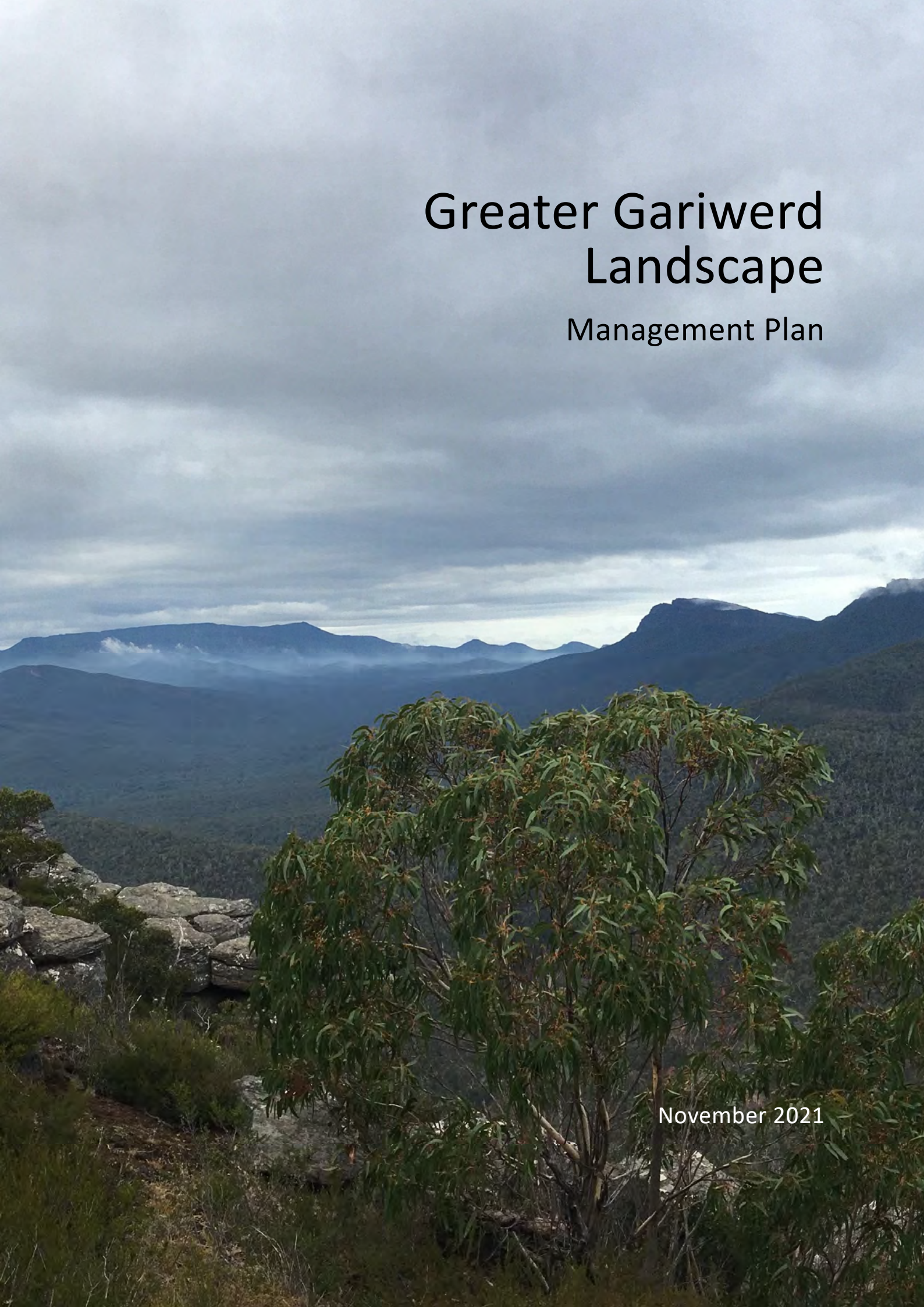




Greater Gariwerd Landscape

Management Plan

November 2021

Authorised and published by Parks Victoria

Level 10, 535 Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

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The Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management plan has been prepared in accordance with Section 46 of the *Parks Victoria Act 2018* and is a land management plan for the purposes of that Act. Any change in management of the areas covered in this plan other than those of a machinery, declaratory or minor technical nature will be made in accordance with the Parks Victoria Act 2018 and will require amendment of this plan in consultation with any Victorian Government department or public authority whose interests may be affected by the plan or amendment, any relevant specified Aboriginal party, and the general public.

For further information, phone the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963.

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that this document may contain images, names, quotes and other references to deceased people.

Acknowledgements

Aboriginal cultural landscapes form the core of Victoria's network of parks and reserves and have been modified over many thousands of years of occupation. They are reflections of how Aboriginal people engage with their world and experience their surroundings and are the product of thousands of generations of economic activity, material culture and settlement patterns. The landscapes we see today are influenced by the skills, knowledge and activities of Aboriginal land managers. Parks Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Owners of these cultural landscapes, recognising their continuing connection to Victoria's parks and reserves and ongoing role in caring for Country.

This plan for the Greater Gariwerd Landscape was prepared and released under the direction of the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. Parks Victoria has coordinated the development of the plan in partnership with Traditional Owners. A Project Control Group, comprising representatives of Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Parks Victoria, has directed the project. The contributions of many others are also acknowledged, including individuals and organisations who have provided access to reports and other information.

Parks Victoria and the Traditional Owners of Gariwerd thank the community generally, especially all those who provided a submission, completed the online survey, or took the time to attend the six community workshops, a drop-in session and a series of 'listening posts' held in a range of locations across the Grampians region and Melbourne.

Disclaimer

The plan is prepared without prejudice to any future negotiated outcomes between Government/s and Traditional Owner communities. It is acknowledged that such outcomes, which may include joint management under a Traditional Owner Land Management Agreement, may necessitate amendment of this plan.

This plan is also prepared without prejudice to any native title outcomes over land or waters within the plan's area that may be negotiated or litigated in future. It is acknowledged that any such outcomes may necessitate amendment of this plan; and the implementation of this plan may require further notifications under the procedures in Division 3 of Part 2 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this plan is accurate. Parks Victoria does not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence that may arise from you relying on any information in the publication.

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Cover image: Looking south from near Sundial Peak (Ian Foletta).

Traditional Owners' Foreword

We, the Traditional Owners of Gariwerd land and waters, have deep respect for Country and hold a cultural responsibility to care for it. We are rights-holders for Gariwerd, and our culture and heritage are central to its future management. Our spiritual and cultural connection to plant and animal species, the rock formations, night skies and the wider setting of the mountain ranges are expressed in the largest concentration of rock art in Victoria. Gariwerd is also a place of mounds, scarred trees, stone quarries and artefacts that sit alongside our stories, places of creation, law and knowledge. Our relationship with our creator, our ancestors and our Country is self-evident in all that Gariwerd is.

European colonisation in the 1800s had a devastating impact upon our people and continues to do so to this day. Colonisation not only ignored our property rights; it ignored our human rights. Our family units were ripped apart. Whole societies were deconstructed and many of us were met with a level of violence and coercion never before witnessed in our territories. Colonists set about moving us from our lands and waters with force, open armed offences, or deceitful tactics such as giving arsenic-laced flour. The introduction of disease ravaged our people and the power of the gun alienated us from our lands, our resources, foods and fibres. Many survivors of this time found themselves on Missions and Aboriginal Settlements where speaking language or doing any kind of cultural activity was punishable. Traditional basket-weaving was punishable. Others lived by fringe-dwelling on the margins of settlements. It was not until 1966 that Aboriginal peoples were permitted to freely leave these missions and Aboriginal settlements without first having to apply for permission to do so.

Throughout this time the colonists ignored our laws for caring for Country. Land clearing, mining, water diversions and the introduction of foreign plants and animals damaged our Country. Despite the many laws, we retain strong ties and important cultural knowledge about Gariwerd and how to care for Country.

By recognising and acknowledging the impacts of colonisation and dispossession, we can collectively redress these ongoing harms and celebrate this opportunity for constructive reconciliation with the whole community. Gariwerd is a place of healing and spiritual renewal; a place that connects the body, soul and mind. It is a place that allows us to reconnect with Country, and also connects Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. As this place heals, so do we.

Our knowledge and experience inform this plan, guiding the vision for the Greater Gariwerd Landscape and how it is managed, and recognise the Traditional Owner stories, knowledge and practices connected with this symbolic place. We recognise the connections between people, communities and Country and want to work together to maintain and restore this special place. We welcome visitors to learn about our culture and Country, to embrace the seasons, stories and spirits of the creation. Gariwerd is a part of us and who we are, and we ask you to care for it when you visit.

Gariwerd is a member of our family — like our grand-mother, our mother, our sister, our daughter. This is important to us. This is not just park management to our people. This is the return of a stolen family member. This is why it is so important to decolonise the management of land, water, fire, wildlife and the place names of our bio-cultural landscapes. Our reunion with Gariwerd reaffirms our obligations to look after our family member, our Country.





Victoria Range

Management Plan

This Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan has been developed by Parks Victoria, the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and the Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation. It recognises the extensive and enduring connections of Traditional Owners to Gariwerd — to this broad and powerful cultural landscape, to the landscape places and features, and to the stories, knowledge and practices linked to the landscape.

Gariwerd is a place revered and enjoyed by many. It is appreciated by visitors as well as local community members, including business owners and employees who work and live in the landscape or nearby towns. Strong partnerships with Traditional Owners, neighbouring landowners, tourism operators, education providers, volunteers and community groups will be vital to the landscape's future management. The establishment of the parks and reserves of Gariwerd in the 1980s, including the iconic Grampians National Park — referred to as Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park throughout this plan — and Black Range State Park, was the result of strong community advocacy. This has provided for their protection and conservation through national and state legislation that guides the management requirements for this highly valued public land.

The plan will underpin the management of the Greater Gariwerd Landscape over the next 15 years to ensure the parks and reserves are protected for current and future generations. It will do this by conserving and enhancing the precious natural and cultural values of this landscape and the management of visitors. The plan seeks to recognise these values, define key strategies to protect them and look to a future in which the values are celebrated as part of the heritage of the Grampians region and of Australia.

At Parks Victoria, we recognise that change needs to start from within, with a strong focus on building our own organisational capability and cultural competency. We are committed to working in effective partnerships with Traditional Owners to preserve and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage across the estate. Aboriginal places, objects and stories are a core value of our parks and the legacy of thousands of generations. Protecting this legacy is vital for both Aboriginal peoples' identity and wellbeing and for the history and heritage valued by all Victorians.

Parks Victoria is taking a leadership role in engaging the community in recognising the parks estate as a cultural landscape, and how the community is connected to the estate. Through an improved understanding of the significant cultural, natural and recreational values of the area, management and regulation can better protect and enhance these values. Protection of cultural places and the use of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park for recreation has been a key focus of consultation to date, with significant interest in how recreational and commercial activities, cultural values, fire and the environment will be managed in the years ahead.

The plan has been prepared after extensive consultation with a wide range of interested community and stakeholder groups and individuals and will provide confidence and clarity of how people can experience, enjoy and protect this important area.



John Pandazopoulos
Chair



Matthew Jackson
Chief Executive Officer



Rock shelter, Black Range

Summary

For more than 22,000 years, Gariwerd has been the living, hunting, gathering, cultivating, ceremonial, Dreaming Country and territory of Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung language groups and their ancestors. They pass down stories about how the land was created, along with teachings on how to care for Country.

The Greater Gariwerd Landscape planning area (referred to as Gariwerd for the purposes of this plan), includes Grampians National Park (referred to as Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park in this plan), one of the best known and most significant parks in Victoria, Black Range State Park, Black Range Scenic Reserve, Red Rock Bushland Reserve, Mount Talbot Scenic Reserve, and a small number of other adjacent reserves.

Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park's cultural and natural values are recognised as having outstanding significance to the nation through its inclusion on Australia's National Heritage List. It is a symbolic Aboriginal cultural landscape, an ecological wonderland, and an important visitor attraction for the region owing to beautiful vistas, natural features, remoteness, and stunning flora and fauna.

Parks help provide a sense of place, cultural identity and spiritual nourishment and Gariwerd is a place of enjoyment, learning and inspiration. The landscape is vital for biodiversity conservation and a key contributor to social capital and healthy communities.

Gariwerd is a beating heart of Aboriginal spirituality.

This land vibrates with the energy of our ancestors.

It hums and sings and brings life to everything and everyone.

— Traditional Owner, Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

Parks Victoria, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation have prepared a management plan for the Greater Gariwerd Landscape or Gariwerd.

Parks Victoria recognises that Traditional Owners have legal rights to practice their culture and interact with Victoria's landscapes as landowners and managers. Traditional Owners have significant cultural roles and responsibilities in setting directions and priorities for this unique Aboriginal cultural landscape. Planning for the landscape enables the integration of all aspects of history (natural, cultural and social) that have shaped the area, offering a perspective for understanding Gariwerd that can be shared by the whole community.

Management plans for Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and Black Range State Park were released in 2003 and 1998 respectively. A number of changes since that time are addressed by this new plan:

- Traditional Owner partnerships and recognition processes have evolved in legislation and government policy.
- Planning for multiple protected areas in a landscape rather than for individual parks has become the preferred approach.
- Successive major fires and floods have demonstrated how extreme events and climate change impacts are increasing and can generate significant physical change in parks and disrupt visitation and community use.
- Visitation and use, which benefit the health and wellbeing of communities, has increased for a range of activities including hiking, camping, nature appreciation, scenic driving and rock climbing.
- Community perceptions of nature have shifted, along with rising expectations to access the parks.

- Licensed and commercial operations have grown and key tourism initiatives have also emerged, such as the Grampians Peaks Trail.

These changes, and the opportunities and risks they bring, provide the impetus for a new management plan that sets out a fresh vision for Gariwerd over the next 15 years.

The first part of the plan provides a description of the planning area (Greater Gariwerd) and explains the management planning framework:

- Chapter 1 defines the park landscape, key legislation and government policy and the involvement of Traditional Owners and the community in helping develop the plan.
- Chapter 2 proposes a vision for Gariwerd and management zones to guide future activities and regulation.

The second part of the plan presents management strategies to conserve and enhance the outstanding values of the landscape, while allowing for recreation and use compatible with their protection and the legislative requirements.

- Chapter 3 describes Gariwerd as a living, cultural landscape to be celebrated and protected.
- Chapter 4 describes the ecological values of Gariwerd and directions to conserve and enhance them.
- Chapter 5 outlines how visitors will access and experience the parks and reserves.
- Chapter 6 highlights the importance of active partnerships and good data for future park management.

A discussion of the key goals and strategies for delivering the plan follows.

A living, cultural landscape

The management plan recognises the significance of Gariwerd as a cultural landscape by sharing insight into Traditional Owner values so these may be widely appreciated by managers, visitors and the broader community. It identifies strategies that can be taken together to recognise, preserve and celebrate the culture and heritage of Gariwerd. The plan uses terms like invasion and colonisation, which are used by Traditional Owners to describe how their culture has been suppressed under the dominant Western culture. This suppression is an on-going cause of distress and trauma for them.

The whole landscape has cultural meanings and associated values for Traditional Owners, with 'Country' referring to all parts of the land, its waters, skies, living species and associated stories. The rocky outcrops, gullies and streams of this landscape are more than geographic features for Traditional Owners; they are signs of the Dreaming and links with the past. The mountains, forests, rivers, valleys and wetlands of Gariwerd are abundant with a rich diversity of plant and food resources that Traditional Owners have been cultivating and harvesting for millennia.

The colonists who settled Gariwerd in the mid nineteenth century brought a very different approach to managing the land. They extracted resources like water, stone and gold and cleared forests so sheep could graze and crops could be cultivated. Small pastoral runs were gradually amalgamated into large pastoral estates. The industriousness of the colonists created the towns and infrastructure of the region we see today. From the late 1860s the 'Grampians' was promoted as a place of remarkable scenic beauty. In the 1920s the Grampians became a popular holiday destination for motorists, with growing car ownership and the construction of tourist roads in the ranges. Recreation at Gariwerd has continued to grow in popularity, bringing significant benefits to the region. Gariwerd has inspired many artists and is also a place much loved by field naturalists, tour guides and the local community.

Parks Victoria recognises the devastation caused to Aboriginal societies with the arrival of Europeans, including the loss of ancestral lands, separation of families and attempted suppression of culture. Aboriginal people were dispossessed and unable to assert their native title rights and interests. With successive governments expropriating and reallocating their inherent rights to land, water and natural resources, Aboriginal people became the most disadvantaged in contemporary Australian society. Despite all these

systemic deprivations, Aboriginal communities, culture and underlying human rights continue to survive and persist.

The landscape remains rich in cultural values, and Traditional Owners have maintained their spiritual connection. Traditional Owner culture is living today, being expressed through involvement in land management, the teaching of culture and continuing access to Country.

Gariwerd is now considered by the Traditional Owners and others to be a healing place and a place to seek health and wellbeing benefits. This sense of healing relates in large part to the restoration of Country as it recovers from the initial exploitation and clearing that followed colonisation. Subsequent management as state forest ensured remnant forest and significant biodiversity survived in the landscape before it became a national park. Many organisations, community groups and individuals have since contributed to restoring and protecting this special place.

The cultural landscape is to be celebrated for its connection with Traditional Owners and the landscape will continue to be shaped through the process of cultural renewal and strengthening of connection to Country. This enables cultural continuity and the revitalisation of traditional knowledge and practices. It has a very real outcome for the wellbeing of Traditional Owners, the community and Country.

Healthy Country

The management plan outlines our understanding of Gariwerd's significant natural values, identifying opportunities to enhance these values and to manage major threats to Country (including weed invasion, predation by introduced predators, over-grazing by herbivores, inappropriate fire regimes, water harvesting and visitor pressures). The plan identifies strategies that can be implemented in partnership with Traditional Owners and other partners in caring for and improving the health of Country.

One third of Victoria's native flora species and 17 per cent of Victoria's wildlife species occur in this unique landscape, which is an important habitat stronghold for a number of rare or endangered species. The Greater Gariwerd Landscape is effectively an island of high biodiversity surrounded by extensively modified land on the surrounding plains. Many species are now unique due to their long genetic isolation and adaptation to their localised environments.

Much of Gariwerd is protected as national and state park, and during the forty years it has held this status the on-ground management of significant threats has been a priority. There is now opportunity to build on that work through long-term restoration strategies, including the reintroduction of native wildlife. The plan establishes Special Protection Areas to be managed as intact Country and provide critical habitat for refuge and recovery of threatened wildlife. Many of the species identified for reintroduction, such as quolls, platypus and bandicoots, have significant connections to the health of Country and to Traditional Owners.

Accelerated climate change represents a very real threat to Country, including climate-vulnerable species and the health and wellbeing of all communities. The effects of climate change are already being experienced within the landscape through bushfires, more intense seasonal floods, longer dry spells and higher average temperatures. The frequency of extreme events is also increasing, with droughts, complex fires, floods and landslides more prevalent in recent years.

This century, there have been three major bushfires, affecting around 85 per cent of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. Climate change is a particular threat to small mammals that live in the heathlands of Gariwerd due to predicted lower rainfall and increased fire frequency. Wetland and riparian areas are also impacted by more intense floods and longer dry spells, often requiring management intervention.

Experiencing Gariwerd

Gariwerd is one of the most popular parks in Victoria. With around 1.3 million visits each year it is an important contributor to the economy of the Grampians region and the State. Domestic and international visitors spent an estimated \$592 million in the region in 2019–20, supporting approximately 3700 jobs in the

tourism sector. The plan presents a range of strategies that support recreation and the economic benefits it provides, while safeguarding park values. It acknowledges and promotes the connection between a healthy environment and a healthy society.

The plan recognises that the cultural experience will be central to the visitor experience of Gariwerd, with Traditional Owners welcoming people to experience the awe of its natural places and learn how their culture and the environment are intrinsically linked. Visitors will experience Gariwerd as Traditional Owner Country that has a deep history and a vibrant continuing culture to ensure the Grampians region continues to be a premier destination.

This plan provides the opportunity to partner with Traditional Owners to develop cultural tourism experiences across Gariwerd that are immersive and engaging. This includes reviewing visitor access, interpretation and site conservation. Traditional Owners and Parks Victoria will explore options to reinvigorate Brambuk Cultural Centre so that it can benefit Traditional Owners, the local community, local businesses and the parks in the landscape, as the place where people start their journey into Gariwerd.

Traditional Owners will also be instrumental in shaping the cultural tourism offer on the Grampians Peaks Trail, a long-distance walking experience that showcases the beauty and majesty of Gariwerd. Infrastructure to support the Grampians Peaks Trail and hiking opportunities across the landscape are expected to elevate the status of Gariwerd to international markets, creating a world-class tourism experience that provides managed tourism to some areas while ensuring other areas remain wild.

The challenges faced by changing visitor demands and recreation trends and their impacts on cultural and natural values have been identified and addressed in this plan. For example, there has been considerable growth in numbers at popular visitor sites through the central corridor of the national park, particularly during peak periods, affecting the visitor experience and posing safety issues. This plan establishes strategies and management regimes to address growing visitor demands, including clear directions on some visitor activities for example camping and rock climbing. The plan also highlights opportunities to improve all abilities access and greater inclusion of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities.

The plan aims to provide a clear understanding of how recreation and other authorised uses will be delivered into the future across the landscape, to ensure that the parks and reserves of Gariwerd continue to be effectively managed. Recreational use will continue to be encouraged and provided for where it is compatible with conservation of the cultural and natural values of Gariwerd.

Caring for Country together

Traditional Owners and Parks Victoria will continue to partner in decisions on managing Gariwerd, building the capacity of Traditional Owners to lead the planning and management of Country.

The local community is crucial in a number of key areas; they provide community fire protection, response and recovery, operate businesses providing visitor services, and are involved in environmental management as volunteers within the parks and on neighbouring land. Many long-standing partnerships already exist, including with neighbouring landholders, local businesses, park user groups, and other community groups such as not-for-profit and philanthropic groups associated with land management, conservation, research, education and health. These help to ensure land management programs achieve shared goals and mutual benefits, both within and outside the parks. Parks Victoria seeks to be a good neighbour and recognises the inherent benefits to the parks from the efforts of neighbouring land holders, including their work with Landcare and Catchment Management Authorities, in restoring native vegetation, wetlands and improving land management practices on agricultural land.

Volunteers undertake many thousands of hours of conservation work in Victoria's parks every year. Growth in community volunteering, in particular citizen science and recreational volunteering, will continue to be vital to this landscape's future management.

Ongoing partnerships will also help to deliver the research and long-term monitoring necessary to determine the effectiveness of management actions, drive adaptive management, and engage people in both traditional knowledge and Western science.

Together we can ensure Gariwerd is an important feature of the local community; understood, protected, respected and enjoyed.

A National Heritage listed landscape

Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park is included on the Australian Heritage Council's National Heritage List for its outstanding heritage value to the nation. The listing gives the park added protection under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

When the park was assessed in 2006 it met several national heritage listing criteria, including its importance in the course or pattern of Australia's natural or cultural history. The Australian Heritage Council found the park of outstanding national heritage significance for its Aboriginal rock art sites, its richness of flowers and birdlife and its rugged beauty which has inspired significant Australian artists. Every year visitors are drawn to the spectacular high plateaus and sheltered gullies, rock formations, waterfalls and streams, lookouts, woodlands, wetlands and fern gullies.

The Australian Heritage Council found that the park, with its depictions of human figures, animal tracks and birds, one of the richest Aboriginal rock art sites in south-eastern Australia. There are more than one third of Victoria's flora in the park, many found nowhere else, and it supports a wide range of animals, reptiles, amphibians, native fish, spiders and butterflies, including many threatened species.

The listing schedule for the whole of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park identifies the important evidence of occupation over the past 20,000 years (Bird et al. 1998). It also recognises its outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by community and cultural groups.

According to the schedule, Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park has aesthetic characteristics that:

‘... evoke strong emotional responses: a dramatic landform with sweeping western slopes, craggy eastern peaks and massive sandstone cliffs that contrast with surrounding plains; extensive forests interrupted by water bodies; and rock outcrops, deeply fissured cliffs and weather-sculpted rocks that give character to the exposed sandstone. Scenic drives and dramatic lookout points that give access to panoramic views across the park and surrounding countryside. The Grampians is important as a defining image in Australia.’

— Australian Government (2006)



Ephemeral pool near Briggs Bluff

Contents

Traditional Owners' Foreword	iii
Management Plan	v
Summary	vii
Contents	xiii
Maps.....	xiv
Figures.....	xv
Tables	xv
1 Overview	1
1.1 About this management plan.....	1
1.2 Planning area.....	2
1.3 Traditional Owners and Country.....	3
1.4 Legislation, policy and planning	6
1.5 Community input	10
2 Vision and zoning	15
2.1 Vision.....	15
2.2 Management zones.....	16
2.3 Overlays.....	17
2.4 Special Protection Areas	19
3 Gariwerd — a living, cultural landscape	23
3.1 The ancient cultural landscape	26
3.2 A shared truth for healing and reconciliation	31
3.3 Colonial heritage	34
3.4 Traditional Owner cultural places and values	38
3.5 Cultural renewal and strengthening	43
4 Healthy Country	49
4.1 Managing healthy ecosystems.....	52
4.2 Fire management	66
4.3 Catchments, hydrology and water management.....	72
4.4 Climate change.....	76
5 Experiencing Gariwerd	81
5.1 Information, interpretation and education	83
5.2 Accessibility for all abilities and diverse backgrounds	84
5.3 Roads and access	86
5.4 Recreation activities.....	87

5.5	The visitor experience	106
5.6	Visitor risks and safety	121
5.7	Tourism and commercial visitor services	122
5.8	Authorised uses.....	124
6	Caring for Country together	129
6.1	Managing with Traditional Owners.....	130
6.2	Coordinated management	131
6.3	Working with community	133
6.4	Research and monitoring	135
	References	141
	Appendices	145
Appendix 1:	Aboriginal language place names	145
Appendix 2:	Designated Climbing Areas	147
Appendix 3:	Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	152
Appendix 4:	Vehicle Roads and Tracks.....	155
Appendix 5:	Walking Tracks	159
Appendix 6:	Organisations that provided a submission on the draft management plan	163

Maps

(At the end of the printed and electronic editions. Also available online at higher resolution.)

1	Planning Area and Land Tenure
2	Management Zones and Overlays
3	Visitor Experience Areas & Journeys Overview
3A	Visitor Access & Destinations (Gunigalg, Gar & Heatherlie Quarry VEA)
3B	Visitor Access & Destinations (Central Gariwerd)
3C	Visitor Access & Destinations (Central Gariwerd & Halls Gap–Wonderland Range VEA))
3D	Visitor Access & Destinations (Black Range Scenic Reserve)
3E	Visitor Access & Destinations (Duwul (Mt William) & Mafeking VEA)
3F	Visitor Access & Destinations (Victoria Valley & Billawin (Victoria Range) VEA)
3G	Visitor Access & Destinations (Dunkeld – Mud-Dadjug (Mt Abrupt) VEA)
3H	Visitor Access & Destinations (Burrunj & Rocklands VEA)
4A	Rock Climbing (Gunigalg – Gar)
4B	Rock Climbing (Gunigalg Inset)
4C	Rock Climbing (Halls Gap)
4D	Rock Climbing (Halls Gap Inset)
4E	Rock Climbing (Central Gariwerd)
4F	Rock Climbing (Billawin North)
4G	Rock Climbing (Duwul)
4H	Rock Climbing (Billawin South)
4J	Rock Climbing (Mud-dadjug)
4K	Rock Climbing (Burrunj)

Figures

Figure 1.1	Boundaries of Registered Aboriginal Parties	5
Figure 4.1	Biodiversity values.....	54
Figure 3.2	Grampians via Stawell travel poster circa 1950s	36
Figure 4.2	Areas last burnt prior to July 2020.	68

Tables

Table 1.1	Parks, reserves and other Crown land within the planning area	3
Table 1.2	Summary of community feedback on the draft plan	10
Table 2.1	Purpose and location of management zones.....	17
Table 2.2	Purpose and location of overlays and Special Protection Areas	18
Table 4.1	Overview of changing climate, environment and history	51
Table 4.2	Ecosystems in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape.....	55
Table 5.1	Campgrounds and camping areas	94-5
Table 5.2	Summary of recreation activities in zones and overlays	104-5
Table 6.1	Key knowledge gaps for Gariwerd.....	138-9



Night sky from The Balconies

1 Overview

1.1 About this management plan

The Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan is a strategic guide to the management of parks and reserves within the landscape planning area (referred to as Gariwerd for the purposes of this plan).

Gariwerd comprises Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park, Black Range State Park and some small nearby reserves (Table 1.1). The management plan defines and provides for their continuing and future uses for conservation, cultural strengthening and renewal, recreation, interpretation and education. It does this by establishing a long-term vision for Gariwerd that reinforces the importance of the landscape for cultural, environmental, social, economic and spiritual values. The plan is supported by and reflects legislation and government policies for public land.

Three Traditional Owner groups are recognised through an Indigenous Land Use Agreement as having connection to Gariwerd and customary responsibilities to 'Care for Country'. These groups are represented by the Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BGLC), Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC). As a collective, these Traditional Owner groups seek to jointly manage Gariwerd with Parks Victoria in the future.

The plan acknowledges and supports the role of the Traditional Owner groups as rights-holders for Country, describing goals and strategies that Parks Victoria and Traditional Owners will work on together to achieve the vision for Gariwerd. This includes the services and facilities that will be provided for visitors and the ways that individuals, communities and other government agencies can continue to be instrumental in helping care for Country. While the Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan is not a joint management plan, it sets the foundations for how Parks Victoria and Traditional Owners can transition to a joint management plan in the future.

The plan provides the basis for formally setting aside specific areas for various permitted uses or activities, or as areas where access is prohibited or restricted. It will also guide the prioritisation of future investment and the development of annual works programs. The plan considers public feedback, park assessments and research, trends in visitation and park uses and best-practice park management strategies for the protection, conservation and enjoyment of the planning area.

Management plans for Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and Black Range State Park were previously released in 2003 and 1998 respectively. Since that time land management has changed. Traditional Owner recognition and partnerships have evolved, planning at a landscape scale has commenced, and successive major fires and floods have impacted the landscape. Visitation has increased, and key tourism initiatives such as the Grampians Peaks Trail have emerged. These changes, and the risks and opportunities they bring, provide the impetus for the new management plan and a fresh vision for the future for Gariwerd.

Parks Victoria's current approach to management plans is to establish a single plan over multiple parks and reserves within a landscape. Landscape-scale planning provides a robust approach to managing multiple values and threats (e.g. climate change, invasive species), as well as providing a framework for providing sustainable and compatible recreation and tourism opportunities. Applying the cultural landscape perspective enhances this approach by providing a complementary and more comprehensive understanding of Gariwerd.

The Aboriginal term 'Country' expresses the holistic nature of landscape inclusive of cultural and natural features (e.g. landforms, geology, water, sky), as well as plants, animals and ecosystems. A cultural landscape planning approach therefore considers the richness of a landscape across all of these elements. It also

integrates all the aspects of history (natural, cultural and social) that have shaped the landscape. As such, the cultural landscape perspective captures a broad range of themes and offers a perspective for understanding Gariwerd that can be shared by the whole community.

The plan presents a vision for Gariwerd (Chapter 2); it is long-term and aspirational, expressing how the landscape will look to a future visitor and describing the ultimate outcome of implementing the management directions in this plan. Management zones provide a geographic framework where specific management controls are applied and where certain uses and activities can occur. Goals and strategies follow in chapters 3 to 6. Goals describe how Parks Victoria seeks to achieve the vision, and strategies define the methods that will be used to achieve the goals. The priorities for strategies have been defined as follows:

Immediate — Actions and directions that are immediately effective in day-to-day management.

High — High-priority strategies that will be implemented within 1 to 2 years.

Medium — Strategies that will be implemented within 10 years.

Parks Victoria uses a system of adaptive management, in which management priorities are open to change based on monitoring, research or changes in demand. Major changes in direction will include community consultation.

1.2 Planning area

The Greater Gariwerd Landscape, or Gariwerd, is located in Victoria's west, approximately 260 kilometres west of Melbourne and 460 kilometres east of Adelaide (Map 1: Planning Area and Land Tenure).

Gariwerd is situated between the major western Victorian regional townships of Ararat, Stawell and Horsham within four local government areas – Ararat Rural City, Northern Grampians Shire, Southern Grampians Shire and Horsham Rural City.

The landscape includes a series of mountain ranges — Gar (Mount Difficult Range), Duwul (Mount William Range), Serra Range, Billawin (Victoria Range), Burrunj (Black Range) — running roughly north to south and rising above the otherwise flat terrain of Victoria's western plains. The highest point is Duwul (Mount William) at 1167 metres. The mountains are drained in the north and east by Baribial (Mount William Creek), in the central ranges by Barriyalug (Fyans Creek) and MacKenzie River, which all then feed into Barringi Gadjin (Wimmera River). In the south and west, the mountains drain into Dwyer Creek, the Wannon River and Bugara (Glenelg River). The mountains are a source of water for Gariwerd, as well as for the adjoining communities, supplying water to towns and farmlands (Wilkie 2020).

Gariwerd is the generic name for a pointed mountain or mountain range. More specifically, in Jadawadjali language, 'gar' means 'pointed mountain'; 'i' means 'the' and 'werd' means 'shoulder'.

The management plan applies only to the 17 parks, reserves and unreserved Crown land managed by Parks Victoria within the Greater Gariwerd landscape; a total of approximately 180,000 hectares (Table 1.1). The largest park in the landscape, and the fourth largest national park in Victoria, is Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park (167,241 hectares); the next largest park is Black Range State Park (11,727 hectares).

The management plan area does not include private land and public land managed by committees of management, water authorities, local governments and other government departments, agencies and land managers. Some examples of these areas are road reserves (e.g. Dunkeld Tourist Road, Northern Grampians Road), inland water bodies (e.g. Lake Wartook, Moora Reservoir, Rocklands Reservoir, Lake Fyans, Lake Lonsdale) and state forests (e.g. Woohlpooer State Forest). These areas and their respective management agencies are not directed by this plan, but partnership arrangements will be maintained to deliver many of the plan's strategies.

Table 1.1 Parks, reserves and other Crown land within the planning area

National and State Parks — managed under the <i>National Parks Act 1975</i>
• Grampians National Park (168,241 ha) created in 1984 – referred to as Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park in this plan • Black Range State Park (11,727 ha) created in 1988
Natural Features Reserves — managed under the <i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i> , all created in 1983
• Bellellen Bushland Reserve (8.5 ha) • Black Range Scenic Reserve (528 ha) • Cherrypool Highway Park (20 ha) • Fyans Creek Bushland Reserve (68 ha) • Lady Somers Bridge Streamside Reserve (16 ha) • Millers Creek Bushland Reserve (4.6 ha) • Mount Talbot Scenic Reserve (23.8 ha) • Mount William Creek Streamside Reserve (38 ha) • Moyston West Bushland Reserve (7.3 ha) • Red Rock Bushland Reserve (58.1 ha) • Reids Bushland Reserve (4.8 ha) • Rows Bushland Reserve (6.3 ha)
State Game Reserve — managed under the <i>Wildlife Act 1975</i>
• Brady Swamp State Game Reserve (223 ha) created in 1993
Other areas
• Brambuk – The National Park and Cultural Centre (1.7 ha) — managed under the <i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i> and <i>National Parks Act 1975</i> • Mount Difficult Plantation Campground (12.5 ha) — managed under the <i>Forests Act 1958</i>

1.3 Traditional Owners and Country

Traditional Owner rights and responsibilities are increasingly being recognised over Crown land in Victoria, resulting in systematic changes to both tenure and governance arrangements. Parks Victoria is at the forefront of this change. As managers of more than four million hectares of Victoria's diverse cultural landscapes, the organisation is embracing a new, collaborative park management future and leading the way in recognising and enabling Aboriginal cultural rights. This reform enables shared decision-making authority and supports Aboriginal self-determination through partnering directly with Traditional Owners.

The vision of the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018–2023 (VAAF) is that 'all Aboriginal Victorian people, families and communities are healthy, safe, resilient, thriving and living culturally rich lives'. The VAAF acknowledges that there are systemic and structural barriers to self-determination.

It establishes priority actions the Victorian Government must commit to and act upon to enable self-determination. The framework identifies four key enablers of self-determination:

- Prioritise culture
- Address trauma and support healing
- Address racism and promote cultural safety
- Transfer power and resources to communities.

Following the VAAF, the Victorian Government released the Self-Determination Reform Framework (SDRF) in 2019. The SDRF provides a structure and guidance for Victorian Government departments and agencies to enact the VAAF's self-determination priorities. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has now released its Pupangarli Marnmarnepu 'Owning Our Future' Aboriginal Self-Determination Reform Strategy 2020–2025.

The partnership between Parks Victoria and Traditional Owners to develop this management plan supports a key outcome of the DELWP strategy in that it: 'supports Traditional Owners' rights on Country so that their aspirations for land, water and culture are realised'. The strategy identifies that this outcome can be achieved by recognising and implementing decisions that Traditional Owners determine over traditional lands and resources, cultural fire practices, sustainable management of water resources and the celebration and preservation and promotion of Aboriginal culture and language.

Three groups are recognised through an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (2019) as having connection to Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. These groups are represented by the Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BGLC), Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC).

For most of the landscape subject to this management plan there is no Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) appointed under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, no native title claimed determined under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) and no Recognition and Settlement Agreement in place under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*. The exceptions to this include: Black Range State Park, Red Rock Bushland Reserve and Mount Talbot Scenic Reserve in the north-west part of the landscape, which are located within the BGLC RAP area; and a narrow band of land inside the south-eastern border, which includes Brady Swamp Wetland Reserve and adjoining Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park, which is within the EMAC RAP area (Figure 1.1).

In 2016 a native title claim was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal by the same three groups over Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park, representing more than 1708 square kilometres of Crown land within the planning area. The claim was registered in response to the potential for native title rights in Gariwerd to be extinguished as part of the development of the Grampians Peaks Trail.

An Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) was successfully negotiated between Traditional Owners and the State of Victoria committing to the application of the non-extinguishment principle under s.238 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) to future acts that constitute public works done in relation to the ILUA area. The ILUA also acknowledges the Traditional Owner aspiration to undertake and conclude negotiations under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Agreement Act 2010* and to become a joint manager of the land and waters within the ILUA area. Despite the native title claim being discontinued by a Federal Court order on 18 June 2019 in the absence of an incorporated and representative entity being established, the ILUA remains in place.

In this management plan, 'Traditional Owners' is used when referring to those people whose Country includes all or part of the Greater Gariwerd Landscape. The term 'People of Gariwerd' is also used in this sense.

Traditional Owners have particular knowledge about traditions, observances, customs or beliefs associated with an area and responsibility under Aboriginal tradition for significant cultural places located in, or significant objects originating from, that area.

They may also be a member of a family or clan group that is recognised as having responsibility under Aboriginal tradition for significant places located in — or significant Aboriginal objects originating from — that area (*Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*).

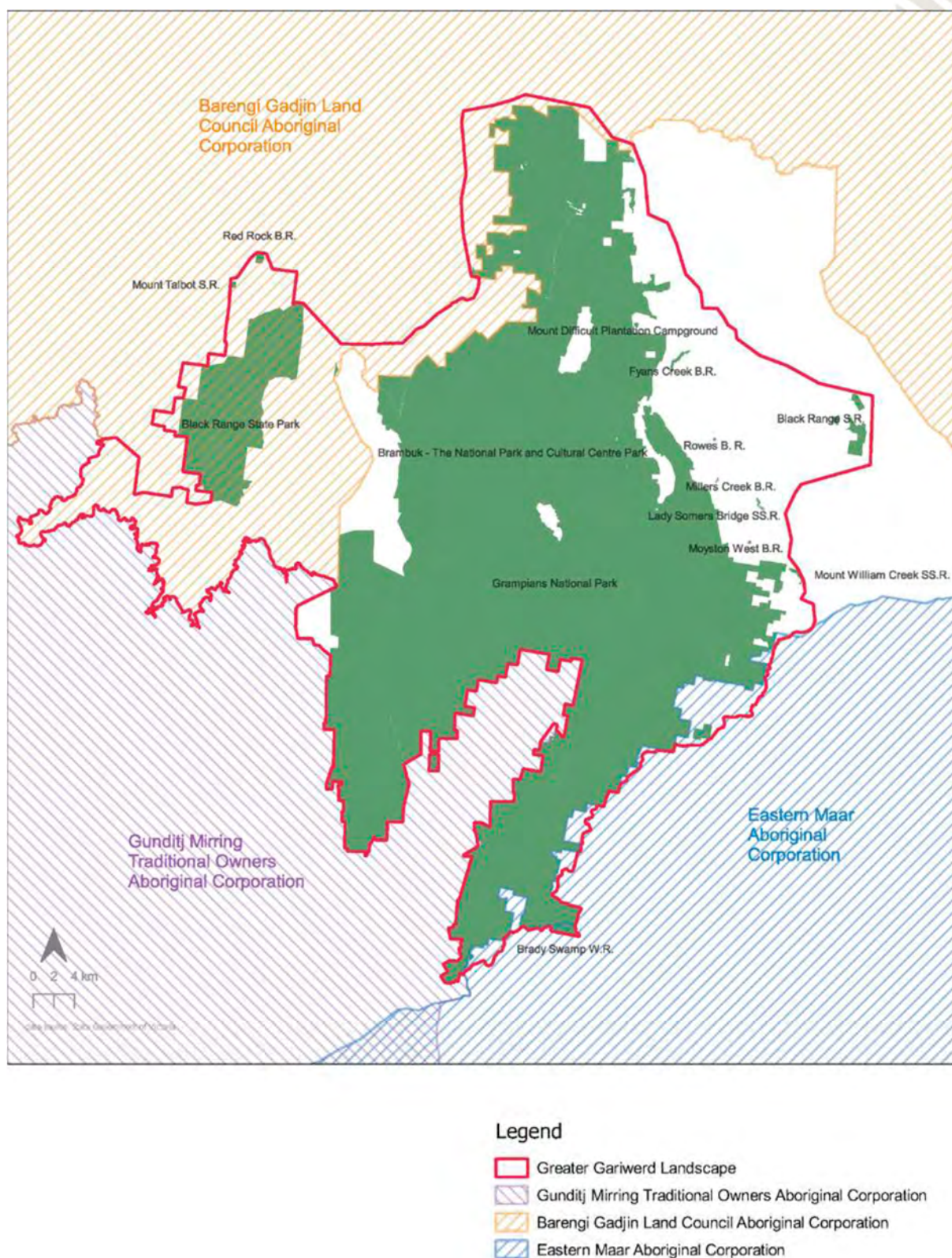


Figure 1.1 Greater Gariwerd Landscape: Boundaries of Registered Aboriginal Parties appointed under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, as of March 2020

Each of the three Traditional Owner corporations have whole-of-Country plans in place for the areas where the rights of their communities have already been recognised under relevant legislative frameworks. The following excerpts summarise the nature of their connection to Country and hopes for the future.

Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BGLC, 2017): Our identity and culture are intrinsic to who we are as Wotjobaluk Peoples. It is important that we cherish and nurture all aspects of our lands, water and heritage in order to preserve the strength and resilience of our peoples. Our Country links us to our ancestors and spirits and it is the foundation of our future. If Country is treated with respect and care and we can act on our responsibility for Country, the Wotjobaluk Country will continue to provide for us. Our vision: Wotjobaluk Nation working together as custodians of Culture, Country, Heritage, Lore and Language, sharing our values and representing the rights and interests of our People.

Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC, 2015): Through Meerreengeyye ngakeepoorryeeyt — our Country Plan — we have defined our vision for the future. To help us on the path to achieving our vision, we have identified six goals that will form the focus of our effort: Wellbeing of our citizens; Active youth; Strong identity; Healthy Country; Cultural strength; Independence. For each of our goals, we have a number of objectives that we will work toward — as individuals, as a nation and in partnership with others. These goals are underpinned by the law of the land, our moral authority that dictates how we live and behave, who we interact with and how we will always care for our Country.

Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC, 2015): Healthy Country, Healthy People — Ngootyoong Gunditj, Ngootyoong Mara in Gunditjmara — is what we want for the planning area. The different landscapes — Stone Country, Sea Country, River Forest Country and Forest Country — are all important and connect with each other and people. We all have a right and responsibility to care for Country, working together with respectful conversations to achieve our aspirations for Country. We will work together to restore and improve ecosystems so that they are intact and resilient. We recognise the connections between people and Country; between communities and Country — past, present and future. Forever.

