features
- Discovery Bay Coastal Park in recognition of its geological and geomorphological features, coastal habitats and Indigenous cultural heritage.

Sea *Country* is central to the culture of Indigenous communities in south-west Victoria. The park is an integral part of this sea *Country* and presents an opportunity to build

community awareness of its cultural significance. Discovery Bay Marine National Park and the surrounding landscape have particular spiritual significance and have provided resources for generations.

The area included in the park is significant to many people in the community, especially the Traditional Owners and other people with traditional attachments to these areas.

Important values for Discovery Bay Marine National Park include:

- a range of marine habitats representative of the Otway bioregion
- Indigenous culture based on spiritual connection to sea *Country* and a history of marine resource use
- the wrecks of two wooden sailing barques, the *Jane* and the *Ann,* are thought to be in the vicinity of the park
- opportunities to view marine life and spectacular scenery from nearby lookouts and from within the park.

2.3 Evidence of past use

The park and adjacent coastline is a part of Gournditch-Mara *Country*. Archaeological research of middens, lithic scatters, cooking ovens and other sites along the coast adjacent to the park have revealed an extensive and complex record of past use. Analysis of middens indicates the importance of marine resources to the Gournditch-Mara and identifies ecological trends over time (section 5.1).

Open middens dated at up to 11 000BP have survived along the cliff tops at Cape Duquesne. Post-glacial sea rise to 6500BP inundated low-lying middens so that most middens in the region are less than 4000 years old (Richards, T. pers. comm. 2006). Although there are no known cultural sites within the park, submerged sites are likely to be present. The park and surrounding areas are of major cultural significance to the Gournditch-Mara.

Sealing on Bass Strait islands was occurring in the 1790s, however the first records of European exploration are the diary records of Lieutenant James Grant who explored the coastline of western Victoria in 1800 (Grant 1803). During this period the sheltered waters of Portland and the waters around Cape Bridgewater would have been well known. Whaling became a major industry in the 1830s and large numbers of Sperm Whales and Southern Right Whales were harvested in the area. As Portland became an important hub for maritime trade during the 1800s, shipping activity in the area increased and several shipwrecks occurred in the vicinity of the park.

For many years, the waters now included in the park were an important part of local fin fish, rock lobster and abalone fisheries. Couta boat tie-off spikes are still present around Cape Bridgewater (Douglass, S. pers. comm. 2005). The area was also used for recreational boat-based fishing, beach fishing and rock fishing. Shark, salmon and mulloway were typically caught at Blacks Beach, while salmon, mullet and sweep were the main species caught at Whites Beach (Mear 2001). Access for fishing ceased in Discovery Bay Marine National Park in April 2003. Those involved in fishing in these waters have developed local knowledge and an appreciation for the area.

Until the 1970s there was vehicle access to Whites Beach, which was used for social activities and boat launching. This beach was an important recreational destination for the people of Bridgewater, which was much larger than present. More recently the park has been used for surfing, bird watching and scuba diving.

2.4 The park visitor

An inaccessible coastline and frequently rough sea conditions means that relatively few people physically visit the open waters of Discovery Bay Marine National Park. Occasionally people involved in commercial or recreational boat fishing traverse the park. Whites Beach is a well-known surf break.

The Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries Visitor Services Strategy (Parks Victoria 2005a) guides the provision of visitor services within Victorian Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries. Opportunities for learning about the park will be enhanced (section 6.1), however access facilities will remain minimal in response to the area's relatively low visitation.

Visitors on foot can access intertidal areas of Discovery Bay Marine National Park at Whites Beach and Blacks Beach.

Visitors can also enjoy views of Discovery Bay Marine National Park from The Blowholes and the Great South West Walk.

As one of a series of attractions around Cape Bridgewater, the park contributes to local and regional economies. There may be opportunities to enhance visitor experiences at locations outside the park as more becomes known about the area's special values.

2.5 Legislation and ECC recommendations

Legislation

Discovery Bay Marine National Park is reserved and managed under the provisions of the National Parks Act. The Act requires the Secretary to DSE to preserve and protect the natural condition of the park and its natural 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 National Parks (Park) Regulations 2003 apply to the park.

All forms of extraction, including recreational and commercial fishing and shellfish extraction and the taking or damaging of animals, plants or objects, are prohibited within the park under the National Parks Act and regulations. A Statewide Compliance Strategy and a Regional Compliance Plan have been developed in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries Victoria to manage compliance with the no-fishing provisions within the park (section 8.3).

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

The *Coastal Management Act 1995* (Vic.) applies to the use and development of the whole of the park.

The *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972* (Vic.) and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Cwlth) apply to the park and protect all Aboriginal cultural heritage values, including places and objects (section 5.1).

The *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth) applies to the management of the park. An application for a native title determination, which covers Discovery Bay Marine National Park, among other areas, was lodged with the Native Title Tribunal on 30 August 1996. It was later amended to exclude areas at sea beyond 100 metres of the mean low water mark from the claim.

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) applies to the whole of the planning area with respect to actions that have, will have, or are likely to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance, including listed threatened species and communities and listed migratory species.

The *Parks Victoria Act 1998* (Vic.) enables management services for Discovery Bay Marine National Park to be provided by Parks Victoria on behalf of the Secretary to DSE.

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

ECC recommendations

The former Environment Conservation Council (ECC), in its *Marine, Coastal and Estuarine Investigation Final Report*, recommended the creation of Discovery Bay Marine National Park to protect some of Victoria's most wild and remote coastline (ECC 2000).

The ECC also made a number of recommendations that relate to the park. The recommendations include:

Recommendation A Use of Discovery Bay Marine National Park (A1)in accordance with the general recommendations for Marine National Parks.

R3 Planning and management relating to traditional interests and uses in coastal marine areas will be based on recognition and respect for the traditional relationship

of Aboriginal people with the land and sea.

R13 Further research will be undertaken on biological community composition and structure, both within and external to marine protected areas, with an emphasis on assessing the impacts of harvesting marine fauna.

R14 Assessments will be made and strategies developed for protection of vulnerable or threatened marine species and communities, using the provisions of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic.) as appropriate.

R18 Measures will be implemented by responsible agencies to reduce the risk of marine pest species arriving in Victoria, and to ensure a rapid and effective response in the event of an introduction.

R26 Public land and waters will continue to be available for a wide range of tourism and recreational uses. Development should not preclude public access to foreshore and offshore areas, other than to meet safety and security requirements that cannot be achieved in other ways.

R34 Priority will be given to establishing monitoring programs for Marine National Parks to determine the extent to which these areas are meeting their objectives.

These recommendations were accepted by the State Government in 2002 (Government of Victoria 2002), with the following variations:

- the park excludes an area at Whites Beach to allow vessel-based fishing. This area extends from south of Whites Beach to the Blowhole and 500 m out to sea (figure 2)
- the park excludes an area north of Blacks Beach access track which was incorrectly mapped as a part of the proposed park (Government of Victoria 2002).

2.6 Policies and guidelines

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

- *Victoria's System of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries Management Strategy 2003–2010* (Parks Victoria 2003a)
- *Indigenous Partnership Strategy and Action Plan* (Parks Victoria 2005b)
- *Guidelines for Working with Aboriginal Communities and Protection of Cultural Sites* (Parks Victoria 2002)
- *Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy* (NRE 1997)
- *National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development* (COAG 1992)
- *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity* (ANZECC 2001)
- *Heritage Management Strategy* (Parks Victoria 2003b).

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

- *Nature Based Tourism — Directions and Opportunities for Victoria 2000–2003* (Tourism Victoria 2000)
- *Victorian Coastal Strategy* (VCC 2002)
- *Victoria's Heritage – Strengthening our Communities* (Heritage Victoria 2006)
- *Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Management Strategy 2003–-2007* (GHCMA 2003)
- *Glenelg Shire Coastal Action Plan* (Western Coastal Board 2004)
- *Regional Tourism Development Plan — Great Ocean Road 2004–2007* (Tourism Victoria 2004b)
- *Policy for Sustainable Recreation and Tourism on Victoria's Public Land* (NRE 2002*)*
- *Discovery Bay Parks Management Plan* (Parks Victoria 2004a)
- *South West Victoria Regional Coastal Action Plan* (Western Coastal Board 2002).

3 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

3.1 Park vision

A future visitor to Discovery Bay Marine National Park finds an unchanged and vast seascape which exemplifies the Southern Ocean. Visitors to the park are immediately welcomed by fierce winds, salty air and the sound of massive waves crashing into dramatic cliffs.

After this abrupt introduction, visitors soon begin to appreciate that the park is teeming with life. Playful Australian Fur Seals, feeding Australasian Gannets and colourful rock pools contradict this initial inhospitable appearance.

Seabirds, seals and intertidal species are a window into intricate and diverse marine ecosystems, free from significant human impacts. Research programs have established an understanding of local ecosystems, their relationship with the Southern Ocean and the dynamics of human impacts. Ongoing research programs continue to make new discoveries and refine management.

Gournditch-Mara concepts of sea *Country* are understood, respected and are central to the management of the park. The Traditional Owners are closely involved in management. The park is well protected through management and strongly supported by local communities, anglers and the commercial fishing industry.

3.2 Zoning

A park management zoning scheme is normally used to define areas where various types and levels of use are appropriate. However, management zones do not need to be defined in Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries because the management aims for these areas are clearly outlined in the National Parks Act and are consistent across all Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries (section 2.5 and appendix 1).

3.3 Management directions

Major management directions for the park are outlined below.

Natural values conservation

- Natural processes, including competition, predation, recruitment and disturbance, will be protected to maximise overall benefit to the biodiversity of marine ecological communities in the park.
- Identified threats to the park will be minimised through addressing the outcomes of ongoing monitoring and risk assessment and, where feasible, complementary adjacent coastal and catchment management.
- Compliance with legislated provisions that prohibit extractive activities, including fishing and shellfish collection, will be ensured through education, information, community support, and improved surveillance and enforcement.
- Research and monitoring to improve the scientific basis for management, including baseline data collection, marine habitat mapping and threat assessment, will be undertaken as outlined in the Statewide Management Strategy (Parks Victoria 2003a) and through collaborative research links.
- The geological features of the park above and below the water will be protected from potentially damaging activities.
- The landscape and seascape values of Discovery Bay Marine National Park will be protected from inappropriate development and other threats.

Cultural values conservation

- The strong social and cultural connections between the local marine environment and the local or regional community will be respected and maintained.
- Indigenous places and objects will be protected from interference or damaging activities.

- The Traditional Owners' knowledge, interests and rights in the waters and land and aspirations for *Country* will be reflected in the park's management in accordance with legislation and policies.
- Historic relics and places will be conserved by protecting them from damaging or inappropriate activities.
- Indigenous cultural obligations relating to *Country* will be respected, and Traditional Owners' knowledge promoted and interpreted in accordance with their views.
- Research into the Indigenous and historic cultural heritage of the park will be encouraged and supported as appropriate, in consultation with the Indigenous and wider communities.

The park visit

- Visitor understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural values of the park will be enhanced by a range of information services and interpretive information in the adjacent Discovery Bay Coastal Park.
- Visitor enjoyment will be enhanced by appropriate management of recreational activities. Recreational opportunities will be provided in accordance with table 1.
- Visitors will be encouraged to adopt minimal-impact techniques and to adhere to industry-developed standards appropriate to their activity.
- Visitors will have opportunities to observe marine life, enjoy water sports and participate in other recreational activities compatible with management objectives.
- Visitors will have access to lookouts and the Great South West Walk within Discovery Bay Coastal Park, which provide outstanding opportunities to view Discovery Bay Marine National Park.

Community awareness and involvement

- Friends, volunteers, Indigenous and other community groups will be encouraged and supported to participate in areas of park management that relate to their interests.
- An awareness and understanding of the park and its management, and a sense of custodianship, will be encouraged among local communities and visitors.
- Relationships will be further developed and maintained with people, groups and communities with strong connections with or interests in the park, as a basis for encouraging their appropriate participation in the park's management.
- Strong collaborative partnerships will be developed with the Traditional Owners to facilitate the reflection of their knowledge, rights, and interests and aspirations in the park's planning and management.
- Collaborative partnerships will be established with relevant agencies to ensure ongoing compliance and future protection of the park.
- There will be ongoing opportunities for individuals, groups, communities and government agencies to discuss aspirations and issues of mutual concern relating to the park.