In the future it is likely that the planning area will be jointly managed by the State of Victoria and Traditional Owners under the direction of a Traditional Owner Land Management Board and joint management plan. Such a plan would strengthen the management of the area as an Aboriginal cultural landscape and support any Traditional Owner rights negotiated as part of any future agreement. The partnership approach being taken to develop and deliver the Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan is therefore aimed at building the relationships, capacity and capability for such an outcome.

Traditional Owners of the area have participated in this process as partners, as distinct from other user and interest groups and the broader community who have participated in a consultative process. This is because the ILUA has the effect of formalising Traditional Owner connection to the parks, and by implication recognises that there are cultural authorities and customary responsibilities to care for this Country. Throughout the process to develop this plan, it has been evident that management will be stronger because it recognises Traditional Owner knowledge of landscape values, customs and practices, and that these remain strong. The plan uses this knowledge while recognising it as Traditional Owner intellectual property subject to a range of intellectual property rights.

1.4 Legislation, policy and planning

The Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan must take into account key legislation, policies, agreements and various state, regional and local plans and strategies.

Legislation and regulations

A range of legislation and regulations govern the long-term protection and management of parks and reserves. This provides a rigorous framework for Gariwerd which must be considered and complied with when making land management decisions.

The framework includes:

- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*
- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987*
- *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*
- *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*
- *Forests Act 1958*
- *Heritage Act 2017*
- *Heritage Rivers Act 1992*
- *Land Act 1958*
- *National Parks Act 1975* and *National Parks Regulations 2013*
- *Parks Victoria Act 2018*
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- *Reference Areas Act 1978*
- *Road Management Act 2004*
- *Water Act 1989*
- *Wildlife Act 1975* and *Wildlife (State Game Reserves) Regulations 2014*
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Cth)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth)
- *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and Black Range State Park are both reserved and managed under the provisions of the *National Parks Act 1975*.

The objects of the *National Parks Act 1975* include:

- the preservation and protection of the natural environment including wilderness areas and remote and natural areas
- the protection and preservation of indigenous flora and fauna and of features of scenic or archaeological, ecological, geological, historic or other scientific interest
- the study of ecology, geology, botany, zoology and other sciences relating to the conservation of the natural environment
- the responsible management of the land in those parks
- 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.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* protects both tangible and intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria. While the Gariwerd area contains hundreds of individually recorded Aboriginal sites, these, along with the Dreaming and story lines that cross the landscape, mean that the whole landscape can be conceptualised as a Traditional Owner cultural landscape where individual recorded sites and the thousands of sites yet to be re-discovered are protected within the context of predominantly intact Country. Parks Victoria therefore prioritises preserving and protecting environmental and cultural values in the parks and then, where appropriate, supporting recreational activities.

This obligation is reinforced by the *Parks Victoria Act 2018* which defines the objectives Parks Victoria must have regard to when performing its functions, exercising its powers and carrying out its duties. The objectives require Parks Victoria to:

- protect, conserve and enhance Parks Victoria managed land, including its cultural and natural values, for the benefit of the environment and current and future generations
- recognise and support Traditional Owner knowledge of and interests in Parks Victoria managed land

- provide for and encourage the community's enjoyment of and involvement in Parks Victoria managed land
- improve the community's knowledge and appreciation of Parks Victoria managed land
- contribute to the wellbeing of the community through the effective protection and management of Parks Victoria managed land
- contribute to the achievement of State and regional land management outcomes as far as is consistent with the effective protection and management of Parks Victoria managed land.

The significance of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park for both environmental and cultural heritage protection is also recognised by its inclusion as a place in the National Heritage List (Commonwealth protection under section 324J of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999). The objective in managing National Heritage places is to identify, protect, conserve, present and transmit, to all generations, their National Heritage values.

What are Aboriginal cultural places, values and landscapes?

Aboriginal cultural heritage means Aboriginal places, Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal ancestral remains.

An Aboriginal place is an area in Victoria or the coastal waters of Victoria that is of cultural heritage significance to Aboriginal people generally or a particular group or community of Aboriginal people of Victoria.

Aboriginal intangible heritage means any knowledge of or expression of Aboriginal tradition, other than Aboriginal cultural heritage and includes oral traditions, performing arts, stories, rituals, festivals, social practices, craft, visual arts and environmental and ecological knowledge, but does not include anything that is widely known to the public. It also includes any intellectual creation or innovation based on or derived from anything referred to in this definition.

The definitions above are established in the Victorian *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, which provides protection for Aboriginal cultural heritage and Aboriginal intangible heritage in Victoria. These meanings are used in this plan.

However, at the request of the three Traditional Owner corporations, this plan uses:

- 'cultural place' rather than 'Aboriginal place' (except when referencing the Victorian legislation)
- 'Traditional Owner heritage' and 'Traditional Owner culture and heritage' rather than 'Aboriginal cultural heritage'
- 'Traditional Owner intangible heritage' rather than 'Aboriginal intangible heritage'.

The reason for not using 'Aboriginal' in these phrases is to avoid the impression that First Nations culture is the same across all of Australia. Rather 'Traditional Owner' and 'People of Gariwerd' are used to emphasise the distinctive nature of the culture and heritage associated with Gariwerd.

Moreover, 'cultural values' is often used in preference to 'cultural heritage values'. This is because, for Traditional Owners, cultural values can relate to both cultural and natural heritage (e.g. plant and animal species) and because 'heritage' is a term that cannot necessarily be applied to all aspects of cultural places and practices (e.g. some family stories, or some personal and emotional experiences).

The term 'cultural landscape' is a perspective for understanding Country and is used in this plan to signify the dynamic interactions between people and Gariwerd. This includes the management and modification of the natural environment over time, which shapes how we manage and interact with the parks and reserves in the landscape going forward.

Policies and plans

Parks Victoria's Strategic Plan *Shaping our Future* sets out the long-term context for Parks Victoria's corporate plans and defines the organisation's vision. The plan also defines four broad themes of focus: Caring for Country; Connecting People and Nature; Contributing to Healthy, Liveable Communities; and Enhancing Organisational Excellence.

Under the *Parks Victoria Act 2018*, a Land Management Strategy is being developed to guide the protection, management and use of the terrestrial, coastal and marine parks and reserves managed by Parks Victoria. A draft of the strategy was released for community consultation in 2021. The strategy is supported by and reflects government legislation, policies and key priorities, and will respond to challenges such as climate change and increased visitation. It will also reflect the framework used in the Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Landscapes Strategy that was released in 2021 which details Traditional Owner aspirations for activating their rights and obligations to Country.

Parks Victoria recognises the value and importance of working closely with Traditional Owners to manage parks and reserves in a culturally sensitive and ecologically sympathetic way. Parks Victoria's Managing Country Together Framework (2019) underpins the approach to partnering with Traditional Owners to protect and conserve cultural and natural heritage. Managing Country Together is ultimately about improving the health of cultural landscapes in a way that reflects Traditional Owners' rights and interests and strengthens opportunities for Traditional Owners to connect to Country. The Aboriginal Heritage Identification Guide (2019) has been developed to allow for greater awareness and care of Aboriginal cultural heritage inherent to the lands and waterways that Parks Victoria manage.

Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037 (DELWP 2017) is Victoria's plan to stop the decline of our native plant and animal populations. It is guided by Commonwealth and State legislation for the conservation of significant places, species and communities and for the management of ecologically threatening processes. To help deliver upon the plan, the Victorian Government has been increasing funding to preserve and enhance biodiversity across the state.

Within this landscape the Conservation Action Plan for the Greater Gariwerd Landscape, finalised by Parks Victoria in February 2019, identifies key environmental values and threats and priority conservation strategies and actions. A primary objective of the Conservation Action Plan is to increase the resilience of natural assets in the face of climate change and other stressors.

The Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017–2020 (DELWP 2016) outlines a plan of action for the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change. Regional Climate Adaptation Strategies are now being prepared, including one for the Grampians Region. The Climate Change Adaptation Plan also addresses a number of key assets, objectives and actions from the Wimmera and Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategies (both published by the respective catchment management authorities in 2013).

The framework for fire management in the planning area must comply with relevant legislation and be developed with consideration of other government strategy and policy documents. This includes strategies being developed to manage fuels across public and private land, bringing together local knowledge and values with world-leading bushfire science and modelling capability — Bushfire Management Strategy Grampians Region and Bushfire Management Strategy Barwon South West Region (EMV 2019a, 2019b). The new strategies will bring together existing plans, strategies and understandings of risk, including regional strategic fire management plans, DELWP and Parks Victoria's Strategic Bushfire Management Plans for public land and the Victorian Fire Risk Register-Bushfire. The strategic bushfire management planning process will enable agencies, Traditional Owners and communities to set clear objectives and devise strategies to achieve them.

Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park is identified by Tourism Australia, Visit Victoria and Grampians Tourism as the major visitor attraction for the region. Victoria's Nature-based Tourism Strategy 2008–2012 (Tourism

Victoria 2008) recognises the importance of nature-based tourism products and destinations and recommends a landscape approach to ensure their sustainability. The strategy identifies the Grampians as a priority development area. Victoria's 2020 Tourism Strategy (Victorian Government 2013) also supports enhancing the state's nature-based tourism products, such as high-quality walking experiences and associated accommodation development.

Parks Victoria's policies and guidelines for recreation and tourism ensure that activities are sustainably planned, designed and managed so they may continue to support visitors, local communities, tourism and the State's economy.

1.5 Community input

Parks Victoria has a long-standing commitment to community input in park planning. Developing the management plan for the Greater Gariwerd landscape provided an opportunity for considerable community input by involving a wide audience during consultation. Effective consultation with the community and key stakeholders is critical to both the development of the plan and the delivery of the management outcomes it identifies.

Stakeholders and community members were consulted through two rounds of consultation. The first stage involved a series of community workshops and drop-in sessions, an online survey, and 'listening posts' held in a range of locations across the Grampians region and Melbourne during 2019. The purpose of this consultation was to seek the views of the community and to enable community members to share their knowledge of using, living near, managing, working within, or connecting with the landscape and to provide input to key directions in the draft plan.

The purpose of the second stage of consultation (2020–2021) was to seek feedback on the draft plan, which outlined the proposed initiatives for the Greater Gariwerd Landscape. People contributed to the consultation in a variety of ways, including attending online information and local drop-in sessions as well as providing their ideas in written submissions or online surveys.

Alongside other research and stakeholder engagement, the community feedback has been used to inform the development of this management plan. Table 1.2 provides a summary of the main issues raised during the second stage of consultation and an overview of how the final plan has addressed these.

As part of the consultation, Parks Victoria established a Stakeholder Reference Group, which includes user group representatives and community organisations. There were 16 members in the group representing the following areas of interest: environment and conservation, cultural heritage, recreational use (including bushwalking, rock climbing, and four-wheel driving), tourism, education, neighbouring community, community and civic participation and emergency management. The Grampians-Gariwerd National Park Advisory Group, a long-established group convened by Parks Victoria to advise on a range of strategic issues relating to management of the national park, had membership on the Stakeholder Reference Group and received regular briefings on the progression of the plan. Parks Victoria also consults and works with a number of peak recreation, conservation and community organisations to provide better and sustainable recreation experiences in the parks and reserves that it manages.

For each round of consultation, a separate summary report was prepared and publicly released, which detailed who participated and the key areas of feedback. Stakeholder Reference Group meeting notes were also released.

A draft plan was released for public comment in November 2020 and more than 2500 submissions were received during the ten-week comment period. The submissions provided valuable feedback on the draft plan, which has been used to develop the final plan. A report summarising the feedback was released in August 2021. Table 1.2 provides a summary of the major themes raised and where they are covered in this plan.

Table 1.2 Summary of feedback on the draft plan provided by the community

Gariwerd – a living, cultural landscape		
RENAMING		
There was broad support for renaming places with Traditional Owner names. There was some concern about ensuring it didn't cause confusion, particularly with emergency response.	Refer to Section 3.1	
EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION		
There was a broad call for education and interpretation about the landscape's cultural significance. Learning directly from Traditional Owners was a strong preference.	Refer to Section 5.1	
Healthy country		
REINTRODUCING DINGOES		
There was concern regarding investigating the reintroduction of Dingoes around safety of livestock and other native species, and of the Dingo themselves.	Refer to Section 4.1	
CLIMATE CHANGE		
Many felt that the plan was not strong enough in its response to climate change despite noting it as a major threat.	Refer to Section 4.4	
FIRE MANAGEMENT		
Opinions varied regarding the appropriate level of burning in the landscape and whether it has been achieved. There was support for using Traditional Fire management.	Refer to Section 4.2	
PEST PLANT AND ANIMAL MANAGEMENT		
Support for pest management was strong with calls for more ambitious goals, greater resourcing, and targeting further species, such as African Weed Orchid, Sallow Wattle, goats and deer.	Refer to Section 4.1	
WATER		
Respondents requested greater detail on how the resilience of water dependent habitats would be enhanced.	Refer to Section 4.3	

Table 1.2 (continued) Summary of feedback on the draft plan provided by the community

Experiencing Gariwerd		
CAMPING		Refer to
There were mixed views to restricting camping to designated areas.		Section 5.4
ROOFED ACCOMMODATION		
Huts have been constructed at two Grampians Peaks Trail (GPT) camp sites and further huts may be constructed at other GPT camps. The construction of further roofed accommodation was generally not supported.		Refer to Section 5.4
HIKING		
Many commented that they value the ability to have an off-track, wilderness hiking experience.		Refer to Section 5.4
ROCK CLIMBING		
Rock climbers expressed a strong desire to engage with Parks Victoria and Traditional Owners believing improved relationships and the resources and skills climbers can provide would result in better management of climbing areas. A number of issues were discussed, such liaison with climbers, requirements for a climbing permit, definition of climbing areas, and management of anchors.		Refer to Section 5.4
BOULDERING		
Many people were concerned about the loss of bouldering opportunities in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.		Refer to Section 5.4
INCREASED VISITATION		
Respondents agreed that increased visitation, especially in the Halls Gap – Zumsteins corridor and Wonderland Range, requires management.		Refer to Sections 5.5 to 5.7
CAMPFIRES		
The draft plan did not propose any changes to campfires. However, there were suggestions that a summer ban on campfires be imposed.		Refer to Section 5.4
CYCLING		
Some asked for cycling to be allowed on Management Vehicle Only roads and seasonally closed roads.		Refer to Section 5.4
HUNTING		
A small amount of feedback requested removing hunting from Brady's Swamp for conservation reasons and Plantation Campground (for visitor safety reasons).		Refer to Section 5.4
HANG-GLIDING		
Providing for launching hang-gliders and paragliders from Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park was suggested.		Refer to Section 5.4

Caring for Country Together

SHARING TRADITIONAL OWNER KNOWLEDGE

Respondents expressed the desire for a wider sharing of knowledge between Traditional Owners, scientific experts, and others with experience and knowledge of the landscape.

Refer to
Chapter 3
and Section
6.1

VOLUNTEERING

There was support for community involvement in management, from volunteer programs helping with on-ground management to citizen science.

Refer to
Section 6.3



Victoria Valley

2 Vision and zoning

2.1 Vision

The Vision has been developed after seeking input from Traditional Owners and the broader community. It embraces Traditional Owner assertions. It seeks to give reality to the concept of Healthy Parks – Healthy People, Parks Victoria’s Vision and the directions in the statewide Land Management Strategy for Parks and Reserves, which is in preparation. It reflects the significance of the landscape, expresses natural, cultural and community values, as well as the partnerships needed to achieve it. This shared vision (below) will underpin strategic planning for the landscape over the next fifteen years. Each paragraph of the vision guides a subsequent chapter in the plan (chapters 3 to 6).

Gariwerd — Symbolic, Spiritual, Healing

Gariwerd is a Traditional Owner cultural landscape, celebrated by the whole community for its continued connection with Traditional Owners, reflecting their voice, knowledge, history, heritage and cultural practices. Managed for thousands of years of use by the People of Gariwerd, the landscape retains a wealth of significant cultural values and layers of history that continues to be shaped through the process of cultural renewal and strengthening of connection to Country.

Country has been impacted by past land uses and natural disasters and is now recovering under the guidance of its Traditional Owners. Gariwerd continues to be a spiritual and healing place for all, a home to thriving communities of native plants and animals and a source of life-giving water to many neighbouring and distant communities.

Gariwerd’s Traditional Owners welcome people to experience the awe of its inspiring places and learn how their culture and the environment are intrinsically linked. It is a premier destination for recreational and cultural experiences, a place to respectfully enjoy and connect with nature, a treasured location to quietly relax or participate in a range of adventures. All use of the land is managed in a way that protects Gariwerd and its values.

The community works with Traditional Owners, helping Care for Country and sharing the benefit of Healthy Country. Traditional Owner knowledge and science work together to provide insight into Gariwerd and the protection of its values ensuring Country continues to heal and build resilience.

Parks Victoria's Land Management Strategy for Parks and Reserves will identify a comprehensive set of principles to ensure that park management decisions are consistent, transparent, practical, well informed and well considered; that protection of environmental and cultural values is paramount; and that risks are assessed and managed. These principles will guide the management of the Greater Gariwerd Landscape.

Additional principles to inform the care, safeguarding and management of Country have been identified by Traditional Owners:

- All parts of Gariwerd have cultural meanings and associated values for Traditional Owners.
- The Traditional Owners of Gariwerd are recognised rights-holders for their Country.
- Traditional Owner cultural heritage is central to all planning for Gariwerd and a key to effective management.
- Traditional Owners guide planning for the visitor experience of Gariwerd.
- Traditional Owners will have access to and use of Gariwerd for cultural purposes, activities and events as part of strengthening connections to Country.
- Gariwerd is celebrated, managed and promoted for its vibrant Traditional Owner culture and use of local languages, being a place of learning, with an emphasis on local produce and distinctive experiences and as a landscape of serenity and peace.
- Traditional Owners will guide the identification and documentation of new and known cultural places including habitats and ecologies that support key cultural species.

2.2 Management zones

Management zones indicate which management directions have priority in different parts of parks and reserves and the types and appropriate level of use based on the values within those zones. Zoning identifies the most significant areas within the landscape so they can be managed to allow those values to persist and flourish. Zoning minimises potential conflicts between uses and the protection of the values of parks and reserves, providing a basis for assessing the suitability of future activities and development proposals.

Overlays (Section 2.3) may also be applied to provide additional management direction in a zone for specified activities or values. Where overlays and zones coincide and there is conflict between their provisions, the more restrictive prescriptions apply.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are established to restore and maintain significant areas of intact Country to support healthy natural and cultural landscapes. They allow for localised natural and cultural values (such as threatened species or rock art) to be given high levels of protection, for example by restricting certain activities that are allowed in the surrounding zone.

Four zones have been applied to the Greater Gariwerd Landscape (Map 2). The zones and their management purposes are summarised in Table 2.1. Provisions and restrictions for specific activities within zones are provided in Table 5.2.

Table 2.1 Purposes and locations of management zones (see Map 2)

Cultural Conservation Zone Purpose: To recognise the area as an Aboriginal Cultural Landscape and protect the areas where the highest cultural landscape values are found, including related natural processes and biodiversity. Appropriate recreation and tourism are permitted subject to close management to ensure they are sensitive to the identified values. Location: The whole of Black Range State Park, Black Range Scenic Reserve, Brady Swamp State Game Reserve, Red Rock Bushland Reserve, Mount Talbot Scenic Reserve and Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park with the exception of Reference Areas and the Recreation Development Zone.
Conservation and Recreation Zone Purpose: To protect environmental and cultural values while allowing for recreation and tourism activities where these do not have significant impact on natural processes, which are integral also to the cultural landscape values. The zone is applied in some reserves that are less restrictive to recreational activities and uses. Location: The whole of each reserve and unreserved Crown lands: Bellellen Bushland Reserve, Cherrypool Highway Park, Fyans Creek Bushland Reserve, Lady Somers Bridge Streamside Reserve, Millers Creek Bushland Reserve, Mount Difficult Plantation Campground, Mount William Creek Streamside Reserve, Moyston West Bushland Reserve, Reids Bushland Reserve, Rowes Bushland Reserve.
Reference Area Zone Purpose: Reference Areas proclaimed under the Reference Areas Act 1978 where all human activity is kept to the essential minimum and, as far as practicable, the only long-term change results from natural processes. The only access to these zones is for the management of natural processes, emergency operations and approved research. Public access is not permitted. They may then be used for comparative study against areas where human interaction and activities occur. Location: The Sisters, Moora Valley, Grasstree Creek, all within Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.
Recreation Development Zone Purpose: Small areas with a high level of facility development that cater for high numbers of visitors. Location: Brambuk Cultural Centre and adjacent grounds.

2.3 Overlays

The Overlays and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for Gariwerd and their management purposes are identified in Maps 2 and 3 and summarised in Table 2.2 and Appendix 3. Provisions and restrictions for specific activities within overlays and SPAs are provided in Table 5.2.

Remote and Natural Areas (RNAs) are defined in the National Parks Act, which prescribes directions to prevent or minimise degradation of an RNA's natural condition or appearance. The management plan cannot amend the legislated extent or general management aims of these areas.

Visitor Experience Areas (VEAs) are used by Parks Victoria to define areas within parks in which carefully planned recreational activities and visitor experiences are provided for visitors in suitable settings where this is not in contravention to any regulatory obligations or conservation objectives. They provide a focus area for more detailed planning, as described in Chapter 5 – Experiencing Gariwerd.

Sky Country Overlay recognises that night skies are significant in Traditional Owner culture and that the absence of excessive light should be maintained to enhance and promote night sky viewing. The overlay applies to most of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park, apart from the areas around towns such as Halls Gap and other developed areas in the park vicinity. The park provides beautiful vistas of the stars and Milky Way

and is an inspiring natural wonder not usually seen by visitors from urban areas. It is a practical approach to protect night skies, mountain silhouettes and skylines of places associated with Traditional Owner stories and astronomical knowledge that can be impacted by light pollution. It can be implemented by being aware of and designing to minimise lighting impacts from existing and new infrastructure, lookouts and viewing points, trails on high ridgelines and escarpments and also raise awareness about the sensible use of lighting by visitors to enhance their experience.

Other areas have additional protection through legislative means, such as species and ecological communities listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act and Special Water Supply Catchment Areas declared under the Catchment and Land Protection Act. Around 75 per cent of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park is a designated Special Water Supply Catchment Area. Such areas have not been mapped or zoned but will be managed in accordance with relevant legislation and regulations.

Some small, localised areas are managed for specific uses such as public infrastructure. These areas are managed in accordance with licences, leases and other legislative consent processes (see Section 5.8 – Authorised uses).

Table 2.2 Purposes and locations of overlays and Special Protection Areas (see Map 2 and Map series 3)

Remote and Natural Area (RNA) Overlay

Purpose: To protect remote and natural attributes and prevent new and incremental developments including the construction of vehicle tracks, walking tracks and new structures.

Location: Victoria Range, Serra Range and Major Mitchell Plateau in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.

Visitor Experience Area (VEA) Overlay

Purpose: To guide the provision of visitor services and infrastructure in accordance with specific directions for each area.

Location: See Chapter 5 – Experiencing Gariwerd and Maps 3A–3H

Sky Country Overlay

Purpose: To protect views of the night sky and silhouettes of the mountains from remote areas and significant viewing points.

Location: Applied to the whole of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.

Special Protection Area (Cultural)

Purpose: To protect significant intact Country and Traditional Owner cultural values and practices.

Location: High-value areas for specific Traditional Owner cultural values.

Special Protection Area (Natural Values)

Purpose: To protect significant intact Country and its ecosystems, including refugia, by minimising human disturbance and maintaining habitat health for threatened wildlife and other species.

Location: High-value areas for specific natural values.

2.4 Special Protection Areas

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are overlays where a high level of management and protection is required, including restrictions on activities, to avoid impacts to cultural and natural values. Their purpose is to restore and maintain significant areas of intact Country to support healthy natural and cultural landscapes. SPAs provide a broad range of benefits for biodiversity and cultural landscapes. Protection of cultural areas, habitats for threatened fauna, and high-elevation ecosystems will provide outcomes that benefit many other species and support the preservation of cultural values yet to be rediscovered. Intact Country will support resilience of the landscape as the parks face the impacts of climate change and the pressures of growing visitation.

A key concept for managing SPAs is to maintain intact Country, where human impact (including disturbances from visitors and infrastructure) is minimised, preserve Country and enabling it to heal and flourish. This is a common feature of management approaches for other park management zones and overlays, such as Reference Area Zones and Remote and Natural Areas Overlays.

Two types of SPAs have been identified for Gariwerd: Natural Values SPAs and Cultural SPAs. Like Reference Areas, SPAs provide a reference opportunity for evaluating the health of habitats and management effectiveness. The approval of scientific research and monitoring within SPAs will consider the implications for values and objectives.

The establishment of new walking tracks and other visitor infrastructure is not supported in SPAs. Passive access will be permitted for transient activities with a lower level of disturbance, such as walking on designated tracks (see Table 5.2 for further clarification). The restrictions applied in SPAs will generally not apply to activities ordinarily undertaken on any existing roads and tracks that are open to public vehicles. Peace, quiet and serenity are a key aspect of being on intact Country, enabling visitors can experience the natural environment without artificial noise intrusion.

Cultural SPAs

Cultural SPAs are areas that hold a high density of significant registered Traditional Owner cultural heritage and cultural places with tangible and intangible Traditional Owner cultural values that require protection from human disturbance (see Chapter 3). Fifty Cultural SPAs have been identified in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape, including precincts of significant rock art. These SPAs are to be managed as intact Country.

A secondary objective for Cultural SPAs is to support Traditional Owner cultural practices, cultural strengthening, and renewal and reconnection to Country. This may include, for example, new rock art and quarry sites, or the return and repatriation of cultural material and ancestral remains. As rights-holders, the Traditional Owners may undertake these activities anywhere in Gariwerd. Cultural SPAs, however, recognise areas exclusively dedicated to these purposes. The health of the indigenous flora, fauna and natural resources will also benefit from the protection of these areas. During the life of this plan, additional areas may be established in response to Traditional Owner requirements for cultural activities, or where significant rediscoveries occur.

Primary objectives for intact Country

Preservation and Minimal Disturbance — Prevent vegetation loss, habitat fragmentation, erosion and impacts to cultural values by minimising disturbance from visitor activities and infrastructure.

Natural Quiet — Reduce noise from visitor activities to reduce disturbance to Country, cultural values and practices, and species and their habitats.

Scientific Reference — Provide opportunities for scientific research in a context of low human impact and disturbance.

Refugia — Provide ecological refuge to support resilience to the impacts of climate change, such as drought and fire.

Return of culturally and ecologically significant wildlife — Provide opportunities for the release or translocation of threatened fauna to the most suitable and protected habitats, and support natural processes so that these species survive and expand their populations.

Natural Values SPAs

Natural Values SPAs are crucial areas of intact Country and ecosystems. Twenty-seven Natural Values SPAs have been identified in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape, including some that overlap. For Traditional Owners, the wildlife is a cultural and symbolic identity for these areas and guides how to care for Country. The number of areas within each Country are as follows:

- Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby Country (7 areas)
- Southern Brown Bandicoot Country (11 areas)
- Smoky Mouse Country (12 areas)
- Long-nosed Potoroo Country (5 areas)
- High Altitude Country (5 areas)
- Platypus Country (1 area).

Ecological modelling has determined that these areas have the highest habitat suitability for the recovery of several threatened and endemic species. The objectives for these areas include habitat specific requirements (see section 4.1), including those relating to fire management (see section 4.2). They are also potential sites for future translocation or reintroduction of threatened wildlife. These habitats will also provide critical refugia for the resilience of these species and others against the impacts of climate change, drought and fire. These SPAs provide a focus for complementary management such as predator control to support the recovery of threatened fauna. The iconic endemic flora and relatable wildlife within these habitat refuges helps foster greater community support for threatened species conservation.

Managed as quiet places to minimise disturbance to iconic species and their habitats, all the SPAs provide protection that benefits the whole of Country. They also provide a reference opportunity for evaluating management effectiveness and monitoring the health of Country and ecosystems that support and strengthen its recovery (see Chapter 4). While the protection of habitats to support the perseverance and recovery of threatened species is one of the objectives for Natural Values SPAs, these areas and Cultural Values SPAs will also provide positive outcomes for other flora and fauna species.



Grass-trees, Mount Zero Road



Rock shelter, Taipan Wall

3 Gariwerd — a living, cultural landscape

The Vision for Gariwerd – a living, cultural landscape is:

Gariwerd is a Traditional Owner cultural landscape, celebrated by the whole community for its continued connection with Traditional Owners, reflecting their voice, knowledge, history, heritage and cultural practices. Managed for thousands of years of use by the People of Gariwerd, the landscape retains a wealth of significant cultural values and layers of history that continues to be shaped through the process of cultural renewal and strengthening of connection to Country.

The vision for Gariwerd embraces the relationship Traditional Owners have had with Country over tens of thousands of years. A better community understanding and appreciation of the rich cultural heritage and values of Gariwerd will be instrumental in how we collectively manage and interpret it going forward. This includes how we care for Country (Chapter 4) and how people experience Country (Chapter 5). The practices, knowledge, experience and aspirations of Traditional Owners guide the strategies in this plan that have been co-designed with Parks Victoria.

This management plan is an important opportunity to support the Traditional Owners of Gariwerd to express the significance and meaning of their Country. This includes cultural, natural and spiritual elements – both tangible and intangible. All parts of Gariwerd have significance to the Traditional Owners. Their Ancestors walked across the land and their stories are embedded in the land, waters and night skies above Gariwerd. It is a place that now also connects Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, offering a rich heritage that is a vital legacy for all. Recognition of the challenging shared histories in Gariwerd is a foundation to the pathway for reconciliation.

In addition to building a common understanding with the community and visitors of the rich cultural meanings and associated values of Gariwerd, Traditional Owners have the following aspirations:

- Landscapes, features and values associated with Traditional Owner cultural places are recognised, respected, protected and celebrated.
- Cultural renewal and strengthening reconnects Traditional Owners with Country, community and identity, enabling cultural continuity and revitalising knowledge and practices.

To help develop a deeper understanding of Gariwerd, a historical narrative of the landscape with reference to the People of Gariwerd, has been prepared using historical themes defined in the Gariwerd Cultural Values Report (Context 2020). The thematic approach provides the context and linkages between people, places and stories to establish an overall history and inform future management of the area, including the protection of significant cultural places. This is particularly relevant as Traditional Owner cultural heritage is rediscovered across Gariwerd.

The themes seek to capture Traditional Owner knowledge and experience of living in and around Gariwerd for tens of thousands of years. While often associated with ‘traditional’ and ancient knowledge, these

themes are also relevant to Traditional Owners and their lives today. They were developed through consultation with representatives of the three Traditional Owner corporations (BGLC, EMAC, GMTOAC) and have been used to inform much of this chapter. The themes and parallel matters are reported in more detail in Greater Gariwerd Landscape Traditional Owner Cultural Values (Context 2020). The themes are as follows:

Creating Country relates to the making of Gariwerd by creation ancestors as illustrated in creation stories.

Living on Country describes the ways in which Traditional Owners settled and occupied Gariwerd for more than 22,000 years and how they used and will continue to shape the use of its resource-rich landscapes.

Caring for Country explores the ways in which Traditional Owners managed the landscape and adapted to changing climate and environments over a long period of time. This theme also informs Chapter 4.

Spiritual Life explores Traditional Owner ceremony and ritual, relationships with the land and the cosmos.

Resistance and Defending Country addresses conflict between Traditional Owners and colonists, as well as resisting government restrictions on Aboriginal lives. It also incorporates the stories of Traditional Owners who fought in the armed services.

Living with Colonists explores the Traditional Owner experience of colonisation — disease, violence, friendship, trade and exchange of goods, government interventions and forced removal from Country — particularly from the nineteenth century to the mid twentieth century.

Work and Livelihoods relates to employment in and around Gariwerd and the livelihoods of Traditional Owners, particularly in the twentieth century. It also relates to Gariwerd as a place of recreation and enjoyment.

Cultural Renewal and Strengthening relates to mechanisms that allow for continuing cultural renewal and strengthening, including changes to legislation, in particular, to the period from the 1960s when Aboriginal peoples increasingly gained recognition and rights as Traditional Owners with responsibilities to care for Country. It also relates to cultural heritage management, as well as the return and repatriation of cultural material and Aboriginal Ancestral Remains that have been removed from Country by settlers, ethnographers, anthropologists and archaeologists.

Self-determination and Land Justice relates to Aboriginal activism to ensure recognition, rights to Country, native title claims and joint management of parks.

The themes and related matters are integrated into the following sections, which emphasise the layered impact people have had on Gariwerd over time, as well as the meaning this place holds for people:

- **The ancient cultural landscape** — Section 3.1. This section describes the early landscape and dynamic interactions between Traditional Owners and Gariwerd (Creating Country, Living on Country, Caring for Country, and Spiritual Life).
- **A shared truth for healing and reconciliation** — Section 3.2. This section relates the experience of invasion and occupation of Gariwerd by colonisers (Resistance and Defending Country, Living with Colonists, and Work and Livelihoods).
- **Colonial heritage** — Section 3.3. This section recognises the associations and colonial heritage values Europeans developed within the cultural landscape.
- **Traditional Owner cultural places** — Section 3.4. This section provides an overview of Traditional Owner cultural values and their management.
- **Cultural renewal and strengthening** — Section 3.5. This section refers to the ability for Traditional Owners to continuously reconnect with Country, community and identity (Cultural Renewal and Strengthening, and Self-determination and Land Justice).

Gariwerd creation ancestors

The People of Gariwerd explain the creation of the landscape and its features through stories of the journeys and actions of creation ancestors. The journeys of these ancestral beings 'sculpted the landscape' and created the land, animals, plants and people. Physical landscape features demonstrate the presence of creation ancestors. Creation stories also served as a mechanism of wayfinding through the landscape.

Babimbal the Wattlebird. Assisted the Bram-bram-bult brothers move Tchingal the Emu's large egg.

Barra / Purra. Giant Kangaroo, whose hopping through Country made the tracks and the bed of the Wimmera River. His ferocious appetite resulted in Guru (Lake Hindmarsh) and Lake Albacutya.

Bram-bram-bult brothers. Two brothers, sons of Druk the Frog, who made the languages, named the animals and gave the laws. Three of the spears hurled by the brothers at Tchingal are visible in the Southern Cross, while the brothers themselves are the two Pointers to the Southern Cross. Mount Abrupt is the body left behind by one of the Bram-bram-bult brothers.

Bunjil. 'Great Ancestor Spirit' who created the world, including all plants, animals and people. Bunjil's Shelter in the Black Range Scenic Reserve shows Bunjil and his two Dingoes (Wilkurr). Bunjil takes the form of Werpil the Eagle. Bunjil is represented by a star, Altair, that protects the natural world, people and their beliefs.

Bunya. The man who was chased by Tchingal the Emu. For his timidity, Bunya was turned into a possum by the elder Bram-bram-bult brother. Visible in the Southern Cross as the head star.

Bunyip. Encountered by Bunjil at a place in the Black Range Scenic Reserve.

Doan. Gliding possum and nephew of the Bram-bram-bult brothers.

Druk (Dok) the Frog. Mother of the Bram-bram-bult brothers. Visible as the eastern star of the Southern Cross.

Gertuk. A mopoke who the Bram-bram-bult brothers punished for his greed.

Tarrakukk the Hawk. Took the firestick from Yuuloin keear the Fire-Tail Wren and set the whole of Gariwerd on fire.

Tchingal. A ferocious Emu who lived on the flesh of people and animals. Created Barigar (Roses Gap) and Jananginj Njai (Victoria Gap) while chasing Waa the Crow. Fatally wounded by the Bram-bram-bult brothers.

Werrigan / Wilkurr. Dingo. Depicted in Bunjil's Shelter as Bunjil's two helpers.

Waa the Crow. Ancestral figure who was chased by Tchingal the Emu. Moora Moora Swamp was Waa's totem site. Visible as the star Canopus.

Wembulin. A savage and bloodthirsty spider who killed the Bram-bram-bult brother's nephew, Doan.

Werpil the Eagle. See Bunjil.

Yuuloin keear the Fire-Tail Wren. Took a firestick from the crows.

3.1 The ancient cultural landscape

There are two perspectives on the origin of Gariwerd. One is based on Western knowledge of geology and the study of ancient environments (palaeo-environmental studies). The other is Traditional Owner lore and spirituality of the Dreaming from which stories provide an understanding of the origin of and connections to physical places in the landscape. When viewed together, these perspectives give visitors and the community a richer appreciation of the landscape and a sense of place.

For Traditional Owners, Gariwerd is the physical legacy of the journeys of the creation ancestors. All of the landscape is part of one or more creation stories and journeys, and both the actions and the physical bodies of creation ancestors remain as significant geological features, such as mountains or ranges, before their spirits left for Sky Country and they became specific stars or other features of the night sky, such as dark voids.

Spiritual stories, spiritual places

Bunjil (the Wedge-tailed Eagle) is recognised as the 'Great Ancestor Spirit' for all parts of the landscape and beyond. The stories of Bunjil tell how he created Country, including all people, plants and animals. A primary cultural place associated with Bunjil is Bunjil's Shelter, which contains a painted image of Bunjil and two accompanying Wilkurr (Dingo). The place is associated with initiation ceremonies and a nearby women's place. Bunjil is also associated with a place at Burrunj (Black Range) where he encountered Bunyip; and another place — the Bomoma Range — which takes the physical form of Bunjil and is a place where he rested. Bunjil is therefore a spirit being, a great man and leader, the Wedge-tailed Eagle. He is remembered at several significant cultural places along his journey, such as Bunjil's Shelter. His body is now the mountain on Bomoma Range and his spirit is one of the brighter stars of the night sky known to Western astronomy as Altair.

Bunjil appointed the Bram-bram-bult brothers to bring order to the new world; to name the animals and creatures, to make the languages and give the laws. The brothers are associated with silhouettes or outlines visible on the skyline of parts of Warranneyan (Mount William Range) and Gawa (Mount Difficult Range). The brothers were responsible for spearing and killing Tchingal, a ferocious Emu who lived on the flesh of people and animals.

Tchingal created Barigar (Roses Gap) and Jananginj Njau (Victoria Gap) during a fierce battle with Waa, the Crow. Moora Moora Swamp was Waa's sacred territory. Mud-dadjug (Mount Abrupt) is the body left behind by one of the Bram-bram-bult brothers when he became a star. The story of Tchingal is visible in the night sky of the Milky Way. Waa is the star Canopus. The Bram-bram-bult brothers are the two Pointers of the Southern Cross star constellation.

From the Western scientific perspective, these same landscape features are connected to geological processes. The geology of Gariwerd is made up of sediments deposited about 400 million years ago (Cayley & Taylor 1997). These sediments comprise layers of massive sandstones, siltstones and mudstones which were originally deposited in a river or shallow marine environment and then folded and tilted during the Middle Devonian period, with later smaller movements of the Earth's crust causing further warping. Valleys were formed through the erosion of softer surrounding sediments and along fault lines throughout the area. Granitic magma intruded into the sediments around 395 million years ago. The resultant deeply weathered batholiths (intrusive igneous rocks) formed low hills between Billawin (Victoria Range) and Serra Range.

At the southern margins of the Greater Gariwerd Landscape are the extensive volcanic plains of western Victoria. Volcanic activity that began some two million years ago created flows of basalt that blocked old drainage patterns, leading to the formation of a well-watered landscape of swamps, shallow lakes and fertile

grasslands (Bird & Frankel 2005, Calder 1987). This was a land of plenty for the original inhabitants, which Traditional Owners occupied from at least 22,000 years ago (Wettenhall 2018, Bird & Frankel 2005).

Gariwerd is the traditional Country of the Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung language groups. Early nineteenth century documentation suggests that the Jadawadjali were divided into at least 37 clans and the Djab Wurrung into 41 clans (Context 2020). Clark (1990) identified five Jadawadjali clans and nine Djab Wurrung clans associated with the ranges. These groups spoke closely related languages, sharing about 90 per cent of their vocabulary. To them the Grampians were known as Gariwerd — meaning the nose-like or pointed mountain (Wettenhall 2018). They had close ties with their neighbours to the north, east and south through intermarriage, a common language and shared matrilineal moiety organisation (Clark 1990).

Territories (band and clan boundaries) were generally defined by rivers and mountain ranges. People were divided into moieties according to parental bloodlines and a newborn child was given a totem — a plant or animal species — that connected them to Country. Djab Wurrung and Jadawadjali people divided themselves into two moieties — the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. Clans were required to care for Country through regular ceremony and singing the creation of their Country.

The Djab Wurrung and Jadawadjali language groups knew their Country intimately and moved around Country to cultivate and harvest food. As the People of Gariwerd moved around the landscape, they left physical evidence of their occupation, and their spiritual presence, at cultural heritage sites and specific places. For example, motifs associated with stories and ceremonies were created in rock art throughout Gariwerd. Traditional campsites are often rich with tangible heritage, and Traditional Owners feel a strong connection with their ancestors at such places. Campsites were a hive of activity as the People of Gariwerd went about their daily activities.

The spiritual importance of the Greater Gariwerd Landscape cannot be captured in a few tangible associations; it pervades the area as a whole. The landscape has spiritual significance to Traditional Owners as a place the ancestors walked over; where their ancestors were buried; a place that heals the spirit and cleanses the soul; where they can connect with the ancestors; and where remnants of ceremony can still be found.

The first colonists to encounter Gariwerd were the Surveyor-General of New South Wales, Major Thomas Mitchell, and his exploratory party, which included Granville Stapylton, an Aboriginal guide from Sydney named Piper, a botanist, and various servants. Mitchell's party moved south-west from what is now Stawell towards the ranges. After making their way through what is now Halls Gap, the party headed south and scaled Duwul, which Mitchell named Mount William after England's then reigning monarch, King William IV. Among the other names bestowed on Gariwerd at the time were Major Mitchell Plateau and Mount Stapylton, while Mitchell named the overall area 'the Grampians' after the rugged region in his native Scotland.

Colonists giving names to these mountains and ranges is considered by Traditional Owners to be part of the process of colonisation and dispossession, despite Mitchell's insistence that he had 'always gladly adopted [A]boriginal names and, in the absence of these, endeavoured to find some good reason for the application of others' (Mitchell 1836).

Symbolic names for ancient places

What's in a name? The names of places help us to value, understand and celebrate their heritage. Many places in the landscape have had Traditional Owner names for thousands of years. Using these names highlights the continuity, presence and importance of this cultural landscape and provides an exciting potential for the future of how we talk about these areas.

Traditional Owner language in place names is central to the identity of Gariwerd as a cultural landscape. It allows the Dreaming and richness of the landscape to be represented and celebrated, the Traditional Owner understandings and interpretations of this landscape to be reinstated for all to share, and the creation ancestors of Gariwerd and their spirit to be recognised today.

Within the parks and reserves, Parks Victoria is the naming authority that can apply names to visitor sites, administrative areas and zones, and in interpretive signs and other information. For example, Traditional Owner names are applied to all Grampians Peaks Trail campgrounds. Official geographic place names are established by a separate process managed by Geographic Names Victoria (GNV).

GNV promotes and encourages the use of Aboriginal language in the naming of roads, features and localities. The naming of places using Aboriginal language shows respect to Traditional Owners and highlights the importance of Aboriginal language, culture, identity and the history of Australia. Relevant Traditional Owner groups must be involved at the outset of any naming or renaming proposal that uses an Aboriginal name or names. Any proposed official name changes must also include broad consultation with community and impacted stakeholders as a requirement of the GNV renaming process.

Grampians National Park was named in 1984 when it was established and was renamed Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park in 1989. Park signage and visitor information was updated following the name change, but due to significant community backlash the name reverted to Grampians National Park, which is the current name of the park under the National Parks Act, while Victoria's Register of Geographic Names lists the park as Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. There is therefore a discrepancy between the National Parks Act and Victoria's Register of Geographic Names. Community sentiment has since changed, and there is growing recognition and positive views about the use of Aboriginal place names. Throughout this plan, Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park is used as the park name. This plan therefore proposes amending the National Parks Act in order to make the name consistent with Victoria's Register of Geographic Names.

In 1989, historian Ian Clark sourced historical and ethnographic accounts to develop an inventory of Aboriginal place names in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and its surrounds. A list of places in the planning area with known Aboriginal language names is provided in Appendix 1 (based on Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung names). It is important to recognise that Aboriginal place names and associated historical records may be contested, and further research may be required.

The reminiscences of Mitchell in 1836 and early colonisers and travellers in the 1840s, describe various aspects of Traditional Owner life including reference to their tracks made as they travelled through Gariwerd (Bride 1898). There were numerous tracks throughout the ranges and Mitchell and his party used some of them to navigate through the landscape. These tracks and pathways would have been used by groups of Traditional Owners going to important cultural sites and gathering places.

A rare insight into the daily procurement activities of the local population was reported by Mitchell after happening upon a discarded woven basket which contained:

'... three snakes; three rats; about two pounds of small fish, like white bait [galaxiid]; crayfish [yabby]; and a quantity of the small root of the cichoraceous plant tao [murnong], usually found

growing on the plains with a bright yellow flower. There were also in the bag various bodkins and colouring stones [ochre] and two mogos or stone hatchets.’ (Mitchell 1836).

Large groups of local and visiting tribes are known to have gathered at Lake Bolac and east of Duwul (Mount William) wetlands in late summer to catch the migrating eels. Robinson (1841, in Presland 1980) described coming across the Duwul (Mount William) aquaculture system, where he observed:

‘... an immense piece of ground trenched and banked, resembling the work of civilised man but which on inspection I found to be the work of Aboriginal natives, purposely constructed for catching eels ... These trenches are hundreds of yards in length ... In single measurement there must have been some thousands of yards of this trenching and banking ... The whole of the water from the mountain rivulet is made to pass through this trenching; it is hardly possible for a single fish to escape.’

This system is part of widespread aquaculture practices across western and central Victoria, which resulted in considerable modification of the landscape, best illustrated in the World Heritage listed Budj Bim Cultural Landscape. The wetland aquaculture system demonstrates that Traditional Owners have actively managed the productivity of the environment and natural resources for many thousands of years.

During the late summer migration of kooyang (eels), the Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung lived in large semi-permanent camps or villages set up adjacent to channel systems constructed to catch and feast on kooyang. At these places, people constructed sturdy wuurns (wind-resistant huts) made from strong limbs fashioned into a dome shape and covered with bark, grass and earth. Such huts are described as being large enough to comfortably fit a whole family and tall enough for a person to stand up (Dawson 1881). The extent and significance of the wetland aquaculture system and associated settlement structures to the east of Duwul (Mount William) is yet to be fully realised and is potentially comparable to the Lake Condah aquaculture system and stone settlements at Budj Bim.

Understanding the traditional life and culture of the People of Gariwerd provides an important perspective on how Traditional Owners relate to the landscape, and their enduring responsibility to care for Country and the legacy of their ancestors. This connection to the area tells a story of how the landscape has been managed over time, and the significance of the tangible and intangible values it encompasses. Many of the geological features across Gariwerd are Traditional Owner cultural and story places, and the landscape is rich in Traditional Owner cultural heritage that includes rock art, rock shelters (whether with known, tangible cultural materials or not), stone sources and quarries, rock wells, channels and stone arrangements.

Goal – The ancient cultural landscape

The dynamic cultural landscape, its features and stories are recognised, respected, protected and managed in collaboration with Traditional Owners.

Strategy	Priority
UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECTING THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE	
Understand Traditional Owner cultural value of landscape features, mountains, their silhouettes and skylines, and develop appropriate controls to maintain their symbolic and spiritual character, including the aesthetic values recognised under the National Heritage Listing (see also Section 5.8 – Authorised uses).	High
Highlight the connection of traditional stories to places in the landscape and develop an understanding of traditional life and the adaptation of the landscape (see Section 5.1 – Information, interpretation and education).	High

Goal – The ancient cultural landscape

The dynamic cultural landscape, its features and stories are recognised, respected, protected and managed in collaboration with Traditional Owners.

Strategy	Priority
Develop interpretative material to educate visitors about understanding and respecting the cultural landscape and undertaking activities in a manner that protects and preserves the landscape, including information on ‘rock stacking’ and other acts that damage, deface, remove or otherwise interfere with the landscape’s values (see Section 5.1 – Information, interpretation and education).	High
Develop appropriate controls to protect Traditional Owner cultural values of night skies associated with stories and astrological knowledge, maintaining the continued visibility of Sky Country (see Section 2.3 – Overlays).	High
Develop appropriate controls to protect Traditional Owner cultural values of peace, quiet and serenity as part of the experience of Country and to enhance the experience of visitors to Gariwerd (see Section 2.3 – Overlays).	High
Research and investigate the Duwul (Mount William) aquaculture system to rediscover and restore the system (see Section 6.4 – Research and monitoring).	Medium
RENAMING	
Promote the understanding of Traditional Owner place names and their meaning and significance within the cultural landscape through park information and interpretation.	Immediate
Amend the National Parks Act 1975 to rename Grampians National Park to Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park consistent with Victoria’s Register of Geographic Names.	High
In collaboration with Traditional Owners, research Traditional Owner place names and investigate renaming parks, reserves, mountain ranges and other geographic features as well as existing or new visitor sites. Possible changes for consideration include: — Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park (to Gariwerd National Park) — Black Range State Park (to Burrunj State Park) — Black Range Scenic Reserve (to Bunjil’s Scenic Reserve) — Red Rock Bushland Reserve (to Lil-Lil Bushland Reserve) — Mount William Range (to Warranneyan Range) — Victoria Range (to Billawin Range) — Mount Difficult Range (to Gawa Range) — Mount Abrupt (to Mount Mud-dadjug) — Grampians Peaks Trail Consider emergency management in renaming proposals to mitigate potential risks of geographic confusion for emergency reporting and response. Advise Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) of any name changes. Consult with the community regarding any proposed renaming of features.	Medium

3.2 A shared truth for healing and reconciliation

The historical account of the early colonial period in Australia has typically been characterised as a period of heroic exploration, a time of nation building in an environment of adversity. The history of conflict and dispossession of Aboriginal people was rarely acknowledged in school curriculums or understood by the public. Since the late twentieth century, that historical narrative has begun to be recognised as an incomplete and selective version of history. The assumption of Terra nullius (land belonging to no-one) was rejected and the doctrine of native title was established by the High Court's Mabo decision in the 1990s. The early colonial period is now also recognised as a period of invasion and dispossession. For Traditional Owners, colonisation is a process that still operates today; a process in which their culture is suppressed under the dominant Western culture. This is an on-going cause of distress and trauma for Traditional Owners. Decolonisation is the process by which Traditional Owners reassert their culture. Truth telling is constructive and essential to the path of healing and reconciliation.

Gariwerd and the surrounding landscape was the site of conflict between Traditional Owners and colonists. Traditional Owners were deeply impacted by disease and violence. They also experienced friendship and employment in and around Gariwerd.

While the Henty family were 'unauthorised' colonisers in western Victoria beforehand, it was not until Major Thomas Mitchell had traversed the region in 1836 that colonisers from Tasmania, New South Wales and other parts of Victoria started to move into the Western District.

Colonisers arrived in the Gariwerd region in the 1830s, mainly from the south and the east, bringing with them thousands of head of sheep and cattle. Although they were established on the plains on the eastern side of Gariwerd by the early 1840s, there was a lag in colonisation on the western side, which did not occur until a few years later (Bride 1898).

The arrival of the colonisers around Gariwerd, as was the case in the rest of the Port Phillip District, irrevocably changed the lives of the Traditional Owner populations. Some Traditional Owners acted as guides to escort the colonists through their Country. The guides showed the colonists the locations of waterholes, led them on the most accessible routes, saved their lives by giving them food and water and brought them to 'grazing lands', which the newcomers took possession of. The new colonisers were viewed as guests on Country and, in Aboriginal society where reciprocity was a key element, they would have been anticipating and expecting positive relations and outcomes in return for these welcoming gestures (Broome 2005).

The pattern of this invasion followed the main watercourses, the Glenelg, Wimmera and Hopkins rivers, as well as Mustons Creek and Salt Creek, with colonisers taking up prime sites along those rivers. Pristine waterways and their associated biodiversity were fundamentally degraded as they became progressively accessed by stock. Drainage works and water diversion turned productive wetlands into grazing paddocks. Country that had been managed by Traditional Owners on the plains and wetlands was quickly degraded by the changes brought by colonisers, who did not understand the need for sustainable management of the landscape they arrived in. Stock wandered freely over the landscape, eating and trampling important plant foods, notably murnong (Yam Daisy) and other tubers. Introduced grasses suffocated native grasses, orchids, lilies and herbs.

The occupation of the area by the colonisers caused massive disruption and upheaval to the lives of the Djab Wurrung and Jadawadjali — reducing Traditional Owner access to the land and its resources. As access to resources to sustain themselves diminished, Traditional Owners mounted attacks on some of the colonisers and their stations. The Gariwerd area provided a refuge from which the Djab Wurrung and Jadawadjali mounted raids on the colonists' properties, taking sheep and cattle to compensate for their loss of traditional foods (Coutts & Lorblanchet 1982, Bride 1898). Local histories record several cases of this happening (Context 2020).

The first synthesis of killings of Aboriginal people by colonisers during the early colonisation period in the Western District was produced in 1995 (Clark 1995). Often referred to as ‘frontier wars’, these violent clashes between the traditional population and the early European colonists illustrate the disparity in the dissemination of justice to the two groups. Traditional Owners found it difficult to compete against weapons such as guns, swords, cutlasses and poisons. In the Gariwerd area specifically, there were a number of colonists, who were either responsible for or took part in massacres of the People of Gariwerd (Context 2020).

In 1841, George Augustus Robinson, the government’s Chief Protector of Aborigines, travelled through the landscape, recording his observations and encounters with Traditional Owners of this area (Presland 1980). His journal recounts episodes of shootings by the colonisers and other violence (including sexual violence) against Aboriginal men, women and children.

Robinson commented on the colonists attacking the camps of the local Aboriginal peoples ‘under pretence of looking for stolen property’ and claims that it was a system that ‘ought not be tolerated, it is provoking hostility’ (Presland 1980). His sentiments were recognised by some colonists, who laid the blame for the counterattacks by Aboriginal people on the provocations of the colonisers motivated by occupying land (Bride 1898).

There are at least sixteen documented massacres on the pastoral runs associated with the planning area between 1839 and 1847, including near Mount Sturgeon, Mount William, Halls Gap, Mount Zero, Mount Talbot, Lake Lonsdale, and at Chimney Pots or Wando Vale. The evidence to support the accounts of massacres continues to be tested by historians. For example, one of the men involved in a massacre (at Chimney Pots) in 1839 reported it to the Gippsland Guardian in 1860. He described the four Whyte brothers, two other men and himself shooting down 69 Aboriginal people after pursuing them for taking 100 sheep into the Grampians Ranges. The attribution of the event at Chimney Pots may be problematic, as it may have been confused with a site near Wando Vale to the west of Gariwerd (Fighting Hills Massacre), as there is discrepancy in the sources (Clarke 1995; Gardiner 2010; the reference in the Gippsland Guardian 6 July 1860; and Ararat Advertiser June 1860).

Colonisers in the Gariwerd region introduced diseases, such as bronchitis, measles, scarlet fever, chicken pox and influenza (Campbell 2002, Broome 2005). Traditional Owners had no immunity to these diseases, and the population was decimated.

Early nineteenth century estimates of the Jadawadjali population are 1500 to 4400 and for the Djab Wurrung 1600 to 5000 (Clark 1990). By the mid nineteenth century the number of Jadawadjali is estimated to have been 455 and Djab Wurrung 403 (Clark 1990).

The coloniser families who occupied the areas in the late 1830s and early 1840s were in 1846 granted pre-emptive rights by the New South Wales colonial government to 640 acres to enable the permanent occupation of homestead sites. By the mid 1840s there were almost 300 squatting runs licensed in the

Research undertaken by the University of Newcastle estimates that around fifty massacres were perpetrated in Victoria between 1788 and 1930, killing over 1000 victims (University of Newcastle 2020).

Clark estimates that the Djab Wurrung were victims in at least 35 massacres and Jadawadjali were victims in at least 17 (Clark 1995).

Even today, such atrocities are challenging for many parts of the community to acknowledge. The sense of sadness, loss, anger and despair is a continuing legacy of trauma that is still profoundly felt by Traditional Owners today. While present and future generations are not accountable for the actions of the past, it is important for society to recognise the ongoing impacts of that legacy. Open and respectful recognition of this shared history is an opportunity for healing and reconciliation that will underpin effective partnerships in the landscape.

Western District, reaching into the Gariwerd area. Colonists exerted pressure on the government for more land and their interests ultimately prevailed.

Colonisers took 'ownership' of the land of the Djab Wurrung and Jadawadjali and, in doing so, the landscape and ecosystems that the People of Gariwerd relied upon became irrevocably changed. In less than ten years after colonisation, they found themselves without access to their traditional living, hunting, ceremonial and ritual places. As access to and availability of traditional resources diminished, traditional means of livelihood gave way to working for the colonists. As this labour was either unpaid, paid in liquor, or severely underpaid, it was impossible for people to feed their families without seeking additional work (Broome 2005).

Throughout the Port Phillip District, Traditional Owners were engaged in various manual labouring jobs during the early colonial period (late 1830s and 1840s). They were employed in pastoral work, farming, seasonal harvesting, washing sheep, ploughing, driving bullock teams, constructing dams, bark stripping, labouring and seasonal work. Aboriginal men were renowned as excellent stockmen, and many of the large pastoral properties in western Victoria in the mid nineteenth century operated with the skilled assistance of Aboriginal labour.

To the new arrivals, the land was something apart from them — a commodity, a means of profit-making, a resource to be bought, sold and used for personal gain.

To the People of Gariwerd the land was part of their identity; they, the land, the water and everything on it were interconnected (Calder 1987).

Aboriginal women found employment as nursemaids and domestic help, and also traded items with colonisers, such as traditional woven baskets and animal skins. Men undertook work such as carrying water and chopping wood in return for food (Broome 2005). Although there were Traditional Owners living (and working) on pastoral stations through the 1850s, many others were living in dire circumstances on the fringes of settlements, with depleted sources of food and clothing and reliant on hand-outs.

By the 1850s the plains surrounding the Gariwerd ranges were almost completely in the control of the colonists. By 1851 Gariwerd itself had become part of the jigsaw of interconnecting pastoral runs, with several runs encroaching on the Gariwerd ranges. Through subsequent provisions in Victoria's land legislation, including the selection acts of the early 1860s, this also set in train the accumulation of vast areas of surrounding land as large private pastoral estates.

The 1860s was the last decade in which Traditional Owners held large gatherings and performed religious ceremonies and corroborees on Country (Clarke 1995, Wettenhall 2018). By the 1870s, most of the People of Gariwerd were relocated (both forcibly and voluntarily) to the reserves at Lake Condah, Ebenezer and Framlingham. The missions and reserves provided Aboriginal people with food and shelter, but in return they were expected to become Christian and 'civilised' and adopt Western values and customs. Further injustice was inflicted through the introduction of the *Aborigines Protection Act 1869* (Vic). This Act sanctioned the removal of Aboriginal children from their families and those children being adopted or placed in institutions, where they were trained for domestic service or as farm workers.

Traditional Owners continued to live on the missions in western Victoria, where they sought, against the odds, to preserve what they could of their language and culture. By the late 1920s the Victorian Government had closed the Aboriginal reserves in western Victoria. The remaining residents were moved to Lake Tyers in Gunaikurnai country (Gippsland), which was a long way from home. Some of those who remained on Country near Gariwerd lived impoverished lives in camps and shanty towns up to the mid-twentieth century. Because of the movement of Aboriginal people across Victoria, to missions and through marriages, the descendants of people who lived on those missions have multiple connections to Country across Victoria and form a rich web of kinship today.

These local histories, particularly of conflict and massacres, have rarely ever been told or acknowledged when interpreting the cultural history of Gariwerd. The truth of those events not only provides a more

accurate understanding of history as well as a deeper appreciation for places in the parks, it is central to healing and reconciliation.

Goal – Healing and reconciliation

The history of colonisation, including resistance and defending of Country, is better and more accurately communicated and interpreted to improve the cultural knowledge of visitors to Gariwerd.

Strategy	Priority
Working with Traditional Owners and colonial historians, develop messages about Traditional Owner and colonial history for Gariwerd that considers: — communications and learning opportunities along the Grampians Peaks Trail as people travel in the footsteps of Traditional Owners — the integration of stories into contemporary park management information — land-use changes, their timeline and impacts on the landscape and Traditional Owners, alongside perspectives on supporting healing and reconciliation — acknowledgement and recognition of massacres (and massacre sites) in the landscape.	High
Develop joint stories at colonial heritage sites like Brim Springs, Zumsteins, Mafeking, Migunang wirab (MacKenzie Falls) and vantage points along the Grampians Peaks Trail.	High

3.3 Colonial heritage

The colonists who settled Gariwerd in the mid-nineteenth century brought a very different approach to managing the land than that practised by Traditional Owners. Resources were extracted (e.g. water, stone and gold) and forests cleared to allow sheep to be grazed and crops to be cultivated. Pastoral runs were amalgamated into large and enduring family-owned pastoral estates. The industriousness and ingenuity of the colonists created the towns and infrastructure of the region as we see it today.

However, these developments had a catastrophic impact on Traditional Owners, despite the resistance described in Section 3.2. Natural and cultural values were damaged. Place names and language that were thousands of years old were replaced with those of Scotland, England and the family names of colonisers. The colonial heritage of the landscape is therefore one of remarkable achievements that should be remembered and understood, while recognising the costs and impacts on the society and culture of the Traditional Owners.

Early colonists who established pastoral runs and wheat farming included Lieutenant Robert Briggs and Charles Hall (whose name was given to Halls Gap). The mountains themselves, which were generally unsuitable for grazing and farming, became valued for their resources of water, stone, timber and gold. As European settlement spread, Gariwerd became a vital source of water for farming and domestic purposes for a large part of north-western Victoria, and to this day continues to be an important water supply to Victorian communities.

In 1880 a weir was built on Fyans Creek to provide water to Stawell. This weir diverted some of the flow into a 12 kilometre wooden flume system built through dense bush to tunnel one kilometre long. The system was conceived and designed by John D’Alton, Stawell’s Borough Engineer, who came to Australia from Ireland in 1861 and who, with his family, became an early occupier of Halls Gap in 1878. The water supply system operated entirely by gravity – no pumps were required – and up to 10 million gallons (38 megalitres) a day

could be delivered to storage reservoirs. The flume system was eventually replaced with an underground pipeline in 1955. The tunnel, which took five years to complete, is still in service.

In 1887 the first reservoir was constructed at Lake Wartook to supply the Wimmera Mallee Stock and Domestic Supply System. Other water management infrastructure and storages were subsequently developed including Lake Lonsdale (1903), Lake Fyans (1916), Moora Moora Reservoir and channel system (1934), Rocklands Reservoir (1953) and Lake Bellfield (1966). These have changed the flow of water across and from Gariwerd. Most of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park is a designated water supply catchment area servicing many communities in the broader Grampians, Wimmera, Mallee and central areas of Victoria (see Section 4.3 – Catchments, hydrology and water management).

Halls Gap became a venue for local holiday makers during the 1890s, and sufficient settlement occurred for a school to be opened in 1890. Holidays houses were built at Halls Gap and further upstream at Bellfield. The 'Borough Huts', built to accommodate workers and water supply rangers, formed a small village.

The desire for high-quality sandstone for building construction in the early years of Melbourne spawned a local quarrying industry, especially at Mud-dadjug (Mount Abrupt) and Gar (Mount Difficult). During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, large amounts of high-quality freestone (sandstone) were carved from the slopes of the Gar (Mount Difficult) Range at Heatherlie Quarry. Many features of the quarry remain today, including machinery, powder magazine, power plant, rail tracks and stone cottages. The Heritage Council of Victoria identifies Heatherlie Quarry as a place of historical, scientific (technical) and social significance at the state level. The quarry provided the first durable freestone discovered in Victoria. The quarry is also of historical significance for its involvement, from 1882 onwards, with the supply of stone for Parliament House in Melbourne and the Stawell Court House.

In 1900 gold was discovered on the eastern side of Mount William (Calder 1987). This resulted in a large rush to the area in what became known as the Mafeking rush, with the Mount William Goldmine at Mafeking operating until 1912.

Other industries also emerged in the Gariwerd area. Timber mills were built and bark was harvested for roofing and for use in the leather industry as tannin. While the mills and forestry huts of timber workers no longer remain, the sites of those activities are part of the landscape's history. Industries also developed in response to wartime demands. Charcoal was burnt to provide an alternative to petrol for vehicles and firewood was needed for homes and industries in Melbourne (Calder 1987). The area that is now Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park was managed as state forest from 1872 to 1984. Following the declaration of the park in 1984, timber harvesting was phased out and ceased in 1994.

Gariwerd has been an important site for apiculture for over 100 years and supported some of the earliest apiary sites in Victoria. Honey production is a significant industry, with 100 sites in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and 10 in Black Range State Park (see Section 5.8 – Authorised uses).

From the late 1860s the 'Grampians' was promoted as a place of remarkable scenic beauty. In 1885 a Victorian Railways Tourist Guide promoted the area as a tourist destination describing it as 'a favourite resort for sportsmen, artists and camping-out parties who wish to enjoy wild grandeur and lone magnificence of the region' (Calder 1987). The extension of railways to nearby Stawell, Ararat and Dunkeld was an important factor in the increasing popularity of the ranges in the early twentieth century (Wilkie 2020).

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria publicised the beauty and interest of the Grampians through talks illustrated with lantern slides. Postcards of the Grampians became available. The area was promoted as a nature-lovers' holiday destination, and by the early 1900s cottages and guesthouses were opening in the mountains and bus tours were being organised from Melbourne. After World War II many roads in the area were improved, bringing a growing number of visitors to the Grampians.



Figure 3.2 Grampians via Stawell travel poster, 1950s. (Source: State Library of Victoria)

At the turn of the twentieth century a local tourist association was formed to renew interest in the area after a period of local economic decline. In the 1920s, with growing car ownership and the construction of tourist roads in the ranges, the Grampians became a popular holiday destination for motorists. Government spending on roadmaking and the building of guesthouses and cottages (e.g. Zumsteins cottages), along with the keen interest shown in the area by the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, combined to increase tourism in Gariwerd and its surrounding area. A 1950s poster highlighted the interest in flora, depicting what looks like murnong (Yam Daisy) in the foreground on the right (Figure 3.2).

For many Victorians, Zumsteins is a name that conjures up timeless memories of holidays in the area. During the 1930s three rammed earth cottages were built, using soil excavated from a large nearby swimming pool fed by the river. Pines and poplar trees were planted and timber bridges built across the river. The campground was eventually closed in 1994.

Recreation at Gariwerd has continued to grow in popularity, bringing significant economic benefits to the region. For many people in Victoria and South Australia, Gariwerd is their first connection with the natural environment, having visited the area with school groups and camps. Once made, this is a lasting connection as Gariwerd regularly attracts repeat visitors.

Gariwerd has inspired works by many significant Australian artists, such as painters Eugene von Guerard, Nicholas Chevalier, Louis Buvelot, Arthur Streeton and Arthur Boyd; photographers such as Charles Nettleton, Frank Hurley, Peter Walton, David Tatnell, Harry Nankin and Steve Parish; writers such as Arthur Upfield and Donald Charlwood; poets such as Phillip Mead and JK McDougall; and film-maker Arch Nicholson (Australian Government 2006).

Gariwerd is also a place much loved by field naturalists, tour guides and the local community, many of whom have contributed significantly to restoring the health of the landscape through initiatives such as Landcare and the Good Neighbour program. The Friends of Grampians Gariwerd (a volunteer group encouraging and educating people to understand, enjoy and protect the national park) started life as Friends of Grampians in 1984, the day the national park was declared. Additional information on the ongoing role of the community in caring for Gariwerd can be found in chapters 4 and 6, including engagement on fire planning and response through the Grampians Roundtable (see Section 4.2 – Fire management) and Partnerships between Parks Victoria and community organisations, groups and networks that can support not only conservation, but education and visitor experience programs (see Section 6.3: Working with community).

Goal — Colonial heritage

The significant associations and colonial heritage values Europeans developed for the landscape are understood, protected and celebrated.

Strategy	Priority
Encourage research into land use and management from colonisation to the present day.	Immediate
Undertake work at key sites (Stawell flume, Heatherlie sandstone quarry, Zumsteins, Mafeking gold mining area, Golton copper mine, Germain Grave shingle-cutting site, Moora Moora homestead, Strachans Hut) in accordance with advice from relevant experts on conservation actions and heritage plans.	High
Develop and implement condition monitoring programs at key colonial heritage places (see Section 6.4 – Research and monitoring).	High
Identify European sites and stories of significance, including the notable men and women associated with Gariwerd (e.g. artists, field naturalists and early tourism guides) and include these in the interpretation of the cultural landscape.	Medium
Seek opportunities with partners, researchers and communities to develop and preserve significant colonial heritage sites	Medium

3.4 Traditional Owner cultural places and values

Managing Traditional Owner cultural heritage requires an understanding of what constitutes a cultural place. While the whole of the cultural landscape is important to Traditional Owners, within it there are specific places that are special to Traditional Owners because of the stories, memories, experiences, history, ceremony, practices, resources and surviving material remains connected to those places. Some of these are very large (e.g. places associated with the story of Tchingal, the Emu) and some quite small (e.g. small rock shelters with painted images)

Tangible and intangible heritage

Both tangible (or material) and intangible (non-material) heritage exist. These are often treated as separate categories of heritage (see definitions on page 9) but they are deeply interconnected dimensions of each and every Traditional Owner place. The modern concept of Traditional Owner cultural heritage embraces all the signs that document human activities over time. This includes reading of layers of tangible evidence present in the environment. It also encompasses the intangible heritage of culture often associated with particular localities, giving meanings and significance to these places (Lennon 2006).

Parks Victoria's Aboriginal Heritage Identification Guide (2019) defines intangible cultural heritage as spiritual connections to Country and the land, to cultural stories and to past and present activities of cultural and social significance to Aboriginal people. The Guide recognises that these intangible elements are connected and interrelated to specific places and in turn to tangible heritage. For example, the painting of the creation ancestor Bunjil at Bunjil's Shelter is powerfully and inseparably connected to the account of how Bunjil created the world as well as to Bunjil's worldly form — an eagle — and Bunjil's existence as the star known to Western astronomy as Altair. The painted image of Bunjil is part of the area's tangible heritage. The image and story of Bunjil, however, are intangible values owned by the Traditional Owners and, although related, exist independently of the painting. As intangible values, the reproduction of Bunjil's image or story on signs or in publications is subject to Traditional Owner approval.

Cultural values

Traditional Owner cultural values are also associated with specific places and features. Typically, the values of these kinds of places are documented in archaeological, geological and ecological terms (i.e. scientific value) and less frequently in terms of the cultural values held by Traditional Owners. For Traditional Owners, cultural values are typically expressed as a mix of place and personal connections with culture, with creation and other stories and with being at and experiencing places.

For some Traditional Owners, being at the rock shelters is described as experiencing restful places that hold memories. Visiting Bundaleer Shelter made one 'feel physically calm and her soul calm' with a sense or feeling for the presence of the ancestors and their activities. Another said that sitting in a shelter can enable an experience of connecting to past ancestors (Context 2020).

Most often the expressions used for cultural significance by Traditional Owners are conveyed in terms of the cultural context of being a Traditional Owner. The responsibility to visit places that connect them culturally and spiritually to that place and to their ancestors — and their responsibility to protect that place — is part of the inherent rights of Traditional Owners. Traditional Owners assert that places must be respected, places where the spirits of their ancestors are still present. These places are sacred and integral to the cultural landscape. The land holds that spirit and the peace and tranquillity of these places is part of ensuring it is protected. By respecting the 'spiritual presence', visitors have an opportunity to understand and share what is sacred about the cultural landscape.

The cultural landscape idea challenges enduring distinctions in heritage management, largely Western in origin, between nature and culture as well as between tangible (material) and intangible (immaterial) forms of heritage. It offers a conceptual bridge that can link very different western and Indigenous world views (Brown 2012).

Traditional Owner cultural heritage protection

Aboriginal cultural heritage protection in Victoria commenced with the introduction of the *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972*. This was superseded by the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, which provides Traditional Owners with legislative ownership of all Ancestral Remains and secret or sacred objects in Victoria. It established the system of Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) to enable Traditional Owners to have legislative control and management of Traditional Owner cultural heritage in their defined geographic regions. The Act also established the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, made up entirely of Traditional Owners, granting them specific statutory responsibilities.

At a national level, the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Cth) also provides for the preservation and protection from injury or desecration of areas and objects in Australia and in Australian waters, being areas and objects that are of particular significance to Aboriginal people in accordance with Aboriginal tradition.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* defines harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage as including to damage, deface, desecrate, destroy disturb, injure or interfere with. There is no scale associated with harm just as there is no scale associated with the significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage. The Act allows for harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage only when a Cultural Heritage Permit (CHP), Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) or Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Land Management Agreement (ACHLMA) are in place, or accordance with Aboriginal tradition as it relates to the Aboriginal cultural heritage.

As described in Section 1.3 – Traditional Owners and Country, Parks Victoria seeks to apply a partnership approach with the three Traditional Owner corporations (BGLC, EMAC, GMTOAC) in decision-making for the management of Traditional Owner cultural heritage, while recognising the responsibility and accountability that Parks Victoria has as the land manager.

Tangible and intangible Traditional Owner cultural heritage

All places with evidence of past settlement, occupation and activities of the People of Gariwerd are important to the present-day Traditional Owners. These places may be known through traditional and current knowledge and experience, identified from historical sources (see examples in Sections 3.1 and 3.2 as well as Table 3.1) and rediscoveries as a result of cultural heritage surveys.

Many different cultural places have been identified across Gariwerd. Such places typically contain objects (e.g. stone artefacts, hearths and painted rock images) and include human-created landscape features (e.g. mounds, channels and culturally modified trees). Some objects and landscape features have intangible cultural associations (e.g. the area's creation story).

Not all features will have an equal level of frequency or distribution. For example, occupation/living places evidenced by stone artefacts are common to most areas of the Greater Gariwerd Landscape while art sites and stone quarries are limited to areas with suitable geology. In other words, not all features are equally represented nor equally spread across the landscape.

Cultural places and objects and their context within the landscape can provide information on the ways in which a cultural place was used, and for how long. For example, stone quarries are places where stone was obtained to manufacture stone artefacts; the presence of stone artefacts can indicate locations where tools were manufactured, where hunting, foraging or resource processing activities took place, and where short or long-term campsites or 'villages' were occupied by family groups or larger clan groups; and mounds are evidence of intensive occupation and food preparation and consumption.

Across all land tenures in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape, 396 Traditional Owner places (comprising 422 features) were recorded on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) as at 26 July 2021. Of these,

224 Traditional Owner places are within parks and reserves managed by Parks Victoria, where shelters with painted (pigment) rock art are the most common documented cultural places — 97 places, comprising 43 per cent of all recorded places. This number represents more than 56 per cent of the state's rock art sites. Stone artefact scatters are the next most common component, making up (41 per cent) of all the VAHR-registered cultural places. Culturally modified trees, mounds and stone quarries are the next most common place types.

The planning area contains relatively few recorded examples of burials, stone grinding grooves, and ochre sources. It should be noted that the extent of cultural heritage survey has been relatively limited across the landscape (a vast area of often difficult terrain) and therefore these numbers probably represent a fraction of the number of cultural places that actually exist.

Based on information in the VAHR, the area of Gariwerd that has been surveyed by heritage advisors and Traditional Owners for cultural places is estimated to be less than 5 per cent (Martin 2020).

Places are continually being added to the VAHR: for example, as part of cultural assessments of rock-climbing areas within Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park during 2019, 125 climbing areas were inspected. The survey resulted in 37 previously undocumented cultural places being identified — 23 stone quarries, four rock shelter deposits, three potential archaeological deposits, three artefact scatters, three rock wells and one ochre source (Martin 2020). A further survey specific to rock art sites in Gariwerd (Grampians) National Park resulted in two previously unrecorded art sites being located and image-enhancement technology enabled the identification of additional art at known sites. A further 12 rediscoveries (ten quarries and two rock shelters) were made within climbing areas as part of assessments conducted in November 2020 and April 2021.

Given the number of registered sites, coupled with recent rediscoveries that add to the overall understanding of the landscape, it is clear there remains an extensive amount of Traditional Owner cultural heritage yet to be rediscovered in areas that have not been comprehensively surveyed. This supports a precautionary approach to management, which is best practice when managing unknown values yet to be rediscovered.

While tangible Traditional Owner cultural heritage in itself is a significant value, it is more than evidence of occupation. For Traditional Owners it may also be the material culture held in the hands of their Ancestors. It provides a cultural and spiritual link to their Ancestors.

Some places, including landscape features, may not have apparent or observable evidence of tangible cultural heritage, but have cultural or spiritual significance such as those associated with creation stories described in Section 3.1. Other general features in the landscape, such as rock shelters and caves, may not have evidence of tangible cultural heritage, or may not have any associated story, however these landscape features are generally considered culturally and spiritually significant places that can hold the presence of spirits and Ancestors. Other places may be associated with historical events such as massacre sites and the exact location may be unknown.

These cultural values in the landscape may not be systematically documented and are generally unlikely to be recorded as part of the VAHR. It is therefore important to continue to record, document and protect

The notion of 'sites' has long been pervasive in archaeological theory and practice, particularly since from the 1960s, as discrete assemblages of material traces of past human presence entered into Australian Aboriginal heritage legislation. In contrast, the Aboriginal concept of 'Country' has become increasingly recognised for its whole-of-landscape meaning.

Caring for Country in Aboriginal cosmology is a phrase encompassing all parts of the landscape and seascape, as well as people and non-human species. Within the meaning of Country, the idea of 'sites', where it exists, is but a small part of a bigger cosmological whole (Brown, 2016).

significant places with cultural, spiritual, historic, social and other intangible values, irrespective of the presence of tangible Traditional Owner cultural heritage.

The Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter (2013) provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places) throughout Australia. The Burra Charter defines cultural significance as aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present and future generations. These categories are used in Table 3.1 to identify examples of cultural values (tangible and intangible) that exist in the landscape.

Table 3.1 Greater Gariwerd landscape: Traditional Owner cultural values

Value	Cultural place examples
Social (or cultural) and spiritual	• Bunjil's Shelter • Rock art sites • Participation in cultural heritage surveys • Brambuk Cultural Centre ceremony space • Wetlands • Quarries, artefact scatters, ochre sources • Views to and from Gariwerd
Historic	• Massacre sites and sites of conflict • Post-contact Aboriginal graves • Homesteads at which Aboriginal people worked
Aesthetic	• Views to and from Gariwerd • Silhouettes and skylines
Scientific or research	• First peoples: Drual and Billimina rock shelters • Tanderrum Festival and ceremony (1990s) • Use of traditional fire regimes
Educational	• Brambuk Cultural Centre • Rock art sites open to public
Recreational and amenity	• Places associated with community gatherings • Places from which resources gathered for art making
Economic, ecological and resource	• Places where traditional fire regimes are implemented/cultural burning • Places requiring cultural water restoration • Places from which food and medicine resources are gathered • Aboriginal intellectual property associated with practices and knowledge
Wellbeing and social health	• Places associated with gatherings • Bunjil's Shelter
Aspirational	• Joint management • Native title

Managing cultural values

Parks Victoria recognises the importance of long-term, respectful and meaningful partnerships with Traditional Owners; the opportunity to understand, share and celebrate Traditional Owner cultural values; and the need for greater accountability and responsibility for managing Traditional Owner cultural heritage and the risks to these values.

Because there is potentially extensive Traditional Owner cultural heritage in areas that have not been comprehensively surveyed, a precautionary approach should be applied to managing risks to that heritage. This is important in meeting Parks Victoria's obligations to Traditional Owners and the Aboriginal Heritage Act.

Threats can arise from both natural and human causes, though typically the threats are a mixture and exacerbated by both natural forces and human factors. Damage and destruction of cultural places can have a significant impact on Traditional Owners' wellbeing and to Country. Threats to cultural places include:

- construction and maintenance of roads and other public infrastructure
- bushfires and fire management
- vegetation clearance
- flooding and landscape erosion
- vandalism
- pest plants and animals
- recreation.

All park management actions can affect Traditional Owner cultural heritage places and values. Thus, all park management activities require the involvement of Traditional Owners as part of a mutual learning approach to the management of Gariwerd.

Cultural and spiritual responsibility to care for Country and cultural places is an inherent right of Traditional Owners, as expressed in Parks Victoria's partnership approach. Living, working and being on Country are also part of the experience of cultural renewal. Joint management of parks enables cultural renewal and respects the rights of Traditional Owners and is, in itself, a process for cultural renewal and strengthening. Joint management of Gariwerd is asserted as essential by the three Traditional Owner corporations and is foreshadowed by Parks Victoria.

Traditional Owner cultural heritage is one component of land and visitor management planning. Others include ecosystems (which encompasses pest animal and invasive plant control); historic cultural heritage; asset (including infrastructure) maintenance; visitor experience and recreation; fire management; and resourcing. These components are typically recognised as separate and distinct. However, it is clear that for Gariwerd, Traditional Owner interests and responsibilities extend across aspects of managing the cultural landscape – and hence their values and aspirations are incorporated into subsequent chapters and management objectives.

Fifty Cultural Special Protection Areas in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape support the protection of areas with concentrations of recorded cultural places. These areas are to be managed as intact Country, in which risk to the cultural landscape is managed by minimising possible disturbances by visitor activities and the development of new infrastructure is not supported.

People don't recognise the values we have here. Some of this art – all of this art – has stories attached; they're not just painting on the wall, they're more like libraries and places of exchange where people had conversations and told stories, laws were made, kids were inducted in their education through this type of medium, and that value isn't recognised for what it is by most visitors. It's pretty sad; it's disappointing.

— Traditional Owner, EMAC

Goal – Managing cultural values

Landscapes, features and values associated with Traditional Owner cultural places and values are recognised, respected, protected and celebrated in partnership with Traditional Owners.

Strategy	Priority
Recognise Gariwerd as Traditional Owner Country and a cultural landscape necessitating respectful and culturally appropriate behaviours.	Immediate
Implement regulations to protect cultural places (including SPAs) from visitor impacts and apply strategies to enable recreational activities that are culturally appropriate and respectful to Country (see Section 5.4 – Recreation activities and Table 5.2).	Immediate
Ensure management of rock art sites is guided by Traditional Owners, including any visitor access and interpretation.	Immediate
Work with Traditional Owners to ensure that landscape features associated with their cultural heritage (e.g. stories, names) are interpreted using culturally appropriate information and methods.	Immediate
Work with Traditional Owners to develop visitor information that recognises and promotes respect for landscape features associated with their cultural heritage (e.g. stories, naming) and to ensure that culturally appropriate information and interpretation methods and media are used when sharing information with visitors (see Section 5.1 – Information, interpretation and education).	Immediate
Protect intangible values such as stories and images, and do not use intangible values, whether registered or not, in park publications, signage or in any other format without the approval of the Traditional Owners.	Immediate
Develop protocols with Traditional Owners for identifying, documenting, assessing, protecting, managing and presenting cultural places within the landscape. Apply a proactive and collaborative approach to values documentation and management which recognises that cultural values are dynamic, can be contested, and can change over time and across generations.	High
Establish priorities for future field surveys of cultural places. The basis for priority decisions will be Traditional Owner cultural knowledge combined with predictive modelling and the potential for risk of harm.	High
Develop and implement ongoing condition monitoring programs at key cultural places and landscapes (see Section 6.4 – Research and monitoring).	High

3.5 Cultural renewal and strengthening

For Traditional Owners, reconnecting with their community, their identity and with Country, is critical for cultural and spiritual wellbeing. Cultural renewal and strengthening within Gariwerd, is a significant opportunity for Traditional Owners to practise a cultural philosophy of Healthy Country, Healthy Culture, Healthy Community.

In 2006, Victoria introduced the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*. Section 19 of this Act recognises that Aboriginal people hold distinct cultural rights, including the right to:

- enjoy their identity and culture
- maintain and use their language
- maintain their kinship ties

- maintain their distinctive spiritual, material and economic relationship with the land and waters and other resources with which they have a connection under traditional laws and customs (e.g. to care for Country).

Cultural renewal and strengthening may be through language, stories, ceremony, dance and song, as well as being on Country. It is about cultural continuity while acknowledging the impact of invasion and dispossession.

Reconnecting to Country and with other Traditional Owners can create physical and mental health benefits through being and working on Country and by reconnecting with the spirit of Gariwerd and its special places. Examples of the emotions and feelings expressed toward Gariwerd by Traditional Owners include that it 'always feels safe', that it gives feelings of 'protection' and that when approaching or leaving the area feelings are evoked of 'a sense of arrival' and of 'coming home' (Context 2020).

Traditional Owners have expressed the importance of gatherings on Country in order to reconnect, heal, create and strengthen community relationships and to renew cultural practices. Tanderrum, a four-day festival/ceremony that was held in Gariwerd in the early 1990s, is recognised as an important historical and cultural event that Traditional Owners express interest in renewing.

Cultural renewal involves revitalising and sharing language, traditional knowledge, traditions, associations and experiences. Healing practices (including smoking ceremonies) are necessary to care for the wellbeing of community and health of Country. For thousands of years, Traditional Owner peoples have lived on, made livelihoods from, conducted ceremonies on, told stories about the landscape and its places. They continue to share knowledge and skills across generations, transferring craftsmanship in creating tools, clothing, ornaments and art and craft making. Cultural material from museums and other collections, historical research and language programs also play a significant part of recovering knowledge. Renewal of cultural practices includes the use of native species and sharing of associated ecological knowledge. Cultural renewal can also involve creating new contemporary knowledge; for example, applying traditional burning techniques to landscapes that have not been subject to cultural burns for generations.

The management of Traditional Owner cultural heritage and places and the incorporation of traditional knowledge and land management practices are powerful components of Traditional Owner healing and connection to Country. By visiting known cultural places, documenting new places, meeting and working on Country, travelling through Country, sharing stories about Country, caring for Country and having a strong voice in its protection and management, Traditional Owners continue to maintain, build, re-connect with and re-make their cultural landscapes.

Traditional Owner connection and cultural renewal within the landscape requires regular visits to significant places (e.g. art sites, lookouts, story places). Access to different parts of the landscape and meeting places may be required at different times for healing, gatherings and other ceremonies. These events may also require access to wild food and medicines, particular plant, animal or mineral resources. There is also a desire to create new, culturally appropriate art sites. Ochre sources, such as from the Lake Lonsdale area, have been used as a source of pigment for current Aboriginal art-making and body painting.

While some activities can be undertaken as part of the daily life, special access arrangements may be supported, such as periodic closure of those locations to the general public. The Cultural Special Protection Areas are to be managed as intact Country to support the protection of cultural places and provide opportunities for Traditional Owner cultural practices within a context of natural quiet and minimised disturbances from visitor activities or development.

Our identity and culture are intrinsic to who we are ... It is important that we cherish and nurture all aspects of our lands, water and heritage in order to preserve the strength and resilience of our peoples (BGLC 2017).

One of the most significant examples of a cultural heritage initiative was the establishment of Brambuk — The National Park and Cultural Centre in 1990, at Budja Budja (Halls Gap). The cultural expression in the design elements of the centre itself is symbolic and representative of the identity of the people and culture of Gariwerd. For some Traditional Owners, Brambuk provides a safe place and a sense of belonging.

Community self-determination is a significant element of cultural renewal and strengthening. Traditional Owner led planning to establish the future Traditional Owner management of Brambuk, is important to ensure that facility not only continues to provide cultural tourism experiences for visitors, but is a meeting place that supports the cultural, spiritual and symbolic needs of Traditional Owner communities.

Our community was instrumental in the establishment of Brambuk — a cultural centre that has been operating for two decades and which provides employment, training and cultural heritage services to our people, as well as education for the broader community. Our citizens still regularly go to Gariwerd — meeting with family or camping in Rocklands Reservoir (EMAC 2015).

Goal – Cultural renewal and strengthening

Cultural renewal and strengthening reconnects Traditional Owners with Country, community and identity, enabling cultural continuity, revitalising knowledge and practices and enhancing Traditional Owner wellbeing.

Strategy	Priority
Enable Traditional Owner community activities and cultural practices to take place at relevant cultural places, including within SPAs.	Immediate
Facilitate and support Traditional Owner access to Gariwerd as part of a process of continuing cultural renewal and strengthening and reconnection to Country. 'Healing' practices may require exclusive access to particular cultural places at particular times.	Immediate
Support Traditional Owner aspirations in the region and help to celebrate this rich history, including through a vibrant cultural centre (Brambuk).	Immediate
Work with the Strategic Partnership Committee of Traditional Owner corporations to explore options to reinvigorate Brambuk – The National Park and Cultural Centre (see also Section 5.7 and 6.1).	Immediate
Present Gariwerd in education and engagement programs (e.g. junior ranger) as a cultural landscape with a vibrant, modern-day Traditional Owner culture, a place of cultural learning and knowledge sharing.	Immediate
Recognise and respect the cultural rights of Traditional Owners to access Country for cultural and economic purposes and practices.	Immediate
Collaborate with Traditional Owners to support cultural practices (such as new contemporary rock art within SPAs) and protect these places as part of cultural renewal and strengthening.	Immediate
Seek to ensure Gariwerd is a culturally safe space for Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal peoples and the broader community.	Immediate
Understand the potential risks to Traditional Owners when engaging with visitors on Country and establish protocols for managing culturally inappropriate behaviour.	Immediate
Enable cultural reconnection through conservation action planning, including for totemic species and traditional land management practices (see Chapter 4).	Immediate

Goal – Cultural renewal and strengthening

Cultural renewal and strengthening reconnects Traditional Owners with Country, community and identity, enabling cultural continuity, revitalising knowledge and practices and enhancing Traditional Owner wellbeing.