TABLE 1 SUMMARY OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

ACTIVITY	PARK
Aircraft landing / launching (incl. hang-gliding, paragliding)	N
Anchoring	Y
Beachcombing (no collecting)	Y
Bait collection	N
Bird watching	Y
Camping (on boats)	Y
Filming / photography	Y
Diving / snorkelling (section 6.4)	Y
Dogs*	N
Driving on beaches	N
Education / guided activities	Y
Feeding wildlife	N
Fires on beaches	N
Fishing (all forms)	N
Fossil collection	N
Horse riding	N
Kite surfing / wind surfing (section 6.3)	Y
Licensed tours (section 6.7)	Y
Landing / launching boats (no facilities) (section 6.3)	Y
Mooring	N
Motorised boating (section 6.3)	Y
Nature photography / painting	Y
Non-motorised boating (section 6.3)	Y
Personal watercraft / jet skiing (section 6.3)	Y
Picnicking	Y
Prospecting and metal detecting	N
Sailing (section 6.3)	Y
Scenic viewing (land based & aircraft)	Y
Sea kayaking (section 6.3)	Y
Shell collecting	N
Sightseeing	Y
Surfing	Y
Swimming (section 6.5)	Y
Walking on beaches (section 6.5)	Y
Whale / dolphin / seal watching	Y
Wreck diving (section 6.4)	Y

* Dogs are permitted in the park if confined to a vessel.

Key:

Y Permitted, subject to conditions prescribed by legislation, permits or elsewhere in the plan as indicated.

N Not permitted.

4 STRATEGIES FOR NATURAL VALUES CONSERVATION

4.1 Geological and geomorphological features

According to Indigenous tradition, all geomorphological features of the landscape result from the activities of ancestral spirits in the Dreamtime. Discovery Bay Coastal Park which adjoins Discovery Bay Marine National Park provides significant protection to a variety of coastal landform features from human disturbance. Most of the coastline in this area consists of cliffed basalt which is capped by dune calcarenite. The coast exposes a variety of lava types and volcanic structures such as pahoehoe or ropey lava, and lava blisters. These have been dissected into cliffs and stone ledges, with blowholes, caves and clefts also present.

Bathymetry data collected as part of the habitat mapping program (section 4.4) provides a detailed picture of the shape of the seafloor. The data indicates sand deposition patterns, volcanic influences and topographic remnants from periods of lower sea levels.

The park contains sandy beaches, intertidal and subtidal rocky reefs of basalt and limestone, sediment and sandy sea floors as well as kelp and sponge beds.

There are two sections of beach abutting the park, Blacks Beach and Whites Beach. Blacks Beach receives large amounts of ocean-borne litter, as a part of the greater Discovery Bay Beach; however Whites Beach appears to be more protected from ocean pollution. Whites Beach is however, the primary land-based access point to the Marine National Park and therefore more susceptible to human influences.

Geological and subtidal processes have shaped the characteristics of the sea floor, including location and composition of reef and sediment areas within the park. High energy wave action has progressively eroded the coastline and underwater features, and is a key process in the formation of the park's habitat types.

The Discovery Bay seabed is a combination of sand/silt floor and areas of basalt and limestone reef. The average depth slopes gently away from the shoreline to a depth of approximately 200 m at the edge of the continental shelf, some 70 km out to sea.

The sea floor appears to be highly dynamic as a result of the wave and storm activity. Kelp beds seem to establish themselves only to be decimated during subsequent storm activity. The rocky reef is very dramatic with canyons running predominantly north-east to south-west, to a depth of around five metres, with walls of either smooth basalt or sharp limestone. The floors in these canyons are mostly pebble and sand, with Bubble Weed growing throughout.

A number of freshwater springs flow from the cliff faces of Cape Bridgewater onto the basalt wavecut platforms within the park boundary. This subterranean water is nutrient-rich, providing opportunities for some intertidal species.

There are no known sites of geological or geomorphological significance within the park (Plummer et al. 2003) as there have been very few surveys of the Victorian marine environment. However, future geological and geomorphological surveying may reveal sites of significance within the park.

Due to the remoteness of the park, low visitation and protection provided by the adjoining Discovery Bay Coastal Park, direct human disturbance threats to geological and geomorphological values are unlikely to occur.

Aims

- Protect significant geological and seabed features within the park.
- Allow natural geological and geomorphological processes to continue without human interference.

Management strategies

- *Protect geological features from damaging or inappropriate activities.*
- *Encourage the analysis of existing bathymetry data and the collection of new geographical and geomorphological information for the park.*
- *Encourage research to identify landforms of special significance to Traditional*

Owners and protect them from damaging or inappropriate activities (sections 5.1).

- *Consider and respect the significance of landforms to the Traditional Owners in interpreting the park and implementing management programs (sections 5.1).*

4.2 Catchment and water quality

The park is influenced by the Glenelg River Basin and the Portland Coast Drainage Basin (GHCMA 2003). The Glenelg River Basin covers approximately 11 998 square kilometres, consisting predominantly of cleared farmland and significant areas of forest and heathland (GHCMA 2003). The river flows into the sea approximately 40 km to the north west of the park. Although currents carry this water towards the park, it is not thought to have a significant impact on the ecology of the park.

Cape Bridgewater, adjacent to the park is a part of the Portland Coast Drainage Basin. A small volume of rainfall runoff flows into the park. Although this could cause localised impacts, it is not thought to be significant due to the high wave energy of this coastline. There are several springs adjacent to the park, some of which may discharge fresh water into the park.

Water composition within the park is complex and extremely dynamic, and is influenced by many natural and unnatural factors. Continuous mixing of water on this coastline generally minimises cumulative pollution impacts, although events at sea such as an oil spill could have catastrophic impacts.

Marine pollution, especially oil spills, is a significant threat to natural values, aesthetics and public safety. Response to pollution at sea is guided by the National Plan to Combat Pollution of the Sea by Oil and other Noxious and Hazardous Substances (AMSA 1998).

As the manager of around 70% of Victoria's coastal areas, Parks Victoria plays a significant support role in the response to marine incidents (section 8.3). Such responses often require a diverse range of skills and resources, involving coordination between multiple agencies (including Parks Victoria) and members of the community. In Victorian waters the *Victorian Marine Pollution Contingency Plan* (VICPLAN) (MSV 2002) outlines broad response arrangements to a potential oil or chemical spill. Under this plan, the park is within the Port of Portland Region (section 8.3).

Litter collects on beaches west of Cape Bridgewater, including Discovery Bay Marine National Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park. The majority of this litter appears to be domestic rubbish and fishing gear, most likely discarded from offshore sources to the west.

Aims

- Minimise the impact of threatening processes derived from the catchment, estuaries and other watercourses.
- Maintain water quality in the park.
- Prevent and minimise the impact of pollution on park values.

Management strategies

- *Encourage prevention and management of pollution in the marine environment through cooperation with relevant agencies and groups.*
- *As appropriate, manually remove litter from beaches and other intertidal areas in Discovery Bay Marine National Park to protect public health and natural values. Where appropriate, encourage participation of schools and community groups.*
- *Integrate existing litter prevention messages into Parks Victoria's educational programs (section 6.1).*
- *In accordance with the Portland Region Marine Pollution Contingency Plan, report oil spills in and near the park, and respond accordingly.*

4.3 Hydrodynamics

The seafloor of Discovery Bay Marine National Park declines gradually in a south-westerly direction to depths of approximately 60 m at State limits. The continental shelf is relatively narrow in this area, extending approximately 50 km offshore. At the edge of the continental shelf the offshore gradients increase to depths over 1000 m. Wind driven coastal circulation on the edge of the shelf causes regular upwellings of cool nutrient rich water, particularly during summer, known as

the Bonney Upwelling (CSIRO 2002). This upwelling provides a catalyst for pelagic food chains including feeding grounds for seabirds, fish, Blue Whales and Australian Fur Seals (section 4.4). The upwelling has a major influence on ecosystems within the bioregion.

Discovery Bay Marine National Park is within the Otway Marine Bioregion. Surface water temperatures in the bioregion are influenced by the Bonney Upwelling, however mean surface water temperature varies seasonally between 14 °C and 18 °C (IMCRA Technical Group 1998). The bioregion is also typified by high deepwater wave energy. The coastline faces south towards the wild storms and south-westerly swells of the Southern Ocean.

The Zeehan Current is the main influence on local hydrodynamics although the East Australian Current and the Leeuwin Current also have some influence. The Zeehan Current results in a south-easterly movement of water through the bioregion. The Leeuwin Current conveys large amounts of litter to the park (section 4.2). The warm Leeuwin Current flows east along the southern coast of Australian and may influence water temperature in the region particularly during La Niña years (NOO 2002). Anecdotal evidence indicates that water temperatures may have been warmer during summer months in the past.

There are no artificial structures apart from couta boat spikes within or near the park. Local hydrodynamics are poorly understood but thought to be complex. They may change seasonally or after storms have altered the seafloor. Because human-induced changes to local hydrodynamic processes could affect the values of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries, any proposals for new infrastructure in the park are considered inappropriate. Natural hydrodynamic events such as storm surges and regular sand erosion or deposition are considered to be ongoing natural processes.

Aim

- Minimise impacts on park values from human-induced changes to local hydrodynamic processes.

Management strategies

- *Provide advice on planning applications for developments that could affect park hydrodynamic processes, where appropriate.*
- *Encourage research which provides a better understanding of local hydrodynamic processes and their relationship with park values.*

4.4 Habitats and communities

The park contains five habitat classes: pelagic waters, subtidal soft sediment, subtidal rock reef, sandy beaches and intertidal reef.

The pelagic waters of the park are an important part of the regional ecosystem. Pelagic habitats play an important role in the life-cycles of many organisms, such as rock lobster, which rely on ocean currents for larval distribution. Other typical pelagic species often seen in the park include Australian Fur Seals, Blue Whales and Southern Right Whales. A variety of fish species including sweep, salmon, and whiting were caught in these waters prior to the creation of the park (Mear 2001; Douglass, S. pers. comm. 2005). Moon lighters, Magpie Perch, Zebra Fish, Yellow-eye Mullet and Painted Dragonets have also been observed in the park (Plummer et al. 2003). Pelagic waters such as those found in the park also provide feeding grounds for a variety of seabirds. Oceanic seabirds often seen in this area include Pacific Gulls, Common Diving Petrels and Wandering Albatrosses.

Subtidal rock reef comprises approximately half of the park's seafloor. Reef types include low-profile calcarenite reef, heavy basalt / calcarenite reef and heavy calcarenite reef (Roob et al. 1999). Generally solid basalt reefs occur closer to Cape Bridgewater and are often capped by calcarenite. Reef areas are interspersed with large areas of sand, shell grit and calcarenite rubble (Roob & Currie 1996). Although there have been no surveys of subtidal reefs in the park, Bull Kelp, Bubble Weed, coralline algae and Giant Kelp are found on shallow basalt reefs adjacent to the park (Roob et al. 1999). Deeper reefs support a variety of red and brown algae species. Basalt reefs have relatively few sessile invertebrates, while calcarenite reefs at 33 – 55 m depth support diverse invertebrate communities including ascidians, bryozoans and gorgonians.

In water deeper than 50 m, there are calcarenite bommies with a sparse cover of sponges and gorgonians.

Approximately half of the seafloor of the park is covered by sand interspersed with shell grit and calcarenite rubble (Roob & Currie 1996). There have been no detailed surveys of these areas although occasional bryozoans and sponges have been observed (Roob & Currie 1996).

There are small areas of intertidal reef near Whites Beach. Common species on these reefs include Neptune's Necklace, Bull Kelp, Sea Lettuce, and encrusting red algae. Rock pools contain many tessellated sea stars, as well as barnacles, mussels, Elephant Snails, sea urchins, anemones and crabs.

No data is available about species associated with the park's sandy beaches, although sandy beaches are important feeding areas for birds and support a diverse range of obscure invertebrates. Sandy beach habitats in the park are generally protected from visitor activity but are susceptible to pollution impacts (section 4.2).