Strategy	Priority
Pursue opportunities for Traditional Owner leadership in research, interpretation planning and service delivery to facilitate cultural renewal and ensure the outcomes inform authentic visitor experiences and tourism opportunities.	Immediate
Enable the co-design for cultural expression in built form of any new facilities in the landscape, such as visitor infrastructure.	Immediate
Establish protocols for how visitors are welcomed to Country.	High
Develop opportunities to increase the capacity of Traditional Owners to lead planning and management of Country (see Section 6.1 – Managing with Traditional Owners).	High
Communicate the ‘voices’ of Traditional Owners through renewal of interpretation developed in partnership with Traditional Owner corporations. For example, boards, signs and interactive media (see Section 5.1 – Information, interpretation and education).	Medium



Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre

Brambuk – A unique building for a symbolic landscape

Brambuk was designed by architect Greg Burgess, drawing inspiration from workshops held with Aboriginal community members who had links to Gariwerd. The communities wanted a building that was unique, a building that blended in with the mountains of Gariwerd and one which showed each community's connection to it. The building itself is shaped in the form of a cockatoo in flight, the totem animal of the Djab Wurrung and the Jadawadjali.

Elements from each of the communities are incorporated into the design, such as mud bricks relating to Ebenezer Mission, timber poles symbolic of Framlingham forest and stone walls referencing the stone fish traps and stone huts of Tae Rak (Lake Condah). The northern gallery space is in the shape of a whale and the pathway connecting the three levels of the building evokes a kooyang (eel) — the whale and eel representing coastal and inland food resources respectively. The centre also provides a ceremonial space for Traditional Owners with the large fire pit area used for welcomes, healing and cleansing rituals.

Brambuk Cultural Centre opened its doors in 1990 and stands as a symbol and affirmation of the process of cultural renewal. For the past 30 years, Brambuk's mission is to document, recover, conserve and present the Aboriginal culture of the Gariwerd region. It plays an important role in employment and training of Aboriginal people, education of the community, reconciliation, advancement of Aboriginal people and tourism in the region, as well as providing a greater understanding of Western Victoria's unique Aboriginal peoples.

This is the place where all people meet together to start the journey into Gariwerd. Since 2006 the precinct has included an Information Centre for visitors to the national park. Brambuk is wheelchair accessible with disabled toilets. TrailRider all-terrain wheelchairs and volunteers are also available for park visitors.

Traditional Owners and Parks Victoria will continue to work together to explore options to reinvigorate the Brambuk Cultural Centre. Parks Victoria will temporarily manage the centre while future business development options can be explored through a Strategic Partnership Committee of Traditional Owner corporations (see Section 6.1 – Managing with Traditional Owners). With the Grampians Peaks Trail established, it is an opportune time to look at how the centre can deliver long-term benefits to Traditional Owners, the local community, local businesses and the national park (see Section 5.7: Tourism and commercial visitor services).



Looking west from Mount William (Duwul)

4 Healthy Country

The Vision for Healthy Country is:

Country has been impacted by past land uses and natural disasters and is now recovering under the guidance of its Traditional Owners. Gariwerd continues to be a spiritual and healing place for all, a home to thriving communities of native plants and animals and a source of life-giving water to many neighbouring and distant communities.

Aboriginal people have, for at least 20,000 years, established a regime of land management through the use of fire and other approaches. With colonial invasion, those land management practices on Country ceased and were replaced by European land management practices that have significantly modified the landscape and its living natural heritage. As recently as the late twentieth century, much of the area was managed as Grampians State Forest for multiple uses and requirements including timber production, water storage, recreation and to manage bushfire.

The exceptional biodiversity and natural values of the landscape were formally recognised in the 1980s with the creation of the parks as part of Victoria's expanding conservation estate. Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park's values were further recognised and included in Australia's National Heritage List in 2006. Over the past four decades of applying park management, the landscape has continued to recover from legacy land uses. The start of the twenty-first century included a decade of natural disasters, and the landscape will be recovering from that period of extreme bushfires and major floods for years to come. Continuing to conserve biodiversity and restore the health of Country under the increasing challenges of climate change will provide an important legacy for all Australia and future generations.

Natural history of a bio-cultural landscape

The ecosystems and biodiversity of Gariwerd have adapted to changing environmental conditions over millions of years of geological time. This natural heritage stretches back to when the continent was still part of the ancient land mass of Gondwana and as Australia has drifted to its current latitude, the climate has continued to change and be influenced by the climate cycles across ice ages.

In ancient times Gariwerd was an island surrounded by sea. In more recent times it has been mountainous habitat surrounded by a sea of grassland and woodlands. Compared to the surrounding landscape the mountains are relatively large and there are significant elevation gradients that impact temperatures and the distribution of rainfall.

The evolution of this ancient landscape has resulted in the extreme diversity and endemism of floristic communities and some fauna. Many species are now unique due to their long genetic isolation and adaptation to their localised environments. The diversity of the underlying sandstone geology is an important factor in the array of plant species that are adapted to nutrient-poor sandy soils. The varied terrain and aspects of the mountains create a range of environmental niches and habitat types, including a montane habitat, gullies, wetlands, creeks, rivers, rocky outcrops, woodlands, heathlands and forests.

Over many millions of years, water has shaped both the geology and ecology of the landscape and continues to do so today. Gariwerd receives a relatively high and reliable rainfall, but this does not fall evenly across

the landscape. Rainfall varies from 550 millimetres in the north to 700 millimetres in the south, and up to 895 millimetres at higher altitudes in the central ranges.

The localised variation in rainfall has produced a mosaic of habitats, including streams and wetlands that support a diversity of aquatic species supporting native fish, eels and crayfish and drier terrestrial habitats such as woodlands and grasslands. Remnants of ancient snow-dominated ecosystems exist on Major Mitchell Plateau as a result of adaptation and isolation. Unique eucalypts that are found only in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape grow on the mountains and hills.

The mountains, forests, rivers, streams, valleys and wetlands of Gariwerd are abundant with a rich diversity of plants and animals that Traditional Owners have been cultivating and harvesting as food resources for millennia. Early European colonists noted the large range of plants that were found only at Gariwerd. Today the landscape continues to be a natural wonderland with one third of Victoria's native flora species and approximately 17 per cent of Victoria's wildlife species recorded in this landscape. Gariwerd is an important habitat and stronghold for a number of rare or endangered species such as the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby.

A striking and popular feature of Gariwerd is its rich and colourful wildflower display, best seen during spring. The landscape comes to life with vibrant shows of Grampians Boronia, Grampians Pincushion-lily, Grampians Parrot-pea, Grampians Thryptomene and a multitude of other herbs and shrubs. Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park contains more than 1300 native plant species and 49 of these are endemic (naturally restricted) to Gariwerd. The area has more than 130 recorded orchid species. Plant communities range from luxuriant fern gullies, to Stringybark forests and Red Gum woodlands in the valleys, to stunted heaths on mountain plateaus and moss-covered rocky outcrops.

The landscape is important for its abundance of bird species. The low open shrubby woodlands support many birds and the tall open forests are important for hollow-dependent species. More than 40 species of mammal have been recorded including populations of Red-necked Wallabies and Grey Kangaroos, a reintroduced colony of Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies and a growing population of Black Wallabies. The reptile fauna – 28 species – is particularly rich because of the diversity of habitats formed by the forested mountain range that extends from the cool south to the warmer, drier northwest.

As a support to long-term planning and vision for the significant values found in Gariwerd, a Conservation Action Plan for the Greater Gariwerd Landscape was developed in 2019. The plan outlines Parks Victoria's understanding of the major threats to nature and wildlife across the cultural landscape (including weed invasion, predation by introduced predators, over-grazing by native and non-native herbivores, inappropriate fire regimes and water harvesting) and a suite of actions that can be undertaken with Traditional Owners and other partners in caring for and improving the health of Country. The Conservation Action Plan was developed using an international standard 10-step process that included facilitated workshops with Parks Victoria staff and stakeholders to identify the priority threats to ecosystems and management strategies and actions to improve the condition of ecosystems over a 15-year period. These strategies, alongside Traditional Owner knowledge and experience, have been used to develop the Healthy Country strategies in this plan.

The changing climate poses a major threat to Healthy Country. Planning and management can build resilience across the landscape. Working with the community in partnership across land tenures is an important role Parks Victoria can play in managing this threat. While many of the factors driving climate change are outside the direct control of individual land managers, reducing the carbon footprint of land management contributes to the overall global reduction in emissions and must be a consideration in managing the landscape.

An evolving environment

Traditional Owners have managed the landscape and adapted to a changing climate and environment over a long period. The table provides an overview of the climatic, environmental and historic context of Traditional Owner occupation of the Greater Gariwerd Landscape. The table hints at the diverse and dynamic inherent connections between Gariwerd's natural values and cultural values for more than 22,000 years.

Table 4.1 Overview of changing climate, environment and history (after Context 2020)

Climate and environment	History
> 22,000 years ago Notable for the volcanic activity across the western plains and the existence of a wide range of megafaunal species.	People in western Victoria for at least 32,000 years, although no evidence has yet been located that demonstrates occupation of the Greater Gariwerd Landscape prior to 22,000 years ago.
22,000–10,500 years ago (Late Pleistocene) During the last Ice Age (24,000 to 18,000 years ago), Gariwerd was on the southern edge of an expanded arid zone. The area had a dry climate and from 18,000 to 10,500 years ago there was a gradual increase in temperature and rainfall. Grassland and heath were the dominant vegetation on the ranges and plains.	People occupy rock shelters as part of their settlement patterns. They used stone raw materials from both east and north of the ranges. Gariwerd may have functioned as the core territory for groups making less intensive and more wide-ranging use of the arid surrounding plains.
10,500–7000 years ago (Early Holocene) Wetter climate; lake levels begin rising from about 8500 years ago, with lakes overflowing by 7000 years ago. There was an expansion of tree cover in the ranges, with the establishment of open Red Gum woodland with grassy understorey by 7000 years ago.	With more reliable water supplies, people increasingly used the surrounding plains, resulting in more independent regional groups.
7000–5500 years ago Wettest period of the Holocene. Ranges densely vegetated and much of the area may have been relatively inaccessible.	Emergence of aquaculture in the areas to the south and west of Gariwerd.
5500–3500 years ago (Mid Holocene) Drying conditions in the mid-Holocene.	Increased environmental stress caused by the drier climate. Rock art begins to be created.
3500–2000 years ago Dry but unstable climatic conditions. Arrival of the Dingo.	Intensification of land use by Aboriginal groups. Increased use of local stone and new tool forms. Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung language groups become established. Aboriginal fire regimes well established.
< 2000 years ago (Late Holocene) Wetter period. Drier climate; falling lake levels; comparable to early Holocene.	
1830s – present Period characterised by colonial modification of the landscape, habitat fragmentation and pest invasion. Ranges densely vegetated, in part resulting from the cessation of Aboriginal burning practices. Gradual environmental recovery from past land uses with creation of protected areas for conservation and improved environmental management of agricultural landscapes from the late twentieth century. Increasing dryness and bushfire severity associated with human induced climate change.	In early 19th century, Country of Jadawadjali (population of 1500–4400; c.37 clans) and Djab Wurrung (1600–5000; c.41 clans) language groups. By 1843, Traditional Owner population reduced to 403 (Djab Wurrung) and 455 (Jadawadjali). Period characterised by the expansion of European settlements and by Traditional Owner resistance, persistence and continuous cultural renewal and strengthening.

4.1 Managing healthy ecosystems

The Traditional Owners of Gariwerd utilised a variety of natural resources, as they lived on and managed the landscape. The plains surrounding Gariwerd contained murnong (Yam Daisy), emu and kangaroo and were dotted with many waterholes and larger lakes fringed with reeds, grasses and herbs. These provided rich resources, including birds and their eggs, turtles, fish and freshwater crays.

The People of Gariwerd used plants and animals for more than food. Plants were used as medicine and manufacturing tools. The leaves of sedges, rushes and lilies were woven into baskets, nets and mats. Kangaroo sinews were used as ties, skins were worked into cloaks and rugs, bones were made into tools, feathers were fashioned into skirts and headdresses and fat was used to anoint the hair and body (Dawson 1881).

Communal activities took place on the open plains, where women and children in large numbers would collect murnong by first burning the grass to expose the roots before extracting them with digging sticks (Presland 1980, Dawson 1881). Men hunted kangaroo and emu with the aid of their companion Wilkurr (Dingoes), snared birds and other game (often from hides) and caught fish in nets. At times, large and well organised hunting parties, comprising several tribes summoned by messengers, would encircle and drive herds of kangaroos or wallabies to a compact area where they were killed and thus support large gatherings of people (Dawson 1881).

The occupation of the area by colonisers caused massive disruption and upheaval to the lives of the Djab Wurrung and Jadawadjali — reducing Traditional Owner access to the land and its resources, bringing disease and exotic pests and land-use practices that impacted on native animals and plants. The pastoral occupation of the area destroyed the native plants on the open grasslands. The combination of introduced rabbits, goats, deer, foxes, cats and feral honeybees severely impacted local ecosystems, animals and plants. Large-scale poisoning to remove native wildlife from grazing leases decimated native faunal populations. Grazing and trampling by livestock destroyed important plant foods and thinned the habitat of the remaining native wildlife, making them more vulnerable to fox and feral cat predation. Introduced grasses and weeds such as Canary-grass (*Phalaris* spp.) and Cape Weed suffocated native grasses, native orchids, lilies and herbs. Later, forestry practices introduced the pervasive pathogen Cinnamon Fungus (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*), causing significant and permanent damage to susceptible heathland vegetation through dieback.

Traditional Owners' values and those created by Western scientific disciplines, such as archaeology, geology and ecology, can work together in a 'two-way' approach to Caring for Country and land management.

Gariwerd has always been considered by the Traditional Owners to be a healing place, a place to seek health and wellbeing benefits. This sense of healing also relates in more recent times to the restoration of Country as it recovers from the initial, unrestrained exploitation and clearing that followed colonisation. Subsequent management as State forest, with the goal of 'sustained yield' ensured a forested remnant and significant biodiversity survived in the landscape prior to its conservation status being elevated to a 'protected area' and proclaimed as a national park.

The protected area regime for managing the park landscape since 1984 complements Traditional Owner healthy country values. Supporting the inclusion of traditional ecological knowledge in land management practices such as cultural water flows and the rekindling of cultural burning practices, will help heal Country and achieve Healthy Country for future generations.

The legacy of a changed landscape

The rich biodiversity and intact ecosystems managed under regimes of Traditional Owner land management have unequivocally been degraded since colonial invasion. The environment around Gariwerd has changed dramatically as a result of more than 180 years of land-use impacts associated with colonisation and the modification of the landscape including:

- introduction of domestic stock and associated grazing practices
- halting of traditional burning regimes
- land clearing, ringbarking, forestry
- draining of wetlands, floodplain modification, water harvesting and regulation, de-snagging of waterways
- unregulated hunting and poisoning of native species impacting agriculture, including native grazing fauna and top-order predators such as Wedge-tailed Eagles and Dingoes
- introduction of weeds, pests and pathogens
- intensification of agricultural systems, including broad-scale monocultures
- establishment of settlements and civil infrastructure, including roads, mining and quarrying
- climate change.

The parks and reserves of the Greater Gariwerd Landscape are still recovering from the legacy of land uses, but (primarily due the rugged terrain or unsuitability for pastoral development) they have not been as severely modified in comparison to the surrounding landscape. Today Gariwerd is a largely isolated hotspot of biodiversity with intact ecosystems, surrounded by a predominantly fragmented and modified rural landscape (see Figure 4.1).

For many decades, contemporary land management practices have evolved across rural landscapes, including through programs such as Landcare, and are enhancing the connectivity of habitats and recovery of ecological systems in the broader landscape. These landscape-scale restoration activities are recognised as having an important role in the long-term ecological connectivity of Gariwerd with the broader region.

Natural values

The landscape is an island of high biodiversity surrounded by a highly modified and fragmented landscape (see Figure 4.1). The highest-value areas (Figure 4.1) are hotspots for a diverse range of flora and fauna species and communities, many of which are listed as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) and *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic). Many species are found only, or mostly, in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape.

The records of threatened flora and fauna are widespread across the landscape, reflecting its high biodiversity value. Some of the older records are for species that are no longer present in the area, or species that are extinct in Victoria.

Rare and threatened fauna typically have specific habitat requirements and preferences. Many of the best habitat areas no longer contain the species, but they represent critical habitat where the population is likely to have the best success of recovery. Twenty-six Natural Values SPAs have therefore been identified, covering crucial areas to be managed as intact Country.

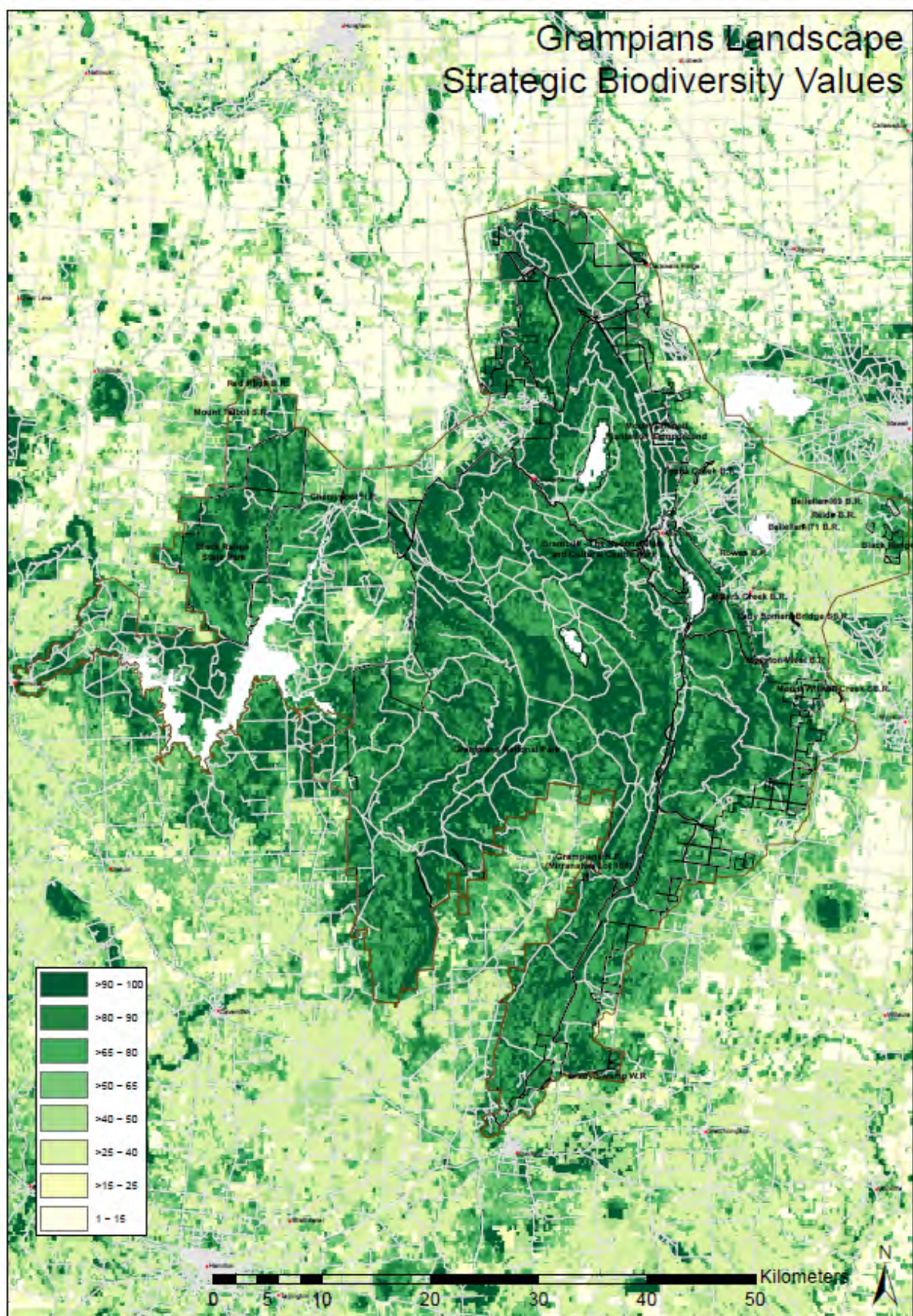


Figure 4.1 Biodiversity values in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape. (Source: Natureprint)

Nine ecosystems are recognised within the Greater Gariwerd Landscape. Ecosystems are all the living things in an area, the way they affect each other and their physical environment. Each ecosystem includes flora and fauna assemblages with iconic species, threatened species and resources with cultural meaning and use.

The nine ecosystems are: Heathy Forest and Woodland, Rocky Knoll, Herb Forest and Woodland, Mixed Forest, Heathland (treeless), Wetlands, Riparian, Montane and Wet Forest. The size and overall condition of the nine ecosystems in the landscape is shown in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 Ecosystem areas in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape

Conservation asset (ecosystem)	Area (ha)	% of total	Overall condition (2019)
Heathy Forest and Woodland	86,845	47	Fair
Rocky Knoll	28,540	15	Fair
Herb Forest and Woodland	21,012	11	Poor
Mixed Forest	19,382	11	Fair
Heathland (treeless)	13,640	7	Poor
Wetlands	8,910	5	Good
Riparian	2,879	2	Fair
Montane	1,930	1	Fair
Wet Forest	1,107	1	Fair

Heathy Forest and Woodland consists of an open forest of Messmate and Brown Stringybark of low to medium height with an open crown cover. Smaller trees such as wattles are also sometimes present. Tough-leaved shrubs such as heaths and peas dominate the ground layer, often growing with herbaceous plants and grasses, except where frequent fire has reduced the understorey to a dense cover of bracken. It occurs on a range of landforms at various elevations, from gently undulating hills to exposed areas on ridge tops and steep slopes. Like heathlands, the great diversity of plants supports rich assemblages of woodland birds and tree- and ground-dwelling mammals.

Key fauna species – Southern Brown Bandicoot, Long-nosed Potoroo and Heath Mouse, Eastern Pygmy-possum, Sugar Glider and microbats, Flora and Fauna Guarantee (FFG) listed Temperate Woodland Bird Community, Powerful Owl, Barking Owl, Barn Owl and Spotted-tailed Quoll.

Rocky Knoll occurs on exposed rocky outcrops at higher elevations, where rock is a dominant landform feature, soils are shallow or almost absent and effective rainfall is low. Scattered, often stunted trees are occasionally present with diverse rock-adapted shrub species and herblands of grasses, herbs and geophytes growing on rocky terraces. The habitats found amongst Rocky Knolls support a unique set of flora and fauna including the critically endangered Grampians Pincushion-lily, which is endemic to the Grampians. Basking rocks, cracks and hollows are used by reptiles and small birds. Caves and terraces are habitat for Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby and Grampians Mountain Dragon.

Key flora species — Grampians Pincushion-lily.

Key fauna species — Grampians Mountain Dragon, Cunningham's Skink, Peregrine Falcon, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby.

Herb Forest and Woodland occurs as dry, open eucalypt woodlands of Messmate and Yellow Box with a sparse shrub layer. The understorey is rich in herbs, grasses and orchids. Herb Forest and Woodland can grow on relatively flat or undulating ground or on sedimentary sandstone ridge tops. It supports a variety of native fauna including woodland birds, large forest owls, reptiles and arboreal mammals.

Key flora species — Grampians Duck Orchid, Ornate Pink Fingers, Candy Spider Orchid, Spiral Sun-orchid.

Key fauna species — FFG listed Temperate Woodland Bird Community, Yellow-Bellied Glider, Squirrel Glider, Brush-tailed Phascogale, Striped Worm Lizard, monitor lizards, Bush Stone-curlew, Diamond Firetails, pardalotes, robins, Powerful Owl, Barking Owl, Barn Owl, Ant-blue Butterfly.

Species that once occurred and are no longer present – Southern Bettong, Eastern Quoll, Eastern Barred Bandicoot and Dingo.

Mixed Forest in the landscape comprises two main types. Foothill Forest grows on gently undulating lower slopes, valley floors and on ridges. These forests are made up of eucalypt species that prefer moister or more fertile conditions, including Messmate, Grampians Grey Gum, Mountain Grey Gum and Brown Stringybark. A rich array of herbs, lilies, grasses and sedges dominate the ground layer. Tall Mixed Forest grows on moderately well-drained soils in areas of higher rainfall. It is characterised by the diversity of species and growth/life-forms of plants in the understorey, including many shrubs, grasses and herbs. It supports a range of small mammals, bats, large forest owls and other birds.

Establishing the health of Country is often evaluated by asking, 'How good or sick is this Country?'

Key flora species — Grampians Grey Gum, Grampians Rice-flower, tree-ferns, club-mosses, Fairy Aprons.

Key fauna species — Smoky Mouse, Dusky Antechinus, Long-nosed Potoroo, Gang-gang Cockatoo, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Southern Boobook, Powerful Owl, Barking Owl, Sugar Glider, Feathertail Glider, bats.

Species that once occurred and are no longer present — Eastern Quoll, Spotted-tailed Quoll, Southern Bettong.

Heathland is characterised by dense, low, tough-leaved shrubs and occasional small trees over a ground layer of sedges, lilies, rope-rushes and herbs. Heathland occurs on low-nutrient soils, including deep infertile sands. Where water drainage is poor and soils are subject to waterlogging (on lower slopes, flats or depressions), a dense ground layer of rushes and sedges may grow. These sites play an important role in maintaining ecosystem functions, including as refuge areas for fauna. Heathland generally has very high species richness, supporting a wide range of fauna including a diverse heathland bird assemblage and several critical weight-range mammal species.

Key fauna species — Heath Mouse, Common Dunnart, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Long-nosed Potoroo, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, Hooded Robin, King Quail, Southern Toadlet, Growling Grass Frog, Brown Toadlet, Burrowing Crayfish.

Wetlands are found throughout the landscape. Permanent or semi-permanent freshwater wetlands include aquatic herblands dominated by sedges or aquatic herbs, or open River Red Gum woodlands with a sedgy or grassy-herbaceous ground layer. Ephemeral freshwater wetlands support herbaceous or sedgy vegetation and sometimes scattered or fringing eucalypts. In areas of higher rainfall, tea-tree and paperbark shrubs can occur. Wetlands are important habitat, providing breeding or feeding grounds for many species including crayfish, ibises and Brolgas. The timing, duration and frequency of flood events determines the composition and characteristics of wetland systems.

Key flora species and communities – Red Gum Swamp Community (FFG listed), Plains Sedgy Wetland Ecological Vegetation Community (EVC) (endangered), Reed Swamp (endangered), Shallow Freshwater Marsh (endangered), Wimmera Bottlebrush and Southern Pipewort.

Key fauna species — Southern Water Skink, Platypus, Water Rat, Swamp Rat, crakes, rails, snakes, turtles, Little Galaxias, Glenelg Spiny Crayfish, Western Swamp Crayfish.

Riparian areas are characterised by tall eucalypt forests along riverbanks and associated alluvial terraces. Under the eucalypts there is an open to sparse secondary tree layer of wattles and scattered dense patches of shrubs, ferns, grasses and herbs. Where the ground is rocky this ecosystem can also grow as dense shrubland, or at lower elevations as scrub along creeks and minor streams. The rivers and riverbanks support a vast range of endemic and conservation significant invertebrates, providing a food source for other native fauna species, including Platypus, Water Rat, kingfisher, swallows, frogs, fish and water skinks. The Riparian ecosystem and the wetlands it supports are also critical drought refuges in the landscape.

Key flora species — Grampians Bertya.

Key fauna species — Platypus, Southern Water Skink, Water Rat, Swamp Rat, turtles, crakes, rails, snakes, rare in-stream macro-invertebrate assemblages in wet gullies of eastern aspects of Billawin (Victoria Range) (including Sawmill Creek), Glenelg Spiny Crayfish, Western Swamp Crayfish, River Blackfish, Pygmy Perch and Obscure Galaxias.

Montane occurs mainly as a treeless or sparsely treed shrubland on high-altitude peaks in the Warranneyan (Mount William Range), Serra and Billawin (Victoria Range). The shrubland consists of a diversity of tough-leaved shrubs over a variable ground layer of sedges, herbs and rush-like species. Less commonly it is an open and sparse eucalypt mallee woodland dominated by Grampians Sally. High-altitude wetland occurs in wet soak depressions, narrow gullies and headwaters of creeks in the high-rainfall montane areas of the Major Mitchell Plateau. It grows as dense, heathy shrubs over sedges and rushes. Occasional stunted eucalypts are present. Montane ecosystems provide habitat for threatened fauna such as Smoky Mouse, Southern Brown Bandicoot and Grampians Mountain Dragon.

Key fauna species — Smoky Mouse, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Grampians Mountain Dragon, Grampians Isopods, moths and butterflies.

Wet Forest is an aggregate of the Moist Forest and Tall Mist Forest. Both are dominated by eucalypts up to 30 metres high, with Tall Mist Forest restricted to south-facing steep, narrow gullies. A scattering of understorey trees and shrubs occur over a moist, shaded and fern-rich ground layer. These moist environments function as drought refugia for flora and fauna throughout the landscape, with Tall Mist Forest important habitat for the Smoky Mouse, large forest owls and assemblages of invertebrates of relict Gondwanan origin.

Key fauna species — Smoky Mouse, Powerful Owl, Barking Owl, Grampians Isopods.

Further information about the condition and components of these ecosystems can be found in the Conservation Action Plan (Parks Victoria 2019), which provides more detail on each of the nine ecosystems and identifies important species and ecological communities as the focus for conservation efforts.

Restoring biodiversity

Since the proclamation of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park in 1984, a range of management measures have focused on restoring priority habitats and native species, to improve the health of Country. As the landscape faces new and emerging pressures from climate change, restoration is increasingly important. A holistic and adaptive approach to biodiversity conservation and restoration will be required, integrating Western science and Traditional Owner cultural knowledge and land management practices.

Habitat restoration

Animals and plants need suitable and high-quality habitat to survive. Restoring habitat heals damage to Country (i.e. natural or man-made disturbance at different scales and levels of severity) and strengthens its ability to face and recover from future impacts (e.g. building resilience to the effects of extreme weather

events). Improving the structure and function of habitats is also critical to support the recovery of threatened species and key cultural species.

Restoration can reverse habitat fragmentation that occurs when continuous areas of habitat become disconnected by natural or human causes (e.g. bushfires or roads). Smaller habitats support fewer species and smaller populations, which are at greater risk of inbreeding and local extinction.

The theory of island biogeography predicts that populations are more likely to persist in habitat patches that are large or well connected with populations in other hospitable habitats (Vaughn et al. 2010). Severe bushfires and floods have altered the 'growth stage composition' of trees and plants in the landscape; that is, the mix of newer and older vegetation. Some animals and plants depend on habitat with specific growth stages and are vulnerable when this is lost or significantly reduced.

Restoration of localised damaged areas needs to be combined with conservation action across the broader landscape, to ensure that areas in good condition are maintained or improved. For example, it is important to preserve priority climate refuges (see Section 4.4 – Climate change) and the best habitats for future release programs.

Goal – Habitat restoration

The health and resilience of ecosystems across Gariwerd improves.

The knowledge and practices of Traditional Owners is combined with the best available science to develop clear, long-term ecosystem management strategies and priorities for the landscape.

Strategies	Priority
Manage ecosystems holistically, integrating cultural and natural values, to improve their health and resilience in the face of climate change and other stressors.	Immediate
Address key threats to terrestrial ecosystems, which are those with the greatest impact on the regeneration, recruitment and restoration of species and ecological communities.	Immediate
Integrate Traditional Owner knowledge systems, land management practices and customary uses to increase the resilience of ecosystems and Traditional Owner wellbeing.	High
Update the Conservation Action Plan to reflect the knowledge and practices of Traditional Owners including: — knowledge about indigenous plants, including their traditional uses and values and how to manage them. — cultural values such as food items, significant cultural species and totem animals. — ecological attributes and indicators associated with key cultural species.	High
Improve habitat connectivity, maintaining habitat complexity and the effect on growth-stage composition across the landscape.	Medium

Restoring key species and their habitats

Several native animals of conservation significance are no longer found in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape. Some small woodland mammal species (e.g. Southern Bettong, Eastern Quoll and Eastern Barred Bandicoot) became locally extinct as a result of pressure from sheep grazing, the introduction of rabbits, strychnine baiting, and predation by foxes and cats.

Restoring threatened species in the landscape requires protecting and enhancing their critical habitat to support their recovery through natural processes or through reintroduction. Maintaining intact Country by minimising human disturbance is central to facilitating this recovery. Quiet places for iconic wildlife are habitat refuges that benefit the whole of Country.

Twenty-six Natural Values Special Protection Areas (Section 2.3, Appendix 3 and Map 2) have been designated to maintain or enhance intact Country and ecosystems, including refugia and island havens, to support the protection and recovery of key species. These areas also provide an opportunity to evaluate the health of Country and ecosystems that support Country and its recovery.

The Natural Values Special Protection Areas are habitat areas considered to have the highest habitat suitability for the recovery of several threatened fauna, including Southern Brown Bandicoot, Long-nosed Potoroo, Smoky Mouse, Heath Mouse and Platypus, and for current and future release sites for Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby and the recovery of high-altitude (montane) vegetation communities that are locally restricted.

While the protection of habitats to support the perseverance and recovery of threatened species across the landscape is a primary objective for Special Protection Areas, management will also seek outcomes that benefit other species. For Traditional Owners, wildlife is a cultural and symbolic identity for these areas and guides how to care for Country. These areas will be cared for as quiet places: Rock-wallaby Country, Bandicoot Country, Smoky Mouse Country, Heath Mouse Country, Potoroo Country, High Altitude Country and Platypus Country, providing a holistic benefit to the whole of Country, and to all its plants and animals that share the land and waters.

Special Protection Areas are also to be managed as refugia, not only for the defined threatened fauna, but all fauna and flora species. Refugia are managed to support resilience and recovery of the landscape to the impacts of climate change, drought and bushfire. These are places where species find specific habitat requirements that supports them to thrive and 'bounce-back' to repopulate other parts of the landscape during cycles of natural disturbance and stress.

Bandicoot Country and Potoroo Country. The 2006, 2013 and 2014 bushfires severely burnt most of the woodlands in the landscape, resulting in complete loss of the tree canopy and understorey, and in some instances the complete loss of trees. These areas became unsuitable habitat for small mammals, which were not recorded in fire-affected woodlands for a number of years afterwards. Populations of species such as the Southern Brown Bandicoot periodically recovered in response to periods of high rainfall, but declined rapidly afterwards. The Long-nosed Potoroo has not recovered and is now only known to occur at three long-unburnt sites in the landscape and is at risk of local extinction. The retention of these unburnt areas as refugia is therefore critical for their recovery. Small fossorial (digging) mammals have an important role in soil condition and new plant establishment, and their loss is thought to affect the ability of ecosystems to regenerate.

Smoky Mouse Country and Heath Mouse Country. The few records of Smoky Mouse are from the open shrublands of the Major Mitchell Plateau at relatively high altitudes. Heath Mouse is highly reliant on appropriate mosaic burning regimes of heathlands. Both species are highly susceptible to introduced predators.

Rock-wallaby Country. Previous practices such as sport hunting and the fur trade had a catastrophic impact on the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, which became extinct in the landscape. A small number have since been reintroduced. Listed as threatened in Victoria under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act and vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, the Draft Action Statement for Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby prepared by DELWP in 2019 sets the objective of escalating the captive breeding program and reintroducing populations at several locations in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. Steep and complex rocky environments are recognised as offering rock-wallabies protection against terrestrial predators due to the inaccessibility, and rock shelters offer protection from predatory birds. An assessment of habitat within the Grampians region (Malam 2012) identified seven locations in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and

one in Black Range State Park. Human disturbance from recreation such as dispersed camping, campfires and rock climbing poses an issue for reintroducing rock-wallabies.

Platypus Country. Platypuses have declined significantly throughout the landscape due to a combination of severe drought and human impacts (e.g. water diversion, clearing of vegetation along waterways and habitat fragmentation). The MacKenzie River supports the last known platypus population in the landscape, but this population is at high risk due to its small size and low genetic diversity. Translocating platypuses into the catchment to boost the population size and genetic fitness is vital for securing the long-term persistence of the population in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape and beyond.

High Altitude Country. High Altitude Country is treeless or sparsely treed areas on the rocky peaks of the Serra, Victoria and Mount William ranges (Montane ecosystems). As well as these shrublands, High Altitude Country covers wet heathlands. This Country provides also provides protection for endemic flora species and habitat for Smoky Mouse, Southern Brown Bandicoot and Grampians Mountain Dragon. Fire is an important aspect of High Altitude Country.

The return of culturally important species

Traditional Owner society relates deeply to native wildlife. Many species have an important place in Aboriginal cosmology. Species may have cultural, social and symbolic significance in ceremony, story and dance, as Ancestral creation beings, as totems, as symbols of moieties and as a traditional resource. Many culturally significant species were once far more abundant. It is important to note that a species that has become locally extinct may still be a significant cultural species to Traditional Owners. The absence of such species is another threat to Healthy Country. Traditional Owners support the reintroduction of culturally and ecologically important flora and fauna, including those that have not previously been a strategic focus for biodiversity conservation action in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape, to maintain their populations and support ecosystem function and provide for cultural renewal and strengthening.

Spotted-tailed Quoll and Eastern Quoll

Populations of Eastern Quolls and Spotted-tailed Quolls were once common in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape but were decimated by the impacts of European colonisation following strychnine baiting and the arrival of foxes and feral cats. Virtually no observations were made in the Grampians after the early 1980s following the introduction of 1080 poison baiting for rabbits. One Spotted-tailed Quoll in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park was recorded in 2013, coinciding with the escape of a captive-bred quoll from a facility in the local area. Quolls are now presumed to be locally extinct in the landscape. Populations of the Spotted-tailed Quoll still exist near the Otways and in Eastern Victoria.

Eastern Quolls have been extinct in the wild on mainland Australia for more than 50 years and remain extinct in Victoria. They have only recently returned to the mainland of Australia following releases in New South Wales. At present there are no plans to reintroduce Eastern Quolls to the Greater Gariwerd Landscape. Translocations or releases from captive breeding programs are the only means for the recovery of quolls in Gariwerd.

Goal – Restoring key species

Priority habitats including relevant Special Protection Areas are managed to support the reintroduction and recovery of species.

Strategies	Priority
In collaboration with Traditional Owners, investigate the reintroduction of threatened species (e.g., Southern Brown Bandicoot, Smoky Mouse and Long-nosed Potoroo).	Immediate
Protect critical habitat for the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby and support an expanded program for new releases in accordance with the FFG Action Statement. Minimise human disturbance of priority habitat at current and future release sites, including relevant Special Protection Areas.	Immediate
Protect critical habitat for populations of Smoky Mouse, Southern Brown Bandicoot and Long-nosed Potoroo: — Minimise human disturbance of priority habitat, including relevant Special Protection Areas. — Ensure long unburnt areas that support populations continue to provide refuge for the species. — Support a program of captive breeding and translocations into previously fire affected areas to improve distribution and abundance.	Immediate
Protect critical habitat for the Platypus by minimising human disturbance of priority riparian habitat, including relevant Special Protection Areas.	Immediate
Minimise human disturbance within Special Protection Areas and the Natural Quiet Overlay so as to maintain or enhance intact Country and ecosystems, including prohibiting the further habitat fragmentation (e.g. restricting the development of new visitor infrastructure and limiting vehicle access to the existing public open road and track network).	Immediate
Implement monitoring and research in the landscape to identify species distribution and refugia for threatened species (e.g. Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Smoky Mouse and Long-nosed Potoroo). (See also Section 4.4 – Climate change and Section 6.4 – Research and monitoring.)	High
In collaboration with Traditional Owners and partner agencies, investigate the reintroduction of other culturally or ecologically important flora and fauna species (e.g. Eastern Quoll, Spotted-tailed Quoll, Southern Bettong, Eastern Barred Bandicoot, Platypus).	Medium
In collaboration with Traditional Owners, neighbours and the community, support ongoing community discussions to build understanding of the cultural significance and ecological role of Wilkurr (Dingo) – see the ‘Yarning about Wilkur (Dingo)’ text box.	Medium

Yarning about Wilkurr (Dingo)

Wilkurr is an important cultural species that has for thousands of years had a symbiotic relationship as semi-wild companions to Aboriginal people. Wilkurr are the top-order predators of the terrestrial ecosystem and hunted in cooperation with Aboriginal people. Wilkurr also have an important ecological role and may have the potential to support the management of overabundant macropods (kangaroos and wallabies) and suppress feral cat and fox populations.

Significant community concern was raised regarding proposals in the draft management plan to investigate the release of Wilkurr. There are no current plans to release Wilkurr into the wild in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape. Should there be broader community support in the future, investigations into reintroducing Wilkurr may be re-considered.

Traditional Owners and Parks Victoria support ongoing community discussion to build greater understanding of the cultural significance and ecological role of Wilkurr in this landscape. Such discussions and debate will allow issues raised by the local community and farming sector, particularly the lamb and wool industry, to be considered, including any potential impact to visitors or threatened species such as the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby. It will be important to continue exploring the complexity of all the issues, concerns and opportunities; for example, the idea of a Wilkurr enclosure or sanctuary was identified through community feedback on the draft management plan.

Risks and threats to natural values

The key threats to the area's natural values, as described in the Conservation Action Plan (Parks Victoria 2019), are summarised below.

Predation, over-grazing and over-browsing, and invasion by pest plants and animals. These threats, along with biosecurity risks, are addressed below. Introduced animals are impacting both natural values and cultural places (e.g. feral goats damage rock art motifs and rock shelter deposits). Introduced plants are impacting on vegetation communities and on cultural practices related to food, medicines, fibres, creative arts, etc.

Inappropriate fire regimes. Increasingly frequent large-scale and high intensity bushfires have impacted a large part of the landscape, leading to a reduction of natural habitats for native species. Refer to Section 4.2 – Fire management.

Water harvesting infrastructure. Water use and water extraction from Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park includes the impoundment of rivers, diversion of water and drawdown of groundwater impacting on the environmental and cultural health of the landscape. Refer to Section 4.3 – Water management.

Climate change. Climate change impacts on vegetation, species distribution and abundance and water availability. Key cultural species are impacted, as are accessible resources (e.g. Aboriginal food, medicine and fibre species). Refer to Section 4.4 – Climate change.

Increased visitation impacts. Impacts from increased visitation including the spread of weeds and pathogens such as Cinnamon Fungus, illegal track and trail construction destroying vegetation around visitor sites, light and sound pollution and increased vehicle use to move people around the landscape. Refer to Chapter 5.

Predation by foxes and cats

The threat of predation results primarily from introduced predators (Red Foxes and feral cats) and poses an extreme risk to a range of ecosystems across the landscape. This threat affects ecosystems primarily by reducing the abundance of prey species, including species that support ecological processes (e.g. small mammals that dig and disperse seeds and nutrients). Predation by foxes and cats occurs throughout the

landscape and has contributed to the decline in the health of a range of ecosystems. Predation also compounds the impacts of drought and bushfire on native animal populations as loss of small mammals results in less moisture penetration into soils.

Monitoring data from the Grampians indicates feral cats are now as abundant in the Grampians as Red Fox. This is likely a response to long-term, landscape-scale poison baiting of foxes. There is evidence from programs elsewhere that control of a single predator species (foxes) can result in an increase of other predator species (cats). The integrated control of predator species is important for effectively managing the threat of predation while supporting the reintroduction and recovery of populations of native small mammal species such as Southern Brown Bandicoots, Long-nosed Potoros, Eastern Quolls, Spotted-tailed Quolls, Eastern Barred Bandicoots and Southern Bettong that have been lost or severely depleted from the landscape. The role of native predators and how they can be supported to recover is a gap in our current understanding of these systems. Building this knowledge will support the ongoing effective management of predation pressure by both introduced and native predators.