The natural values of the park are of significant interest to the Gournditch-Mara and other Indigenous peoples in accordance with Indigenous tradition.

All forms of extraction, including recreational and commercial fishing, are prohibited within the park. The feeding of animals, including fish and birds, is not permitted in Marine National Parks or Marine Sanctuaries.

Marine habitat mapping, currently in progress, will provide a quantitative analysis of park habitats for use in management, education and research. Ongoing monitoring is targeted at collecting baseline biological information that will be used to understand long-term changes in population, abundances, community structure and ecological processes during the life of this plan. Research and monitoring compares areas outside the park boundaries with those inside the park. This work will assist in identifying indicator species and habitats. The results will be available on Parks Victoria's website, and will enable an assessment of the ecological condition of the park to be made.

All species recorded within the park listed as threatened or protected by international agreements or other legislation (e.g. JAMBA, CAMBA) are either birds or large marine mammals, for example Blue Whales. This reflects the current vertebrate focus of threatened species management. Management of marine ecological communities within the park, rather than threatened species, is also likely to protect and enhance threatened species populations. Whole-of-habitat management may also result in the protection of species not yet identified because of their rarity, cryptic nature, or lack of search effort. While the marine environment remains largely unexplored, new species are found every year, even in intertidal areas.

Aims

- Protect natural habitats, ecological communities and indigenous flora and fauna in the park.
- Improve knowledge of the park, including habitats, indigenous species and threatening processes.

Management strategies

- *Establish and implement an appropriate long-term subtidal reef habitat monitoring program, as part of relevant statewide marine habitat monitoring programs.*
- *Encourage community-based monitoring of intertidal reefs near Whites Beach, as part of relevant statewide marine habitat monitoring programs.*
- *Map habitats at scales suitable for management purposes, in accordance with statewide habitat mapping programs.*
- *Undertake regular ecological risk assessments to identify threatening processes. Implement by:*
    - *encouraging research to address major knowledge gaps*
    - *reviewing management programs as appropriate.*
- *Implement priority actions from approved action statements or recovery plans to address threats to threatened species or communities listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee and Environment*

Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Acts.

- *Encourage research to identify Indigenous knowledge relating to flora and fauna of the park (section 5.1). In accordance with Parks Victoria's policies, reflect and integrate knowledge gained in all management programs.*
- *Manage visitor activities to minimise impacts on flora, fauna and communities, particularly in relation to compliance with no-fishing provisions (section 8.3).*
- *Respond to cetacean incidents in accordance with the Victorian Cetacean Contingency Plan (NRE 1999c)(section 8.3).*

4.5 Landscape and seascape

Discovery Bay Marine National Park is an integral component of regional land and seascapes. Seascapes are a major aspect of local visitor experiences and as such make an important contribution to local lifestyles and Victoria's tourism industry.

Visitors enjoy outstanding views of the park from cliff tops high above the park on the Great South West Walk and The Blowholes lookout. Beaches and intertidal reefs provide opportunities for a closer appreciation of the areas beauty. Visitors undertaking activities such as scuba diving, snorkelling, surfing or bird watching enjoy other visual perspectives of the park.

Most visitors to Discovery Bay Marine National Park are unlikely to participate in aquatic activities. Visual experiences from facilities adjacent to the park are likely to remain the primary experience for the majority of visitors.

Many local residents and anglers, have a long association with the area and an appreciation of this area's rugged beauty.

For the Gournditch-Mara people, the sea *Country* is a central theme in the story of creation. For Indigenous people, the park seascape is closely linked to spirituality and is a central element of culture.

The appeal of many of these experiences is the absence of human development. Unmodified landscapes give a sense of remoteness and are an important experience and retreat for many visitors.

The Glenelg Planning Scheme applies to areas adjacent to the Marine National Park and includes a policy which seeks to protect the landscape features of the Bridgewater Bay area (Glenelg Shire Council 1998) (section 8.3).

Landscape character types are used to broadly characterise different landscape types (DSE 2006). The park is within Landscape Character Type 3 Western Coastal Cliffs, Character Area 3.1: The Three Capes. Cape Bridgewater and Cape Nelson combine to make a landscape of State significance (DSE 2006). Further details about landscape management objectives and guidelines are provided in the Municipal Reference Document.

The Victorian Coastal Council's *Siting and Design Guidelines for the Victorian Coast* (VCC 1998), which aim to protect coastal landscape values, apply to the park and adjacent land, including the landscapes and seascapes associated with the park.

A wind energy development involving the construction of wind towers adjacent to Discovery Bay Coastal Park has been approved. Towers will impact on views from Discovery Bay Marine National Park. Coastal or marine infrastructure, including the visual impact of signs and litter, could also adversely affect landscape values.

Aims

- Protect landscape and seascape values.
- Minimise the visual impact of signs, infrastructure and management activities associated with the park.

Management strategies

- *Provide input into any landscape character assessments to ensure recognition of landscape and seascape values within, and associated with, the park.*
- *Liaise with Pacific Hydro to minimise the visual impact of wind towers on park users.*
- *Encourage and support the identification of landscape elements of special importance to Indigenous communities and*

involve them in protection and appropriate interpretation.

- *Ensure that signs and boundary markers have minimal impact on landscape values, key views and special visual experiences.*

4.6 Marine pests

Over 100 exotic marine species are known to have become established in Victorian marine waters (Hewitt et al. 1999). Some have become marine pests. There are no known marine pests in the park. An exotic marine pest survey of the Portland harbour found a total of nine exotic species, of which *Euchone* sp.1 was the only species abundant enough to cause a significant ecological impact (MAFRI 1997).

Marine pests can have a devastating impact on Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries. The introduction of marine pests into Victorian waters is listed as a potentially threatening process on Schedule 3 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (FFG). Victoria's management priorities in relation to marine pests are set out in the relevant FFG action statement (NRE 1999a).

Prevention of marine pest invasions is the most effective management option. Prevention involves reducing the risk that a pest will be introduced to the park. In a very limited number of cases, with specific criteria, control measures may be attempted for established pest populations generally as part of a coordinated regional or national response. However, experience elsewhere has shown that proposals to control established marine pests need to consider fully the likely effectiveness. The interconnectedness of the marine environment and the ability of many marine pests to migrate over long distances mean that control measures may be feasible only in limited circumstances. For example, using techniques that are successful on land, such as physical removal by hand, might make the situation worse, as some marine pests regenerate fully from fragments dislodged during removal. Where implemented, control measures will meet national guidelines for managing marine pests. Because of the possibility of misidentifications or exacerbation of the pest problem, control measures will need to be part of authorised programs. In some cases, further nationally coordinated research is required into control measures.

Victorian marine pest emergency management arrangements (*Interim Victorian Protocol for Managing Exotic Marine Organism Incursions)* (NRE 1999b) will form the basis for responding to new introductions and existing incursions of marine pests. The adoption of the *Waste Management Policy (Ships' Ballast Water)* (EPA 2004) for Victorian waters will help reduce the risk of marine pest incursions from ships' ballast water. Emergency responses to marine pest outbreaks in Victoria are managed as part of agreed national arrangements for marine pest emergencies. The Consultative Committee for Introduced Marine Pest Emergencies provides national oversight. Parks Victoria actively supports the protocol by adopting best practice within the organisation and educating and informing the community about prevention measures.

Vessel cleaning and maintenance guidelines to help prevent the spread of marine pests (DSE 2004) aim to reduce the risk of spreading marine introduced pests by providing practical solutions for vessel operators for cleaning gear and hulls. Supporting initiatives include *Cleaner Marinas: EPA Guidelines for Protecting Victoria's Marinas* (EPA 1998).

Parks Victoria Rangers, Fisheries Victoria Fisheries Officers, community-based organisations (e.g. dive clubs), and visitors play an important role in the monitoring and early detection of marine introduced pests in the park (section 8.2).

Aims

- Minimise the risk of introduction of marine pasts by human activities, and their subsequent establishment in the park.
- Establish arrangements for the detection of new incursions within the park in support of Victorian marine pest management arrangements.
- Implement national or Victoria-wide control arrangements as they relate to the park.

Management strategies

- *Support DSE in educating Parks Victoria staff, Fisheries Officers and the community to identify marine pests.*
- *Encourage community groups, researchers, licensed tour operators and contractors to integrate the identification of marine pests into their activities and to report any sightings.*
- *Ensure that the detection of marine pests is reported in accordance with Victorian pest management arrangements and recorded on Parks Victoria's Environmental Information System and other relevant databases.*
- *Manage all pest incursions in accordance with the Interim Victorian Protocol (NRE 1999b) (section 8.3).*
- *Establish an ongoing program to minimise the risk of marine pest introduction and subsequent spread that addresses improving the understanding of the potential means of introduction and spread and formalising arrangements for prevention, reporting, monitoring and response.*
- *Undertake pest programs only where research indicates that control or eradication is feasible and likely to be effective or as part of a coordinated regional or national response.*
- *Avoid translocation or new introductions by promoting boat-cleaning protocols for all recreational boats and contractors (section 6.3) in accordance with the DSE brochure 'Aquatic Pests: Treat 'em mean – keep your boat clean'.*
- *Ensure that management vessels operating in the park are maintained according to Victorian Government boat-cleaning protocols (DSE 2004).*
- *Include boat-cleaning protocols in contracts, licences or permits of contracted vessels, research vessels and licensed tour operator vessels operating in the park.*
- *Encourage attempts to eradicate established pest populations only where research indicates that eradication is feasible and likely to be effective.*
- *Liaise with DPI – Fisheries Victoria and DSE to ensure any applications for aquaculture development which may impact on the park give due consideration to the potential spread of marine pests.*
- *Ensure that any new marine infrastructure within the park is treated to remove any marine pests.*

5 STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL VALUES CONSERVATION

5.1 Indigenous cultural heritage

Discovery Bay Marine National Park is a part of Gournditch-Mara *Country*. Gournditch-Mara belong to the Dhauwurd wurrung language group which is known to have consisted of at least 59 clans. The clans were separated into two moieties, the Krokitch/Grgidj (white cockatoo) and Kappatch/Gabadj (black cockatoo). The Cupponenet gundidj clan belonged to the area around Bridgewater Bay, east of Cape Bridgewater. Dhauwurd wurrung is one of seven language groups within the Maar Nation which extends across south west Victoria. (Clark 1998a).

The Maar creation story explains the spiritual connection of the Gournditch-Mara with the sea. This story also demonstrates the spiritual connection with nearby Deen Maar Island, the sea and the afterlife.

Archaeological investigation of shell middens, occupation sites, and ovens (Godfrey 1984; Richards & Jordan 1996; Godfrey 2000; Schell 2000) and early descriptions (Dawson 1981) illustrate the importance of the sea to the Cupponet gundidj and other clans. Unique for Australia, open middens dated at up to 11 000BP have survived along the cliff tops at Cape Duquesne. Post glacial sea rise to 6500BP inundated low-lying middens so that most middens in the region are less than 4000 years old. (Richards, T. pers. comm. 2006).

Gournditch-Mara languages were well documented in the late 1880s and have been more recently collated (Dawson 1981). Language demonstrates a close association between the sea and the Gournditch-Mara. Many aspects of the sea and whales in particular hold spiritual, totemic significance. Stories of a tsunami which extended inland as far as Heywood have also been recorded (D. Lovett, pers. comm. 2006).

Sir William Grant was the first European to chart this coastline in 1800. He noted the presence of numerous campfires near Portland which were most likely those of the Gournditch-Mara (Learmonth 1934). In the 1830s and 1840s organised groups of Gournditch-Mara fought a guerrilla war (Clark 1995) that became known as the Eumeralla war. Within this language group there were 28 recorded massacres and killings of Gournditch-Mara people, including a massacre at the Convincing Ground near Portland which was thought to be related to a dispute over a whale washed up on the beach. By 1846 the Portland Guardian and Normandy Advertiser reported that stock had been killed by Indigenous people near Bridgewater Lakes but that Indigenous people were rarely seen in this area (Portland Guardian and Normandy Advertiser 1846). Following the progressive displacement of clans from *Country*, survivors found refuge at local pastoral stations and many were eventually taken to Lake Condah mission.

After disease, violence, displacement and institutionalisation, the Gournditch-Mara believed that spirits were no longer plentiful (Dawson 1981). Many aspects of culture are now shared between language and clan groups throughout south-western Victoria. Despite this history, Indigenous people are committed to maintaining their strong cultural identity (Critchett 1980; Clark 1998b).

Sea *Country* is a central theme of Indigenous cultural heritage in south-western Victoria which the Gournditch-Mara aspire to maintain and build in partnership with Parks Victoria. Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries provide a unique opportunity to maintain, build and enhance these cultural connections. Lake Condah, Discovery Bay Marine National Park and many other parks and reserves are an integral part of the vibrant Gournditch-Mara culture.

Many older cultural sites are likely to have been destroyed with rising sea levels and dune erosion. There are no registered cultural sites in Discovery Bay Marine National Park. However there are many sites in the adjacent Discovery Bay Coastal Park, and cultural material could still be present beneath the waters of the park.

All Indigenous places and objects are protected under the Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act. It is an offence to damage, interfere with or endanger an Aboriginal site, place or object

without obtaining prior written consent from the scheduled Aboriginal community. Issues relating to the protection of such cultural heritage and the involvement of the scheduled Aboriginal community are approached in accordance with these Acts. Under the Commonwealth Act, the Kerrup-Jmara Elders Corporation, c/- Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation is the scheduled Aboriginal community.

Indigenous people are concerned about the state of *Country* and their role in its protection. The *Kooyang Sea Country Plan* highlights the aspirations of Framlingham Aboriginal Trust and Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation members regarding sea *Country*, which includes the park, and identifies a framework for partnership with government in sea *Country* management (FAT & WMAC 2004). Local Indigenous communities have been involved in the development of cultural interpretation and other projects in Discovery Bay Coastal Park and other nearby protected areas. They aspire to build and extend this partnership to sea *Country*.

The Gournditch-Mara Native Title Group is the relevant group for Native Title in the area. Issues relating to Native Title are dealt with according to the Native Title Act (section 2.5).

Parks Victoria respects the views of the Traditional Owners, and seeks to reflect their knowledge, interests and rights in the land, and aspirations for *Country* in planning and management of the park (Parks Victoria 2005b).

Aims

- Protect Indigenous places and objects from interference or damage.
- Support the views of the Traditional Owners in managing the park.

Management strategies

- *Protect Indigenous places and objects from disturbance and damage in partnership with the Traditional Owners and in cooperation with the scheduled Aboriginal community and AAV (section 8.3), and in accordance with:*
    - *the provisions of relevant legislation, including the Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act*
    - *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.*
- *Reflect the Traditional Owners' knowledge, interests, rights and aspirations for Country in all planning and management of the park in consultation the Traditional Owners and the scheduled Aboriginal community, and in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies (sections 4.1, 4.4, 4.5, 6.1, 7.1 and 8.2).*
- *Respond accordingly to any Native Title determinations for the park.*
- *Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with relevant Indigenous communities. Ensure this MOU does not impact on native title determinations. The MOU should address;*
    - *appropriate use of language, stories and other culture by Parks Victoria*
    - *arrangements for ongoing liaison, cooperation and sharing of knowledge*
    - *processes for the identification and development of training, capacity building or commercial opportunities.*
- *Work with the Traditional Owners to integrate Discovery Bay Marine National Park into a cultural heritage strategy for Discovery Bay Coastal Park (Parks Victoria 2004b). The strategy will identify:*
    - *priorities for cultural mapping, research and survey*
    - *themes for interpretation, promotion of Indigenous culture, including places, objects, archaeological relics, and tradition and practices*
    - *arrangements for partnerships with Gournditch-Mara, other community groups and relevant agencies.*
- *Assess annual park programs to integrate relevant Indigenous practices and minimise the potential for impact of park*

management activities on Indigenous cultural heritage, in consultation with the Traditional Owners and the scheduled Aboriginal community.

- *Maintain confidentiality in respect of Indigenous cultural obligations, knowledge, places, objects and aspirations, in accordance with the views of the Traditional Owners (sections 6.1 and 8.2).*
- *Ensure that all management actions are in accordance with the Native Title Act.*
- *Contribute to the implementation of the Kooyang Sea Country Plan (FAT & WMAC 2004), and the Indigenous Partnership Strategy (Parks Victoria 2005b).*

5.2 Maritime and other cultural heritage

There are unsubstantiated stories of visits to this coastline by the Portuguese in the early 1500s and the Chinese in the 1790s. In 1800, Lieutenant James Grant was the first European to document the maritime exploration of the coastline around Cape Bridgewater. Grant named Discovery Bay and Cape Bridgewater (Learmonth 1934).

During the following decades, professional sealers and whalers operated from numerous bays and coves along the coast. By 1832 the sealing industry had virtually ceased due to the decimation of seal populations. Today there is no evidence of the temporary camps the sealers made (MacKenzie 1976).

The whaling industry peaked in 1837 with eight permanent whaling establishments each employing up to 100 men, operating out of Portland Bay. The first of these was established in 1833. Whale numbers rapidly declined and the industry was abandoned in the area by 1860 (MacKenzie 1976).

There have been at least four ships wrecked around Cape Bridgewater in the vicinity of the park; the *Marie*, *Jane*, *Ann* and *John Omerod* (appendix 3). The location of these wrecks is unknown, however the *Marie* is thought to be within the park and relics may be present. The *Marie*, a wooden sailing ship, was wrecked in 1851, resulting in the loss of 36 lives. A monument at Whites Beach commemorates the tragedy. The *Marie* is also included within the Historic Shipwreck Trail (section 6.1).

Heritage Victoria has primary responsibility for the management of shipwrecks within the park. Parks Victoria has established a memorandum of understanding with Heritage Victoria, which identifies respective roles and responsibilities with regard to protection, compliance and interpretation of shipwrecks and shipwreck artefacts and other archaeological sites within the boundaries of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries (sections 6.1 and 8.3).

Cape Bridgewater and surrounding waters are socially significant for many people who connect special meaning to places within or associated with the park. For Indigenous communities the park is part of an important cultural landscape (section 5.1).

Many people such as boat users, divers and anglers have knowledge of local environmental processes, past uses and values of the area. Observations, recollections and anecdotes are an important cultural heritage resource.

Aims

- Conserve and protect places and values of historic and cultural significance.
- Encourage learning and understanding about historic heritage of Discovery Bay Marine National Park.

Management strategies

- *Manage places and values of historic and cultural significance in accordance with the Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS, the provisions of the Heritage Act 1995 and the Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976 (Cwlth), and Parks Victoria's Heritage Management Strategy (Parks Victoria 2003b).*
- *Document history of past use and activity in the park and adjoining coastal area, and protect any historic places and objects that may be discovered from damaging or inappropriate activities.*
- *Support dive clubs in locating, photographing and reporting the condition of historic shipwrecks, and record the information in Parks Victoria's Asset*

Management System to help monitor shipwrecks.

- *Cooperate with and support Heritage Victoria's maritime heritage research program.*

6 STRATEGIES FOR VISITORS

6.1 Information, interpretation and education

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

Having a representative system of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries in Victoria presents a unique opportunity to educate visitors and the broader community about the features and benefits of a statewide system of protected areas. At the same time, a range of information, interpretation and education products that are specific to the key features of the park will be provided.

Parks Victoria has developed minimal impact guidelines (available on its website) in partnership with providers of education to help manage impacts on intertidal marine environments.

Orientation and Information

Orientation helps visitors to navigate as they approach or enter the park, and to understand appropriate and safe behaviour. Key orientation information is available:

- at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au
- in Park Notes
- on signage in Discovery Bay Coastal Park
- via shore-based boundary markers for maritime navigation (section 7.2).

Because of the large size and complex shape, and the high wave energy of this coastline, it is not practical to comprehensively mark the in-water boundaries of the park. There are no boundary markers at sea in Discovery Bay Marine National Park.

Interpretation

Interpretation is a means of communicating ideas, feelings and values to help enrich people's understanding of natural and cultural values, foster positive attitudes towards their conservation and increase awareness of the relationships between people and the natural environment.

Park interpretation involves the use of innovative communication tools, skills and approaches to present knowledge of the marine environment and management practices to visitors. The difficulties of access to the park restrict opportunities for many visitors to participate in on-site interpretive activities. However, areas adjacent to Discovery Bay Marine National Park offer a stimulating marine setting for innovative off-site activities.

Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries are a key focus for annual summer interpretive programs implemented in conjunction with the Coast Action/Coastcare program. A range of activities is offered in January each year, including beach activities, rock pool rambles. Formal interpretation is also provided by seasonal rangers at key visitor sites and informally by rangers on patrol. Important topics to be integrated into information, interpretation and education programs for the park include:

- the location of, and activities permitted in, the park
- their diverse natural values (section 4.4) and significant cultural values (sections 5.1 and 5.2)
- human impacts on the park and their management.

On-site visitor information could be complemented by information at nearby destinations including the Marine Discovery Centre in Portland and the Cape Nelson Lighthouse.

Promotion of the park and its special values is the first step in gaining community involvement in management. Research

conducted for Parks Victoria (Market Solutions 2005) has highlighted a general lack of awareness about the creation and location of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries. Parks Victoria implements a range of promotional strategies throughout the State, complemented by local initiatives that increase awareness.

The Historic Shipwrecks Trail helps people to learn about shipwrecks and is important for regional tourism. It includes road signs, and a trail guide with maps (DPD 1994).

Education

Parks Victoria conducts educational activities with local schools, incorporating marine national park educational themes into a range of subjects. Many school groups visit the area each year. Only minimal specialised educational resources are available for visiting groups at present.

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.
- Encourage public support for parks and park management practices.

Management strategies

- *Provide and support high-quality opportunities for the range of user groups to discover, experience and understand the natural and cultural values of the park.*
- *Target visitors across a range of user groups through a range of tourism, information, and interpretation and education media.*
- *In conjunction with tourism agencies, Marine Discovery Centre, Cape Nelson Lighthouse and other sites, investigate opportunities to develop and integrate marine interpretive themes into tourist information displays.*
- *Maintain visitor signage and interpretive and educational material appropriate for the park in accordance with table 2.*
- *Deliver messages to visitors about the following values and themes:*
  - *iconic marine species and marine habitats within the park*
  - *relationships between Discovery Bay Marine National Park and sea Country*
  - *the importance of the maritime heritage of the coast to the heritage and development of Victoria*
  - *appropriate behaviours, including minimal impact techniques and adherence to codes of conduct appropriate to visitor activities, to protect park values and maximise visitor safety.*
- *Promote greater public understanding and appreciation of, and respect for, Indigenous culture by incorporating information about Indigenous tradition, places and objects in information, interpretation and education programs, in collaboration and accordance with the views of the Traditional Owners (sections 5.1 and 8.2).*
- *Provide appropriate opportunities and encourage and support relevant Indigenous communities to participate in interpretation of Indigenous cultural heritage relating to the park (section 8.2).*
- *Use Indigenous language for natural features, plants and animals in interpretive material and signs.*
- *Regularly evaluate information and interpretive programs related to the park.*
- *Promote the need for schools to notify Parks Victoria (on 13 1963) of any intended school group visits.*
- *Continue to allow sustainable educational use by school and community groups. Ensure that school and formal interpretive groups adopt minimal impact guidelines.*
- *Identify opportunities at The Blowholes to develop visitor facilities and/or information consistent with management objectives for Discovery Bay Marine National Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park (Parks Victoria 2004a) with wind energy industry developments (section 7.2).*

TABLE 2 CURRENT AND PLANNED SIGNAGE AT VISITOR ACCESS SITES

ACCESS SITE	ACTION
The Blowholes (within Discovery Bay Coastal Park)	Maintain car park information board. Consolidate existing signs and integrate park specific information into a single viewing platform sign.
Whites Beach	Maintain regulatory totems at entrance to Whites Beach.
Blacks Beach	Maintain regulatory totems at entrance to Blacks Beach.