Goal – Predation by foxes and cats

Fox and feral cat predation pressure is reduced to support the recovery and ongoing viability of predation-risk species including the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, Long-nosed Potoroo, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Smoky Mouse, Southern Bettong, Eastern Quoll and Spotted-tailed Quoll.

Strategies	Priority
Implement landscape-scale fox and feral cat baiting programs coordinated with adjacent landholders and Landcare groups.	Immediate
Undertake targeted control (i.e. trapping) for foxes and cats in priority fauna refugia (including relevant Special Protection Areas) to protect populations of priority species and support reintroductions and translocations (e.g. Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Long-nosed Potoroo, Platypus).	Immediate
Continue to develop and improve landscape-scale predation management including the application of new techniques that would not deliver adverse outcomes (e.g. bait types/delivery mechanisms that prevent take by non-target native species).	Immediate
Investigate potential long-term partnerships to install predator-proof-fences in large areas to enable research, trial reintroductions and create insurance populations of threatened wildlife.	High
Establish innovative research partnerships between farmers and academic institutions to investigate and trial native predator reintroduction (quoll) to restore missing ecological processes, control pest species (rabbits, fox, feral cat) and naturally manage overabundant macropods (kangaroo and wallaby).	Medium

Invasion by terrestrial weeds

The primary weed invasion threat is the spread of the native woody perennial Sallow Wattle, but this may change over time with shifting climates, the introduction of new weeds and the spread of other established weed species. It is essential to have an appropriate monitoring program coupled with the resources required to treat and eradicate new populations of weeds that are likely to affect ecosystems (such as woody weeds creating a dense mid-story in woodland areas).

A number of established high-risk weeds are already having a direct impact on ecosystems and limiting the recovery and restoration of important areas. Sallow Wattle invasion is a critical problem because it undergoes mass germination after fire, suppressing the regeneration of indigenous plants and modifying the

habitat for fauna. Wattles and other plants within the family Fabaceae fix atmospheric nitrogen in the soil, which can support other introduced vegetation able to readily exploit high nutrient availability and deter the reproduction and persistence of native species adapted to nutrient-poor soils. New and emerging weeds also present a potential threat to the landscape. Because of the largely unknown nature of these weeds, the level of threat will vary between species and locations. Prevention and readiness strategies to reduce the potential for invasion and enable timely responses will reduce the likelihood that new and emerging weeds become problematic in the future.

Goals – Invasion by terrestrial weeds

The vegetation structure and quality of habitat in priority locations is maintained or restored. The condition of priority populations of indigenous flora species is maintained or improved.

All identified new and emerging weeds are eradicated and the spread of Sallow Wattle is contained within its 2018 distribution.

Strategies	Priority
Control environmental weeds through surveillance and rapid management intervention to prevent the establishment of new and emerging weeds such as South African Orchid and by containing Sallow Wattle to its 2018 distribution.	Immediate
Prioritise and implement the removal of satellite weed populations. Control weeds at high-value and high-risk locations (refer to the Conservation Action Plan). Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of weed control. Adapt the approach to control as required.	Immediate
Contain or eradicate new and emerging weeds.	Immediate
Develop eradication plans for new and emerging species. Assess the feasibility of eradication and containment objectives.	Medium
Protect important species and ecological communities from high-risk weeds and pathogens through working with Traditional Owners, government departments, and developing partnerships with CMAs, Landcare groups and neighbouring landholders.	Medium
Implement coordinated, cross-tenure responses including partnerships with CMAs, Landcare groups and neighbouring landholders. Work with DELWP and DJPR to develop identification materials, especially to help neighbouring landholders identify young plants and rapidly control new, emerging and established high-risk weeds.	Medium
Establish and continue research partnerships to fill knowledge gaps and mitigate weed threats identified by climate change predictions (see Section 6.4 – Research and monitoring).	Medium

Over-grazing and over-browsing

Over-grazing and over-browsing pose a high risk to a range of ecosystems across the landscape and are largely driven by introduced rabbits, goats, Red Deer and Fallow Deer, although native herbivores also have a significant effect in certain areas (e.g. Red-neck Wallaby, Black Wallaby, Eastern Grey Kangaroo and Western Grey Kangaroo). This threat particularly impacts the floristic diversity and structural complexity of Heathy Forest and Woodland, Herb Forest and Woodland and Rocky Knoll ecosystems and the habitat values of Riparian and Wetland ecosystems. Managing this threat is essential for the successful regeneration of key canopy species, increasing species diversity in ground and shrub layers and improving overall vegetation cover, complexity and floristic richness.

The impacts of this threat vary between species and locations. Feral goats inhabit Rocky Knoll areas and impact the endangered Grampians Pincushion-lily and Montane vegetation communities. Red Deer browse

on small trees (e.g. Silver Banksia) and woody shrubs (e.g. Slaty Sheoak and Oyster Bay Pine) and graze on the ground layer, mainly in Herb Forest and Woodland, reducing the diversity and regeneration of the shrub layer and altering the nature of the ground layer. Fallow Deer were once restricted to the eastern Grampians, but their distribution and abundance have been increasing in recent years.

Native herbivores, including Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Western Grey Kangaroos and Red-necked and Black wallabies, also impact regeneration and recruitment of native plant species. Browsing by native herbivores tends to have a higher impact on Herb Forest and Woodland rather than Heathland and Heathy Forest and Woodland and has the most significant impacts in areas adjacent to private land where there is abundant food and water (in paddocks) and shelter (in the parks). Although rabbits are not highly visible in the landscape, rabbit population densities are sufficiently high to have impacts in Herb Forest and Woodland, particularly in sandier soil profiles. The effective management of grazing and browsing pressure involves the integrated management of both introduced herbivores and native herbivores to support the regeneration and health of ecosystems.

Goals – Over-grazing and over-browsing

Vegetation structure and quality of habitat and populations of indigenous flora in priority locations are maintained or restored.

The impacts from herbivores are reduced and new pest species are prevented from establishing populations

Strategies	Priority
Target feral goat control to prevent impact on rock art (i.e. rubbing of painted motifs and disturbance to rock shelter floor deposits). Target eradication of feral goats at Burrunj (Black Range State Park) being a discrete, isolated population.	Immediate
Protect priority herb-rich woodland ecosystems in vulnerable, sandy areas from rabbits by working with Traditional Owners and DJPR to employ culturally appropriate control methods and to monitor rabbits in priority locations to densities of less than 0.35 active warren entrances per square kilometer.	Immediate
Control goats using appropriate methods in collaboration with stakeholders to maintain target density of fewer than eight goats per square kilometre. Consider the implementation of innovative, large-scale feral goat control (i.e. aerial shooting) using appropriate methods in collaboration with stakeholders to maintain target density.	Immediate
Eradicate Fallow Deer from the landscape. Reduce Red Deer from priority herb-rich woodland areas and catchments and maintain a landscape detection rate of less than two per square kilometer.	Immediate
Conduct rapid response to eradicate any detections of new species such as Sambar Deer, elk and pigs. Support monitoring and containment of populations in adjacent landscapes (e.g. Langi Ghiran) to prevent colonisation to Gariwerd.	Immediate
Monitor the impacts of macropod grazing at priority locations and implement control programs if required, working with surrounding landholders and across tenures where possible.	High
Implement monitoring to improve the understanding of the impacts of over-grazing and over-browsing on vegetation in the landscape, by mapping and monitoring values at highest risk and the distribution and movement patterns of priority native and introduced herbivores.	Medium

Diseases and biosecurity

The introduction and spread of environmental diseases is an issue for the Greater Gariwerd Landscape, particularly on public land. Continuing research is required into their impact on native species including Traditional Owner totemic species and on which species are most at threat from introduced diseases and pests.

Dieback caused by the plant pathogen Cinnamon Fungus poses a high to extreme risk to many ecosystems in the landscape. It affects the roots of susceptible plant species, causing dieback and eventual death. Healthy ecosystems are particularly affected. The pathogen is spread by walkers and vehicles and has been detected along tracks and roads throughout much of the planning area. Animals moving through the landscape also spread the disease.

The only technique known to prevent the spread of Cinnamon Fungus in bushland areas is to restrict management activities and off-track access to remote areas or implement stringent vehicle, footwear and equipment protocols. Careful planning of the construction of new tracks to avoid sensitive, disease-free areas is a way to prevent the spread of Cinnamon Fungus into ecosystems that are known to be very susceptible.

Chytridiomycosis is an infectious disease that affects amphibians caused by a fungus. The fungus lives in water or soil and is thought to infect frogs when their skin comes into contact with water and soil that contains fungal spores. The fungus has contributed to the decline and extinction of a number of Australian frog species. As with Cinnamon Fungus dieback, the only effective technique to prevent spread is to restrict management activities and off-track access to remote areas.

Goal – Diseases and biosecurity

The introduction or spread of diseases is prevented by biosecurity measures.

Strategies	Priority
Rehabilitate roads, tracks, trails and other areas with high levels of infestation that are identified as key invasion points and pathways.	Immediate
Contain the spread of Cinnamon Fungus and chytridiomycosis to currently infected areas by implementing strict pathogen hygiene protocols, and by identifying and monitoring key invasion points and pathways (e.g. vehicles, visitors).	Immediate
Build understanding of the impact of infectious diseases on Traditional Owner totemic species and other important native species.	Medium

4.2 Fire management

Fire is a natural part of the environment, with lightning and Traditional Owner burning practices having shaped ecosystems over tens of thousands of years. Flora and fauna have evolved with fire, with many plants reliant on bushfire to regenerate and maintain their health. Dawson (1881) recounts a tradition of fire use related to the Greater Gariwerd Landscape as follows:

‘... fire, such that could be safely used, belonged exclusively to the crows inhabiting the [Gariwerd] Grampian Mountains; and, as these crows considered it of great value, they would not allow other animal [sic] to get a light. However, a little bird called Yuuloin keear — ‘fire-tail wren’ — observing the crows amusing themselves by throwing firesticks about, picked up one and flew away with it. A hawk called Tarrakukk took the firestick from the wren and set the whole country on fire. From that time there have always been fires from which lights could be obtained.’

Fire was traditionally used for many purposes, including as a land management tool to assist in hunting and the cultivation of plant species. Thousands of years of ‘fire-stick farming’ in the vegetation on the ranges and across the plains made the landscape open and accessible, a situation which changed rapidly following colonial invasion (Dawson 1881, Coutts & Lorblanchet 1982, Gunn 1983).

The landscape has endured a decade of disasters with extreme and widespread impacts from severe bushfires. Only relatively small areas have avoided fire in the past two decades (Figure 4.2). These areas are significant refuges for the survival and subsequent recovery of many fauna species. Fire management must consider the value of long unburnt areas so they continue to provide refuge and recovery benefits to the landscape.

The Bureau of Meteorology and the CSIRO both report that fire danger has increased in recent decades in southern Australia (BOM 2020, CSIRO 2019). There has also been an increase in the length of the fire season. Climate change, including increasing temperatures, is contributing to these changes (see Section 4.4). As with much of Victoria, Gariwerd is severely prone to bushfire.

Residual risk describes the risk of bushfires impacting life and property compared to a theoretical landscape with no previous fire history or fuel management; that is, fuel loads at a maximum level. Modification of fuels by bushfire, planned burns or mechanical treatments (slashing, mulching) all reduce the residual risk. Residual risk fell sharply following the 2006 bushfire and continued to gradually decline due to planned burning and more recent bushfires. It has begun to increase in recent years as fuel accumulates in fire-affected areas. The Grampians Bushfire Risk Region’s residual bushfire risk was 67 per cent in autumn 2021 (DELWP Safer Together Website).

Fire, including pre-fire protection, fire suppression and post-fire recovery works, can be a threat to Traditional Owner cultural places, particularly scarred trees and rock art. Fire can also be both a threat and a management tool for key cultural species and wild plant and animal resources. Traditional Owners have identified the following risks in relation to fighting bushfires and preparation for planned burns:

- a lack of engagement with and employment of Traditional Owners
- a lack of mapping of cultural places and cultural values as a basis for decision-making
- a lack of awareness of Traditional Owner cultural values by fire crews
- a lack of application of Aboriginal fire regimes, which may increase the likelihood of bushfires
- a lack of recognition of Traditional Owner involvement as an opportunity to connect to Country.

Inappropriate fire management is a key threat to the ecosystems of Gariwerd, as described in the Conservation Action Plan. Landscape-scale bushfires create large areas of single-age vegetation and reduce the variability of vegetation and habitats, affecting the ability of species to survive and recolonise after fire. Old-growth vegetation and the fauna it supports, is particularly vulnerable to frequent fire. Large fires may reduce the size of animal populations as well as food and shelter availability for surviving animals, which can have a severe impact on threatened species. Fire also seriously impacts human lives, livelihoods and communities.

Fire management can also have an impact on natural ecosystems through activities such as track and control line establishment for bushfire suppression and planned burning. Fire management vehicles can spread pathogens and weeds. In the planning area, fire should be managed through existing roads and tracks where possible to limit the physical impact of fire management, as well as the spread of pathogens and weeds.

Remote area fires and firefighting will be an ongoing part of park operations in this landscape, where lightning often causes fires in remote sections of park. To protect critical water supply (see Section 4.3) and park values, as well as visitor safety (see Section 5.6) this requires substantial fire management planning and response. Fire management refers to bushfire suppression, pre-fire protection such as planned burning, post-fire recovery and using fire for ecological purposes. Importantly, fire management also includes opportunities for reintroducing cultural burning.

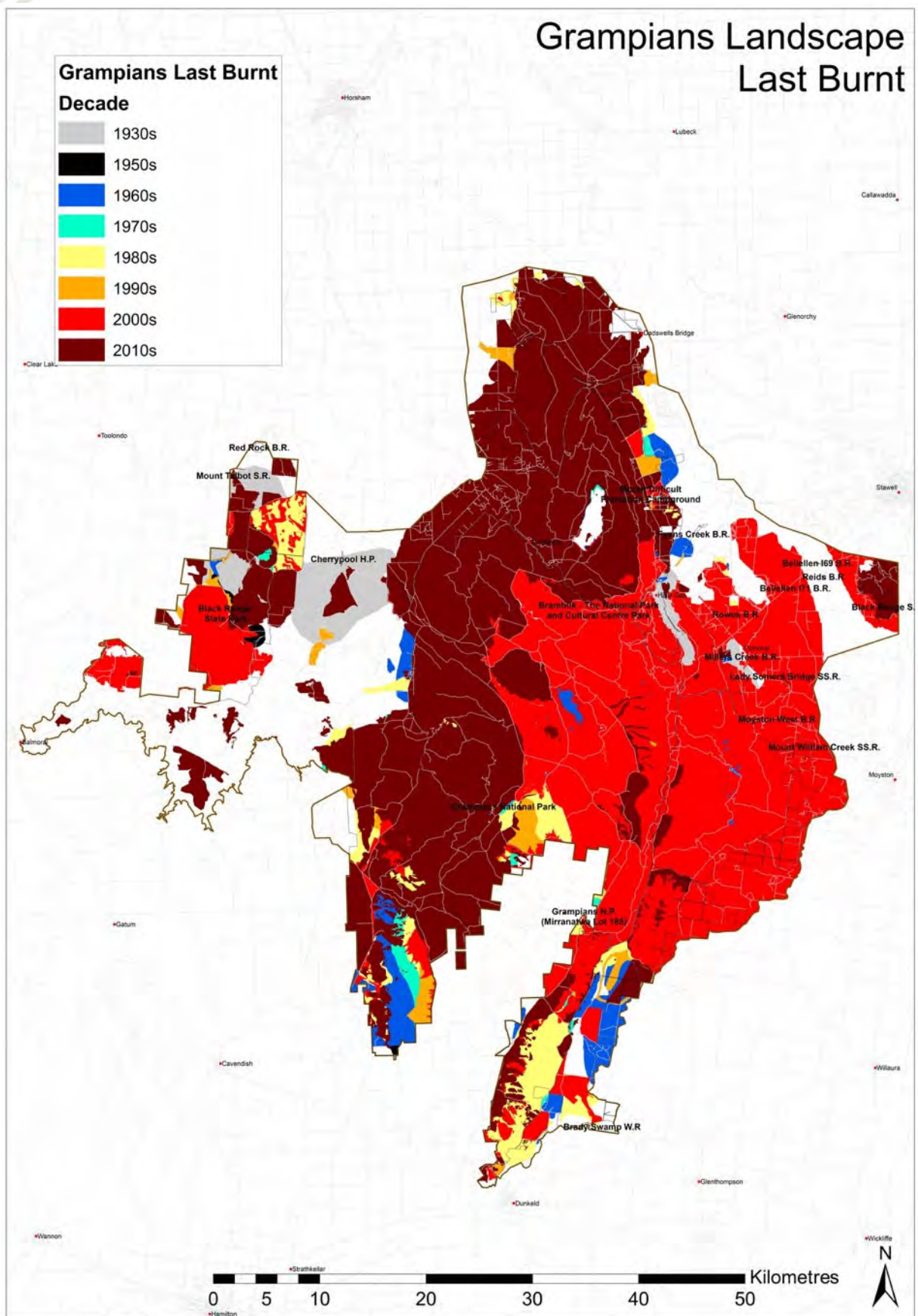


Figure 4.2 Greater Gariwerd Landscape, areas last burnt prior to July 2020

Bushfires and flood

Fire records indicate that much of the Greater Gariwerd Landscape has been subjected to both increasing bushfire and planned burning regimes (see Figure 4.2). Since 2000 there have been three major bushfires that have affected around 85 per cent of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. The known history of bushfire in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape prior to July 2020 includes:

- 1895 to 1902 drought years
- 1939 Much of the landscape is affected by fire – no sawmills return after this time
- 1989 Northern fire
- 2000s drought years
- 2006 Mount Lubra fire
- 2010–11 floods and landslides
- 2013 Victoria Valley and Victoria Range fires
- 2014 Northern Grampians Complex fire
- 2015 Black Range State Park fire.

Cultural burning

Cultural burning and the potential partnerships between Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV), Parks Victoria and the three Traditional Owner corporations is supported by recent Victorian policy: The Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Fire Strategy (FFMV 2020). The strategy identifies that Traditional Owners are becoming increasingly involved in public land management and have strong aspirations to ensure cultural use of fire is reintroduced, adapted and applied wherever possible to allow for healing and caring for Country. The cultural fire strategy expresses the vision:

‘Future generations of Victorian Traditional Owners will grow up observing their Elders leading the use of the right fire for Country. They will be trusted to know the special reasons why fire is used and how it brings health to the land and people. Their children and grandchildren will see culturally valuable plants and animals return to Country and know their stories.’

The six principles underpinning the strategy are:

- Cultural burning is right fire, right time, right way and for the right reasons, according to lore.
- Burning is a cultural responsibility.
- Cultural fire is living knowledge.
- Monitoring, evaluation and research support cultural fire objectives and enable adaptive learning.
- Country is managed holistically.
- Cultural fire is healing.

The statewide strategy focuses on embedding traditional burning practices into fire regimes in Victoria. Included in the strategy are descriptions of traditional practices, the kinds of conditions that help determine when and where cultural fire is needed and pre-assessment and ongoing monitoring of traditional burn sites. The strategy outlines ways of linking cultural burning with other approaches to fuel and fire management. This is important for ensuring that Traditional Owners and other fire practitioners can confidently work with each other as cultural burning is reintroduced.

Several Traditional Owner corporations around Victoria have established service agreements with DELWP to support planned burning and bushfire management operations. Traditional Owners are also employed by various agencies and have fire roles as part of cooperation with FFMV. This has led to the development of fire management skills and capabilities of Traditional Owners and is an effective pathway to delivering cultural burning operations in partnership with FFMV.

Goal – Cultural burning

Traditional Owners care for Country by applying cultural burning in partnership with fire management agencies.

Strategies	Priority
Support the implementation of the Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Fire Strategy for the cultural use of fire to be reintroduced, adapted and applied wherever possible, to allow for healing and caring for Country.	Immediate
Recognise and support Intellectual Property rights associated with Traditional Owner cultural burning practices.	Immediate
Work with FFMV to develop and implement burning regimes that focus on cultural and ecological objectives, while recognising and responding to asset protection and public safety.	High

Public land fire management

FFMV is responsible for fire management on Parks Victoria managed land in Victoria. It develops and delivers fire management programs based on risk mitigation, sets objectives for bushfire management on public land and develops strategies and actions for prevention, preparedness, fuel management (including planned burning and non-burning fuel treatments), response and recovery programs.

FFMV has released strategies to manage fuel across public and private land, bringing together local knowledge and values with world-leading bushfire science and modelling capability (EMV 2019a, 2019b). The new strategies bring together existing plans, strategies and understanding of risk, including Regional Strategic Fire Management Plans and the Victorian Fire Risk Register-Bushfire. The strategic bushfire management planning process enables agencies and communities to set clear objectives and devise strategies to achieve them. It provides a common understanding of risk and a common plan for reducing it. Strategic bushfire management planning informs more detailed operational level planning, including municipal fire prevention planning, fire operations planning and readiness and response planning.

The strategic bushfire management plans for Barwon South West Region and Grampians Region identify townships including Halls Gap, Pomonal and Dunkeld as being priority townships for fuel management. Other towns outside the planning area, but which may be affected by actions within, are Stawell, Ararat and Balmoral. The strategic bushfire management plans will assess these townships for risk from bushfire and determine a joint fuel management strategy for both public and private land, to reduce the risk to communities (EMV 2019a, 2019b).

The Code of Practice for Bushfire Management on Public Land (DSE 2012) identifies fire management zones where fire is used for asset protection, bushfire moderation and landscape management. Landscape management zones are designed to achieve ecological outcomes (in part to reduce the spread of destructive large-scale fires but also to complement community protection).

The Greater Grampians Fire Ecology Strategy guides the planning and implementation of burns. This links to the Conservation Action Plan for the Greater Gariwerd Landscape and identifies fire-sensitive vegetation, fire-sensitive fauna species, and landscape biophysical units, enabling fire regimes to be planned across the complex landscape.

Since 2014, engagement on fire planning in the Grampians has been discussed through the Grampians Roundtable. This group includes representatives from key stakeholders and organisations, such as Traditional Owner organisations, local government, the Country Fire Authority (CFA), water authorities, climbing groups, apiarists, the Grampians Asset Protection Group, the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria and

Friends of Grampians Gariwerd. The roundtable is a key fire management engagement group for the landscape and will continue to be a point of contact for multiple stakeholders.

Local knowledge and partnerships are critical for successful fire management. Local Parks Victoria staff play a key role as paper of FFMV's forest fire fighting team, along with local CFA volunteers and DELWP staff. These arrangements are essential for initial attack during bushfires, as well as conducting planned burn operations at various times of the year to manage fuel loads within the landscape. Land managers also play a key role recovery after fire, populations of threatened species can be at increased risk from predation and over-grazing or over-browsing, or degradation from the unauthorised use of fire-affected areas by park visitors.

Bushfire recovery programs, meanwhile, cover post-fire assessments and insurance claims, through to allocation of funding, project planning and then implementation. Between 2006 and 2014, fires and floods within Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park occurred on a scale never seen before in this park.

Goal – Public land fire management

Habitat degradation and impacts to cultural values from fire management are reduced through a cross-tenure approach to fire management, which maintains appropriate fire in the landscape and reduces the impacts of planned burning and large bushfires.

Strategies	Priority
Apply ecologically sensitive fire to fire-dependent ecosystems, based on Traditional Owner knowledge and Western science.	Immediate
Target fuel management to protect ecological, cultural and infrastructure assets, based on identified risk mitigation needs.	Immediate
Undertake fire preparedness and suppression activities in accordance with environmental, cultural and fire management guidelines, including local planning documents, Traditional Owner Country Plans and FFMV's Standard Operating Procedures.	Immediate
Exclude fire from fire-sensitive ecosystems and other high-priority areas, such as populations of the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby and Long-nosed Potoroo.	Immediate
Plan, manage and contain bushfires to ensure the protection and management of significant cultural and environmental places and values, including fire management objectives for Special Protection Areas: — Long-nosed Potoroo and Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby Country to be protected from fire as much as possible. The retention of unburnt areas of Long-nosed Potoroo Country as refugia is critical for their recovery. — Maintain a mosaic of burnt and unburnt areas of different ages in Southern Brown Bandicoot Country — Maintain a fire regime in Smoky Mouse Country that promotes an appropriate balance of heath understory (except where Smoky Mouse Country covers fern gullies, such as Silverband Falls) — Maintain an appropriate fire regime to allow the development of mature vegetation in High Altitude Country.	Immediate
Partner with Traditional Owners, strategic bushfire management agencies and the community to inform fire management planning. Where possible, work with partners across land tenures to minimise the area of necessary fire breaks.	Immediate

Goal – Public land fire management

Habitat degradation and impacts to cultural values from fire management are reduced through a cross-tenure approach to fire management, which maintains appropriate fire in the landscape and reduces the impacts of planned burning and large bushfires.

Strategies	Priority
Collaborate in partnerships between Traditional Owners and FFMV, DELWP and other fire management agencies through planning, capability development, formal agreements as operational partners and in the implementation of joint operations.	Immediate
Work with FFMV and fire research partners to assist in the ongoing development of strategic bushfire management plans for Gariwerd, ensuring they: — are updated to include protection of new economic and visitor assets as they are developed. — consider the areas as a cultural landscape and incorporate cultural burning as a consideration — include strategies for protecting cultural sites and assets as they are rediscovered.	Immediate
Work with Traditional Owners, FFMV, DELWP and CFA on the design and implementation of the Joint Fuel Management Plan, including recognition of fuel treatments other than fire where possible and the protection of the water supply catchment as a high priority in accordance with the <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> (see Section 4.3).	High
Work with FFMV to maintain fuel breaks and the strategic road network required for emergency access, and maintain critical fire facilities within the parks including Victoria Valley Airbase, fire dams, Reed Fire Tower and the helipad network.	Medium
Support long-term research into the influence of fire (both planned and bushfire) on the ecology of the parks including identifying long-unburnt areas and other areas of refuge for threatened species and communities, plus on-ground monitoring of changes to ecosystems and fuel loads following fire (see Section 6.4 – Research and monitoring)	Medium

4.3 Catchments, hydrology and water management

Gariwerd is a source of water ('life blood') for Gariwerd itself, as well as for the adjoining Countries (e.g. water from the Gariwerd ranges supports the Gunditjmara aquaculture systems in the World Heritage listed Budj Bim Cultural Landscape). It is also recognised as the largest water catchment for the region, supplying water to nearby towns and surrounding farmlands (Wilkie 2020). Water provides both traditional boundaries and shared areas.

Gariwerd's mountain ranges, running roughly north to south, rise above the otherwise flat terrain of Victoria's western plains. The ranges catch water from the rain-bearing westerly winds. The largest ranges, Serra and Mount William, receive up to 1000 millimetres of rain annually. On the northern (Wimmera) side of the Grampians the rain is collected in several reservoirs, Lake Wartook (1887), Lake Lonsdale (1903), Lake Fyans (1916) and Lake Bellfield (1966). There are other storages further north.

The largest storage is Rocklands Reservoir (1953), on the west of the Grampians, damming the waters of the Bugara (Glenelg) River. When full, Rocklands Reservoir has a volume of nearly 296,000 megalitres with a

surface area of just over 6000 hectares. The total amount of water available is just over 452,000 megalitres when all major reservoirs are full.

The Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 provides legal protection for water supply catchment areas. Most of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park is a designated water supply catchment area, servicing many communities in the broader Grampians, Wimmera, Mallee and central areas of Victoria.

The creation of the water supply lakes, reservoirs and other artificial water bodies (as well as associated infrastructure) have impacted on Traditional Owner cultural values through transforming wetlands into reservoirs. The restoration of water flows, wetlands and water-dependent ecosystems within Gariwerd is considered by Traditional Owners to be critical to the health and healing of Country.

Riparian and wetland systems are sensitive to changes in water quality and quantity which can compromise their character, health and function, such as the first and second Wannon headworks diversions that divert a significant amount of water from the Wannon River into the Lake Bellfield System. The Moora Moora Reservoir and the Glenelg River diversion also both intercept surface flows, draining moisture from upstream heath in the Victoria Valley, which is changing the vegetation species composition and potentially increasing the bushfire risk in the Victoria Valley.

The primary threat to wetlands in the landscape is the alteration of hydrology caused by water harvesting, diversion and associated infrastructure. Water diversion and retention infrastructure has cut off some floodplains and wetlands from natural flooding and caused more permanent inundation in others. These changes alter the characteristics of wetland habitat, particularly affecting species that occur only within the zones between high and low water levels. Water diversion and retention infrastructure also obstruct the upstream and downstream movements of aquatic fauna and alters the flow and presence of water.

Deeper marshes provide important drought refugia in dry conditions when shallow ephemeral systems have dried out. The relative permanence of deeper marshes, however, makes them more likely to be subject to water harvesting. Groundwater harvesting also has the potential to compromise the filling and permanence of groundwater-fed wetlands that provide critical drought refugia in the absence of riverine-fed systems.

Both Wannon Water and Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water (GWMWater) maintain the infrastructure at the headworks (top of the water supply system) for the reservoirs and diversion weirs and the streams and channels connecting them in and around the Gariwerd ranges and the Wannon, Glenelg and Wimmera Rivers. They are also responsible for many other aspects of management such as dam safety and the development of reservoir recreation management plans. Much of the infrastructure located in the planning area pre-dates the creation of the parks, however, apart from the main reservoirs (Bellfield, Wartook, Moora Moora), which are protected as reservoir land, the majority of infrastructure within Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park remains unlicensed. Construction, operation and maintenance of the infrastructure can have a substantial impact on park values and requires careful management. Fire in these water supply catchments is an additional risk. Much of the Wartook catchment burnt in 2014, while the Serra Range fire in 2006 completely burnt the Lake Bellfield catchment (see Section 4.2 – Fire management). Both fires resulted in high levels of ash and sediment entering the water supply system. High levels of contamination can be challenging to remove from water before treatment and supply to customers.

Along with water regulation and diversion infrastructure, there are also a number of groundwater bores in and close to the park landscape. As well as licensing water diversions, rural water authorities administer bore water and associated licensing and monitor water use. Water harvesting data for both surface and groundwater is provided to DELWP, which manages records. Collaboration between agencies is important for understanding water and wetland relationships and ensuring sustainable water use.

Cultural water

Geological activity at Gariwerd established a well-watered landscape of swamps, shallow lakes and ephemeral pools. The many waterholes and larger lakes that dotted the plains surrounding Gariwerd were fringed with reeds, grasses and herbs, providing rich resources, including birdlife and their eggs, fish and freshwater crays. To the People of Gariwerd, they, the land, the water and everything on it were interconnected (Calder 1987).

Fish traps were reportedly abundant in the Grampians, featuring circular nets made of rush-work, with mussel shells found abundant on the banks (Bride 1898). A fish trap/aquaculture channel has been recorded at the foot of the Mount William Range – on the eastern boundary of Gariwerd (The Morass Fish Trap). It extends for 150 metres and is 2 metres wide with more of the Mount William aquaculture system potentially buried under outwash from early nineteenth century gold mining (Williams 1988). The complex aquaculture system observed is an important area to Traditional Owners, despite being largely destroyed.

As the understanding of cultural water values develops, Traditional Owner ecological knowledge is increasingly working alongside Western knowledge to improve waterway health outcomes. For example, both Glenelg Hopkins and Wimmera CMAs have been working with Traditional Owners to share information on waterway values and identify waterway requirements.

Restoring the Wannon River floodplain

The Wannon River flows out of the south-east corner of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park (approximately 12 kilometres north-east of Dunkeld), forming a large alluvial fan on the floodplain. The area was drained in the early 1950s for agriculture. Two of its three large wetlands, Gooseneck and Bradys Swamp, were later fully or partially incorporated into Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.

Gooseneck Swamp discharges naturally into Brady Swamp, but it must fill to a certain height before the natural discharge channel and wider connecting floodplain receive flows. An artificial outlet drain cut through the lunette bank that separates Gooseneck Swamp from Brady Swamp enabled the swamp to drain freely to its bed level once inflows ceased, rather than pool in the wetland.

Interest in the restoration of Gooseneck Swamp began in the mid-1980s when the property was acquired by the Victorian Government and eventually incorporated into Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. In 2013, after many years of modelling studies and biological investigations by a range of organisations, Nature Glenelg Trust began a staged process of restoration at the site in partnership with the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (GHCMA), Parks Victoria and local landholders, starting with the construction of a low cost and low risk trial sandbag weir in the Gooseneck Swamp artificial outlet drain.

The trial's success in reinstating wetland levels led to similar trials being initiated at Brady Swamp and Walker Swamp in 2014. Permanent works were subsequently undertaken to reinstate the breached natural earthen banks at Brady and Gooseneck Swamps in early 2015. The works have permanently reinstated the original watercourse and floodplain of the Wannon River, which now fills when the water levels in these wetlands reach their natural spill level.

Subsequent rain brought a healthy explosion of wetland vegetation and a strong assemblage of waterbirds to both wetlands. Below the water surface there was also evidence of fish breeding with both juvenile Southern Pygmy Perch and Little Galaxias, with a background chorus of Growling Grass Frogs. Several sightings have since been made of Platypus in the Wannon River several kilometres downstream of Brady and Gooseneck Swamps, near Dunkeld.

Traditional Owners assert the need to better recognise environmental and cultural water flows, and to protect the landscape from further water capture through controls on water extraction from rivers and groundwater supplies (in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape and surrounds). Achieving this will be challenging. A significant proportion of the landscape is a designated water supply catchment, but population growth and climate change are increasing the demand for water and reducing water availability (see Section 4.4 – Climate change).

In some locations, environmental water (water set aside for use to achieve ecological outcomes) can be delivered to re-instate specific components of the natural hydrological regime. Managing environmental flows involves managing the timing, frequency, duration, depth and extent of water inundation where feasible, to improve the health of rivers and wetlands and other water-dependent ecosystems in the landscape.

Key activities include working in partnership with the CMAs to prepare environmental watering plans and with other key partners including Nature Glenelg Trust, universities/research partners and water authorities to improve or rationalise water infrastructure and restore associated aquatic and riparian habitat. These plans and activities will improve the ability to provide appropriate water regimes to the landscape.

Because water, infrastructure, catchments and the parks and reserves are managed by various agencies, collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders is fundamental to the delivery of improved waterway outcomes and the rationalisation of existing infrastructure, while balancing social and economic demands in the region. Partnering with flood and emergency services agencies to build capacity in timely flood response is also a priority to ensure visitor safety and achieve good ecological outcomes for water-dependent ecosystems.

Goal – Catchments, hydrology and water management

Water regimes and complementary management activities enhance the resilience of water-dependent habitat and fauna.

Strategies	Priority
Work with Traditional Owners, water corporations, and catchment management authorities to improve and share knowledge of the Traditional Owner cultural values and Western knowledge of waterways (rivers, wetlands and floodplains) in the landscape, including researching the Mount William aquaculture system and identifying environmental water requirements.	Immediate
Conduct Traditional Owner-guided field surveys for cultural materials revealed when artificial water bodies are at low levels.	Immediate
Identify opportunities to reinstate more natural water regimes for rivers and wetlands that do not currently receive environmental water, as well as opportunities for wetlands to retain water in the landscape for longer.	Immediate
Support Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Wimmera CMA, the Victorian Environmental Water Holder and GWMWater to manage waterway health and deliver environmental water, through contribution to the development and renewal of plans such as CMA environmental water management plans, seasonal watering plans and regional catchment, waterway, floodplain and sustainable water strategies.	Immediate
Improve water-dependent ecosystems by maintaining and improving the hydrological regimes, with a focus on the Wannon River headwork diversions, Glenelg River floodplain channels and Billawin (Victoria Range) in-stream barriers together with other waterways affected by water harvesting (e.g. Fyans Creek, Mount William Creek and MacKenzie River).	High

Goal – Catchments, hydrology and water management

Water regimes and complementary management activities enhance the resilience of water-dependent habitat and fauna.

Strategies	Priority
Register all water infrastructure in the park estate. In consultation with the relevant CMA and water corporation, update and improve infrastructure or remove legacy infrastructure (i.e. diversions weirs) and redundant public water supply channels (i.e. Glenelg River floodplain diversions) in the landscape where this restores flow regimes (see Section 5.8 – Authorised uses).	High
Interpret the river and wetland systems as key elements in sustaining life across Country.	Medium
Work with the waterway and water managers, Traditional Owners, Victorian Fisheries Authority, research partners, DELWP and other key partners and land managers to complement the protection and management of the rivers, wetlands and floodplains of Gariwerd by supporting initiatives such as: — translocating platypus to MacKenzie River to ensure their long-term persistence in the landscape — researching the impact of introduced fish species on native fish populations through predation and competition, particularly juvenile Obscure Galaxias, Southern Pygmy Perch and River Blackfish, with a view to undertaking potential actions such as installing instream barriers upstream of reservoirs to mitigate their impact, or considering appropriate release sites for non-native fish stocking, being mindful of genetic considerations, expected climate impacts and diversity within populations — increasing connectivity beyond the landscape into adjoining private land and other land tenures.	Medium

4.4 Climate change

Accelerated climate change represents a very real threat to Country and the health and wellbeing of all communities. Potential consequences include changes to species abundance (including extinctions) and habitat distribution, impacts on key cultural species and accessible resources (e.g. Aboriginal food, medicine and fibre species) and changes to the physical environment (e.g. rainfall, stream-flow regimes, fire frequency). It also impacts visitor experiences and the viability of surrounding agriculture and the communities that rely on that industry.

Protecting Victoria's Environment — Biodiversity 2037 (DELWP 2017) highlights that protecting our natural capital will increase the resilience of key sectors of the economy, as well as the important role the environment can play in helping reduce the impacts of climate change. The natural environment not only sequesters carbon from the atmosphere but provides essential 'green' infrastructure services to society at a relatively low cost.

The Victorian Government's approach to managing the impacts of climate change across the state is articulated in Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017–2020. This plan states:

‘A rich and thriving biodiversity is a vital part of a healthy environment and must be protected for its own sake. Victoria's remarkable parks nurture and protect biodiversity and spending time in these beautiful natural places makes us healthier and happier. The natural environment is intrinsically linked to Aboriginal cultural heritage. Our parks also protect many heritage sites and are

an important part of the Victorian tourism industry. Many Victorian communities depend on the natural environment to support local industries. All of these qualities that we value in our natural environment are under threat from climate change.'

The network of Victorian land-based parks is a major carbon sink, storing more than 270 million tonnes of carbon, equivalent to nine years' worth of Victoria's greenhouse emissions (Parks Victoria 2015). Understanding continues to develop on the benefit parks provide in mitigating climate change, and how their role in carbon sequestration ultimately contributes to the Victorian economy and community. Land management and restoration programs will help to protect stocks of stored carbon and can increase carbon sequestration in the future. As the climate continues to change, Victoria's parks and reserves will play an increasingly crucial role in protecting biodiversity, providing clean air and water, regulating climate, maintaining healthy waterways, preventing soil erosion, maintaining genetic resources, providing habitat for native species and pollination.

Multiple lines of evidence indicate the global climate has changed predominantly due to human activity and changes are projected to continue. Projections of future climate change expected in the Central Highlands region (which includes the Greater Gariwerd Landscape) have been developed by the CSIRO's Victorian Climate Projections (2019):

- Maximum and minimum daily temperatures will continue to increase over this century.
- By the 2030s, increases in daily maximum temperature of 0.9 to 1.7°C (since the 1990s) are expected.
- Rainfall will continue to be very variable over time, but over the long term it is expected to continue to decline in winter and spring, with some chance of little change.
- Extreme rainfall events are expected to become more intense on average through the century but remain very variable in space and time.

With one third of Victoria's flora, approximately 17 per cent of Victoria's wildlife and significant Traditional Owner cultural heritage values, the Greater Gariwerd Landscape is an important study area for the long-term effects of climate change on the environment. This research ensures that current and future generations can learn about our natural history and understand the ecological dynamics of the area. It also produces important information about the way systems recover from fire under different climatic conditions and provides significant practical outcomes for park management.

The effects of climate change are already being experienced within the landscape, with more severe bushfires, more intense seasonal flooding events, longer dry spells and higher average temperatures impacting the health of ecosystems. The frequency of extreme events is also increasing, with droughts, complex fires, floods and landslides more prevalent in recent years.

Water and moisture in the landscape makes a difference to the resilience of habitats to the impacts of fire, drought and climate change. Soil and vegetation moisture are strong predictors of productivity and diversity. Many water-based vegetation communities and species, such as riparian habitats, are critical refuges for many fauna species. It is important to maintain the health of these areas for future times of stress and recovery.

Climate change is a particular threat to small mammals that live in Gariwerd's heathlands because of predicted lower rainfall and increased fire frequency. These conditions are expected to create heathland with more open vegetation, leaving small mammals more vulnerable to predators. For example, recent surveys have detected Southern Brown Bandicoot and Long-nosed Potoroo only within wetter heathland and scrub habitats, which are denser than recently burnt, drier heathland areas, where past observations have been from more open woodland areas.

Wetland and riparian health are also impacted by natural disturbance such as bushfires and floods. The frequency and intensity of these events are exacerbated by climate change, resulting in excessive erosion, increased sediment transport and high nutrient loads. Altered water temperatures and reduced water quality (e.g. eutrophication or decreased dissolved oxygen) can affect the health of aquatic species.

Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037 notes that stopping the overall decline of threatened species and improving habitat condition might not seem overly ambitious but given legacy issues and the impacts of climate change, achieving these aims will stand as a considerable achievement. An adaptive approach will be an important component of an effective climate change response. For this reason, strategies must be flexible, informed by research and monitoring (see Chapter 6).

Precious refuges for wildlife

Extreme climatic events and large wildfires are predicted to increase as the world's climate warms. In the face of more species loss there is an urgent need to identify refuges that will shelter species from the worst impacts of climate change. Important research has been undertaken at Gariwerd in order to help understand the role of climate refuges for native species and better provide for their protection.

The topography and geology of the Greater Gariwerd Landscape creates unique micro-climates, temperature conditions and moistures. A range of plant communities and species have adapted in isolation and are now reliant on high-elevation conditions. Climate variability and long-term climate change creates a challenge for some species that are reliant on suitable conditions created within an elevation range. Many endemic high-elevation communities are very restricted and cannot move elsewhere in the surrounding fragmented landscape.

Mammal surveys at 36 sites in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park provide a seven-year dataset of results during and after south-east Australia's Millennium Drought and have been used to assess the roles of fire history, climatic extremes and their interactions in shaping mammal distributions (Hale et al. 2016). This research consistently emphasises the importance of older age vegetation as habitat for native species. Unfortunately, recent bushfires have created a single, young age class of plants across large areas of the park.

Work has also been undertaken to investigate the use of remote sensing imagery such as Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) in identifying climate refuges within the Greater Gariwerd Landscape. Areas with potential to be climate refuges are associated with higher soil moisture and greater vegetation productivity, which can be identified using NDVI (Potts 2015). Species will persist in high NDVI areas (refugia) during times of drought and, after sufficient rainfall, will begin to recover from drought in high NDVI areas first (Robinson 2017). It therefore provides a useful tool when planning for the protection of climate refuges to maintain certain species during droughts, including their protection from fires and in the planning of controlled burns (Sparrius 2018). Identifying these refuges also allows land managers to implement other protections such as maintaining and enhancing habitat connectivity and targeted invasive predator control.

Goals – Climate change

Landscape resilience and adaptability to climate change is increased.

Healthy parks are recognised as an integral part of the response to climate change.