- *In conjunction with Coast Action /Coastcare, develop and implement an annual interpretive program for the park. Continue to participate in Coast Action/Coastcare interpretive program and other educational initiatives such as Sea Week.*
- *In partnership with local schools, continue to develop and integrate marine conservation themes into a range of subjects.*
- *Develop specialised educational resources about the park for visiting school groups.*
- *Regularly update interested groups and individuals about research and management programs.*
- *Cooperate with Heritage Victoria in updating the Historic Shipwreck Trail.*

6.2 Access

The coastline adjacent to Discovery Bay Marine National Park, is particularly dangerous. Steep cliffs, large waves and dynamic sea conditions dictate that safety should always be the primary consideration for any visitors to Discovery Bay Marine National Park (section 6.8). Cold and windy weather, wild seas and vertical cliffs restrict opportunities to access the park.

There is an access point for beach-launching boats at Bridgewater Bay and a public boat ramp within Portland Harbour.

Visitors can access the park via a short walk at Whites Beach and Blacks Beach. Assistance from local divers is required to access the many boat-based dive sites in the area. Under suitable conditions shore dives can be undertaken from Whites Beach.

The Great South West Walk and The Blowholes Lookout provide opportunities for viewing Discovery Bay Marine National Park. The physical constraints on this coastline mean that viewing points within Discovery Bay Coastal Park will continue to be the main way that most visitors access the park.

Aim

- Support and manage the provision of appropriate and safe access to the park.

Management strategies

- *Maintain signage at the Portland boat ramp to ensure that boat users can obtain accurate information about access to the park.*
- *As part of Discovery Bay Coastal Park patrols, regularly assess:*
  - *visitor activity to ensure access in accordance with table 1*
  - *the condition of all access tracks and respond to any environmental or safety issues.*

6.3 Recreational boating and surface water sports

The waters within and around the park are suitable for a range of recreational boating activities, but there are hazards associated with these activities, and sea conditions can change quickly (sections 6.8). Recreational vessels may also give visitors an opportunity to see a range of wildlife, including the whales that often pass through the park. Under the Marine Act and the Wildlife (Whale) Regulations, recreational vessels must stay at least 100 metres from whales and dolphins, while a minimum distance of 30 metres applies to

swimmers and 50 metres to surfers. Other conditions apply to licensed tour operators and commercial vessels.

Recreational boating in Discovery Bay Marine National Park is currently infrequent and is unlikely to become significantly more popular.

Recreational and commercial vessels sometimes traverse the park to reach fishing areas in adjacent waters. Vessels are permitted to pass through the park and normal boating regulations and safety guidelines apply in these waters. As in all Victorian coastal waters, a speed limit of five knots applies within 200 metres of the water's edge in the park (MSV 2005).

State Environment Protection Policies prohibit vessel operators from discharging sewage, oil, garbage, sediment, litter or other wastes to the surface waters in any Victorian State waters. While EPA Victoria has primary responsibility for pollution management, Parks Victoria supports the provision of waste-receiving and pump-out facilities at ports, marinas and other suitable sites.

There are several surf breaks within Discovery Bay Marine National Park, but these are difficult to access and are suitable only for experienced surfers with a good knowledge of local conditions.

Fisheries Victoria – Department of Primary Industries – undertakes regular water-based patrols and has contact with recreational boat users. Patrols offer an opportunity for boat users to learn about the park.

Generally, recreational boating has a minimal impact on park values, but infrequent incidents such as oil spills, discharges of sewage or other pollutants, introduction of marine pests and disturbance to wildlife could be significant.

Aim

- Provide for boating activities in the park and sanctuaries consistent with management objectives.

Management strategies

- *Permit boating and surface water sports in the park in accordance with table 1 and the 5 knot speed restriction within:*
    - *50 m of a swimmer*
    - *100 m of a vessel or buoy with a 'diver below' signal*
    - *200 m of the shoreline*
    - *300 m of a whale or dolphin.*
- *Liaise with recreational boat users during patrols within or near the park to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and guidelines.*
- *Encourage boat users and personal water craft operators to abide by regulations and safe operating guidelines relevant to their activity.*
- *Liaise with anglers concerning awareness of the park and participation in its management.*
- *Liaise with Marine Safety Victoria to assist with recreational boating safety (section 8.3).*
- *Encourage boat users and personal water craft operators to abide by regulations relevant to the observation of marine wildlife in the park.*

6.4 Diving and snorkelling

Snorkelling and scuba diving are occasionally undertaken in and around the park but conditions are often unsuitable due to the exposure of the coastline.

Snorkelling and scuba diving enable visitors to experience the underwater habitats and view species and habitats that are difficult to observe from above the surface, particularly smaller or cryptic animals such as seahorses, pipefish, sea urchins, nudibranchs, sponges, octopuses and cuttlefish.

Northerly or light onshore winds generally ensure the calm conditions required for reasonable visibility and safe access at Whites Beach. Local divers are able to provide advice on dive sites and safety.

Educating divers and snorkellers about minimal impact practices, particularly those new to these activities, will help minimise impacts and assist with park and sanctuary management. Divers should refer to the Dive Industry Victoria Association (DIVA) *Code of Practice for Commercial Providers of Recreational Snorkelling and Scuba Diving Services in Victoria* (DIVA 2004) or the Scuba

Divers Federation of Victoria (SDFV) *Codes of Practice: General Operating Guidelines for Recreational Scuba Diving and Related Activities* (SDFV 2005). Snorkellers should refer to the *Snorkelling, Scuba Diving, and Wildlife Swims – Adventure Activity Standards* (ORC 2004 at www.orc.org.au).

Divers and snorkellers need to be aware of the no-fishing provisions in the park and can assist in the early detection of marine pests in the park (sections 4.6 and 8.2), and the detection of unrecorded cultural places and objects.

Aim

- Provide opportunities for diving and snorkelling that are consistent with the protection of park values.

Management strategies

- *Encourage the use of clean diving equipment to prevent the translocation of marine pests (section 4.6).*
- *Promote compliance of snorkellers and recreational scuba divers with relevant codes of practice and Adventure Activity Standards.*
- *Integrate minimal impact messages into existing information, interpretation and education programs (section 6.1).*

6.5 Swimming and shore-based activities

Blacks Beach and Whites Beach are the only accessible locations for swimming or shore-based activities in Discovery Bay Marine National Park.

There are intertidal reefs near Whites Beach. Visitor impacts in this area are thought to be minimal due to very low visitation.

No beaches in Discovery Bay Marine National Park are patrolled by surf life savers. These beaches may be dangerous and swimming at unpatrolled beaches is discouraged (section 6.8). The closest patrolled beach is at Bridgewater Bay.

Lighting fires on beaches within Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries is not permitted.

Aim

- Provide opportunities for appropriate shore-based recreation activities that are consistent with the protection of park values.

Management strategies

- *Permit recreational activities in accordance with table 1.*
- *Undertake regular patrols of the park to encourage appropriate visitor use of intertidal areas.*
- *Encourage visitors to adopt safe and minimal impact practices, as identified in the brochure 'Living Between the Tides' (Marine Discovery Centre undated).*

6.6 Dogs and horses

All beaches within Discovery Bay Marine National Park were formerly part of Discovery Bay Coastal Park. Dogs and horses are not permitted in the Discovery Bay Marine National Park, unless confined to a vessel. This is consistent with management of Discovery Bay Coastal Park prior to the creation of the Discovery Bay Marine National Park. These restrictions will be continued to ensure the protection of park values and visitor enjoyment.

There are opportunities for walking dogs on leashes and horse riding within sections of Discovery Bay Coastal Park. Dogs are permitted on the western section of Bridgewater Bay Beach within the coastal park. There are excellent opportunities for beach horse riding within sections of Discovery Bay Coastal Park including:

- the section of Bridgewater Bay Beach between the boundary of Discovery Bay Coastal Park east of the Bridgewater Bay kiosk and Shelly Beach
- the section of Discovery Bay Beach between Bridgewater Lakes and Lake Monibeong, and defined access routes through Discovery Bay Coastal Park.

Aim

- Minimise the impact of dogs and horses on Discovery Bay Marine National Park.

Management strategy

- *Allow dogs and horses in the park only if confined to a vessel.*

6.7 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.

Due to low levels of recreational use of the park there is currently minimal demand for tourism services. One business is currently licensed in Discovery Bay Marine National Park to undertake sea kayaking. Current levels of usage by this business are relatively low but may increase.

Licences for tour operators which are issued by Parks Victoria include conditions that detail access, permitted activities and site-specific conditions. Licensed tour operators must also adhere to industry-developed Adventure Activity Standards.

Aim

- Encourage the provision by external providers of tourism services that accord with the provisions of the National Parks Act.

Management strategies

- *Ensure all tour operators using the park are licensed and promote awareness of Adventure Activity Standards and Minimal Impact Guidelines.*
- *Encourage and assist licensed tour operators to provide a range of appropriate activities compatible with the protection of park values.*
- *Encourage and assist licensed tour operators to deliver information about the values of the park to their customers.*
- *Encourage licensed tour operators to assist in management by identifying potential visitor impacts and monitoring tourism activities.*
- *Encourage and support Indigenous communities to provide licensed tour operator services.*

6.8 Public safety

A survey of Victorian beaches in 1996 rated their safety as being in one of four hazard categories: safest, moderately safe, low safety and least safe. Whites Beach within the Discovery Bay Marine National Park is given a 'moderately safe' rating and is described as being isolated, with low waves but permanent rips, rocks and reefs. The beach is not patrolled by surf lifesavers. The nearest patrolled beach is at Bridgewater Bay (figure 2).

Some activities undertaken in the natural environment can pose inherent risks to visitors, particularly if they are not familiar with local conditions. Visitors are exposed to a number of natural hazards when they visit the park, particularly when visiting by boat or undertaking other aquatic activities. Vessel operators need to be aware of swimmers, snorkellers and divers in the water. Visitors are especially at risk if unaware of local conditions, or not proficient in the activity they are involved in.

Visitors need to be aware of safety risks to ensure that they enjoy a safe visit. All powered recreational vessel operators and commercial masters operating in Victorian waters are required to have a current licence. The *Victorian Recreational Boating Safety Guide* (MSV 2005) contains most of the necessary information for recreational boating. Marine Safety Victoria also conducts safety and awareness programs. Public information and education programs are one of the most effective ways to promote safety. Safety messages are also presented to visitors through signs, Park Notes and ranger patrols.

The responsibilities for responding to emergency incidents in Victoria (including in Victorian waters) are outlined in the *Emergency Management Act 1986* (Vic.). Parks Victoria is not the lead agency for most emergency response situations. Instead it supports other agencies in the area, including the Portland Surf Lifesaving Club, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Marine Safety Victoria, the State Emergency Service and Victoria Police, in emergency incidents, where required.

The Portland Surf Life Saving Club provides patrols on the western end of Bridgewater Bay Beach. Lifeguards are on duty on weekends

and public holidays between November and Easter.

Industry-developed Adventure Activity Standards are being produced for a range of adventure activities that can be undertaken in the park. Parks Victoria encourages compliance with these standards to help ensure visitor safety.

Aims

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

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 (section 6.1).*
- *Encourage visitors to adopt safe operating guidelines appropriate to their activity.*
- *In conjunction with adjoining parks, develop an Emergency Management Plan for the park and review this plan annually. Ensure that licensed tour operators, relevant agencies and local boat users are aware of the plan.*
- *Liaise with Glenelg Shire to ensure that Municipal Emergency Response Plans make adequate provision for likely incidents in the park, and that they identify Parks Victoria's roles.*
- *Cooperate with emergency services in search and rescue activities, and ensure that park staff are adequately trained in emergency procedures.*
- *Provide and maintain safety signage at visitor access points including the Portland and Bridgewater Bay boat ramps.*

7 STRATEGIES FOR AUTHORISED AND ADJACENT USES

7.1 Authorised uses

A number of uses and activities may be permitted in the park, subject to specified conditions to minimise impacts.

There are no Inshore Traffic Zones, navigational beacons, safe anchorages, public utilities or occupancies in the park.

Vessels of all types are permitted to travel through the park. A major shipping route passes the park to the south, but freight vessels are unlikely to pass through Discovery Bay Marine National Park. Rock lobster and abalone fishing vessels from Portland may occasionally pass through the park while accessing fishing grounds adjacent to the park. Vessels carrying rock lobster or abalone are not permitted in the park unless travelling by the shortest practicable route from a point outside the park to another point outside the park.

Petroleum extraction, exploratory drilling, mineral exploration and mining, and invasive searching for or extraction of stone and other materials, are prohibited in the park under the National Parks Act and/or earth resources legislation. Petroleum exploration, such as seismic survey, from an aircraft or from a vessel that is carried out in a manner which does not detrimentally affect the seabed or any flora or fauna of the park may be allowed with the consent of the Minister. However, the government has announced that it will not release any further areas in Victoria that contain Marine National Parks or Marine Sanctuaries for petroleum exploration. There is no petroleum exploration permit over this park. Construction of pipelines or seafloor cables may be permitted with the consent of the Minister in some circumstances.

Protected areas are generally avoided as locations for Defence Force training exercises, although they occasionally host search and rescue, field navigation and incident response activities. Activities are subject to a permit with conditions and are undertaken in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational guidelines to ensure that values of the park are protected.

All research and monitoring in a Marine National Park or Marine Sanctuary by external organisations or individuals requires a research permit under the National Parks Act. Permits are issued by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE).

Parks Victoria recognises the significant role that the filming and photography industry plays in the social and economic wellbeing 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 film or video for personal or hobby interest do not require a permit.

Aims

- Minimise the impact on park values of authorised uses.
- Manage authorised uses consistent with legislation.

Management strategy

- *Permit authorised uses with appropriate conditions and liaise with authorised users to ensure that conditions have been met and uses have minimal impact on park values.*

7.2 Boundaries and adjacent uses

The boundaries of Discovery Bay Marine National Park are complex and impractical to mark comprehensively. Shore-based boundary markers are used to define where east-west boundaries intersect the coastline at Cape Duquesne, Whites Beach and Blacks Beach. Two shore-based triangular yellow signs, aligned on the bearing of the boundary, are used to mark these boundaries. These markers allow boat operators to orientate their location in relation to the park boundaries.

Parks Victoria also relies on alternative methods to communicate offshore boundaries to mariners. To date, commercial fishers and recreational anglers have demonstrated a willingness to navigate carefully prior to fishing near the park.

The landward boundary of Discovery Bay Marine National Park between Whites Beach and Blacks Beach is the average high water mark. Between Whites Beach and Cape Duquesne the park boundary is defined as 500 m seaward of the high water mark.

Discovery Bay Marine National Park adjoins:

- Discovery Bay Coastal Park
- State waters, which are the responsibility of the Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Commonwealth waters to the west of the park, which are the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government.

State waters and the underlying seabed adjoining the park are currently unreserved Crown land. The Government accepted the ECC's recommendation that a Coastal Waters Reserve be established under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* (Vic.) for the major portion of Victoria's marine area not otherwise designated for a particular purpose, to provide for a diverse range of activities that are compatible with long-term sustainable use (ECC 2000).

Abutting the seaward boundary of Discovery Bay Marine National Park is the Nelson 'Broad Area of Interest' within which the Nelson candidate Marine Protected Area has been proposed which lies 90 km south-west of park. This site has been identified as part of the National Oceans Office's South East Regional Marine Planning process (DEH 2006). Coordinated planning and management of the Marine National Park and any adjacent Marine Protected Area is desirable.

Cooperation with all adjacent managers and coordination with the management of Discovery Bay Coastal Park is essential to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach to management.

As a part of the approved wind farm development, Pacific Hydro propose to develop visitor facilities and information at a site adjacent to Discovery Bay Coastal Park near The Blowholes. Opportunities may exist to enhance facilities and information for the Discovery Bay Marine National Park in partnership with Pacific Hydro (section 6.1).

Many potential threats to the park, such as pollution, come from outside the park. Although these issues are largely outside the scope of this plan, a strategic approach including cooperation with the local community and other agencies is essential to ensure an integrated approach to marine conservation across the Otway bioregion.

The creation of Discovery Bay Marine National Park has resulted in a reduction in harvestable abalone, as well as commercial and recreational Rock Lobster fishing grounds. The Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan (DPI 2003) guides the management of the rock lobster fishery within Victoria's Western Zone and seeks to maintain the integrity of the marine ecosystem. Research priorities for the fishery are guided by the Rock Lobster Fishery Assessment Group.

The State Planning Policy Framework (DSE 2003), in conjunction with the Glenelg Planning Scheme (Glenelg Shire 1998), provides a framework for development proposals on land near the park. The planning scheme is administered by the Glenelg Shire. Under the scheme, areas adjacent to the park are zoned 'Public Park and Recreation Zone'. General and particular provisions, as well as overlays, identify particular provisions that must be met by a development application.

A 'heritage' overlay and an 'environmental significance' overlay apply to land adjoining the park. The planning scheme also includes policies for coastal areas and Bridgewater Bay coastal areas which seek to assist in the protection of park values.

Aims

- Effectively communicate the location of park boundaries.
- Minimise impacts on park values from adjacent developments.

Management strategies

- *Maintain existing boundary markers and signs that identify and effectively communicate boundaries.*
- *In conjunction with DPI, and other agencies provide input into oil and gas development applications and other activities with potential to impact on park values.*

8 STRATEGIES FOR COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

8.1 Community awareness

Raising the community's awareness of the values of the park is an essential step in developing people's sense of custodianship for them, and their engagement in the management of these areas. People are more likely to develop a sense of custodianship for the park if their views and values are respected, and social networks are encouraged and supported. A strong connection with the park among visitors and the local and broader community assists 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. Already, community awareness has increased through local media, ranger patrols and signage. Coast Action/Coastcare, local individuals and local marine scientists have also been actively involved in raising awareness of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries in the local community. Portland residents have a reasonable level of awareness of the park, but broader public awareness in other south-west communities remains poor (Parks Victoria 2005a).

The development of public awareness is a major focus for this plan. Due to physical constraints, sites adjacent to the park are likely to be the primary location for increasing public awareness. Many people visit The Blowholes Lookout each year to enjoy the stunning views of Discovery Bay Marine National Park. This offers a unique opportunity to increase awareness of the park among visitors to the region. Other visitor destinations in the region may also have the potential to communicate marine interpretive themes to visitors (section 6.1).

Aims

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

Management strategies

- *Initiate a community workshop to scope and develop a strategy for building community awareness about the park, its special values and its threats.*
- *Encourage the development of audio-visual resources for promotion of the park, and encourage projects such as the development of underwater videos, websites or CDs.*
- *Develop broader community awareness of the opportunities to make a difference to the management of the park through taking shared responsibility and becoming directly involved in it.*
- *Increase public awareness and understanding of significant park values and park management activities through local media, schools, community groups and innovative community projects (section 6.1).*

8.2 Community participation

Participation of community groups and individuals can enrich and strengthen park management and is pivotal in the effective long-term planning, use and care of their values.

The Traditional Owners have considerable interest in and aspirations for the park as part of *Country*. They are an important potential source of traditional knowledge about the area that has yet to be documented. A strong working relationship with Traditional Owners will be essential to reflecting their views in the park's planning and management and 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 managers. Volunteers also bring great enthusiasm and add valuable resources to assist with the care of parks.

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.

Volunteers are currently involved in supporting Coast Action/Coastcare programs in the park such as beach clean ups. The implementation of new projects identified in this plan will present more opportunities for participation. With encouragement and support, it is envisaged that members of existing community groups will include park projects in their activities.

A Friends group dedicated to protection of the park would be an invaluable catalyst for the development of custodianship within the community.

Local students may also assist in developing custodianship. The development of a stewardship council comprising student representatives of participating schools would provide opportunities for community leadership in stewardship development.

Parks Victoria's Sea Search program seeks to facilitate community-based marine national park monitoring. Scope exists to establish a Sea Search program in the park focusing on subtidal or intertidal habitats.

The *Glenelg Shire Coastal Action Plan* (Western Coastal Board 2004) identified the need for a coastal community reference group for the Glenelg Shire to assist with community involvement in coastal management issues. This group has recently been established and has a strong interest in management of the park.

Groups with a strong interest in the park include:

- Friends of the Great South West Walk
- Portland Field Naturalists Club
- South West Environmental Users Association
- Portland Angling Club
- Portland Dive Association.

Aim

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

Management strategies

- *Provide an annual review of the implementation of this plan to the Coastal Community Reference Group. Provide an opportunity for members of the public to participate.*
- *Seek to establish, maintain and strengthen relationships with Friends and volunteers and other community groups that use or have a particular interest in the park. Encourage and support such groups to work together with each other and Parks Victoria to achieve shared goals.*
- *Continue to build, strengthen and maintain relationships with relevant Indigenous communities. In particular, seek to further develop a close inclusive working partnership with the Traditional Owners and cooperation with the scheduled Aboriginal community.*
- *Liaise and cooperate as appropriate with relevant Indigenous communities in dealing with Indigenous cultural issues that relate to the park.*
- *Ensure that Friends and community groups participating in the park's management have sustainable and rewarding volunteer experiences, and promote opportunities for community groups to assist Parks Victoria in management.*
- *Encourage the development of a Friends group for the park.*
- *Encourage and support the development of a Sea Search group to undertake community-based monitoring in the park.*
- *Encourage visitors to assist with compliance management by:*
    - *reporting illegal fishing to the Fisheries Victoria offence reporting hotline*

  - *reporting other offences against the National Parks Act to the Portland Parks Victoria Office.*
- *Encourage and support Coast Action/ Coastcare programs in the park, particularly focusing on community interpretation and education.*
- *Encourage community involvement in Sea Search and other monitoring programs.*
- *Encourage and support Deakin University and other universities to use the park as study sites and for research projects.*
- *Promote opportunities among interested community groups and Parks Victoria's staff for sharing knowledge and increasing understanding and appreciation of each other's aspirations and goals for the park.*
- *Support capacity-building initiatives through appropriate training, tools and supports which facilitate volunteer participation in the planning, use and care of parks.*
- *Encourage and support Friends and other interest groups and volunteers to develop an understanding and appreciation of the values of the park and the rich and diverse knowledge and aspirations of the Indigenous people who have a traditional association with the area within the park.*
- *Encourage and support groups that use or have an interest in the park to work together to pursue sources of funding, including Parks Victoria grants, for projects in them. Encourage joint grants with other groups as appropriate.*
- *Provide opportunities for, and encourage and support, tertiary students to undertake volunteer work experience and research activities that assist park management and are consistent with this management plan.*
- *In conjunction with local schools, investigate opportunities for students to participate in a marine stewardship council to help develop awareness and stewardship of the park within the community.*

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 which are carried out by Parks Victoria or other agencies need to accord with all legislation and government policy, and as far as practicable be consistent with agencies' policies and guidelines. To ensure that this occurs park staff need to maintain close liaison 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 the park, including marine flora and fauna values and threatening processes. Parks Victoria is a support agency for responses to oiled wildlife (section 4.2) and cetacean stranding or entanglement (section 4.4), operating at the direction of DSE.

As part of agreed service delivery arrangements, Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries Victoria has primary responsibility for enforcement to ensure compliance with the fishing prohibitions under the National Parks Act. Parks Victoria will continue to collaborate with Fisheries Victoria and Victoria Police in accordance with the Statewide Compliance Strategy and the Regional Compliance Plan. The Regional Compliance Plan outlines priorities and principles for cooperation between Parks Victoria and Fisheries Victoria (Parks Victoria 2004b).

The Minerals and Petroleum Division of the Department of Primary Industries is responsible for the sustainable development of the State's earth resources (stone, minerals, hydrocarbons, geothermal energy) industries and hydrocarbons pipelines, through the provision of policy advice, regulation and promotion.

The Western Coastal Board provides direction and policy advice to facilitate sustainable development of the western coast of Victoria through the implementation of the *Victorian Coastal Strategy* (VCC 2002) and the *South West Regional Coastal Action Plan* (Western Coastal Board 2002) and the Glenelg Shire

Action Plan (Western Coastal Board 2004) (section 4.2).

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority is responsible for ensuring the protection and sustainable development of land, vegetation and water resources within the region, including the preparation of a Regional Catchment Strategy to address the impact of land use and management on the catchment (section 4.2).

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA Victoria) has the primary responsibility for environmental protection of all waters in Victoria, and is responsible for administering and enforcing the *Environment Protection Act 1970* (Vic.), including all activities relating to the discharge of litter and waste to the environment (section 4.2). EPA Victoria also develops State Environment Protection Policies (SEPPs) that relate directly or indirectly to State waters.