Strategies	Priority
In collaboration with Traditional Owners and agency partners, incorporate planning for climate change impacts such as more frequent fire and severe weather events into land management practices. Support the adaptation of ecosystems in the transition to future conditions (e.g. the maintenance of connectivity to drought refugia).	Immediate
For landscape resilience and Healthy Country, implement appropriate controls to protect significant refugia from human disturbance including critical habitats of threatened mammals (e.g. Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, Long-nosed Potoroo, Southern Brown Bandicoot and Smoky Mouse) and potential sites for future reintroduction of captive bred populations.	Immediate
Continue to actively manage existing threats (e.g. soil compaction and erosion, predation by foxes and feral cats on ground-dwelling animals, herbivore impacts on floristic diversity and vegetation structure, habitat fragmentation) to maintain the resilience of Country and the cultural values it supports.	Immediate
Support opportunities for carbon regulation and carbon sequestration within the landscape's parks and reserves (e.g. revegetation programs).	Immediate
Update the Conservation Action Plan to treat climate change as a specific threat, rather than it be considered when assessing the trend in impacts on other threatening processes.	High
Identify opportunities and implement actions to reduce the carbon footprint of park operations, facilities and services managed by Parks Victoria or licensed operators.	Medium
Interpret and communicate the impacts of climate change (including the frequency of fire and severe weather events and resultant impacts on park values and the visitor experience) with the community and park users (see Section 5.1 – Information, interpretation and education).	Medium
Recognise the benefits that a healthy park landscape provides in and of itself, as part of the response to climate change by providing evidence of the local benefits (e.g. as habitat and refuge), as well as to the broader environment (e.g. for survival of populations of species, ecological processes and carbon cycling).	Medium
Work with Traditional Owners and research partners to undertake long-term monitoring to inform the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation actions (see Section 6.4 – Research and monitoring).	Medium
Work with the broader community to understand the role Gariwerd plays as a climate change refuge (for people and animals) and the educational value this landscape has to climate change response and behavioural change.	Medium



Trail to Hollow Mountain in
Gariwerd's north

5 Experiencing Gariwerd

The Vision for experiencing Gariwerd is:

Gariwerd's Traditional Owners welcome people to experience the awe of its wild places and learn how their culture and the environment are intrinsically linked. It is a premier destination for recreational and cultural experiences, a place to respectfully enjoy and connect with nature, a treasured location to quietly relax or enjoy a range of adventures. All use of the land is managed in a way that protects Gariwerd and its values.

Gariwerd is a unique and symbolic cultural landscape. The idea of Gariwerd as a cultural landscape will be central to visitor experiences and Traditional Owners will guide how this experience is presented. This includes the ways in which Gariwerd is interpreted to visitors, tourists and locals through information available on and off site. It also extends to how the landscape is used for recreation, cultural events, tourism and other authorised uses. The success of these programs will ultimately be measured by the level of respect shown to Country.

In addition to wanting the cultural landscape to be treated with respect, Traditional Owners have the following aspirations for the landscape and how it is experienced:

- The landscape becomes a place of learning for Traditional Owners, visiting Indigenous peoples, locals, visitors and tourists.
- Every visitor to Gariwerd has a distinctive and valued experience.
- Gariwerd continues to be and increasingly becomes, known for its vibrant culture, evident in the visibility of Traditional Owner people practising caring for Country and being active, both culturally and as land managers.
- Local languages are used in place naming throughout Gariwerd.
- Local businesses and products emphasise locally sourced foods and artworks and local knowledge.
- Gariwerd is recognised and widely acknowledged for its sense of place, serenity, healing and peace and that these concepts are seen as linked to Traditional Owner rights and wellbeing.

Providing an enjoyable and respectful 'visitor experience' is a key goal of park management, ensuring that people experience the many benefits of being in parks while gaining an understanding of the need for protecting the cultural and environmental values that make each park special. The richness of a visit is influenced by many factors including their expectations, level of immersion (emotional, cultural, spiritual, physical and intellectual) and social interaction, as well as the setting itself, its accessibility and amenity.

Planning for visitors at Gariwerd must consider a range of factors, including how the stories and values of the cultural landscape are communicated, what is appropriate in terms of recreation and behaviour, the infrastructure and facilities required to support visitation, the ways in which the landscape is promoted and accessed for tourism and any additional uses of the planning area.

The changing visitor experience

Several successive fires and floods have led to significant changes in recent years to the visitor setting, offer and facilities within the Greater Gariwerd Landscape. There has also been considerable growth in dispersed camping, rock climbing, bouldering and other activities putting pressure on cultural and natural values. In-park development has increased as well and there are limits to which this can be accommodated before it impacts the landscape.

The strategies presented in this chapter are the result of a review of these issues, with the aim of protecting park values in accordance with the *National Parks Act 1975*, *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and other legislation. Key factors guiding management into the future include:

- recognising Traditional Owners as rights holders and positioning the cultural landscape as central to park management and the visitor experience
- supporting Traditional Owner aspirations of cultural renewal and strengthening through employment opportunities caring for and interpreting, Country
- increasing Victorian population and consequential growth of local domestic visitation to parks
- enhancing accessible visitor experiences for all abilities access and culturally diverse communities
- transport improvements in the region, reducing the travel time from Melbourne and making Gariwerd more accessible
- crowding at key sites such as Migunang wirab (MacKenzie Falls), Reed Lookout and other locations in the central corridor, especially during peak periods
- increased participation in many activities including bouldering, climbing, trail running, geocaching and road cycling
- changing visitor demographics, with an increasing number of visitors who have limited experience in remote areas
- technology changing how visitors plan and manage their visit, with an increasing reliance on online services and subsequent issues with the accuracy of information and lack of phone reception making on-line navigation difficult in many areas
- technology trends changing how people use and access parks, with new activities such as drones, e-bikes and geocaching, coupled with advances in equipment
- social media images creating unrealistic expectations, increasing visitation to sites beyond the capacity of the site and exacerbating risk taking as visitors attempt 'selfies' in locations which are difficult to access locations or high risk
- demand for benefits to local, regional and state economies, including and expectation that growth in tourism opportunities and capacity can continue to increase
- incremental development adjacent to parks, including upgrades to access roads and the development of nearby accommodation, including services such as Airbnb.

The Traditional Welcome to Country

A Welcome to Country has always been the right and responsibility of Traditional Owners in protecting Country and all people visiting it.

The welcome is a symbolic, diplomatic and spiritual demonstration of reciprocal obligations. It is a permission — a cultural and spiritual visa — which comes with responsibilities for both the host nation and their guests being inducted onto the land.

It is the host's responsibility to ensure the physical and spiritual wellbeing of visitors, which includes ensuring they understand the dangers on Country and how not to harm country. Smoking ceremonies are always part of a welcome to Country, to cleanse the spirit of visitors, provide spiritual protection, and ensure that Country recognises them.

It is the responsibility of guests to respect Country and not abuse their privilege.

5.1 Information, interpretation and education

Information, interpretation and education deepens visitors' understanding of Gariwerd and how it is being managed and enhances their experience. It builds environmental and cultural awareness and advocacy, as well as increasing people's understanding of recreation opportunities and considerations. This helps to ensure a safe, culturally appropriate and engaging visitor experience. Information, education and interpretation must be created as a collaboration between Parks Victoria and the three Traditional Owner corporations.

Visitors' experience of Gariwerd will be shaped by the images, stories and language (e.g. Traditional Owner place names – see Section 3.1). Priorities include:

- providing opportunities for visitors to develop an awareness, appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the natural and cultural values, history and features of the parks and reserves
- developing respect for Country to reduce the need for enforcement and costly mitigation measures
- communicating the importance of Gariwerd as a cultural landscape and improving the understanding of Country
- promoting the attractions and programs provided by Parks Victoria, Traditional Owners and licensed tour operators
- sharing Traditional Owner cultural and ecological knowledge and stories with visitors
- generating and reinforcing public support for parks, park management, conservation and an understanding of the issues and challenges they face.

Many visitors start their experience at Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap, which has played an instrumental role over several decades in providing information, interpretation and education and will continue to do so.

Park information and orientation is provided through signage and information panels at main entry points, campgrounds, day use areas and trailheads. Orientation and visitor information is also included in Parks Victoria's visitor guides, walking track guides and digital media.

Goal – Information, education and interpretation

Coordinated and collaborative interpretation enriches visitors' enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural values and encourages respect for Country as a cultural landscape.

Strategies	Priority
Support Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre as a centre providing visitor orientation, information and education, and services; including possible services for Grampians Peaks Trail hikers and other hikers, such as long-term parking and transport to trailheads.	Immediate
Liaise with and support cooperative relationships between information centres, regional tourism associations and Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre.	Immediate
In conjunction with Traditional Owners, continue to develop and run education programs to encourage children to explore and appreciate Gariwerd.	Immediate
Work with Traditional Owners to identify culturally appropriate information and interpretation including: — ensuring consistent information about Traditional Owner culture, history and heritage that informs interpretation, signage, digital media and face-to-face talks, walks and experiences — promoting the importance of rock shelters and other landscape features as places of cultural significance to Traditional Owners — understanding of the regulations in place to protect Country and values.	High
Ensure visitor information and signage recognises Traditional Owners and reflect their presence in the cultural landscape.	High
Work with local communities to collect histories, to build an understanding of the many ways this landscape has been seen shaped and valued over time.	Medium
Work with school groups and outdoor education providers to ensure Gariwerd provides a quality outdoor education service.	Medium
Develop a signage strategy for the planning area, including the promotion of accessible experiences and provision of material in languages other than English for culturally and linguistically diverse communities, as appropriate or necessary. Ensure key park entry signage incorporates the regulatory rules to manage appropriate visitor behaviour and encourages visitors to help care for the parks.	Medium

5.2 Accessibility for all abilities and diverse backgrounds

Parks Victoria will work to ensure people of all abilities, culture and language are able to experience and appreciate Gariwerd.

Evidence shows that access to nature plays a vital role in human health, wellbeing and development. It is important that people with limited mobility and diverse backgrounds can confidently access and enjoy areas of the parks. This enables new connections between people and parks and will further activate the nature-based mental, social and physical health benefits.

Parks Victoria's Healthy Parks Healthy People approach has increased the engagement with diverse communities across the state to enable better access to Victoria's parks. Diverse communities include those from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, people with a disability, carers, young people

and older people. Park managers work with a range of partners to develop and sustain programs offering opportunities to creating an inclusive experience for all park visitors.

TrailRider all-terrain wheelchairs are available in a number of Victoria's parks, including Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. The TrailRider allows visitors to access more rugged walking trails not otherwise accessible with conventional wheelchairs. They are free to use and have adjustable seating and supports, making them suitable for adults and children with varying abilities. Motorised chairs are also available at Gariwerd, allowing visitors to explore steeper and longer trails. Users are required to bring a helmet and undertake a chair induction. The chairs easily disassemble and fit in the back of most medium-sized SUVs.

Local staff can provide expert advice on the best routes for chairs, so with the help of chair operators users can experience the parks. A minimum of two chair operators are required to operate the chair. A TrailRider Volunteer Program operates at Gariwerd, with volunteers able to provide physical assistance to propel the TrailRider on a variety of park walking tracks in the national park.

Goal – Access for all abilities and diverse backgrounds	
Enhance accessible visitor experiences for those from diverse abilities and cultural backgrounds	
Strategies	Priority
Promote the availability of TrailRiders and the TrailRider volunteer program at Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park, as well as all abilities walks.	Immediate
Work with all abilities groups to incorporate accessible design principles for park access and facilities upgrades.	Immediate
Support and promote accessible tourism, including licensed tour operators that provide all abilities accessible experiences.	Immediate
Promote accessible cultural experiences (e.g. Ngamadjidj Shelter and Brambuk Cultural Centre).	Immediate
Work with CALD communities to promote recreation opportunities and encourage greater inclusion of under-represented groups, as well as provide key visitor messaging such as safety advice (see Section 5.6 – Visitor risks and safety).	High
Undertake an audit of barriers to expanding all abilities recreation opportunities and identify possible access improvements.	Medium
Identify potential improvements to infrastructure to support accessible experiences focusing on: — opportunities to improve all-abilities access at day visitor areas in the central corridor at Migunang wirab (MacKenzie Falls), Reed Lookout, Boroka Lookout and Zumsteins (see Central Gariwerd VEA – Section 5.5) — picnic areas, short all-abilities walks, lookouts and other sight-seeing opportunities near Halls Gap (see Budja Budja VEA – Section 5.5).	Medium
Promote all-abilities access for rock climbing experiences, such as at Venus Baths (bouldering) and Summerday Valley (guided rock climbing with licensed tour operators). Identify locations outside the LTO only designated climbing areas suitable for developing as all-abilities climbing.	Medium

5.3 Roads and access

Gariwerd features an extensive road and track network that provides access to Country for cultural purposes and activities, recreation, tourism and park management. Approximately 800 km of vehicle roads and tracks and approximately 300 kilometres of walking tracks are managed across the landscape.

In providing public access by walking and vehicle tracks Parks Victoria aims to balance protecting the landscape and providing appropriate visitor use. Many of the roads and tracks were originally constructed for fire protection or timber extraction and not designed for recreational use. Some of these have been retained for management purposes (Management Vehicles Only or MVO) or are seasonally closed. Maintaining the road and track network is a major task requiring considerable resources.

Vehicle access

The road and track network for vehicles is shown on Map series 3, and includes:

- Sealed roads. Most sealed roads in the area are managed by VicRoads or local government. Parks Victoria manages the road to Mount William and a sealed section of Mount Difficult Road as well as some sealed carparks and access roads.
- Formed, unsealed roads, which provide public access suitable for two-wheel drive vehicles and road bikes.
- Tracks suitable for four-wheel drive vehicles, some of which are closed seasonally during wetter months for visitor safety, to prevent erosion and maintain water quality.
- Management Vehicle Only (MVO) tracks, which are closed to the public all year and only available for management purposes. This closure extends to cyclists. Walkers are permitted.

In addition, there are numerous small areas that are reserved for road construction but were never developed. These unused road reserves predate the declaration of the parks and remain as vegetated land within the parks.

The *Road Management Act 2004* provides the statutory framework for management of all public roads in Victoria. VicRoads, local governments and DELWP are the three authorities responsible for road management across the state. DELWP is the road management authority for roads within parks and reserves, except for some public roads through Gariwerd which are the responsibility of VicRoads and local government.

Four-wheel Drive (4WD) touring has become increasingly popular with Victoria recognised for its free, open and available four-wheel drive tracks. The 'Grampians Drive' is promoted as one of Victoria's Iconic 4WD Adventures. The 286 kilometre drive is classified as medium difficulty in dry conditions under Victoria's 4WD Recreational Track Classification System. It tours through the southern part of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park with some tracks subject to seasonal closures.

Four Wheel Drive Victoria represents four-wheel drive clubs in Victoria and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Parks Victoria to ensure consultation and involvement regarding track access and maintenance. Several member clubs undertake works on tracks within Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park in accordance with the MOU each year, alongside other volunteer groups supporting park management.

Several licensed tour operators (LTOs) offer 4WD tours in the park. Tour operators associated with the Grampians Peaks Trail have requested access to MVO tracks so that they can transport supplies and equipment to camps. Schools have asked for similar access. The condition and safety of MVO tracks must be taken into account, and the outcome could be a change of road status to an open road. Emergency services access is also a key consideration.

Goal – Vehicle access

Vehicle access is provided for a range of experiences in a safe and sensitive manner.

Strategies	Priority
Liaise with DELWP to manage and maintain public roads and tracks as defined in Appendix 4 and Map Series 3, in accordance with the Road Management Act 2004.	Immediate
Continue to support Four Wheel Drive Victoria member club volunteers in assisting with management of tracks within Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and Black Range State Park.	Immediate
Review seasonal road closures and identify MVO tracks that may be suitable to be opened to public access (as open or seasonal roads) or suitable for closure and rehabilitation.	High
Review unused road reserves and seek their incorporation into the surrounding park or reserve if appropriate.	Medium

5.4 Recreation activities

Gariwerd has long been a place for recreation. For Traditional Owners this took – and continues to take – many forms, including storytelling around campfires, the creation of art and ceremonies and other recreational and social activities such as marngrook (the predecessor to Australian Rules Football). Creation story locations and places, where there is evidence of ancestors camping, hold great significance for Traditional Owners. These are places where care is most needed when managing visitor activities. Cultural activities are provided for in Section 3.5 – Cultural renewal and strengthening.

Since the 1860s Gariwerd has been a tourism and recreation destination. Today the landscape provides the setting for a wide variety of recreation activities that form part of the broader visitor experience ‘offer’ including short walks and longer hikes, camping, scenic driving, 4WD touring, picnicking and rock climbing. Recreation is undertaken largely in a self-reliant manner, while some takes place in larger, organised groups. Activities are also run by recreational groups, licensed tour operators, and schools (see Section 5.6 – Tourism and commercial visitor services).

Parks Victoria’s Healthy Parks Healthy People approach to land management reflects scientific evidence and generations of traditional knowledge that shows spending time in nature is good for people’s physical, mental, social and spiritual health. Parks play a key role in getting people outdoors into nature.

Many aspects influence the recreational experience including the weather, the feeling of safety, conflicts with other users, the availability and condition of facilities, interpretation, wayfinding and park services. Given the Grampians is an iconic, national heritage listed landscape, a significant cultural landscape and a natural wonderland, careful management is required for recreational activities that may pose a potential risk to all values, including cultural, historical, natural, physical and spiritual. Potential impacts from recreation include:

- damage to rock art, rock shelters and other cultural values
- damage to areas of geological significance
- soil compaction, disturbance, erosion and weed invasion
- damage or loss of vegetation and critical habitat
- disturbance of wildlife
- dispersal of weeds and pathogens
- risk of campfire escape
- loss of landscape aesthetics.

Park regulations provide a mechanism for managing activities that pose a risk to values or detract from the experience and enjoyment of others including littering, destroying vegetation, driving off defined tracks,

damaging park infrastructure including signs and barriers, damaging rock faces, illegally camping and lighting fires and disobeying or obstructing authorised officers. Parks Victoria and partner compliance agencies continually seek to increase visitor compliance with regulations and appropriate behaviours.

Helping park users understand the cultural landscape of Gariwerd and how they can interact with it in a respectful way, is an important aspect of park management. Ultimately this plan aims to build a clear understanding of how recreation will be managed to ensure the parks and reserves of Gariwerd are protected and enjoyed.

Recreation and use will be allowed where it is compatible with the protection of the cultural and natural values of the landscape (identified in Chapters 2 and 3) with restrictions on recreation where activities risk harming these values.

The management plan seeks to provide the clarity to park visitors about where they can enjoy nature in a way that protects what is special in the parks and reserves. The following sections outline the approach to specific activities. A summary of the management of all recreational activities is provided in Table 5.2.

Aircraft: scenic flights, drones and hang gliding

The National Parks Regulations 2013 define aircraft as including an aeroplane, helicopter, glider, hot air balloon, hang glider, paraglider and parachute. Under the regulations, aircraft may not land in, take-off from or deliver anything into a park unless in accordance with a permit (e.g. for park research activities) or in an area set aside for the activity.

Flights over the parks can impact the natural quietness, which in turn can affect visitor experience and potentially wildlife. In 1993, the declaration of Remote and Natural Areas necessitated consideration of the control of aircraft flying over Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. In August 1994, under a voluntary code of practice, Fly Neighbourly Advice guidelines were introduced. Developed by local civil and military operators and park managers, these guidelines establish minimum altitudes for flight over preferred scenic routes. Present levels of activity do not detract from park values, but increased activity may exacerbate or create impacts.

Launching or landing a remotely piloted aircraft (drone; RPA) in a national or state park requires a permit under the National Parks Regulations 2013.

Hang gliding has been undertaken in western Victoria since the early 1970s from launch sites at Ben Nevis, Colliers Gap, Mount Sugarloaf, Mount Buangor and Cave Hill. No launch sites exist within the Greater Gariwerd Landscape, although a potential launch site 1 kilometre west of Mount William has been identified and will be assessed for suitability. The proposal will be accepted only if impacts are acceptable without the need for significant site interventions and a suitable landing site outside the park can be identified.

Goal – Aircraft

Continue to limit the recreational use of aircraft.

Strategies	Priority
Prohibit the recreational use of RPAs (drones).	Immediate
Assess proposed hang gliding and paragliding launch area west of Mount William for potential impacts on cultural and environmental values and park amenity, such as impact on other users (see Map 3E). Consider permitting use subject to assessment	High
Review the Fly Neighbourly Advice controlling aircraft flying over Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.	Medium

Hiking and trail running

Gariwerd features an extensive selection of hiking opportunities, ranging from long hikes, overnight hikes to shorter, easier walks to lookouts, waterfalls, rock art sites and historical areas. Trail running is a fast-growing activity that is becoming a significant activity in the parks.

The landscape has long been a popular hiking destination, and an extensive network of hiking trails has developed over time. Hikes range from short distances to major attractions such as Migunang wirab (MacKenzie Falls), Reed Lookout and The Balconies, to overnight hikes in remote areas. The northern section of the national park and Major Mitchell Plateau have overnight and long day hikes with hike-in camping areas, while the central Grampians and Wonderland Range have many popular, short to medium length walks catering for large numbers of people. The Billawin (Victoria Range) caters for hiking in a designated Remote and Natural Area.

Some popular areas, such as The Balconies and Boroka Lookout, pose safety risks for off-track walking. Off-track walking is not supported in some areas of the park where they are being managed to preserve cultural and environmental values. Visitors will be required to remain on designated tracks in such areas.

The Grampians Peaks Trail is one of the Walk Victoria's Icons long-distance trails. The 13-day hike from Mura Mura (Mount Zero) to Dunkeld traverses a number of peaks. Some existing trails link with the Grampians Peaks Trail, providing shorter options and day loops (see the box on the next page).

The provision of information and preparation materials to enhance hiker safety is a vital part of the hiking experience. It is achieved through park visitor guides, Parks Victoria hiking guides and commercial map publishers. However, online social media and apps are impacting the quality of visitor information, sometimes promoting closed tracks and inappropriate off-track hiking.

Goal – Hiking

A range of hiking experiences is provided, from short all abilities walks to multi-day challenging hikes and trail running.

Strategies	Priority
Prohibit off-track hiking (require walkers to stay on designated tracks) where this poses a risk to visitors or park values (parts of Summerday Valley, Reed Lookout, Boroka Lookout, Migunang wirab – MacKenzie Falls) – see Table 5.2. Other areas may be designated at later dates if values are found to be at risk. Any changes would be subject to appropriate community consultation.	Immediate
Maintain a hiking trail network as described in Appendix 5.	Immediate
Require hikers wishing to hike off-track within Special Protection Areas to obtain Parks Victoria approval prior to hiking.	Immediate
Work with bushwalking clubs and develop volunteer programs to allow hikers and other user groups to help maintain the hiking trail network and associated facilities.	High
Investigate improvements to the existing hiking trail network through linkages to the Grampians Peaks Trail (including rehabilitation and rationalisation), providing opportunities for day loops and overnight hikes.	High
Monitor use of Grampians Peaks Trail and other main hiking trails.	Medium
Investigate and, where appropriate, remove impediments to provide all-abilities access trails.	Medium

Grampians Peaks Trail

The Grampians Peaks Trail is a long-distance 13-day walk between Mount Zero in the north and Dunkeld in the south. The trail offers a variety of walking standards over a number of the park's main peaks including Gunigalg (Mount Stapylton), Gar (Mount Difficult), The Pinnacle, Bugiga-mirgani (Mount Rosea), The Seven Dials, Duwul (Mount William), Mud-dadjug (Mount Abrupt), Bainggug (Mount Piccaninny) and Wurgarri (Mount Sturgeon). The walk links into a number of existing tracks creating options for shorter day and overnight walks.

Twelve hike-in campgrounds are on the route (see Map series 3 and Table 5.1): Gar, Werdug, Bugiga, Stoney Creek Group Camp, Barri Yalug, Duwul Balug, Durd Durd, Yarram, Wannon, Djardi-djawara and Mud-Dadjug. Currently there are hike-in huts as part of guided walks at two Grampians Peaks Trail campgrounds – Gar and Werdug.

The Grampians Peaks Trail route is a high quality, memorable journey incorporating many of the features of Gariwerd, while protecting the important natural and cultural values of the park. It offers a range of experiences with different levels of difficulty and accommodation providing opportunities for day walkers, overnight walkers, experienced hikers and school groups. Walkers can be both independent (self-guided) and guided (assisted).

Parks Victoria has identified three sections of the Grampians Peaks Trail which will have particularly strong appeal to walkers. They have been earmarked as the locations for staging 'signature experiences'. Each of these sections starts or finishes in either the township of Dunkeld or Halls Gap, providing access to pre- or post-trail accommodation and hospitality. Licensed tour operators will be able to provide walking 'packages' or tours on these sections, which could include inclusions such as transport, on-trail guiding, food and accommodation and connections to off-trail accommodation and hospitality.

Infrastructure to support the Grampians Peaks Trail and hiking opportunities are expected to elevate the status of Gariwerd to international markets, creating an outstanding tourism experience.

Goal – Grampians Peaks Trail

Provide an outstanding long-distance 13-day walk between Mount Zero and Dunkeld with a variety of walking standards and options to provide a range of experiences focussing on Gariwerd as a cultural landscape.

Strategies	Priority
Provide walking tracks, including feeder and link tracks, and hiker huts and hike-in campgrounds, as per Table 5.1 and Map Series 3, to provide a diversity of hiking experiences and itineraries, from day walks to the complete 13-day hike.	Immediate
Work with local governments and businesses so they benefit from the Grampians Peaks Trail, including providing infrastructure in towns, managing access, and supporting the development of local businesses such as shuttle services, off-park parking and off-park accommodation.	Immediate
Investigate renaming the Grampians Peaks Trail in keeping with the area's cultural values.	High
Develop gateways and trailheads for the Grampians Peaks Trail (refer to Gunigalg, Mud-dadjug and Budja Budja VEAs for details).	Medium
Develop new and upgrade existing trailheads and linking tracks to allow for a range of walk options utilising the Grampians Peaks Trail	Medium
Develop interpretation materials for the Grampians Peaks Trail in partnership with Traditional Owners and tour operators.	Medium
Investigate establishing hike-in huts, co-designed with Traditional Owners, at GPT campgrounds.	Medium
Integrate the walk into services offered by LTOs and Brambuk supporting Traditional Owner aspirations to provide Grampians Peaks Trail products and experiences, such as walk mementos and merchandise celebrating the walk.	Medium
Support councils in the transformation of Halls Gap and Dunkeld into internationally recognised 'walking towns' with businesses that provide world class products and services.	Medium
Provide online information and booking, consistent with the Grampians Peaks Trail Interpretation Plan and information regarding trail grades, levels of preparedness required, track notes, maps and waypoint data, support services available and how walkers can minimise their impact on the park's cultural and natural values.	Medium
Investigate extending online information and booking to other hikes and activities in the park.	Medium
Consider Grampians Peaks Trail photo point at Chatauqua Peak.	Medium

Campfires

Enjoying a campfire is a significant part of the bush experience for many visitors, although some are accustomed to the practicality and convenience of gas or liquid fuel stoves. In national parks, solid fuel (wood) campfires and barbecues can only be lit in the constructed fireplaces provided or areas set-aside for campfires (usually formal campgrounds and picnic areas). Solid fuel fires within or outside an appliance and gas and liquid fuel stoves are not restricted except in accordance with Total Fire Ban requirements. Total Fire Bans are declared over a Bureau of Meteorology forecast area. Gariwerd falls into two Bureau of Meteorology forecast areas and so a Total Fire Ban may be declared over part of the landscape only. Restricting fires during summer to gas or liquid appliances such as camp stoves was suggested as part of feedback on the draft plan and will be investigated.

Goal – Campfires

Opportunities for safe campfire experiences are provided.

Strategies	Priority
Permit fires in accordance with fire safety rules (e.g. restrictions on days of Total Fire Ban) as follows:	Immediate
Hike-in and GPT hike-in campgrounds as listed in Table 5.1: — Gas and liquid fuel stoves and cookers only are permitted.	
Vehicle-based camping areas and campgrounds as per Table 5.1 and Day Visitor Areas — Gas and liquid fuel stoves and cookers are permitted. — Solid fuel fires are not permitted unless a public fireplace is provided, where they are then permitted within the provided fireplace or within a commercial appliance designed for cooking.	
Limit collection of wood for campfires to designated areas only. Allow disease free wood to be brought into the parks for use in campfires.	Immediate
Investigate only permitting solid fuel fires from 1 March to 30 November.	High

Camping

Gariwerd includes a range of vehicle accessible and hike-in camping areas and campgrounds. Campgrounds require bookings and fees while camping areas are available on a no fees, first-in first-served basis.

Dispersed camping is where visitors camp in a self-selected location other than a designated campground or camping area. Vehicle-based dispersed camping and hike-in dispersed camping without facilities is leading to unsustainable impacts. Growing and repeated visitor use of these locations has led to the unplanned establishment of informal dispersed camping areas with expanding encroachment, vegetation loss, soil compaction, creation of large areas of bare ground, proliferation of campfires and inappropriate management of human waste.

Informal dispersed camping areas have been established without appropriate planning for, or consideration of, impacts to the environment or cultural heritage and this has led to unacceptable risks. These areas are also not formally assessed or managed for safety, such as tree and fire risk. Dispersed camping has also occurred in or adjacent to rock shelters, rock art and other significant cultural values and poses a significant risk to cultural values.

To ensure park values are not at risk, camping will only be permitted in designated areas. This includes new hike-in campgrounds developed as part of the Grampians Peaks Trail (GPT) and some of the more popular areas used for informal vehicle-based camping, which will be managed as designated camping areas where camping will be provisionally permitted until 2024. During this time these provisional camping areas will be assessed for cultural and natural values and then either formalised and maintained as on-going designated camping areas or closed and rehabilitated (see Table 5.1 and Table 5.2). Dispersed hike-in camping will also continue until 2024 after which time hike-in camping will be restricted to designated locations noted in this plan. Additional hike-in camping areas may be designated at that time.

In summary:

12 vehicle-based campgrounds. Campgrounds require bookings to be made and camp fees to be paid. Two additional campgrounds may be established if demand exists – at Zumsteins and at Brambuk.

21 vehicle-based camping areas. Camping areas are less formal than campgrounds and offer free camping; no bookings are required. Of these, 17 are provisional, in that they have been used informally in the past and need to be assessed for potential risk to park values. Some of these may only be accessible by four-wheel drive and subject to seasonal closures.

14 hike-in camps. This includes 10 GPT and three other hike-in campgrounds, which require sites to be booked and a camping fee to be paid, and one free hike-in camping area within Victoria Range Remote and Natural Area, where bookings are not required. Two of the GPT camps include huts, and huts may be constructed at the remaining camps if demand exists.

Goal – Camping	
Provide a range of camping opportunities that minimise impacts to natural and cultural values	
Strategies	Priority
Provide for camping as per Table 5.1	Immediate
— Camping areas marked as Provisional (P) are informal camping areas where camping will be permitted until 2024 subject to an assessment of cultural and natural values. Following assessment, areas will be either formalised and maintained as on-going designated camping areas or closed and rehabilitated. — Dispersed camping (except within Reference Areas and SPAs, within 25 metres of any stream or waterbody, or within 50 metres of any road, track or designated camping or day visitor area) will be permitted until 2024 after which dispersed camping will be prohibited. Additional hike-in camping areas may be designated at that time.	
Investigate the establishment of additional hike-in huts associated with Grampians Peaks Trail campgrounds, to align with the Grampians Peaks Trail Master Plan Intent and to be co-designed with Traditional Owners.	Medium
Investigate establishing campgrounds at Zumsteins and Brambuk if demand exists.	Medium

Table 5.1: Campgrounds and camping areas

Name	Description	Map
Bari Yalug	GPT hike-in campground	3C
Barrigar	GPT hike-in campground - huts available	3A
Beehive Track	Vehicle-based camping area (Provisional)	3E
Billywing Track	Vehicle-based camping area (Provisional)	3F
Boreang	Vehicle-based campground	3B
Borough Huts	Vehicle-based campground	3C
Brady Swamp	Dispersed camping permitted	3G
Buandik	Vehicle-based campground	3F
Bugiga	GPT hike-in campground	3C
Cherrypool	Vehicle-based camping area	3H
Coppermine	Vehicle-based campground	3A
Coppermine Group	Vehicle-based camping area	3A
Djardi-djarawara	GPT hike-in campground	3G
Durd Durd	GPT hike-in campground	3E
Duwul	GPT hike-in campground	3E
First Wannon	Hike-in campground	3E
Fortress	Hike-in campground	3F
Gar	GPT hike-in campground - huts available	3A
Glenelg River Road	Vehicle-based camping area (Provisional)	3C
Glenelg River Road	Vehicle-based camping area (Provisional)	3F
Harrops Track	Vehicle-based camping area (Provisional)	3F
Kalymna Falls	Vehicle-based campground	3E
Longpoint East	Hike-in campground	3A
Longpoint West	Hike-in campground	3A

Name	Description	Map
Mad Dadjug	GPT hike-in campground	3G
Moora Moora	Vehicle-based camping area (Provisional)	3B
Mount Casel Track	Vehicle-based camping area (Provisional)	3C
Mount Thackery	Vehicle-based camping area	3F
Old Lodge	Vehicle-based camping area (Provisional)	3B
Oslers Track	Vehicle-based camping area (Provisional)	3B
Phillips Island	Vehicle-based camping area (Provisional)	3B
Plantation	Vehicle-based campground	3A
Potters	Vehicle-based camping area (Provisional)	3A
Red Gum	Vehicle-based camping area (Provisional)	3B
Serra Road	Vehicle-based camping area (Provisional)	3E
Smiths Mill	Vehicle-based campground	3B
Smiths Road	Vehicle-based camping area (Provisional)	3A
Stapylton	Vehicle-based campground	3A
Stony Creek Road	Vehicle-based camping area (Provisional)	3C
Strachans	Vehicle-based campground	3F
Troopers Creek	Vehicle-based campground	3A
Victoria Range	Vehicle-based camping area (Provisional)	3F
Wallaby Rocks	Vehicle-based camping area (Provisional)	3B
Wannon	GPT hike-in campground	3G
Wannon Crossing	Vehicle-based campground	3E
Werdug	GPT hike-in campground	3A
Yarram	GPT hike-in campground	3E

Cycling

Mountain biking and road cycling are increasingly popular in Victoria. Opportunities for cycling are provided on the existing public road and track network where these are open to public vehicles. Dedicated routes for mountain biking or access to roads and tracks being used for other purposes (e.g. walking, seasonal closures or management vehicles only) is not supported. The development or promotion of mountain biking facilities within the planning area is also considered inappropriate.

Goal – Cycling	
Continue to provide for cycling on open public vehicular roads and tracks.	
Strategies	Priority
Permit cycling, including mountain biking, on the existing public road and track network where these are open to public vehicles and the multi-use trail between Halls Gap and Lake Bellfield (see Section 5.3 – Roads and access).	Immediate
Do not allow cycling, including mountain biking, on walking tracks, seasonally closed roads or management vehicle tracks.	Immediate

Dog walking

Many people like to holiday with their dogs and accommodation options exist that cater for these visitors. The interests of dog owners, however, must be balanced against the risks posed by dogs. Dog walking has the potential to disturb wildlife through the presence of the dog and its scent. In addition, dog waste may pollute both water and soil or impact flora. Some visitors can also be fearful of dogs or have negative experiences of dogs and expectations of not seeing and hearing domestic animals in a natural setting.

The National Parks Act prohibits dogs in national parks unless areas for dogs are designated. Halls Gap residents and visitors who have dogs often walk their pets along the pedestrian track that runs parallel to Grampians Road. This path is largely on a road reserve but includes short sections within the national park.

Dogs are prohibited in Gariwerd's national and state parks unless within a vehicle in transit through the parks or if they are an assistance dog. Dogs are permitted on-leash at Plantation Campground on the eastern edge of the Mount Difficult Range.

Goal – Dog walking	
Manage access for dogs consistent with land tenure regulations.	
Strategies	Priority
Prohibit dogs within all national and state parks, including within parked cars.	Immediate
Permit the use of hunting dogs in areas open to hunting in accordance with game hunting restrictions.	Immediate

Competitive events

Parks and reserves are often the location of competitive events and competitions such as rogaining, orienteering, car rallies, trail running and climbing. Events and competitions can mean heavy use of a specific area or require closing or restricting access to a park or reserve to non-event attendees. Roads used for competitive sections of car rallies, for example, are closed to the general public for safety reasons. Competitive events are not considered appropriate in the Cultural Conservation Zone (see Table 5.2).

Fossicking and prospecting

Where permitted, fossicking and prospecting for minerals are regulated under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* (Vic) and are permitted under a miner's right or tourist fossicking authority. Fossickers and prospectors are required to use non-mechanical hand tools, and must not disturb vegetation, archeological site or Aboriginal Places or objects. Fossickers and prospectors are encouraged to follow the Prospecting Guide (DPI 2004) and the Prospectors and Miners Association of Victoria and Victorian Gems Clubs Association Code of Conduct. Prospecting and fossicking are only permitted in some reserves within the planning area (see Table 5.2).

Four-wheel driving

Gariwerd has an extensive network of roads and tracks, with management strategies for these identified in Section 5.3 – Roads and access. The most popular way to explore the area by four-wheel drive is with the 'Grampians Drive', one of Victoria's Iconic 4WD Adventures. The 286 kilometre drive offers spectacular views and memorable driving through southern parts of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. It is classified as medium difficulty in dry conditions under Victoria's 4WD Recreational Track Classification System, with some tracks subject to seasonal closures. A number of licensed tour operators also offer four-wheel drive tours within the parks.

Goal – Four-wheel driving

Continue to provide for four-wheel driving on open public roads.

Strategies	Priority
Permit four-wheel driving on open public roads as shown on Map Series 3.	Immediate
Maintain the Grampians Iconic 4WD Adventure as described in the Visitor Experience Journey (see Section 5.5 – The Visitor Experience).	Immediate

Geocaching

Geocaching is a pastime in which geocachers hide caches and record the location on the geocache website. Other geocachers then use a GPS device to locate the cache and record their find. Geocaches come in a variety of forms but typically consist of a small waterproof container containing a logbook, some items to swap and a pen or pencil. The geocacher signs the log and then places the cache where they found it and enters their find on the geocaching website. There are more than 80 geocaches hidden in the planning area. Geocaching will be permitted where it does not pose a risk to park values (see table 5.2).

Horse riding

Horse riding occurs in limited areas of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park, where it is permitted on designated park tracks and roads that link up with riding opportunities outside the park. It is not permitted in Black Range State Park and Black Range Scenic Reserve but is permitted in other reserves across the landscape. Camping with horses in parks and reserves is not permitted.

Goal – Horse riding

Continue to provide for horse riding.

Strategies	Priority
Allow horse riding as per Map Series 3.	Immediate
Do not permit camping with horses.	Immediate

Hunting

Parks Victoria supports recreational hunting where it is appropriate and only in accordance with game hunting restrictions. Within the planning area, hunting is not allowed in national or state parks but is permitted within some reserves and adjoining state forest. During consultation community concerns were raised about visitor safety and hunting occurring at Plantation campground.

Goal – Hunting

Hunting is provided for, in accordance with land tenure and game regulations.

Strategies	Priority
Permit hunting in the following reserves: — Bellellen I69 Bushland Reserve — Bellellen I71 Bushland Reserve — Brady Swamp State Game Reserve — Fyans Creek Bushland Reserve — Lady Somers Bridge Streamside Reserve — Millers Creek Bushland Reserve — Mount William Creek Streamside Reserve — Moyston West Bushland Reserve — Red Rock Bushland Reserve — Rowes Bushland Reserve.	Immediate
Seek to remove hunting from Plantation Campground.	High

Picnics and day visits

A range of picnic facilities are provided in the parks and reserves, with picnicking an important opportunity. Some are day visit areas at campgrounds, others such as Zumsteins and Mura Mura (Mount Zero) are dedicated picnic areas with feature walks, attractions and a range of facilities, including picnic tables and toilet facilities. Parks Victoria's visitor guides and website identify where picnic areas are located across the landscape and the visitor infrastructure that is provided at these sites.

Goal – Picnics and day visits

Day visitor facilities for picnicking are provided.

Strategies	Priority
Provide for quality picnic and day visitor experiences in a diverse range of settings as shown in Map Series 3.	Immediate

Rock climbing (including climbing, abseiling and bouldering)

Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park is recognised for a range of rock climbing opportunities, including:

- Traditional climbing: Ascending a route using natural or temporary protection (devices placed in naturally occurring cracks or pockets in the rock face by the lead climber and removed by the second).
- Abseiling: Descending a rock face or other near-vertical surface using ropes and devices, often by rock climbers to descend after completing a climb. It can also be a standalone activity (e.g. as part of an outdoor education program).
- Sport climbing: Commonly short, single-pitch routes, with a heavy reliance on fixed protection and lower-off points (permanent anchors at the top of a sport climb).

Hiking or Climbing?

In the USA in the 1930s, the Sierra Club developed five classes to describe the difficulty of various routes. The following have been adapted from the Sierra Club's modern classification to describe hiking and climbing in Gariwerd.

Class 1 — Walking with a low chance of injury.

Class 2 — Simple scrambling with the possibility of occasional use of the hands. Little potential danger is encountered.

All designated hiking trails in Gariwerd fall into one of these two classes. Simple scrambling (class 2) off-track is considered hiking.

Class 3 — Scrambling with increased exposure. Handholds are necessary. Falls could easily be fatal.

This class is considered hiking where it is required on a designated hiking trail. The use of ropes may be used to ascend or descend a route on a designated hiking trail.

Class 3 scrambling off-track, where handholds are necessary and a fall could result in serious injury or death, is considered rock climbing, whether ropes and other safety equipment is used or not, and subject to the provisions covering rock climbing.

Class 4 — Simple climbing with exposure. A rope is often used. Natural protection can be easily found. Falls may be fatal.

Class 5 — Technical roped climbing. Belaying and other protection hardware is used for safety. Unroped falls can result in severe injury or death.

Classes 4 and 5 are considered to be rock climbing.

- **Bouldering:** Usually a short sequence of climbing moves close to the ground (at heights less than 4 metres) without the use of a rope or similar fall protection, but with a bouldering mat on the ground beneath the climbing area and sometimes with a team of spotters.

Rock climbing has been largely unregulated to date, although there is a history of liaison between Parks Victoria and the Victorian Climbing Club (VCC), with the VCC undertaking volunteer on ground works with the land manager's support.

A permit will be required for rock climbing, including for children, clients of licensed tour operators and all members of guided groups such as schools and clubs. To obtain a permit, applicants must undertake an online induction covering cultural and environmental values and how they are protected, as well as the restrictions and conditions to be followed when rock climbing in Gariwerd.

Rock climbing will only be permitted within designated areas. These have been identified through analysis of natural values (including data and modelling for critical natural values, particularly the disturbance of critical habitats for two threatened species: Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby and Smoky Mouse) and Traditional Owner cultural heritage, and in consultation with Traditional Owners, users and the broader community.

There are 104 Designated Climbing Areas, with bouldering permitted within 13 of these, and three areas available for exclusive use by licensed tour operators (refer to Appendix 2 and Maps 4A-K). Parks Victoria will provide rock climbing information outlining approved climbing and bouldering areas, access and conditions for use in accordance with a permit.

Each bouldering area will have defined site controls to regulate and mitigate the impacts. Bouldering will be able to take place at each site once the works necessary (if required) to implement these controls are completed. The determination of bouldering sites was made following field assessments and a review of the ability for sites to accommodate intensive use, taking into account the feasibility and the appropriateness of

Designated Climbing Areas

Designated Climbing Areas are those areas where there is no known risk to tangible Aboriginal cultural heritage or significant environmental values, or where management measures have been completed to mitigate risks. Some areas may remain unavailable until onsite management measures are completed.

Climbing is prohibited except within 104 Designated Climbing Areas, where climbing is permitted in accordance with specified conditions. Appendix 2 lists the Designated Climbing Areas and these are shown on Maps 4A–4H.

Designated Climbing Area – 89 areas

Eighty-three areas where the holders of a Rock Climbing Permit are permitted to climb in accordance with specified conditions. Nineteen of these areas are within declared Remote and Natural Areas and will have additional conditions that protect remote and natural values. Bouldering and bouldering mats are not permitted. Areas are available for LTOs.

Designated Climbing Area (Bouldering) – 13 areas

Bouldering and bouldering mats are permitted. Areas are available for LTOs.

Designated Climbing Areas (LTO Only) – 3 areas

Three climbing areas within Summerday Valley where there is a known risk to tangible Aboriginal cultural heritage. Management measures have been established to mitigate those risks in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

Rock climbing in these areas is restricted to licensed tour operators holding a permit under the Aboriginal Heritage Act and their clients.

All clients undertaking the activity must hold an individual rock climbing permit. LTOs are required to supervise their clients to ensure all conditions are met.

Bouldering and the use of bouldering mats are prohibited.

Off-track walking is prohibited in relevant sections of Summerday Valley for all park visitors.

containing and mitigating impacts. Bouldering will no longer be permitted in other areas where it has previously occurred, and these will not be considered for possible future use.

In areas where rock climbing is permanently prohibited, rehabilitation may be necessary to remove the impacts of unauthorised tracks, soil compaction, vegetation loss and fixed protection. Where climbing and bouldering is permitted, there may also be a need for rehabilitation and other management works. This could include defining access to climbing areas and installing site markers, signage and barriers. Ongoing monitoring will be important and may mean access to Designated Climbing Areas or climbing provisions change. The rediscovery of Aboriginal cultural heritage or significant environmental values may also result in future changes to management.

The outcome of this plan is 104 areas available for climbing, including bouldering. The assessments that have determined these areas have been prioritised based on an understanding of the most used areas. There is interest from the climbing community for additional areas to be available. Parks Victoria will consult with the climbing community to determine priorities for further assessment; these further assessments would be for a limited number of additional areas due to the significant effort of Parks Victoria and Traditional Owners to assess areas and then operationally manage these. Assessment of these identified priority areas will occur within the life of the management plan.

Goal – Rock climbing

Permit rock climbing (including abseiling) and bouldering opportunities within designated areas where these can be enjoyed in a safe and sensitive manner.

Strategies	Priority
Allow climbing in Designated Climbing Areas (refer to Appendix 2 and Maps 4A-4H). Climbers will: — be permitted to use temporary protection and temporary anchors consistent with minimal impact and clean climbing techniques — be required to minimise the use of chalk and only use chalk coloured to match the rock (e.g. brown, grey) — where tracks or routes to climbing areas are specified in a permit, climbers must use those tracks — adhere to any area closure or restriction (such as group size) which may be applied to areas as required — acknowledge that Parks Victoria cannot warrant that any fixed protection (bolt anchors, belay points, abseil stations etc.) that has been installed or maintained at a suitable standard and that use is at the climber's discretion and that they therefore agree to assess and accept the risk of use — hold a current climbing permit (pending development of a permit). NOTE: Designated Climbing Areas may include exclusion zones where climbing is not permitted (e.g. significant rock shelters and sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage.)	Immediate
Allow bouldering and the use of bouldering mats in Designated Climbing Areas (Bouldering) (refer to Appendix 2 and Maps 4A-4H) subject to the applicable conditions noted above for Designated Climbing Areas. NOTE: Some areas may not be immediately available pending site controls (e.g. site plan, signage, formal access track, fencing, surface treatment, tree risk management).	Immediate
Allow licensed tour operators (LTOs) to offer climbing within Designated Climbing Area (LTO Only) (Appendix 2 and Maps 4A-4H) subject to the applicable conditions noted above for Designated Climbing Areas. NOTE: Use is subject to the LTO holding a current licence and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Permit to Harm, and attendance at an on-site Cultural Heritage induction.	Immediate
Do not permit climbing and bouldering events and competitions.	Immediate
Monitor rock climbing and bouldering areas and compliance and consider further management as required, including in response to rediscovery of Aboriginal cultural heritage or significant environmental values.	Immediate
Require climbers and boulderers, including clients of LTOs, to obtain a free climbing permit prior to climbing. Permits will only be issued following an induction (covering topics including cultural and environmental heritage, low-impact climbing and climber safety).	High
Provide information, showing approved climbing and bouldering areas, access and conditions for use.	High
Prioritise areas listed for assessment in Appendix 2.	High

Management of fixed protection within designated climbing areas

Fixed protection, generally bolts fixed into a hole drilled in the rock but also chains and rings for abseiling and belaying, are permanent fixtures used to anchor ropes and climbers. Sport climbing is typically reliant on the use of fixed protection; however, fixed protection may also assist traditional climbing where there are limited opportunities for temporary protection. Anchors for abseiling remove the need of attaching to trees at the top of cliffs or developing descent tracks, which are often steep and environmentally unstable.

There is estimated to be thousands of anchors (top anchors, rappel stations, cliff-face fixed runners and anchors, belay points etc.) throughout the park. Anchors have been installed predominantly by climbers and are not subject to any condition assessment, other than anyone using the anchors doing so at their risk. These anchors are subject to a range of impacts including damage from previous use, weathering and age.

Within designated climbing areas, fixed and temporary fixed protection are an important feature for climbing. Parks Victoria cannot warrant the condition of these anchors. Climbers will be responsible for their individual assessment to use any fixed or temporary protection.

Outside designated climbing areas, climbing is not authorised and Parks Victoria will consider where existing bolts need to be removed

Goal – Management of fixed protection

Fixed protection is managed to support safe climbing opportunities within designated climbing areas, minimise impacts on the parks and clarify climbers' own risk.

Strategies	Priority
Climbers are responsible at all times for their use of fixed and temporary protection points within designated climbing areas.	Immediate
Permit the use of temporary protection and temporary protection points consistent with minimal impact and clean climbing techniques.	Immediate
Ensure climbers are aware of the risk of fixed protection points and that Parks Victoria cannot warrant that any fixed protection (bolts, anchors, belay points, abseil stations etc.) has been installed or maintained at a suitable standard, that use of such fixed protection points is at the climber's discretion and that they therefore agree to assess and accept the risk of using such fixed protection points.	Immediate
Remove fixed protection points at priority locations where climbing is not permitted.	Medium

Water-based activities (including fishing, boating, swimming)

Lake Bellfield, Lake Wartook and Moora Moora Reservoir are major waterbodies within Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water manages these waterbodies and is responsible for regulating the operation of vessels and water activities. Only electric, wind or manual boating is allowed on Lake Bellfield. The lakes are used for a range of other activities including fishing and swimming. Swimming is not permitted at Lake Wartook because it is a primary water source for nearby towns. Swimming is permitted downstream of the reservoir in the MacKenzie River. It was once a popular pastime at Zumsteins and is re-emerging at Fish Falls after new waterholes formed following the 2011 floods. Swimming is possible in the Glenelg River at Cherrypool Highway Park. A number of swimming related injuries and drownings (see Section 5.6 – Visitor risks and safety) have occurred at Migunang wirab (MacKenzie Falls). Small pools of water exist at Venus Baths and this is a popular location for water-play with young families visiting Halls Gap. Public access is provided to lakes for fishing but digging for grubs and worms is not permitted in national, state or regional parks.

Goal – Water-based activities

Water-based activities are possible where these can be conducted in a safe and sensitive manner

Strategies	Priority
Permit swimming as per Table 5.2, except at the base of MacKenzie Falls.	Immediate
Permit boat launching only at existing boat ramps, with the operation of vessels and water activities on the main waterbodies in the planning area (e.g. Lake Bellfield, Lake Wartook, Moora Moora Reservoir and Rocklands Reservoir) subject to the regulations applied by Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water.	Immediate
Work with Wannon Water to prevent off-track driving and unauthorised vehicle access to the Moora Moora reservoir via park tracks and camping areas.	Medium

Summary of activities

Conditions for recreational activities are provided in Table 5.2. The conditions may not apply where they limit the ability of Traditional Owners to exercise their rights.



Hiking in the Wonderland Range, Central Gariwerd

Table 5.2 Summary of recreation activities in zones and overlays

Activity	State Game Reserve	Other Reserves	Cultural Conservation Zone	Special Protection Areas	Reference Areas	Remote and Natural Areas
BBQs, stoves, burners and heaters – electric, gas and liquid fuels	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
BBQs, stoves, heaters and fire-pots – solid fuels	Yes	Yes	Restricted (see below)	No	No	No
Restrictions: Only commercial appliances are permitted and only within camping and day visitor areas where constructed fireplaces are provided. Burnt fuels must be removed from site.						
Campfires – open solid fuel fire	Yes	Yes	Restricted (see below)	No	No	No
Restrictions: Solid fuel fires are only permitted within the constructed fireplaces provided within camping and day visitor areas.						
Campfires – firewood collection for use in campfires	Yes	Yes	Restricted (see below)	No	No	No
Restrictions: Firewood may only be collected from designated areas.						
Camping – designated hike-in sites	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Note: Camping may be subject to bookings and fees. Refer to refer to Table 5.1 for details.						
Camping – designated vehicle accessible sites	Yes	Plantation Campground only	Yes	No	No	Yes
Note: Camping will be permitted at provisional sites until 2024; use beyond 2024 is subject to assessment and formal designation. Camping may be subject to bookings and fees. Refer to refer to Table 5.1 for details. No additional campsites will be established.						
Camping – dispersed camping	Yes	Cherrypool Highway Reserve only	Yes until 2024	No	No	No
Car rallies	No	No	No	No	No	No
Caving	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	No	No	No
Competitive and organised events	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Events are subject to a permit as per applicable regulations.						
Cycling	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Where permitted, cycling is restricted to roads and tracks open to public vehicles and the multi-use trail adjacent to Grampians Road between Halls Gap and Lake Bellfield. Cycling not permitted on MVO tracks or on seasonally closed tracks.						
Dog walking	Restricted – see below	Yes	No	No	No	No
State Game Reserves: Dogs permitted in accordance with game hunting restrictions.						
Drones/RPAs – launching and landing	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Fishing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Fishing – bait collection, grubbing	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Fossicking	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Fossil collection	No	No	No	No	No	No
Four-wheel driving	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Where permitted, vehicles are restricted to roads and tracks open to public vehicles. Vehicles are not permitted on MVO tracks or seasonally closed tracks.						

Activity	State Game Reserve	Other Reserves	Cultural Conservation Zone	Special Protection Areas	Reference Areas	Remote and Natural Areas
Geocaching, gaming and augmented reality	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Subject to access restrictions for hiking and bushwalking. Caches may not be hidden or placed in a way that interferes with soil, flora or fauna.						
Hang gliding and paragliding	No	No	See note below	No	No	No
Launching at Mount William to be assessed. If permitted, access will be under licence to the Hang gliding and Paragliding Association.						
Hiking and bushwalking	Yes	Yes	Yes (see notes below)	Yes (see notes below)	No	Yes (see notes below)
Notes: The use of climbing equipment other than safety ropes is not permitted except within designated climbing areas and in accordance with a rock-climbing permit. Off-track walking in Special Protection Areas is subject to Parks Victoria approval. Seasonal restrictions may be applied. Commercial and organised groups (e.g. LTOs, schools, clubs etc.) are not permitted. Access to the following areas is restricted to designated tracks for visitor safety or protection of values: - Boroka Lookout, Reeds Lookout and The Balconies, and MacKenzie Falls. - To and within some designated climbing areas (including parts of Summerday Valley). Other areas may have restrictions applied where necessary to protect values or ensure visitor safety.						
Horse riding	No	Yes (see note below)	Yes (see note below)	No	No	Yes (see note below)
Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park – Horse riding permitted on route shown on Maps 3B and 3F. Other reserves – Horse riding permitted on roads and tracks open to public vehicles.						
Horse riding – camping	No	No	No	No	No	No
Hunting	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Permitted in accordance with game hunting restrictions. Hunting not permitted in Plantation Campground or Black Range Scenic Reserve.						
Orienteering and rogaining	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Events are subject to a permit.						
Prospecting	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Rock climbing – bouldering	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Bouldering permitted in 13 Designated Climbing Areas (Bouldering) subject to a permit and conditions.						
Rock climbing – rock climbing, abseiling, slack lining	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Rock climbing only permitted in Designated Climbing Areas subject to a permit and conditions.						
Swimming	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Note – Swimming is not allowed in the pool at the base of Mackenzie Falls. Other areas may be not be allowed for visitor safety.						
Trail bike riding	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Trail bike riding only permitted on roads and tracks open to public vehicles.						
Trail running	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park: Only on designated walking tracks or roads.						

5.5 The visitor experience

Parks Victoria uses a Visitor Experience Framework to describe the diversity of visitor experiences offered in parks. Visitor Experience Areas (VEAs) define broad precincts of visitor use, which are used to focus priorities and planning directions. VEA scale planning ensures that visitor opportunities are located appropriately, activities are relevant to current trends, are managed to minimise impacts on the parks and are supported by an appropriate level of service and information.

Visitor Experience Areas

Fourteen Visitor Experience Areas have been described for Gariwerd, providing a range of experiences from the highly accessible to remote. An overview of the VEAs is shown in Map 3, with visitor destinations shown in Maps 3A – 3H (Map Series 3). The plan describes these areas and provides strategies for their management.

Gar

Gar VEA includes the area around Gar (Mount Difficult), including Budjun Budjun (Briggs Bluff) and Beehive Falls. Camping ranges from vehicle-based camping to basic backcountry camping for hikers and is popular with school groups. The area has also been identified as having suitable habitat for the potential reintroduction of Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby.

Goal – Gar VEA

Maintain a feeling of remoteness with car-based bush camping and day and overnight hiking for self-sufficient walkers.

Strategies	Priority
Maintain car-based camping at the relocated Troopers Creek Campground. Investigate renaming the campground using Traditional Owner language.	Immediate
Maintain Budjun Budjun (Briggs Bluff) Hike-in Camping area as a provisional campsite (see Table 5.1)	Immediate
Maintain non Grampians Peaks Trail hiking trails as semi-remote hiking for experienced walkers.	Immediate
Rehabilitate the former Troopers Creek Camping Area and close Wind Cave – Tilwinda Falls Loop Track and walking track access to Gar (Mount Difficult).	High
Remove and rehabilitate Mount Difficult Hikers Camping Area. Direct hikers to other camps.	High
Provide wayfinding signs from linking tracks to the Grampians Peaks Trail.	High
Upgrade Longpoint East and Longpoint West to bookable campgrounds with fees, suitable for large groups such as schools.	High
Work in partnership with local government to improve traffic management and safety at Beehive Falls Carpark.	High

Gunigalg

Gunigalg VEA covers the northernmost part of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and includes the northern trailhead of the Grampians Peaks Trail and the key visitor sites of Ngamadjidj art site, Gunigalg (Mount Stapylton), Wudjub Guyun (Hollow Mountain) and Mura Mura (Mount Zero). Some of the park's most significant Aboriginal cultural sites are within this VEA, as well as popular climbing. There is also a wide range of walking experiences, from short walks to extended, overnight hikes.

Improved road access is anticipated to increase the number of visitors to this area. Existing visitor sites and infrastructure do not presently cater for this expected future growth. A new minor 'gateway' could provide opportunities for Traditional Owner led cultural interpretation and improve the sense of arrival and orientation to this destination and Gariwerd more broadly.

Goals – Gunigalg VEA

Provide a gateway to the Northern Grampians and the Grampians Peaks Trail, with a focus on Gariwerd as an Aboriginal cultural landscape.

Provide a range of walking, camping and day visitor facilities that can cater for large numbers of visitors exploring the area and undertaking adventure activities.

Strategies	Priority
Under the direction of Traditional Owners, continue to provide a culturally appropriate visitor experience at Gulgurn Manja and Ngamadjidj rock art sites.	Immediate
Provide car-based camping at Stapylton and Coppermine Campgrounds, including interpretation of mining history at Coppermine.	Immediate
Support Grampians Peaks Trail, including camping for hikers at Barigar Campground.	Immediate
Prohibit off-track access in relevant parts of Summerday Valley.	Immediate
Provide a diverse range of walking trails, from all abilities walks suitable for most visitors (Ngamadjidj, Gulgurn Manja) to those suitable for experienced walkers (Wudjub-guyun, Mura Mura, Gunigalg), including establishing Mura Mura (Mount Zero) as the northern trailhead for the Grampians Peaks Trail and signage for walkers linking in from Gunigalg (Mount Stapylton) Campground.	Immediate – Medium
Develop Mura Mura (Mount Zero) as a gateway to the northern Grampians and provide opportunities for learning about and experiencing Gariwerd's Aboriginal cultural heritage and Traditional Owner perspectives of Country, including supporting Traditional Owner led cultural tours and providing self-guided cultural trails and high levels of service trailhead for Grampians Peaks Trail.	Medium
Work with the tourism industry to support park visitor experiences, including providing orientation, interpretation, parking and accommodation services adjacent to the park.	Medium
Cater for increased demand with development of the disused sand quarry on Pohlner's Road for parking and day visitor use.	Medium
Consider opportunities to enhance all-abilities access in Summerday Valley, including support for guided rock climbing experiences.	Medium

Heatherlie Quarry – Plantation

The eastern slopes of Gar (Mount Difficult Range) form the basis of the Heatherlie Quarry – Plantation VEA. Heatherlie Quarry (Mount Difficult Freestone Quarry) supplied stone for several important buildings in Melbourne, including Parliament House, the Town Hall and the State Library. The quarry area includes remnants of the quarrying equipment, accommodation houses and rock faces showing the marks of quarry operations. Plantation Campground, in Mount Difficult State Forest, is a popular camping area adjacent to Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. Facilities include a bush shower and toilets.

Goal – Heatherlie Quarry – Plantation VEA

Provide visitors with an understanding of the colonial history and development of the Grampians region.

Strategies	Priority
Recognise existing informal use of Red Gum lease area for camping and formally designate and manage as Red Gum Camping Area (refer to Map 3A and Table 5.1).	Immediate
Upgrade Plantation Campground to include bookable sites with fees, sites suitable for campervans and continue to permit camping with dogs.	High
Upgrade the visitor experience at Heatherlie Quarry including heritage interpretation, walking track access suitable for most visitors and parking.	Medium
Investigate re-establishing walking track link to Gar (Mount Difficult Range) and Werdug (Wartook) Lookout.	Medium
Investigate establishing a walking trail linking Heatherlie Quarry, Plantation Campground and Halls Gap.	Medium

Central Gariwerd

Central Gariwerd covers the popular tourist area along Mount Victory Road and includes the day visitor areas of Migunang wirab (MacKenzie Falls), Boroka Lookout, Reed Lookout and The Balconies, Zumsteins and Smiths Mill Campground near Lake Wartook. It is an important part of the Halls Gap tourism experience, allowing visitors to Halls Gap to have a scenic driving and short walk experience of the park. Road cycling is becoming increasingly popular. The large numbers of visitors are posing some safety and capacity issues, particularly at waterfalls and lookouts and traffic management problems. This also affects the visitor experience.

Goal – Central Gariwerd

Provide a vehicle touring and sightseeing experience that can cater for large numbers of visitors with short walks to waterfalls and views.

Strategies	Priority
Provide access to a range of lookouts and waterfalls via short walks suitable for a high number of visitors.	Immediate
Provide for large groups, such as schools and tour groups.	Immediate
Designate some tracks as suitable for TrailRider access, providing TrailRider all-terrain wheelchairs at Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre for use on designated trails.	Immediate
Prohibit off-track access at The Balconies, Reed Lookout, Boroka Lookout and MacKenzie Falls. Develop site controls such as barriers.	Immediate
Prohibit swimming in the MacKenzie Falls plunge pool.	Immediate
Liaise with VicRoads to manage growth in road cycling and safety issues on the Mount Victory and Mount Difficult Roads.	Immediate
Maintain Zumsteins, MacKenzie Falls (Migunang wirab), Reed Lookout and Boroka Lookout as key visitor areas. The 'Central corridor issues and opportunities' Box (below) provides details regarding possible management strategies and considerations for these key areas – including improving the management of site capacity, visitor experience, safety and all-abilities accessibility.	Immediate
Develop interpretation of Traditional Owner culture, history and heritage (see Section 5.1: Interpretation, information and education).	High
Investigate developing car-based camping at Zumsteins, including sites suitable for caravans, campers and recreational vehicles.	High
Collaborate with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water regarding recreation infrastructure at Lake Wartook.	High
Expand and enhance the visitor function at Zumsteins Day Visitor Area, to support management of visitor capacity along the central corridor and alleviate pressure from MacKenzie Falls. Investigate augmenting recreation and heritage-based experiences and opportunities.	Medium
Investigate opportunities for walking links between key sites, including possible links between Halls Gap and Wartook townships.	Medium

Central corridor issues and opportunities

Many of Gariwerd's most popular and accessible sites are part of the Central Grampians Touring Route. Promoted as a 'highlights in a day' experience, the tour follows Mount Victory Road from Halls Gap to Zumsteins Picnic Area, taking in Boroka and Reed Lookouts and Migunang wirab (MacKenzie Falls).

As visitor numbers have grown, overcrowding has become an issue, particularly during peak periods. Overcrowding degrades the visitor experience as well as creating safety issues for pedestrians and obstruction of access for emergency response, when carparks become full and visitors park along roads. Inappropriate visitor behavior is also a major safety concern including a trend across natural areas world-wide for people to risk injury to take selfies photographs.

Overcrowding also increases the risk of the park being damaged, with littering, toilet waste and trampling of vegetation becoming more frequent as people go off track.

There is also a risk that a lack of understanding and respect for Country and cultural places puts them at risk of being damaged.

This plan proposes strategies to address these issues and opportunities with Traditional Owners and the broader community. The strategies include:

- designing access and visitor facilities at popular locations so that they can cater for large numbers of visitors, including providing access for tourist buses and people with limited mobility
- making improvements to walking tracks and lookouts to support all-abilities experiences
- developing opportunities to learn about the area's unique cultural values and natural heritage, with a focus on Gariwerd as an Aboriginal cultural landscape
- managing visitor numbers and expectations; for example, reducing the use of images of Migunang wirab (MacKenzie Falls) and Boroka Lookout in marketing and promotions, providing information that directs visitors to other parts of the park and providing information on parking capacity
- providing a shuttle bus along Mount Victory Rd (Brambuk – Halls Gap – Wonderland Carpark – Reed Lookout Carpark – MacKenzie Falls – Zumsteins) during peak visitor periods
- increasing traffic controls such as boom gates and roadside parking restrictions
- managing risks relating to high fire danger days, such as closing areas on Total Fire Ban days and Code Red days.

Zumsteins Picnic Area is set on the banks of the MacKenzie River. It currently features disabled access toilets, compacted gravel paths, electric barbecues, picnic tables and multiple undercover areas. Possible management strategies include:

- redirecting visitors to this location, removing traffic at MacKenzie Falls and the lookouts
- expanding parking facilities so Zumsteins may act as an alternative visitor parking node for the central Gariwerd area
- offering a shuttle bus from here to MacKenzie Falls and Reed Lookout
- development of Recreational Vehicle (RV) style, all-abilities camping.

Central corridor issues and opportunities (continued)

Mackenzie Falls (Migunang wirab) is one of the largest waterfalls in Victoria and a must-see on a trip to Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. It is the only waterfall in Gariwerd that flows all year round as the water flow is controlled from Lake Wartook. There have been a number of incidents where people have accessed the area at the very base of the falls, including fatalities where people have slipped and fallen into the waterfall's plunge pool and become trapped in the undercut rock beneath the falls. Swimming in the plunge pool and access around the base of the falls is to be prohibited due to these dangers.

A lack of reliable mobile phone coverage may also affect the ability of visitors to obtain emergency assistance in the case of an incident. A range of options for mediating the risk, plus reducing crowding in peak periods, are possible including:

- informing visitors about the hazards, including acknowledgment of the loss of life at the site
- defining access paths at the bottom of the falls
- establishing physical barriers at the bottom of the falls
- providing a viewing area that considers visitor motivations for photography in its design
- investigating emergency communication options (see Section 5.7 – Authorised uses).
- monitoring visitor adherence e.g. using remote cameras
- increasing car parking and short walking opportunities
- trialling additional visitor services e.g. permanent or temporary commercial opportunities (mobile food and beverage), visitor information and ranger presence.

Reeds Lookout and Boroka Lookout offer spectacular viewpoints across Gariwerd. Overcrowding can be an issue at these sites, as can people going off-track. Reeds Lookout provides views over a rock formation known as The Balconies, which consists of two rock ledges. Current barrier fencing and signage has been inadequate to prevent significant numbers of visitors accessing the ledges seeking photos. Possible management interventions include:

- informing visitors about the risks at the site
- defining access paths to the lookouts
- establishing an expanded and effective physical barrier fence
- blocking and rehabilitating informal tracks, especially those leading to The Balconies
- prohibiting access to The Balconies rock formation
- monitoring visitor adherence e.g. using remote cameras
- redesigning viewing platforms to cater for greater demand.

Note: the risk management strategies identified above may also be applied to areas where similar risks are observed (see Section 5.5 – Visitor risks and safety).

Budja Budja (Wonderland)

The Budja Budja VEA covers the popular Wonderland Range and destinations such as Venus Baths, The Pinnacle, Silverband Falls, Splitters Falls, Clematis Falls and Bim (Chatauqua Peak). It extends south into more remote areas around Bugiga-mirgani (Mount Rosea), including a small part of the Serra Range Remote and Natural Area.

The Grampians Peaks Trail traverses the VEA, with camping at Bugiga and a school camp on Stony Creek Road. This section of the Grampians Peaks Trail is already attracting large numbers of overnight hikers and will likely be a very popular section of the trail. The key activities are tourism, day and overnight hiking, rock climbing and road cycling on the public roads.

The township of Halls Gap and Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre are recognised as having significant roles in visitation in this area. The local economy has a strong reliance on the Gariwerd area.

Goals – Budja Budja VEA

Provide opportunities for vehicle touring and sightseeing, a range of walking options from easy, accessible shorter walks catering for large numbers of people, to longer, overnight hikes and self-reliant bush camping experiences.

Support the local economy by working to ensure Wonderland, Halls Gap and Brambuk provide a quality, integrated experience that contributes to visitors' knowledge of Gariwerd's cultural and natural values and non-park visitor experiences in the area.

Strategies	Priority
Provide access to a range of lookouts and waterfalls via short walks suitable for a high number of visitors.	Immediate
Provide for large groups, such as school groups and bus tours.	Immediate
Maintain some tracks as suitable for TrailRider access. Provide a TrailRider at Brambuk Cultural Centre for use on designated trails.	Immediate
Manage the Wonderland Range, The Pinnacle and access tracks from Wonderlands Carpark as a key visitor area catering for large numbers of visitors. The 'Central corridor issues and opportunities' Box provides details regarding possible management strategies and considerations for these key areas – including improving site capacity, visitor experience and safety.	Immediate
Protect the visual amenity within and views into the park from Fyans Valley by ensuring that current and future infrastructure does not impact the landscape.	Immediate
Support Grampians Peaks Trail Budja Budja (Wonderland) section, including the provision of a central trailhead at Halls Gap and camping for Grampians Peaks Trail walkers at Bugiga and signage directing hikers who wish to link back to Halls Gap via Bellfield Track.	Immediate
Provide for more remote walking around Bugiga-mirgani (Mount Rosea) and Sundial Peak which requires a higher level of fitness and skill.	Immediate
Provide for car-based camping at Borough Huts and undertake site planning and campsite rationalisation for up to 10 camps along Stony Creek Road.	Immediate
Do not permit orienteering and rogaining events in the Wonderland Range.	Immediate

Goals – Budja Budja VEA

Provide opportunities for vehicle touring and sightseeing, a range of walking options from easy, accessible shorter walks catering for large numbers of people, to longer, overnight hikes and self-reliant bush camping experiences.

Support the local economy by working to ensure Wonderland, Halls Gap and Brambuk provide a quality, integrated experience that contributes to visitors' knowledge of Gariwerd's cultural and natural values and non-park visitor experiences in the area.

Strategies

Priority

HALLS GAP

Immediate

Work with local government and businesses to ensure Halls Gap is supported as a major gateway, with Brambuk as the orientation point into Gariwerd.

With local government, develop a plan for walk standards in the Halls Gap – Brambuk area (Tandarra Loop, Fyans Loop, Halls Gap Bike Track, link to Plantation Campground) to improve accessibility and provide for multiple use, including all abilities access, walking with companion dogs and connection to features of interest.

Consider opportunities for all-abilities access to Venus Baths, including a bouldering experience.

Improve park information and interpretation in the Halls Gap – Brambuk area.

Work with local government, DELWP and other partners to develop and promote a wildlife viewing experience and improved management of wildlife feeding within Halls Gap township.

BRAMBUK THE NATIONAL PARK AND CULTURAL CENTRE

Immediate

Support the management and development of Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre as a place of cultural strengthening and renewal for Traditional Owners and a place where visitors can be Welcomed to Country, learn about the cultural and natural heritage of Gariwerd and obtain information about experiencing the parks and reserves.

Support Traditional Owner led planning to establish future Traditional Owner management of Brambuk.

Investigate the feasibility of developing high end camping or accommodation at Brambuk as part of an enhanced cultural heritage experience.

Continue to utilise Brambuk as a major focus for education including Junior Ranger Programs.

Reinvigorate on-site interpretation at Brambuk.

Support cultural landscape interpretation at Brambuk linked to experiences within the park, including cultural tours and opportunities, focusing on the Grampians Peaks Trail, central corridor and new gateways.

Victoria Valley

Covering the valleys of the Bugara (Glenelg) River and its tributaries between the Serra and Billawin (Victoria) ranges, Victoria Valley offers opportunities for sightseeing, car-based camping, scenic touring and hiking.

Goal – Victoria Valley VEA

Provide low key camping and picnic areas accessible by two-wheel drive vehicles.

Strategies	Priority
Maintain two-wheel drive access along main tracks (Glenelg River Road, Syphon Road, Lodge Road, Rosebrook – Glenisla Road).	Immediate
Provide two-wheel drive accessible camping at Strachans and Boreang camping areas; investigate provision of sites suitable for caravans, campers and recreational vehicles.	Immediate
Maintain tracks and signage to support Grampians Iconic 4WD Adventure.	Immediate
Recognise existing informal camping around Serra Road. Designate a camping area near the intersection of Serra Road and Ingleton Fireline to provide for hikers undertaking a loop walk over Major Mitchell Plateau.	High
Recognise existing informal camping around Moora Moora Reservoir. Develop a site plan for camping areas.	High
Investigate developing a Victoria Valley Nature Drive.	Medium

Duwul

Mount William and the Major Mitchell Plateau are the core area of Duwul VEA. The VEA includes hiking over Duwul (Mount William), Major Mitchell Plateau and Jimmy Creek, which has been extended to include Seven Dials and Ngarra Mananinja gadjin (Redman Bluff) with the opening of the Grampians Peaks Trail. Much of this VEA is a declared Remote and Natural Area. Mount William Road provides access to a carpark, 2 kilometres below the summit of Duwul, the park's highest peak.

Goals – Duwul VEA

Provide challenging hiking, from short walks to overnight hikes and camping.

Provide a signature 'highest peak' experience focusing on sunrise and sunset.

Strategies	Priority
Maintain car-based camping and day visitor facilities at Jimmy Creek.	Immediate
Support Traditional Owner led cultural tours, including sunrise and sunset experiences at Duwul summit.	Immediate
Investigate the feasibility of providing viewing facilities at Duwul summit with safe, all abilities access.	Medium
Investigate possibility of providing for hang glider and paraglider launching from Duwul summit area.	High
Investigate options for a Duwul 'highest peak' experience focusing on sunrise and sunset viewing (e.g. cultural tours).	High

Billawin

Billawin (Victoria Range) VEA is a remote area that encompassing a variety of natural features including escarpment, waterfalls, mountain peaks, rock formations and caves. There are significant cultural values with Aboriginal art sites and the Victoria Range Remote and Natural Area covers a large part of this VEA. The area provides an opportunity to learn about Traditional Owner perspectives of Country and to experience a remote area. Hiking, rock climbing and four-wheel driving are popular and supported with several basic camping and picnic areas. The VEA is a key part of the Grampians Iconic 4WD Adventure.

Goals – Billawin VEA

Provide basic vehicle and hiking- trails and camping in a largely undeveloped landscape.

Provide for protection and appreciation of Gariwerd’s cultural significance and the Remote and Natural Area values.

Strategies	Priority
Maintain walking trails for experienced walkers to The Fortress, Mount Thackeray and the Chimney Pots.	Immediate
Manage camping as follows: — maintain The Fortress as a basic walk-in camping area — close and rehabilitate Oasis (Deep Creek) Camping Area to protect cultural values — maintain Mount Thackeray as a basic hike-in and four-wheel drive accessible camping area — recognise the existing informal use of Wallaby Rocks and The Old Lodge and designate as basic camping areas — maintain Buandik as a vehicle-based camping area; investigate provision of sites suitable for caravans, campers and recreational vehicles.	Immediate
Support the area’s use for recreational four-wheel driving: Maintain tracks and signage to support the Grampians Iconic 4WD Adventure. Maintain seasonal road closures on Victoria Range Track and Goat Track.	Immediate
Under the direction of Traditional Owners, provide a culturally appropriate visitor experience at Billimna and Manja rock art sites.	High
Explore opportunities for Traditional Owner led and self-guided cultural tours supporting meaningful ways for visitors to engage with the cultural landscape.	Medium



Kalynmna Falls is a popular destination within Mafeking VEA

Mafeking

Mafeking VEA covers the eastern slopes of the Duwul (Mount William) Range and includes the sites of Mafeking and Kalymna Falls. The Grampians Iconic 4WD Adventure passes through this area.

Goal – Mafeking VEA Provide camping and picnic areas accessible by two-wheel drive vehicles.	
Strategies	Priority
Maintain vehicle-based camping at Kalymna Falls, including improving suitability for caravans, camp trailers and recreational vehicles.	Immediate
Develop a heritage plan highlighting the Mafeking's extensive community history.	Medium
Investigate upgrading existing tracks (and minor trailhead) to link Pomonal to the Grampians Peaks Trail.	Medium

Mud-Dadjug

In the Gariwerd creation story, Mud-dadjug (Mount Abrupt), which marks the southern end of the range, is the body left by one of the Bram-bram-bult brothers. The area includes peaks such as Bainggug (The Piccaninny) and Wurgarri (Mount Sturgeon), both popular, challenging hiking destinations. The Grampians Iconic 4WD Adventure passes through the area. Dunkeld township services the area and the Grampians Iconic 4WD Adventure and has a critical role as the southern trailhead for the Grampians Peaks Trail.

From the southern section of the Grampians Peaks Trail, the Mud-Dadjug VEA is anticipated to be a key area for an expanded number of short to medium walks as part of the region's food and wine destination experience. Partnerships are planned to establish connecting trail from Dunkeld to the Grampians Peaks Trail through land adjacent to the park.

Goals – Mud-Dadjug VEA Provide a range of challenging semi-remote short to medium distance walks. Support Dunkeld's role in visitation in the southern end of Gariwerd, including through the southern trailhead of the Grampians Peaks Trail and the Grampians Iconic 4WD Adventure.	
Strategies	Priority
Promote Mud-dadjug as the southern gateway, reflecting the story of the Bram-bram-bult brothers, providing cultural experiences and promoting understanding of the park as a significant cultural landscape. Support cultural landscape interpretation aligned to the agreed framework of messaging about Traditional Owner culture, history and heritage co-designed with Traditional Owners.	Immediate
Work with the local community to support Dunkeld as a key part of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park southern gateway.	Immediate
Maintain Wannon Crossing as a vehicle-based campground.	Immediate
Upgrade linking tracks and trailheads between Dunkeld and Mud-dadjug car park to support a range of short to overnight walks and the Grampians Peaks Trail.	High
Link existing walking tracks into Grampians Peaks Trail.	High
Investigate transport options, such as a shuttle bus, to support access to hike trailheads.	Medium
Work with local government to promote a two-wheel drive touring loop drive from Dunkeld to Mirranatwa Gap.	Medium

Brady Swamp

Brady Swamp State Game Reserve is used for duck hunting in the south-east of the planning area, abutting Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.

Goal – Brady Swamp VEA

Protect cultural and natural values and allow low levels of visitation where this is consistent with protection of those values.

Strategies	Priority
Allow low level recreation, including camping, subject to protection of cultural and natural values.	Immediate
Provide for duck hunting with gun dogs in season.	Immediate
Prohibit domestic firewood collection.	Immediate
Undertake cultural values surveys where required.	Medium

Burrunj

Burrunj VEA includes Black Range State Park, Mount Byron and Cherrypool Highway Park in the western Grampians. The area is a significant natural and cultural landscape which provides opportunities for self-reliant recreation including walking and basic camping within the park and adjacent state forest. The area is popular with hikers and school groups seeking an experience with a sense of remoteness.

Goal – Burrunj VEA

Provide an informal walking experience suitable for larger groups, highlighting Aboriginal cultural places including rock shelters, rock art, quarries and scar-trees.

Strategies	Priority
Maintain low key, short to medium length walks for well prepared and experienced visitors.	Immediate
Direct campers to camping areas within adjacent state forest., including Cherrypool Highway Park and HGH corner.	Immediate
Maintain Escarpment Walking Track as a hiking experience; ensure hiker safety with improved track marking and signage.	High
Manage Mudadgadjun Picnic Area as a low-key picnic, day visitor and cultural education area for groups and guided tours.	High
Provide opportunities to learn about Gariwerd's First People through direct engagement with Traditional Owners.	High

Rocklands

Rocklands is an area managed by DELWP adjacent to Black Range State Park which provides a range of complementary recreational opportunities including four-wheel driving, camping, hiking, fishing and water sports in a tranquil woodland and lakeside setting. It is suitable for large groups. Dogs on lead are allowed.

Goal – Rocklands VEA

Liaise with DELWP to provide complementary opportunities for self-reliant un-serviced camping with companion dogs, fishing, water-based activities, four-wheel driving and relaxing in open box woodlands on the edge of Rocklands Reservoir.

Strategies	Priority
Liaise with DELWP to provide information to visitors regarding the recreation opportunities in state forest.	Immediate

Bunjil

Bunjil VEA covers Black Range Scenic Reserve. This area includes significant art sites, particularly Bunjil's Shelter, which is home to the only known rock art depiction of the Aboriginal creator spirit Bunjil, making it one of the most significant cultural places in south-eastern Australia.

Goal – Bunjil VEA

Protect the area's significant cultural values and provide low level recreation opportunities.

Strategies	Priority
Under the direction of Traditional Owners, provide a culturally appropriate visitor experience at Bunjil's Shelter rock art site.	Immediate
Provide basic low levels of service and recreation facilities.	High

Other reserves

There are several reserves across the landscape that have important conservation values. Most receive few visitors as there are minimal opportunities for activities and few or no supporting facilities are required. Activities are generally low-key, informal and dispersed and may include walking, hunting and fishing with some associated low level dispersed camping. Some of the reserves contain important cultural values, while others are yet to be surveyed.

Goal – Other Reserves

Protecting cultural and natural values and allow low levels of visitation where this is consistent with protection of those values.

Strategies	Priority
Allow low level recreation, including camping, subject to protection of cultural and natural values.	Immediate
Permit hunting as described in Section 5.4.	Immediate
Prohibit domestic firewood collection.	Immediate
Undertake cultural value surveys where required.	Medium

Visitor Experience Journeys

Two Visitor Experience Journeys have been described for Gariwerd. The Grampians Peaks Trail is described under Walking in Section 5.4, while the Grampians Iconic 4WD Adventure is described below.

Grampians Iconic 4WD Adventure

A medium grade 4WD trip winding through Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. The iconic drive includes waterfalls, views and rock art sites and visitors can camp or stay in nearby townships, such as Dunkeld and Halls Gap.

Goal – Grampians Iconic 4WD Adventure

Provide an enhanced experience for 4WD touring in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park on this iconic drive

Strategies	Priority
Maintain existing drive to track standards as on Maps series 3.	Immediate
Consult with Four Wheel Drive Victoria regarding management of the Grampians Iconic 4WD Adventure and associated tracks.	Immediate
Provide information about the drive at Buandik, Strachans, Serra Road, Moora Moora. Wannon Crossing and Kalymna Falls camping areas and at the park's gateways.	High
Provide information about the drive at Dunkeld and Halls Gap information centres.	High
Work with local tourism partners to improve linkages with off park accommodation and activities.	High
Work with tourism partners and Four-Wheel Drive Victoria to increase awareness of the Grampians Iconic 4WD Adventure.	High
Improve signage and interpretation to improve understanding of park values and promote responsible driving and recreation.	Medium

5.6 Visitor risks and safety

Gariwerd's rugged topography, changeable weather and opportunities for remote recreation present inherent risks to visitors. The risks includes falling tree limbs, venomous animals, exposure to the elements, bushfire, cliff collapse and drowning. Visitors also create hazards for themselves and others through their behaviour. Notably in recent times, many visitors in parks throughout the world have endangered themselves and others seeking selfie photographs which is an issue within Gariwerd with visitors attempting to access risky locations, such as the base of waterfalls and the edge of cliffs.

Victoria Police is the lead agency for most emergencies, with Parks Victoria providing a range of support roles. Emergency management plans have been developed by agencies such as Victoria Police, VicRoads, SES, CFA and DELWP, to address aspects such as floods and landslides, search and rescue and fire management. The Northern Grampians Shire Council, Ararat Rural City Council, Horsham Rural City Council and Southern Grampians Shire Council have Municipal Emergency Management Plans that cover a range of potential emergency situations within the landscape.

As the land manager, Parks Victoria has a responsibility to identify, mitigate and alert visitors to potential hazards and risks in the park landscape. Parks Victoria is aligned to International Standard ISO31000:2018 in its Risk Management Framework, policies, procedures and decision making. As far as practicable, a safe environment will be provided in Gariwerd, while recognising that risk and adventure is part of experiencing parks and reserves. Managing risk — including preparing for and managing fire and other threats, responding to emergencies and appropriately managing risks to visitors— is a key consideration in park management. All reasonable efforts will be made to keep visitors safe and provide information so that people can make informed decisions about how they experience Gariwerd.

Swimming is not permitted at Migunang wirab (MacKenzie Falls) and access around the base of the falls discouraged due to the risk of injury and drowning. Despite warning signs, there have, tragically, been six drownings at the falls between 2004 and 2020-21. Many visitors try to have their photo taken as close to the base of the falls as possible. This area is treacherous, and a number of people have fallen into the water.

Many visitors take unacceptable risks when seeking photos on cliff and escarpment lookouts. The growth of social media and increasing visitation, has resulted in risky behaviour increase substantially.

Increased visitation is also leading to increased traffic congestion and safety issues at popular locations in the central corridor, as carparks fill and visitors park along roads.

Visitors are encouraged to stay informed of Fire Danger Ratings for the area with the parks closed for public safety on Code Red days. Overnight hikers are requested to register their trip at Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre to aid emergency support, as well as notify Brambuk when they have safely returned. Emergency markers are being installed across the national park.

Being aware of hazards and risks helps visitors have a safe experience. Safety messages are presented through signs, Parks Victoria's website and printed visitor guides. Parks Victoria's website also provides details on road conditions and site closures. For group activities, the Australian Adventure Activity Standard and related Good Practice Guides (for a range of specific recreation activities) provide a voluntary good-practice framework for the safe and responsible planning and delivery of outdoor adventure activities with dependent participants. They have been developed by Outdoors Victoria to help people across the outdoor sector develop appropriately managed adventure while protecting the environment and culturally significant places.

Goal – Visitor risks and safety

Visitor, volunteer and staff safety is a key consideration in all aspects of management.

Strategies	Priority
Undertake ranger patrols, coordinating with other agencies, during periods of increased risk.	Immediate
Close Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park on Code Red days and consider closing popular visitor sites on days of Total Fire Ban.	Immediate
Work cooperatively with the responsible agencies in emergency response.	Immediate
Promote visitor awareness of potential risks in the landscape, including risks associated with recreational activities and fire management (both planned burning and bushfires). Reinforce safety messages through tourist businesses and accommodation including information designed for visitors whose first language may not be English.	High
Install signage about the hazards at MacKenzie Falls, including messages in languages other than English.	High
Audit identified risks and hazards within the landscape regularly in accordance with Parks Victoria's Risk Management Guidelines.	High
Review priority risk mitigation measures for key sites in the central corridor (see Central Gariwerd VEA – Section 5.5).	High
Provide safety updates to tour operators and community groups that undertake activities within the parks.	High
Investigate the improvement of phone coverage across the Grampians Peaks Trail. Advise users which areas have poor reception.	Medium

5.7 Tourism and commercial visitor services

From the 1860s, Gariwerd has been a tourism and recreation destination. Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park is identified by Tourism Australia, Visit Victoria and Grampians Tourism as the major visitor attraction in the region. Based on research by Parks Victoria, Visit Victoria and the Grampians Tourism Board, around 1.3 million people visit Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park a year making it the third most visited national park in Victoria. With links to several other regional and cultural tourism opportunities, including the Great Ocean Road, Wimmera Silo Art Trail, Tower Hill and Budj Bim Cultural Landscape, Gariwerd also benefits many surrounding towns and communities.

Tourism is an important industry across the Grampians region, representing around seven per cent of the region's economy and generating around 10 per cent of its employment (direct and indirect employment). According to Victoria's Tourism, Events and Visitor Economy (TEVE) research unit analysis (March 2020) the total annual tourism expenditure across the whole of Victoria was \$31.3 billion. It was also estimated that the Grampians tourism region received a total of 2.7 million domestic visitors (overnight and daytrip) and international overnight visitors, who spent an estimated \$592 million in the year to March 2020, supporting approximately 3700 jobs in the tourism sector. The economic contribution that parks themselves make to the visitor economy within the Grampians tourism region has not been estimated.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on tourism through travel restrictions. A taskforce has been established to prepare the Grampians tourism industry for a return post-COVID-19. This Tourism Crisis Response and Grampians Recovery Taskforce includes Grampians Tourism and regional council

representatives. The group will work with tourism businesses, associations, peak bodies and government to develop strategies to support and promote tourism in the region post COVID-19.

Grampians Tourism is the peak industry body for tourism in the Grampians region. It encompasses and is directly supported by Ararat Rural City Council, Horsham Rural City Council, Northern Grampians Shire and Southern Grampians Shire. According to the Grampians Tourism 2016–2020 Strategic Plan the benefits of the region's tourism and events industry are not just financial.