Parks Victoria is a support agency for Marine Safety Victoria at a statewide and regional level for marine pollution incidents, contributing on-site response and incident management as well as technical advice. The Port of Portland is the local authority responsible for implementation of pollution response (section 4.2).

Through Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV), the Department for Victorian Communities (DVC) has responsibility for administering legislation protecting cultural heritage (sections 2.5 and 5.1). AAV and associated Registered Aboriginal Parties advise Parks Victoria on Indigenous matters.

Glenelg Shire has a key role in administering the planning scheme for land adjacent to the park, including assessing developments that could have an impact on park values. Parks Victoria (through DSE) provides input into planning applications to ensure that park values are protected.

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

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

Victorian agencies work cooperatively with the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage on the management of regional ecosystem conservation issues including protection of whales in relation to petroleum exploration, especially works in Commonwealth waters.

Aim

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

Management strategies

- *Work collaboratively with all agencies to implement the plan vision and directions. In particular, work with:*
    - *DSE regarding future planning and management, including protection of marine flora and fauna from potentially threatening processes*
    - *Fisheries Victoria to implement the fishing prohibition and the Regional Compliance Plan*
    - *Western Coastal Board on any future plans and strategies that relate to the park*
    - *Glenelg Hopkins CMA to reduce the impacts of land use and management of the catchment on the park and development of appropriate actions in the Regional Catchment Strategy*
    - *Heritage Victoria on heritage management, and compliance with the Heritage Act*
    - *State and regional tourism authorities, and in particular the Portland Marine Discovery Centre, to promote the park appropriately*
    - *Port of Portland on planning and implementation of marine pollution responses within the park and adjacent waters*

- *Marine Safety Victoria to help maximise visitor safety and compliance with boating zone and other regulations*
- *Glenelg Shire regarding the administration of the planning scheme, including input into adjacent or nearby developments that may impact on the park (section 7.2)*
- *Coast Action/Coastcare and Fisheries Victoria to increase public awareness of the park*
- *EPA Victoria to minimise impacts associated with discharge of waste to the environment particularly those from shipping activities*
- *AAV on compliance with the relevant cultural heritage legislation*
- *AAV and South West and Wimmera Cultural Heritage Unit on issues relating to Indigenous affairs*
- *Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage on the management of regional ecosystem conservation issues.*

- *Update contingency plans for marine pollution incidents, such as oil and chemical spills and cetacean/wildlife incidents as required, and communicate arrangements to staff, relevant agencies and interested parties.*
- *Maintain communications with Minerals and Petroleum (DPI), the petroleum industry and other agencies with respect to petroleum activities near the park.*

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

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

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

In implementing the plan, management will respond to monitoring and research information as it emerges. Parks Victoria's environmental management framework makes this possible. Based on the International Standard for Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14001), the framework ensures that the future condition of values is considered in identifying threats and developing actions to ameliorate them. Over time, the success of actions is reviewed against set objectives to ensure 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 also report on evaluation of the plan (section 9.3) at the start of the new or revised plan, through routine liaison and community forums and in the subsequent draft plan.

Future reporting on the Statewide Strategy (Parks Victoria 2003a) and 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 may only be made by the Secretary to DSE, following an authorised

process which includes community consultation.

Circumstances that might lead to amendment of the plan include the following:

- 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
- an activity, development or use which conflicts with the provisions of the plan is approved by government (such as native title outcomes)
- significant changes in visitation or use
- a change in policy that calls into question plan objectives
- new legislation (such as a significant boundary change).

9.3 Evaluation and review

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

Protecting natural values

- Overall improvement in biodiversity.
- Compliance with no-fishing provisions and park regulations.
- Timely management intervention to minimise threats.
- Minimal impact of permitted uses.

Protecting cultural values

- Progress towards working with Traditional Owners in managing the park and in protecting and interpreting Indigenous cultural heritage.
- Timely management intervention to avoid damaging activities and threats.

Managing recreation and visitor use

- Managing impact from visitors, including individuals and school and tour groups.
- Meeting community expectations in relation to Parks Victoria's management of the park.
- Improving community and visitor awareness.

Providing for research and promoting understanding

- Improving understanding of the composition and distribution of habitats and ecological processes.
- Ongoing participation of the Traditional Owners and the wider community.
- Clear identification of major knowledge gaps.

Methods for evaluating the benefits of the plan are likely to be refined over time. Parks Victoria partners with external research agencies to establish benchmarks and indicators for major communities and habitats. By using sound monitoring and assessment methods, this monitoring and research work will strengthen the basis for comparing management performance over time.

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GLOSSARY

Algae (seaweed) – plant-like organisms that use light energy to create food. Unlike plants, algae are not differentiated into roots, stems and leaves.

Aquaculture – cultivation of fish, molluscs or other aquatic organisms in fresh or salt water.

Ascidian (sea squirt) – common type of solitary or colonial marine animal.

Ballast water – water carried in a ship's tanks for stability. Normally discharged to the sea when the ship is loaded, and can be contaminated with pollution or exotic organisms.

Biodiversity – the natural diversity of all life: the sum of all 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.

Bivalve – a type of mollusc with a pair of hinged shells (e.g. scallop, mussel).

Bommie (bombora) – a rocky reef over which waves break.

Bryozoan (lace coral) – common small colonial marine animal, flat or upright, occurring in many colours.

Canopy – a structural overstorey (e.g. of kelp).

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

Coast – in broad terms, the sea and the seabed to the State limit (3 nautical miles or 5.5 kilometres offshore) and the land and inland waters within the coastal catchment.

Coastal action plan (CAP) – plan that identifies strategic directions and objectives for use and development in the region or part of the region to facilitate recreational use and tourism, and to provide for protection and enhancement of significant features of the coast, including the marine environment.

Coastline – generally, the line along which the land meets the sea.

Committee of Management – a committee appointed under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* to manage reserved Crown land on behalf of the Minister. For coastal land, committees are either an agency (e.g. the local municipality, Parks Victoria) or a committee appointed through an expression of interest process.

Coralline algae – algae that contain calcified components. Can take a variety of forms.

Country – in Indigenous usage, all of nature, cultural and spirituality relating to an area. [see also Sea Country]

Crown land – public land not vested in a public authority, including land which has been temporarily or permanently reserved under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978.*

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

Dreaming – the primordial creative world of the spirit ancestors and the continuing reality for their totem ancestors.

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

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

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

Effluent – a liquid, partially or completely treated or in its natural state, released into the environment from a water or sewage treatment plant.

Endemic – unique to a particular area, and not found naturally anywhere else.

Environmental flow – minimum flows of water (by volume and season) necessary to maintain aquatic life.

Estuary – an inlet or river mouth that is influenced by tides and freshwater inputs from the catchment.

Exotic marine organism / species – a non-endemic / non-native species; existing outside its natural distribution.

Flotsam – In maritime law, applies to wreckage or cargo left floating on the sea after a shipwreck. The common phrase flotsam and jetsam is now used loosely to describe any objects found floating or washed (respectively) ashore. See also Jetsam.

Foreshore – generally, the land between a coastal road and the low water mark.

Freehold land – see private land.

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

Gorgonian – soft, often colourful coral fan, generally found in high-flow areas.

Habitat – the preferred location or 'home' of an organism.

Hard coral – coral with solid calcareous cases for structure. Generally colonial and found on hard surfaces.

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

High water mark – the landward boundary of high water mark is the average of the highest tides (spring and neap).

Holocene – the most recent geological period covering from 12 000 ago to the present.

Hydroid – small tentacled animal related to corals and sea-jellies. Common but often overlooked.

Indigenous cultural heritage – all aspects of contemporary and traditional culture, and places and objects of significance to Indigenous people in accordance with tradition.

Indigenous people – people who are descendants of Aboriginal Australians.

Indigenous species – species that occur naturally in a region. See also endemic.

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

Integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) – a framework that attempts to integrate planning and management in a region (e.g. Victoria) across the land and sea interface and the private and public land interface, to treat the coastal zone as one biophysical entity.

Intertidal – the area between low and high tide levels, which is subject to daily changes in physical and biological conditions from tide movements.

Invertebrate – an animal without a backbone at any stage of development (e.g. worms, sponges).

Jetsam - In maritime law, applies to cargo or equipment thrown overboard from a ship in distress and either sunk or washed ashore. The common phrase *flotsam and jetsam* is now used loosely to describe any objects found floating or washed (respectively) ashore. See also *Flotsam.*

Marine National Park – in Victoria, highly protected areas reserved and managed under the National Parks Act that represent the range of marine environments in Victoria, and in which no fishing, extractive or damaging activities are allowed.

Marine Protected Area – a marine area that has some form of protection and is managed for conservation objectives.

Marine Sanctuary – in Victoria, a small, highly protected area reserved and managed under the National Parks Act to protect special values, and in which no fishing, extractive or damaging activities are allowed. These areas complement Marine National Parks.

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.

Midden – a mound or deposit containing the remains of shellfish eaten by Indigenous people. Coastal shell middens can consist of the shells and other remains from a single meal or many different meals eaten in the same location over many years. Middens can also contain other cultural items such as stone and bone artefacts.

Mollusc – broad group of animals including snails, sea slugs, squids, octopuses, cuttlefish and mussels.

Nature-based tourism – tourism that provides a range of experiences associated with the natural environment, generally related to outdoor activity.

Neap tide – tide occurring twice every month between spring tides, but slightly lower.

Outfall – the place where sewage is discharged to the ocean.

Pelagic – relating to the surface waters of the marine environment.

Pest – exotic organisms (plants, animals or pathogens) when, 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.

Photosynthesis – the process by which organic molecules are made from carbon dioxide and water, using light energy. This process is essential for the growth and survival of plants and algae.

Private land – land under freehold tenure (i.e. privately owned).

Public land – unalienated land of the Crown (see Crown land) or land vested in a public authority.

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands – an international agreement created in Ramsar, Iran in

1971 to recognise wetlands of international importance.

Relevant Indigenous communities – includes the Traditional Owners, and any scheduled Aboriginal community/s for areas included in the park.

Remnant vegetation – remaining natural vegetation.

Scheduled Aboriginal community – body or bodies scheduled as the Local Aboriginal Community under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage Protection Act relating to the park.

Sea *Country* – in Indigenous usage, all of nature, cultural and spirituality relating to an area of sea.

Sediment – insoluble material carried in water, consisting mainly of particles derived from rock, soil and organic material; such material that has settled out of the water, onto the seabed.

Sedimentation – the deposition of sediment on a surface.

Sessile organism – an organism that is attached to an underwater surface (e.g. pier, seabed, pile).

Sewage – household and commercial waste water including human and industrial wastes.

Sewerage – the system that facilitates the collection, transport, treatment and discharge of sewage.

Soft coral – coral without a solid calcareous cases for structure. Generally colonial and found on hard surfaces.

Sponge – multicellular, filter-feeding animals with a variety of forms. Sponges are the simplest form of invertebrate life.

Spring tides – occur twice every month at new and full moon and are the highest tides.

Stakeholder – an individual or group that has a vested interest in, or may be affected by, a project or process.

Stormwater – runoff from land during and following rain. Stormwater carries accumulated material, which may include litter, soil, nutrients, pathogens, chemicals, pesticides, oils and grease.

Tertiary – geological period occurring from 63 to 1.5 million years ago.

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

Traditional Owners – communities of people that reasonably assert an association with the area that is based on direct descent from the original Indigenous custodians and is in accordance with Indigenous tradition.

Translocation – the transfer of pests from one area to a new area.

Understorey – organisms living beneath a canopy of taller species.

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

Wetland – land where saturation by water is the dominant factor for soil type and plant and animal communities (e.g. tidal areas, salt marshes and mangrove).

Whip coral (sea whip) – specialised whip-like type of coral. Commonly lives in deep water on hard or soft surfaces.

Wrack – organic matter washed up on beaches.

Abbreviations

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.

CRIMP – Centre for Research on Introduced Marine Pests.

CSIRO – Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

DPI – Department of Primary Industries.

DSE – Department of Sustainability and Environment.

ECC – former Environment Conservation Council (see VEAC).

EMF – Environmental Management Framework of Parks Victoria.

EPA – Environment Protection Authority (Victoria).

IUCN – International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

NRSMPA – National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas.

TFMPA – Task Force for Marine Protected Areas.

VEAC – Victorian Environmental Assessment Council.

APPENDIX 1 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR MARINE NATIONAL PARKS

Management objectives for Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries included on Schedule 7 or 8 of the National Parks Act are detailed in Sections 4 and 17D of the Act as 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, State parks, marine national parks and marine sanctuaries –

(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 of 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;

(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.

17D Marine national parks and marine sanctuaries

(3) The Secretary must –

(a) ensure that each marine national park and marine sanctuary is controlled and managed, in accordance with the objects of this Act, in a manner that will –

(i) preserve and protect the natural environment and indigenous flora and fauna of the park and any features of the park which are of geological, geomorphological, ecological, scenic, archaeological, historic or other scientific interest; and

(ii) promote the prevention of the introduction of exotic flora and fauna into the park; and

(iii) provide for the eradication or control of exotic flora and fauna found in the park; and

(b) subject to paragraph (a) –

(i) provide for the use, enjoyment and understanding of marine national parks and marine sanctuaries by the public; and

(ii) promote an understanding of the purpose and significance of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries; and

(c) prepare a plan of management in respect of each marine national park and each marine sanctuary.

APPENDIX 2 SUBMISSIONS ON THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

A total of five submissions were received on the Draft Management Plan (May – July 2006) from organisations - one submission was marked confidential.

ORGANISATION	SUBMISSION NO.
Department of Victorian Communities – Aboriginal Affairs Victoria	2
Fisheries Victoria	1
SCUBA Divers Federation of Victoria	4
Victorian Wader Study Group	3
Confidential	5

APPENDIX 3 SHIPWRECKS

NAME	LOCATION	COMMENTS
Marie	Unknown (Cape Duquesne)	The *Marie*, a wooden barque, was wrecked near The Blowholes in September 1851. All 36 passengers and crew including the Belgian Consul and staff were lost. In 1930 local residents erected a commemorative cairn at Whites Beach.
Jane	Unknown (Cape Bridgewater)	The *Jane*, a wooden barque was wrecked at Cape Bridgewater on 6 June 1863. A local resident drowned during the rescue of the crew. The *Jane* and cargo were lost.
John Omerod	Unknown (Between Cape Bridgewater and Glenelg River)	The *John Omerod* was a schooner which came ashore east of the Glenelg River mouth. Only three of the crew survived.
Ann	Unknown (near Cape Bridgewater)	The *Ann*, a barque, was travelling between Cape Bridgewater and Otago when it was wrecked.

Source: Heritage Victoria (2004)

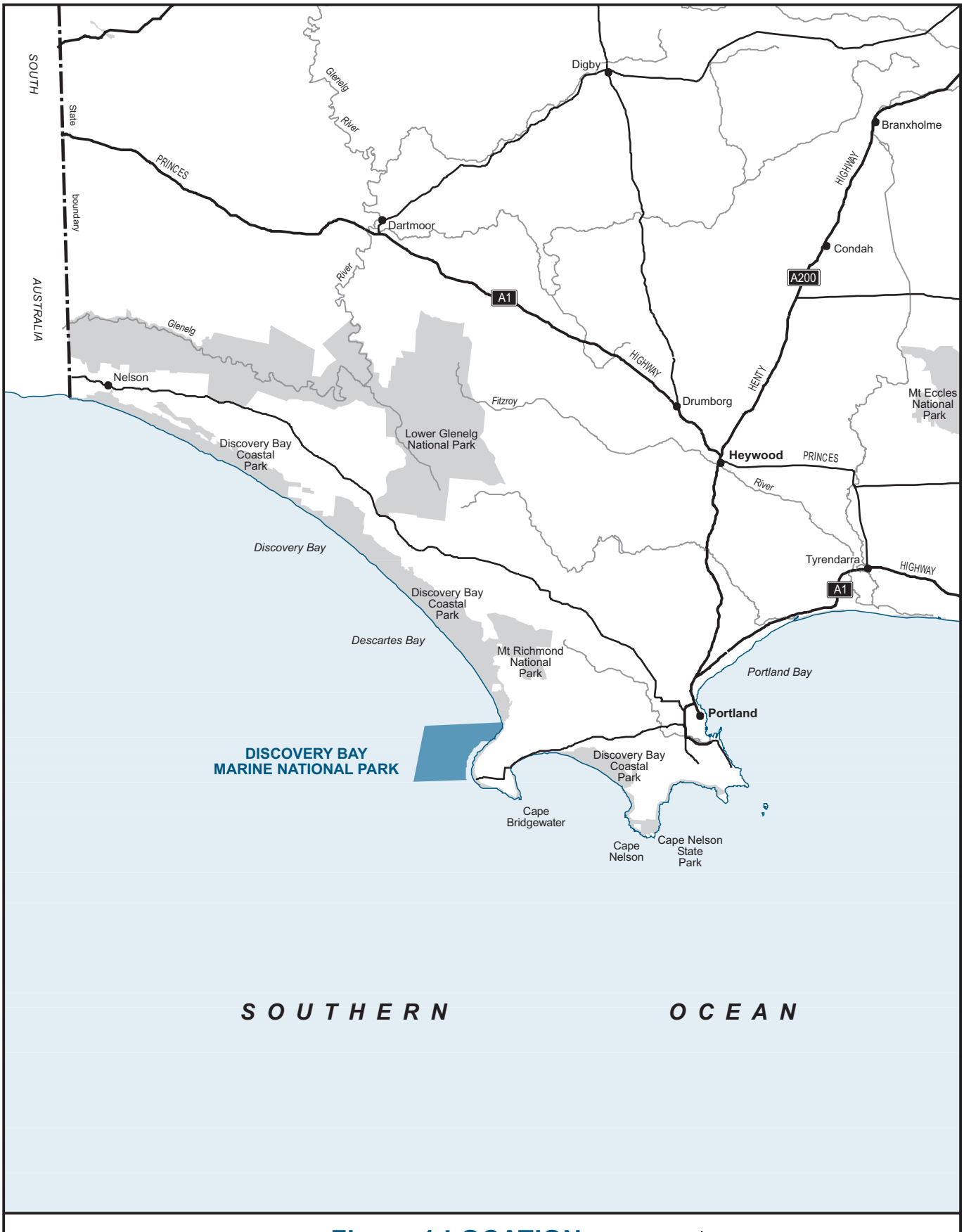


Figure 1 LOCATION

DISCOVERY BAY MARINE NATIONAL PARK

N

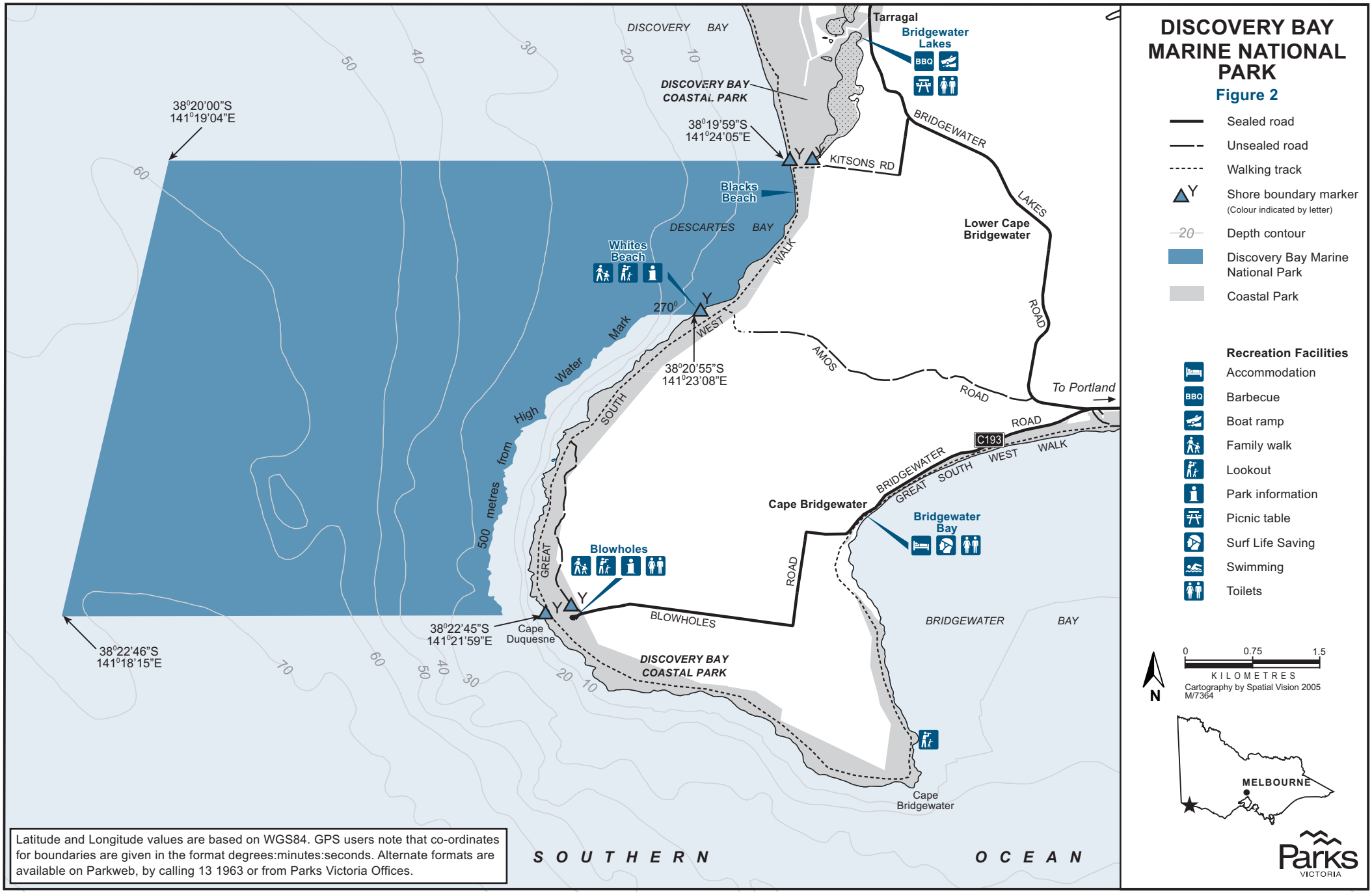
0 10 20

KILOMETRES

Cartography by Spatial Vision 2006
M/7364

- Highway/Major Tourist Route
- Major sealed road
- Marine National Park
- Other Parks
- Waterbody

Parks VICTORIA


DISCOVERY BAY MARINE NATIONAL PARK
Figure 2
Sealed road
Unsealed road
Walking track
Shore boundary marker
(Colour indicated by letter)
Depth contour
Discovery Bay Marine National Park
Coastal Park
Recreation Facilities
Accommodation
Barbecue
Boat ramp
Family walk
Lookout
Park information
Picnic table
Surf Life Saving
Swimming
Toilets
DISCOVERY BAY
DISCOVERY BAY COASTAL PARK
DESCARTES BAY
BRIDGEWATER BAY
Tarragal
Bridgewater Lakes
Blacks Beach
Whites Beach
Blowholes
Bridgewater Bay
Lower Cape Bridgewater
Cape Bridgewater
Cape Duquesne
Cape Bridgewater
38°20'00"S 141°19'04"E
38°19'59"S 141°24'05"E
38°20'55"S 141°23'08"E
38°22'45"S 141°21'59"E
38°22'46"S 141°18'15"E
270°
KITSONS RD
BRIDGEWATER LAKES ROAD
WALK
WEST
AMOS ROAD
To Portland
C193
BRIDGEWATER GREAT SOUTH WEST WALK
GREAT SOUTH WALK
BLOWHOLES ROAD
BLOWHOLES
High Water Mark from 500 metres
SOUTHERN OCEAN
0 0.75 1.5
KILOMETRES
N
Cartography by Spatial Vision 2005
M/7364
MELBOURNE
Parks VICTORIA
Latitude and Longitude values are based on WGS84. GPS users note that co-ordinates for boundaries are given in the format degrees:minutes:seconds. Alternate formats are available on Parkweb, by calling 13 1963 or from Parks Victoria Offices.