The sector also supports innovation, state branding, promotion and reputational benefits, regional development, environmental improvements, new infrastructure provision and social and community cohesion and pride. It recognises that significant traditional markets for the region include families, retirees and lovers of food, wine, wildflowers and the outdoors. The Strategic Plan states that Grampians Tourism will promote the Grampians Peaks Trail as the lead product in its nature-based product suite.

As described in Section 5.4, Parks Victoria has identified three sections of the Grampians Peaks Trail that will have particular appeal. They have been earmarked as the locations for staging 'Signature Experiences'. Licensed tour operators (LTOs) will plan and provide walking 'packages' or tours on these sections, which will include services such as transport, on-trail guiding and interpretation, food and accommodation, or connections to off-trail accommodation and hospitality. The intention is also to develop cultural tourism associated with the Grampians Peaks Trail to provide immersive and engaging interpretation for Victorians and other visitors to enhance their awareness of the culture of Traditional Owners and biodiversity values of the National Park.

Aboriginal cultural experiences are a significant motivator for tourists and visitors to the Grampians region and rock art sites are a key part of that interest. This plan provides an opportunity for Traditional Owners to lead a strategic approach for developing world class cultural tourism experiences. This would look at visitor access, interpretation, site conservation and harmonising cultural tourism with the Grampians Peaks Trail. Parks Victoria is working in partnership with Traditional Owner groups to support cultural tourism opportunities and experiences. Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre currently provides park information services and Aboriginal cultural activities for visitors.

Parks Victoria is also working with key tourism organisations, including Grampians Tourism and Visit Victoria, to promote sustainable visitation to the area, while Parks Victoria provides licences for approximately 180 tour operators who offer organised tours and recreational activities. This includes 30 LTOs currently providing abseiling and rock climbing activities in the national park. There are opportunities for the three Traditional Owner corporations and other Traditional Owner businesses to operate as LTOs.

A planning process for Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre led by the Gariwerd Traditional Owner corporations in partnership with Parks Victoria aims to devise a new operating model and refresh cultural experiences and visitor services in the centre, re-invigorating Brambuk as a Traditional Owner operated cultural tourism and education centre. The provision of national park information from this location is also critical to the visitor experience and will be considered in the process.

Parks Victoria will investigate the feasibility and possible locations within Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park for low impact ecologically sensitive roofed accommodation (such as wilderness-retreat style eco-pods) as part of a co-design process with Traditional Owners.

Goals – Tourism and commercial visitor services

Cultural tourism initiatives provide business and employment opportunities for Traditional Owners. Sustainable tourism builds on the cultural and natural values of Gariwerd.

Strategy	Priority
Encourage cultural tourism initiatives that enhance community appreciation of Country and heritage values, places and landscapes.	Immediate
Support the operations of licensed tour operators including how they present cultural information, with all tour operators to undertake Aboriginal cultural awareness training.	Immediate
Support the aspirations of Traditional Owners in the development of cultural tourism products (such as guided tours) designed to provide employment and economic development opportunities.	Immediate
Work with Grampians Tourism to promote the Aboriginal cultural landscape of Gariwerd and Grampians Peaks Trail to visitors.	Immediate
Encourage commercial operators to provide all abilities accessible experiences.	Immediate
Work with Traditional Owner communities to devise a new operating model and refreshed cultural experiences and visitor services for Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre.	High
With respect to the Grampians Peaks Trail: — support community and commercial services, attractions and events that augment a hiker's experience — investigate the feasibility of low impact ecologically sensitive roofed accommodation as part of a co-design process with Traditional Owners.	Medium

5.8 Authorised uses

Leases, licences, consents and other legal instruments can be issued to other agencies and parties authorising certain uses within the planning area in order to deliver their services or use resources. Often these services provide benefits beyond the park boundaries. For example, Gariwerd includes infrastructure that provides water for communities and agriculture outside the parks (see Section 4.3 – Catchments, hydrology and water management). The authorisation and management of these instruments is undertaken in accordance with applicable legislation and government policy.

Incremental development is, however, a key challenge for the management of national parks. There are limits to the level of in-park development that can be accommodated before it impacts the integrity of the landscape. Therefore, infrastructure development must be considered in the context of long-term values protection. This is of equal relevance and importance for visitor infrastructure as for authorised uses. Incremental expansion of authorised uses presents a risk to the parks through their aggregated impact over time. Planning must consider the overall, collective impacts of built infrastructure upon the natural and cultural state of the parks. Where possible, opportunities should be sought to counterbalance the impacts of any new infrastructure on the integrity of the landscape.

Gariwerd is a landscape recovering from the legacy of past land-uses and other interventions. This management plan underpins strategic planning for the landscape over the next 15 years to ensure Country continues to heal. Parks Victoria has a responsibility to conserve protected areas and Traditional Owners have obligations to Country and future generations.

Public authorities

Public authority infrastructure includes prominent structures in the landscape such as telecommunication towers at Duwul (Mount William), Telstra and National Broadband Network infrastructure near Mura Mura (Mount Zero) and electricity transmission infrastructure at Lake Wartook, Migunang wirab (Mackenzie Falls), Duwul (Mount William) and Mafeking.

Wannon Water and Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water (GWMWater) operate critical water management infrastructure within Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park to the water supply system for the broader Hamilton, Grampians, Wimmera and Mallee communities. This includes pipelines, diversion weirs, channels and reservoirs located within the national park and surrounds. Along with this water regulation and diversion infrastructure, there are also a number of groundwater bores in and close to the parks. GWMWater is also the manager of two major visitor attractions in the Grampians being Wartook and Bellfield reservoirs.

Water infrastructure in national parks is managed using the consent provisions of Section 27 of the National Parks Act 1975. Currently a consent is in place for Wannon Water but not for GWMWater. A consent will clarify how GWMWater plans to deliver works in the National Park and enable the potential rationalisation of infrastructure in the park landscape.

Individual pieces of infrastructure are generally part of a network or system for public utilities (e.g. water, electricity and telecommunication infrastructure). These systems have long term strategic interests and plans, which each individual installation supports. It is therefore important for land managers to understand how any new individual proposal it receives fits into the proponent's potential needs for other installations within the parks in the long term – particularly given there are often multiple agencies or companies seeking to establish similar infrastructure.

This can be done through engagement with public utility agencies to ensure individual proposals are aligned with strategic plans. The scope of long-term infrastructure proposals can then be considered in their entirety, alongside the proposals of other agencies, to confirm that an agreed holistic regime can be sustained before considering individual and ad hoc (unplanned) applications. If infrastructure proposals are not demonstrated to be essential or significantly in the public interest or of benefit to park management, they should not be supported.

Apiculture

Apiculture or beekeeping has been a longstanding use in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and Black Range State Park, with some of the earliest apiary sites in Victoria. In view of the role of honeybees in assuring food security and agricultural exports via crop pollination services, the Victorian Government is actively seeking to expand beekeeping activities on public land.

Unfortunately following the major fires and floods, some apiary sites were no longer available. There are currently 100 sites in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and ten in Black Range State Park. There is no cap on numbers, in accordance with the Victorian Government's 'Apiculture (beekeeping) on public land policy' (DEPI 2013), however following these guidelines the landscape is physically at capacity.

It is the responsibility of land managers to manage those uses, events and activities on public land that may impact on or intersect with beekeeping, taking into account this policy. Should the Gariwerd area become hotter and more arid in the future, honeybees may also present a risk to biodiversity through competition for nectar, limited water resources and nesting sites.

Military training

Military adventure training, bushcraft and field navigation exercises are regularly undertaken by Defence Force units, with minimal impact on the parks. No permit is required if there are 30 or fewer people and if they are acting in accordance with regulations. Larger exercises require a separate permit.

Major events and functions

The national park is receiving an increasing number of requests to hold major events such as trail running, car rallies, outdoor theatre productions and festivals, as well as functions such as weddings.

Rock climbing events such as the Grampians Bouldering Festival will not be allowed as they are not considered appropriate nor sustainable. The scale of impact from the larger numbers of users, combined with spectators, in limited spaces at the base of cliffs and around boulders escalates the scale of compaction, erosion and intensifies encroachment on vegetation.

Traditional Owners have expressed their need for areas to undertake cultural gatherings and activities (see Section 3.5 – Cultural renewal and strengthening). At times, there may be a need to exclude other visitors during when cultural activities are being undertaken. This could include preferential booking of existing camping grounds, particularly for peak periods, an approach already in place in other areas of the state. An event permit for cultural events is another way in which exclusive use of an area can be put in place during cultural activities.

Commercial filming and photography

Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park is one of Victoria's highest-profile parks. Images and film productions depicting the natural, cultural and recreational values are used for tourism promotion, education and entertainment. Parks Victoria considers applications for commercial filming and photography permits and may apply appropriate conditions. A significant concern is the use of commercial images that depict unsafe or illegal visitor behaviours. Permit conditions will be applied to restrict commercial images, for example, of people feeding wildlife, or images of people placed near cliff edges or swimming at the base of Migunang wirab (MacKenzie Falls), as these promote inappropriate visitor behaviour.

A permit for launching or landing remotely piloted aircraft (i.e. drones) to support commercial filming and photography or scientific research may be approved where it meets relevant requirements (See Section 5.4 – Recreational Activities)

Occupancies

Cooinda-Burrong Scout Camp is located within the national park, near the park boundary, at Wartook. The two-hectare camp area contains dormitory and kitchen buildings and is used for scout camps and activities.

Other

The landscape may also be subject to a range of other uses, such as education and research. Requests for occasional or one-off uses will be considered by Parks Victoria on their merits and in relation to the overall vision, strategic directions and goals established in the plan.

Goal – Authorised uses

Authorised uses are managed consistent with long-term values protection, ensuring the integrity of the cultural landscape is maintained and Country can continue to heal.

Strategies	Priority
Manage current and proposed uses in accordance with the legislative and policy framework and minimise any impacts on park values and visitor experiences.	Immediate
Refer all proposals for new public infrastructure to Traditional Owner corporations for consideration.	Immediate
Ensure infrastructure proposals meet the objectives of the Sky Country Overlay to avoid impacting significant features of the Aboriginal cultural landscape including impacts on mountain silhouettes and visual amenity, as well as the creation of sound or light pollution.	Immediate
Ensure approved constructed interventions minimise the impact on or modification of the cultural and natural state of the landscape and minimise the impact on visual amenity, as well as the creation of sound and/or light pollution.	Immediate
Continue to ensure that Apiculture (beekeeping) is managed in accordance with the DELWP 'Apiculture (beekeeping) on public land policy 2013' and 'Apiculture (beekeeping) on public land standard operating procedure 2013'.	Immediate
Assess new beekeeping applications according to the policy framework, in consultation with apiculture groups and other stakeholders, to ensure that sites are located to minimise impacts on park values and visitor experiences.	Immediate
Prioritise the maintenance of beekeeping sites after emergencies and remove debris to improve the accessibility and safety of sites.	Immediate
Permit Defence Force training in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies and permit procedure and ensure specific activities are undertaken in accordance with and consistent with this management plan.	Immediate
Permit events in accordance with the legislative and policy framework and ensure minimal impact on park values and visitor experiences. Include conditions as required to cover protection of cultural heritage, litter and waste management and emergency response.	Immediate
Manage commercial filming and photography in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies.	Immediate
Ensure that all occupancies are appropriately licensed or permitted and are used and operated in a manner that does not conflict with park values. Clarify the lease arrangements with Scouts Australia for Cooina Burrong.	Immediate
Develop a strategic approach to improving communications around the parks, focusing on priority VEAs, the central corridor, and Grampians Peaks Trail – to support visitor access to information and emergency management at high risk locations.	High
Facilitate an appropriate formal consent with GWMWater to manage water infrastructure with the Greater Gariwerd Landscape, specifying protections required on particular actions (e.g. desilting channels).	High
Establish licences, consents or other legal arrangements to authorise the continuation of appropriate use.	Medium



Silverband Falls

Post-fire recovery, February 2006

6 Caring for Country together

The Vision for caring for Country together is:

The community works with Traditional Owners, helping Care for Country and sharing the benefit of Healthy Country. Traditional Owner knowledge and science work together to provide insight into Gariwerd and the protection of its values ensuring Country continues to heal and build resilience.

Strengthening an ongoing partnership between Traditional Owners and Parks Victoria will have a transformative effect on how we manage Gariwerd. Through coordination with a range of government agencies, groups and community members, the philosophy of caring for Country can be embraced by an even wider range of people who have an appreciation for Gariwerd.

At a landscape scale, working collectively is the most efficient way to achieve greater benefits for both the parks and the community. The parks connect many areas beyond their boundaries, such as cultural stories that cross through Gariwerd, the flow of water from the landscape to adjoining communities, and the views to and from the mountain ranges. Many of the management issues that arise in the parks and reserves must therefore be considered in relation to these broader links and managed through coordinated efforts.

Implementing the Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan will involve a combination of routine management actions and specific programs and projects designed to tackle the management needs of this unique landscape. This implementation will frequently rely on successful partnerships with groups with shared land management responsibilities and objectives. Partnerships can be managed through formal agreements between Traditional Owners and Parks Victoria, DELWP, local government and other government organisations. They can also be achieved through agreements with individuals and community groups, acknowledging the knowledge, capabilities and resources that each party brings.

Many long-standing partnerships already exist, including with neighbouring landholders, local businesses, park user groups and other community groups (e.g. not for profit and philanthropic groups associated with land management, conservation, research, education and health sectors). These help to ensure that land management programs achieve shared goals and mutual benefits, both within and outside the parks. For example, conservation work on private land or waterways through groups such as Landcare complements the conservation role of parks, maximising the benefits across the landscape.

Volunteering in parks is an important activity as it boosts park management capacity and allows people to connect with the parks and nature. Volunteers undertake many thousands of hours of conservation work in Victoria's parks every year. Community volunteering, in particular through citizen science and recreational volunteering, will continue to be vital to the landscape's future management.

Ongoing partnerships will also help to deliver the research and long-term monitoring necessary to determine the effectiveness of management actions, drive adaptive management, and engage people in both the traditional knowledge and Western science. The ongoing collection of information and evidence will also assist in testing assumptions and filling gaps in knowledge so that the understanding of Gariwerd can continue to build.

6.1 Managing with Traditional Owners

For many thousands of years, Traditional Owners have had a continued connection and affinity with Gariwerd. Self-determination is a core priority for them, with management of Country fundamental to this. Joint management of the public land at Gariwerd is an assertion of Traditional Owners and is supported by Parks Victoria.

The Victorian Government actively supports Traditional Owner self-determination and is pursuing agreements with Traditional Owners that recognise their rights and interests. The Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework (Aboriginal Victoria 2018) provides the strategic policy framework for Government to undertake systemic, structural and institutional change to enable self-determination. This recognises that it is the role of Government to change and remove systemic and institutional barriers. It is also the Government's role to empower Aboriginal Victorians to drive and own programs that meet their community's needs while increasing the safety, relevance and accessibility of government systems. Parks Victoria is implementing these commitments, working with Traditional Owners to protect and manage parks and reserves that form part of Victoria's cultural landscapes.

The Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Landscapes Strategy will detail Traditional Owner aspirations for Country. The Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner corporations is facilitating development of the Cultural Landscapes Strategy with Traditional Owner corporations and Traditional Owner knowledge holders. Its development is being supported by DELWP and Parks Victoria and is an important step towards building partnership in land management with Traditional Owners. The strategy will define objectives, actions and outcomes that form the framework of the strategy for cultural landscapes.

As public land is increasingly transferred back into traditional ownership and as joint management arrangements are established, Parks Victoria acknowledges that it needs to better protect the cultural values, recognise the rights and enable the interests of Victorian Traditional Owners. Supporting greater involvement of Traditional Owners in managing the parks estate will benefit all Victorians and our unique cultural landscapes. Parks Victoria has committed to doing this, with the future Cultural Landscapes Strategy underpinning and complementing Parks Victoria's Land Management Strategy (in preparation).

Parks Victoria understands the importance of Gariwerd as a cultural landscape and developed this management plan in partnership with Traditional Owner groups Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC), Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BGLC) and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC). This means they had representation on the project decision-making group and were involved in the deliberation of this management plan as rights-holders not stakeholders.

Significant work must be undertaken to continue to build and strengthen relationships between Parks Victoria and the Traditional Owner corporations; for example, work is required by Parks Victoria and the three Traditional Owner corporations to clarify the cultural responsibility and decision-making authority for different parts of the landscape. Agreements may be required to frame a management and governance structure or establish principles for working together on Country. This is a significant issue that requires respectful discussions and time to progress.

There has not been a formally constituted, Traditional Owner decision-making body established for the Greater Gariwerd Landscape through the Traditional Owner corporations. In the past, this has limited the extent to which government agencies have been able to partner with Traditional Owners on landscape management. In the absence of the certainty provided by a formal recognition process, Parks Victoria will continue to support a partnership approach.

The planning partnership for Gariwerd is building the relationships, collaboration, sharing of park management knowledge and cultural perspectives, to develop greater capability in collaborative planning in advance of any formal joint management outcomes that may arrive in the future. This partnership supports

a time when Traditional Owners will lead a joint management planning process and Parks Victoria will provide a supporting role. The strategies in this plan must therefore strengthen this partnership.

Traditional Owner participation in the management of Gariwerd will be actively supported as part of a process of cultural renewal and strengthening connection to Country. This process is associated with ideas of ‘healing’ of people and of Country. Working towards joint management may also be a mechanism to progress understanding and management of intellectual property and related issues, including the development of appropriate systems and protocols.

At all times it is vital Gariwerd is a culturally safe space for Traditional Owners. Cultural safety refers to the environment, relationships and systems that enable individuals to feel safe, valued and able to participate in and express their culture, spiritual and belief systems, free from racism and discrimination. Parks Victoria aims to be a culturally safe place for all diverse groups represented in, and interacting with, the organisation. Cultural safety also applies to Traditional Owners providing safe places for their communities. The success of this management plan will be founded on respect for Traditional Owners, cultural places, practices and responsibilities. This will ensure Gariwerd is a culturally safe space for Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal peoples.

Goal – Management with Traditional Owners

Traditional Owners and Parks Victoria partner in decisions on management of Gariwerd, through a proactive and effective relationship.

The capacity of Traditional Owners to lead planning and management of Country is developed.

Strategies	Priority
Continue to work with the Strategic Partnership Committee of Gariwerd Traditional Owner corporations to develop the planning partnership for Gariwerd, including a new operating model, and refreshed cultural experiences and visitor services at the Brambuk precinct (see Section 5.7 – Tourism and commercial visitor services).	Immediate
Work with Traditional Owners so that they become partners in the implementation of this plan.	High
Build Traditional Owner and other land manager capacity for the management of cultural landscapes and values, in line with the Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Landscape Strategy and Parks Victoria’s Land Management Strategy.	High
Develop reconciliation projects between Traditional Owners and other Victorians that raise the importance of supporting processes of continuing cultural renewal and strengthening.	High
Establish protocols and systems that respect and recognise the intellectual property held by Traditional Owners on ecological and cultural knowledge, practices and stories associated with Gariwerd; including how and what information is shared.	High

6.2 Coordinated management

There are also a range of Commonwealth and Victorian government agencies with responsibilities that relate to Gariwerd, including DELWP, Forest Fire Management Victoria, local governments, Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water and Wimmera and Glenelg Hopkins CMAs. These agencies play an important role in the delivery of this plan, as do neighbouring landholders, other user groups and regional tourism organisations.

Coordinated management arrangements and formalised agreements with management partners and other agencies is a key element of implementation. The achievement of priority strategies will be dependent on funding and partnerships with Traditional Owners, partners and other agencies. For example, Parks Victoria has a formal arrangement with DELWP (as Forest Fire Management Victoria) in the management of bushfires

on public land and this should extend to Traditional Owners through planning, capability development, formal agreements as operational partners and the implementation of joint operations on ground (see Section 4.2 – Fire management).

Gariwerd is within the Northern Grampians, Southern Grampians, Ararat and Horsham planning schemes. Each planning scheme is a statutory document that sets out objectives, policies and provision for the use, development and protection of the land to which it applies. All uses and developments within the parks must be consistent with the respective planning scheme, including zones and overlays unless a specific exemption applies. It is important to work with DELWP and local governments to ensure planning schemes reflect the management purposes of the parks and to help strengthen the protection of landscape values.

Occasionally, there are opportunities for park additions through means including the closure of unused road reserves, native vegetation offsets, voluntary surrender of land to the Crown, purchase of inliers and park boundary consolidation over time. Meanwhile, public roads within the landscape, may be used for private access to freehold land. Through a coordinated approach with freehold landowners, local government, DELWP and road authorities, risks to public land values and resource implications can be identified early to achieve better outcomes, such as appropriate planning scheme zoning and overlays, when planning for park additions and public road access to freehold land.

Gariwerd is almost entirely surrounded by agricultural land, the majority of which is highly modified vegetation. Neighbouring land uses and activities can therefore affect the values and management of the landscape, and equally the management of public land could affect neighbours; for example, water diversion in the parks has an impact on the health of the surrounding landscape. Key issues which require a coordinated approach between neighbouring landowners and managers include the management of pest plants and animals, the management of fuel loads and fire breaks, water diversions including private diversions (some of which are unlicensed) located within Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and close to its boundary, and legacy boundary encroachments.

Regional catchment strategies are the primary integrated planning framework for managing the region's land, water and biodiversity resources across both private and public land so that these resources can continue to support a range of uses, including agriculture, tourism and recreation. While CMAs are responsible for preparing regional catchment strategies and coordinating their implementation, the strategies are developed and implemented by a diverse range of partners, regional stakeholders, community groups and community members. Each strategy identifies regional priorities and objectives, including a long-term vision for the region and a program of management measures for the life of the strategy (approximately 6 years).

The popularity of the Grampians has resulted in the development of a number of tourist facilities adjacent to Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. Developments can complement the visitor experience, provide economic benefits to the local community and augment park management if planned properly. Inappropriate development however can impact on the amenity, cultural and environmental values of the park. The state forest adjoining the park to the west is an example of recreation opportunities that complements the visitor experience.

Another issue that can be exacerbated with increased popularity and visitation is waste management. Visitors are expected to take their waste out of the parks and reserves and dispose of it appropriately, however, litter and waste from campers and other visitors can become prevalent in parks and reserves and in nearby towns. This requires constant attention during high-visitation periods from both Parks Victoria and local councils, who work in partnership to manage the issue.

Goals – Coordinated management

Parks Victoria, partner agencies and neighbouring landholders work together to ensure land management programs achieve shared goals and mutual benefits.

Strategies	Priority
Work collaboratively and cooperatively with neighbouring landowners to address issues on or near the boundaries of the parks and reserves.	Immediate
Continue to work with local governments and the Grampians Central West Waste Resource Recovery Group to improve rubbish management, in line with Parks Victoria policy that visitors should take home their rubbish and not be provided with waste collection points in the parks.	Immediate
Continue to work with freehold landowners, local government, DELWP and road authorities where access through park is required for practical access to freehold land.	Immediate
Work in partnership with key agencies, local organisations and adjoining landholders and managers to address issues such as pest plants and animals, vandalism, fire risk and inappropriate water regimes. Align land management programs with broader integrated planning frameworks for the use, management and conservation of land, water and biodiversity resources (such as regional catchment strategies), as well as with coordinating programs with other agencies and the community. Seek participation and support from other agencies as needed to access expertise and funding to support this work.	Immediate
Liaise with planning authorities in conjunction with DELWP and private landholders to maximise the opportunity for complementary tourism developments near Gariwerd, while avoiding or minimising amenity and environmental impacts on the parks from proposals adjacent to its boundaries e.g. minimise the impacts of excessive light on the night sky amenity, and the impacts of noise pollution from any adjacent developments.	Immediate
Establish and maintain effective relationships with all key partners to help implement the vision, goals and strategies in the Management Plan.	High
Working with DELWP, review unused road reserves and add areas to the parks as applicable. Ensure that land parcels added to the parks through vegetation offsets, land transfer or purchase are assessed for public land values, risks and resource implications.	Medium
Progressively work through legacy encroachments to park boundaries by either licensing or removing existing unauthorised uses. Prevent or remove new encroachments.	Medium

6.3 Working with community

Many people have strong connections to Gariwerd. These connections arise from people's experience and knowledge of this place and for many the area contributes to a personal, family or community sense of identity. For Traditional Owners, Gariwerd is part of Country, for those who live in the region it is part of home and for visitors it may be a place of recreation, study or research.

Healthy Parks Healthy People is a global movement which is helping communities around the world realise the health and wellbeing benefits of spending time in parks and nature. It acknowledges and promotes the connection between a healthy environment and a healthy society. Apart from the obvious benefits of parks for physical activity, they are sanctuaries from urban stress, places for people to connect and havens for children to explore the wonders of the natural world. Parks help provide a sense of place, cultural identity and spiritual nourishment. Parks also bring measurable direct and flow-on economic benefits to local,

regional, state and national economies. The economic benefits are a key enabler for communities to function and prosper, allowing them to build social cohesion, social capital and healthy communities. Greater inclusion and involvement of Victoria's culturally and linguistically diverse communities is also an important benefit that can be provided by parks.

Partnerships between Parks Victoria and community organisations, groups and networks can support important conservation, health, education, adventure and experience programs for the benefit of Gariwerd, as well as the local community and visitors. Friends groups, volunteers and students make a valuable contribution to park management and extend the scale and involvement of the community in particular projects. This is acknowledged in the Parks Victoria's Volunteering in Parks Strategic Plan (2017–2021) which commits to a vision for the future which partners and supports existing volunteers, expands the volunteer pool and seeks to build opportunities to reinvigorate, grow and diversify volunteering experiences that are innovative and inclusive. Some examples of volunteering projects that complement management and provide benefits to Gariwerd include the campground host program, volunteer track rangers as well as the TrailRider volunteer program which provides physical assistance to visitors with disabilities to access more rugged walking tracks.

Community consultation during the development of this plan also indicated support for building stronger partnerships with clubs, tour operators, universities and schools that utilise the area, to build connection for cultural and natural values of the parks. Other potential partners include the Friends of Grampians Gariwerd, recreation and conservation groups, history and heritage groups and local businesses.

Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park has an advisory group that provides advice to Parks Victoria on the development of collaborative programs between Parks Victoria and community groups and individuals for the park. This group of community representatives advises on a range of strategic issues in relation to

Goal – Working with community

The broader community is actively engaged in helping to care for Country.

Strategies	Priority
Extend the Terms of Reference for the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park Advisory Group to cover all parks and reserves in the planning area.	Immediate
Recognise communities' connections to the landscape and its stories through promoting specific community-based projects such as oral history, storytelling, walks, writing and art and recording information about specific places.	Medium
Develop opportunities for local communities, neighbours and community groups with living connections and extensive knowledge of the landscape to work together and with park staff and use their knowledge to improve land and water management.	Medium
Support culturally safe opportunities for Traditional Owners and the broader community to foster stronger relationships, such as through community events at Brambuk, truth and healing gatherings and reconciliation activities.	Medium
Support opportunities for greater inclusion of CALD communities and community organisations, such as in volunteer programs and events.	Medium
Facilitate working relationships through volunteer partnership agreements across all areas of volunteering (e.g. environmental, visitor and education management) with groups actively involved in supporting management of the landscape including: — Friends of Grampians Gariwerd — Landcare and similar groups — recreation groups.	Medium

management of the park. It also contributes to implementation of the management plan, offers community perspectives and expectations on management of the park and considers communication and understanding between park management and the community and offers feedback for ongoing improvement. This approach is an effective framework that can be extended to cover all of the parks and reserves across Gariwerd.

6.4 Research and monitoring

For Traditional Owners, engaging with Country is a continuous process of adaptation through learning and knowledge creation. Country is also where knowledge is passed between generations. As a result of Traditional Owner dispossession from Country and different degrees of subsequent reconnection, research and learning are considered essential parts of caring for Gariwerd.

Research can take many forms including ecological, cultural heritage, outdoor recreation and community perceptions. It can also include applied research targeted to specific objectives (e.g. locating previously unrecorded rock art sites or understanding the environmental impacts of visitors), fundamental research to improve basic knowledge (e.g. key cultural species or fire ecology) and opportunistic research (e.g. documenting Aboriginal places or weeds located as part of management activities).

Monitoring provides a regular system of observations and checks on the condition of places, threats to priority values and the effectiveness of management practices and processes. It often involves a partnership approach with other agencies and research institutions to deliver. Some examples of these include partnerships to monitor the impact of wildfire on vertebrate fauna with Deakin University; Museum Victoria staff conducting Smoky Mouse monitoring; and the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority which is monitoring Platypus in the MacKenzie River. Citizen science projects, like the one being established with Nature Glenelg Trust for bird monitoring, is also crucial in adding value to monitoring conducted by Parks Victoria. Incorporating Traditional Owner cultural concepts and practices into research and monitoring is essential.

Both research and monitoring are central to adaptive management approaches as they provide evidence to inform decision-making. Adaptive management approaches enable continuous improvement by providing timely information such as whether additional intervention or a change in approach is required to improve outcomes for the landscape. The management plan identifies strategies that are flexible to change where there is a recognised need for adaptive management. Where there may be significant change required in the future, the management plan may be amended.

The Victorian Traditional Owners Cultural Landscape Strategy (see Section 6.1 – Managing with Traditional Owners) sets an objective to restore the Traditional Owner knowledge system through Traditional Owner led research partnerships and Reading Country (recording of cultural values). Gathering Traditional Owner knowledge to guide land management is a key direction for Gariwerd.

Traditional Owners will be involved in leading and co-designing projects, plus the collection and interpretation of data. Research partners, volunteers and user groups will also be involved where this helps promote a shared understanding of important management issues, engaging people in the traditional knowledge and Western science that underpins decision making.

The integration of research and land management activities can ultimately influence management directions and provide the rationale for project resourcing. This will be achieved by:

- building Traditional Owner experience, knowledge and land management practices into on-ground activities

Traditional knowledge is a living body of knowledge passed on from generation to generation within a community that is held by Aboriginal peoples about the environment and is typically embedded within social and cultural practices. It often forms part of a people's cultural and spiritual identity.

- providing support to researchers to undertake formal research that informs conservation objectives and knowledge, contributing to park planning and management
- identifying opportunities to incorporate citizen science activities
- sharing findings and research outputs with Traditional Owners, stakeholders, other land managers and the broader community.

Where there are limitations and uncertainties with available knowledge, the aim will be for knowledge gaps to be strategically identified and addressed. Table 6.1 lists the major knowledge gaps that currently need to be addressed. A range of research opportunities can be expected to arise throughout the life of the plan which can be progressed through Parks Victoria's collaborative Research Partners Program with leading universities and research institutions.

Measures

Long-term monitoring of values can be costly and labour-intensive. For these reasons monitoring needs to be targeted and strategic to enable the key indicators and outcomes of the plan to be measured over time. The following measures relate to the desired outcomes for Gariwerd as a whole, rather than for specific strategies in this plan. Some will be reported through Parks Victoria's State of the Parks program and in land manager annual reports. These measures are expected to be refined and, subject to available resources, alternative measures may be identified as more information becomes available and Traditional Owner cultural concepts and practices are progressively integrated.

Several research and monitoring strategies have been identified in earlier chapters of this plan. These will help to inform the above measures:

- In collaboration with Traditional Owners, investigate renaming of parks, reserves, mountain ranges and other geographic features (Chapter 3).
- Research and investigate the Duwul (Mount William) aquaculture system to rediscover, reveal and restore the system (Chapter 3).
- Establish priorities for future field survey for cultural places. The basis for priority decisions will be Traditional Owner cultural knowledge combined with predictive modelling and the potential for risk of harm (Chapter 3).
- Engage with Traditional Owners to learn more about indigenous plants, traditional uses and values and how to manage them. Identify environmental cultural values such as food items, significant cultural species, totem animals – at all times respecting the inherent intellectual property rights of Traditional Owners. Identify ecological attributes and indicators associated with key cultural species (Chapter 4).
- Implement monitoring and research in the landscape to identify species distribution and refugia for threatened species (e.g. Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Smoky Mouse and Long-nosed Potoroo) (Chapter 4).
- Build understanding of the impact of infectious diseases on Traditional Owner totemic species and other important native species (Chapter 4).
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of weed control. Adapt the approach to control as required (Chapter 4).
- Support long-term research into the influence of fire (both planned and bushfire) on the ecology of the parks, including identifying long-unburnt areas and other areas of refuge for threatened species and communities, plus on-ground monitoring of changes to ecosystems and fuel loads following fire (Chapter 4).
- Work with waterway managers and other partners to research the impact of introduced fish species on native fish populations through predation and competition, particularly impacts on juvenile Obscure Galaxias, Southern Pygmy Perch and River Blackfish, with a view to undertaking potential actions such as installing instream barriers upstream of reservoirs to mitigate their impact (Chapter 4).

- Work with Traditional Owners and research partners to undertake long-term monitoring to inform the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation actions (Chapter 4).
- Monitor rock climbing areas and compliance and consider further management as required, including response to rediscovery of Aboriginal cultural heritage or significant environmental values (Chapter 5).

Goal – Research and monitoring

The understanding of the Greater Gariwerd Landscape and its cultural values, ecological processes and visitor impacts continues to grow.

Research and monitoring informs on-ground management and enhances knowledge and learning, ensuring beneficial outcomes for Country.

Strategies	Priority
Facilitate research and monitoring to increase knowledge and understanding of visitor use, satisfaction and impacts – particularly at key visitor sites or areas of planning priority such as Migunang wirab (MacKenzie Falls) and Wudjub-guyun (Hollow Mountain).	Immediate
Support continual gathering of appropriate cultural knowledge and stories for parks and reserve management, for future generations and to enable Traditional Owners to meet cultural obligations.	Immediate
Support and facilitate Traditional Owners in using Country for cultural learning and teaching.	Immediate
Work with research partners in coordinating, applying and promoting research to address priority management questions and knowledge gaps (see Table 6.1).	Immediate
Encourage collaborative biodiversity surveys, where possible combining citizen science and traditional knowledge, recognising both the scientific and cultural value of species and ecological communities.	Immediate
Support research into the impacts of climate change and mitigation measures that could be applied in the landscape.	Immediate
Explore new ways to bring Traditional Owner adaptive land and water management methods and traditional ecological knowledge to work alongside Western, evidenced-based adaptive management approaches e.g. reading country, Aboriginal waterway assessments or a Gariwerd institute for cultural learning and research.	High
Co-design with Traditional Owners a criteria to monitor and measure the condition of Country against agreed standards and indicators relevant to Traditional Owner cultural concepts and practices (including wellbeing indicators) and conservation planning.	High
Monitor visitor compliance with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, other legislation, and park regulations.	High
Develop research partnerships led by Traditional Owners, and integrate applied research to help inform and improve management effectiveness.	Medium
Support the development of a long-term heritage and history research plan for Gariwerd by Traditional Owners and their associated communities, in consultation with archaeologists, historians, ecologists, planners and other disciplinary experts.	Medium
In partnership with Traditional Owners, encourage Aboriginal cultural heritage training programs to use the landscape, thereby contributing to research and recording.	Medium
Update the landscape's Conservation Action Plan to reflect the knowledge and practices of Traditional Owners.	Medium

Table 6.1 Key knowledge gaps for Gariwerd

Traditional Owner cultural heritage – geographic, features, thematic, cultural experience
The distribution of cultural places recorded on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR).
The under-representation of categories of features, including ceremony and story places, resource places, ochre sources, burial places and places associated with post-contact history on the VAHR.
Some historic themes have a high degree of associated knowledge and documentation, while others have little in the way of stories and places documented.
Documentation of contemporary Traditional Owner cultural experience.
Long-term heritage and history research.
Natural environment
Documentation of traditional ecological knowledge.
Ecological requirements of flora, fauna and vegetation communities relative to fire regimes.
Seed production rates and viability of Sallow Wattle to inform management at the park scale.
Trophic relationships between quolls and rabbits and the ecology of quolls in the park landscape (e.g. current distribution and population density, threats and potential for conservation actions to support population).
Hydrological modelling to inform water management and infrastructure removal.
Herbivore management plan.
Reptile, bat, fish, macropod, deer, rabbit and Cinnamon Fungus monitoring.
Burn history mapping.
Visitor use / recreation
A framework of messaging about Traditional Owner culture, history and heritage.
Restoration requirements at rock climbing sites and access tracks (designated sites or where climbing has been excluded).
An understanding of the long-term authorised use requirements of public authorities and mitigation options for impacts that provide a net benefit for Gariwerd.
Protecting cultural values
Presence of priority cultural species.
Condition of priority cultural places and features.
Number of Traditional Owner language names applied to places, plants, animals and experiences.
Increased levels of respect shown to Country – the cultural landscape – indicated in reduced levels of littering, trampling of vegetation, noise and light pollution.
Increase in Traditional Owner activities and cultural practices taking place in the landscape.

Protecting Country

Improved structure and composition of native vegetation in priority Herb-rich Woodland and Montane ecosystems.

Health of ecosystems where priority environmental weeds are reduced or removed.

Species richness and distribution of predation-sensitive species.

Improved structural diversity and distribution of vegetation growth stages in fire-sensitive and fire-dependent vegetation communities.

Condition and trend of priority ecological and cultural values in ecosystems that are sensitive to inappropriate fire management.

Condition and diversity of wetlands.

Area of wetland restored or rehabilitated.

Persistence of drought refugia (extent).

Note: The Protecting Country measures are sourced from the landscape's Conservation Action Plan. Further details and indicators for each of these measures can be found in that plan.

Visitors and Tourism

Level of participation in education and interpretation programs.

Condition of visitor facilities and the road and track network.

Level of participation in tours run by licensed tour operators.

Visitor satisfaction (biennial Visitor Satisfaction Monitor).

Collaborative partnerships

Increase in Traditional Owner involvement in park management.

Level of volunteer and community group participation.

Improved management effectiveness (State of the Park assessment).



Common Fringe-myrtle

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Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby
with radio-tracking collar

Appendices

Appendix 1: Aboriginal language place names

The following Aboriginal language names have been informed by initial discussions with Traditional Owners and research by Context (2020), using in particular:

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Further consultation and research are required to confirm these names.

Aboriginal language name	English name	Alternative Aboriginal language place name(s)
Bagara (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Mount Victory	
Baribial (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Mount William Creek	Mukpilli (Djab Wurrung, Jadawadjali), Wal-wal (Djab Wurrung, Jadawadjali)
Barigar (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Roses Gap	Barigawa (Jadawadjali)
Barri yalug (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Fyans Creek	Merputyal (Djab Wurrung); Martang (Djab Wurrung)
Billawin (also Billywing, Jadawadjali)	Victoria Range	Larneyannun (Jadawadjali); Weerabberroo (Jadawadjali)
Bim (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Chatauqua Peak	
Budja Budja (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Halls Gap	Budgem Budgem (Djab Wurrung)
Budjun Budjun (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Briggs Bluff	
Bugara River (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Glenelg River	Barrawy (Jadawadjali); Temiangandeen (Jadawadjali); Worrewurnin (Jadawadjali); Wurru-wurru (Jadawadjali)
Bugiga-mirgani (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Mount Rosea	
Buurrung (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Black Range	Burrunj
Djarabul (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Cherry pool	
Djibilara (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Asses Ears	Djibalara (Jadawadjali)
Duwul (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Mount William	Worranneyan (Djab Wurrung)

Aboriginal language name	English name	Alternative Aboriginal language place name(s)
Gar (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Mount Difficult	Gawa (Jadawadjali)
Ginigalg (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Mount Stapylton	Gunigalg
Jananginj Njaui (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Victoria Gap	
Jaranghi-jalil	Moyston	
Jaranula (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Mount Lang	
Larngibunja (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Chimney Pots	
Marum Marum (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Mount Nelson	
Migunang wirab (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	MacKenzie Falls	Kurnung (Jadawadjali)
Mud-dadjug (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Mount Abrupt	Toline yarere corroke (Djab Wurrung); Wirriboot (Djab Wurrung) (Jadawadjali)
Mura Mura (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Mount Zero	Malubgawa (Jadawadjali)
Ngarra Mananinja gadjin (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Redman Bluff	
Ngarriwarrawil (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Burnt Creek	Purdidj (Jadawadjali)
Ngumadj (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Mount Mclvor	
Warrinna-burb (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Mount Lubra	
Werdug (Jadawadjali)	Wartook	
Wudjub-guyun (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Hollow Mountain	
Wurgarri (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Mount Sturgeon	Malub gar (Djab Wurrung); Tolelokewearr (Djab Wurrung)

Appendix 2: Designated Climbing Areas

Climbing Area	Category	Number	Map
Afterglow Wall	Designated Climbing Area	25	4B
Andersens West	Bouldering Area	10	4B
Back Wall	Designated Climbing Area – LTO Only	7	4B
Bad Moon Rising Wall	Designated Climbing Area	38	4B
Barc Cliff	Designated Climbing Area – LTO Only	9	4B
Bellerophon Wall	Designated Climbing Area	11	4B
Bellfield Peak	Designated Climbing Area	79	4D
Between the Sheeps	Bouldering Area	28	4B
Blockbuster Buttress	Designated Climbing Area	68	4D
Bouldering Buttress	Designated Climbing Area	27	4B
Breadboard	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	102	4E
Bullaces Buttress	Designated Climbing Area	60	4D
Bundaleer North	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	87	4D
Cakewalk Wall	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	104	4E
Calectasia Walls	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	88	4D
Cave of Ghosts Cliffs	Designated Climbing Area	41	4A
Caves Club	Bouldering Area	26	4B
Central Buttress	Designated Climbing Area	18	4B
Chataqua Peak	Designated Climbing Area	59	4D
Clematis Falls	Designated Climbing Area	58	4D
Cloggy	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	98	4E
Cloud Cuckoo Land	Designated Climbing Area	14	4B
Crank Start Amphitheatre	Designated Climbing Area	31	4B
Crock Wall	Designated Climbing Area	67	4D
Curiosity Crag	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	92	4E
Dolgoruki Wall and Three Tiers	Designated Climbing Area	3	4B
Eastern Walls	Designated Climbing Area	2	4B
Emu Crag	Designated Climbing Area	5	4B
Epsilon Wall	Designated Climbing Area	15	4B
Epsilon Wall Bouldering	Bouldering Area	16	4B
Equinox Walls	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	84	4D
Feral Black Cat Walls	Designated Climbing Area	48	4A
Forrest Rock	Designated Climbing Area	56	4D
Frenchmans Beret	Designated Climbing Area	74	4D
Grand Canyon	Designated Climbing Area	75	4D
Grey and Green Walls	Designated Climbing Area	20	4B
Guardhouse	Designated Climbing Area	43	4A
I Forget Wall	Designated Climbing Area	45	4A

Climbing Area	Category	Number	Map
Interpretation Wall	Designated Climbing Area	1	4B
Koalasquatsy Wall	Designated Climbing Area	36	4B
Lake View Wall	Designated Climbing Area	82	4D
Lebanon & Hezbollah	Designated Climbing Area	52	4C
Legoland	Designated Climbing Area	35	4B
Legoland (Bouldering)	Bouldering Area	34	4B
Lookout Point Wall	Designated Climbing Area	81	4D
Lower Taipan	Designated Climbing Area	24	4B
Lower Taipan (Bouldering)	Bouldering Area	23	4B
Lunar Walls	Designated Climbing Area	54	4C
Mackeys Peak	Designated Climbing Area	65	4D
Mount Pox	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	93	4E
Mount Rosea	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	91	4D
Mountain Lion	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	101	4E
Neurology Wall	Bouldering		
Northern Wall	Designated Climbing Area	78	4D
Out to Lunch Wall	Designated Climbing Area	17	4B
Pacific Ocean Wall	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	96	4E
Pensioners Wall Area	Designated Climbing Area	50	4A
Pine Wall	Designated Climbing Area	32	4B
Point Sunshine	Designated Climbing Area	53	4C
Project (Lemonade) Wall	Designated Climbing Area	70	4D
Ravine	Bouldering Area	6	4B
River Road Rocks	Designated Climbing Area	47	4A
Rosea Far Right	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	103	4E
Ruined Castle	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	90	4D
Sabre Gully	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	95	4E
Sandinista Cliffs East	Designated Climbing Area	19	4B
Sentinel	Designated Climbing Area	33	4B
Signal Peak	Designated Climbing Area	44	4A
Slander Gully	Designated Climbing Area	73	4D
Socrophiliac Buttress	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	94	4E
Stoney Peak	Designated Climbing Area	61	4D
Syria	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	86	4D
Taipan Wall	Designated Climbing Area	51	4C
Tangerine Slide	Designated Climbing Area (pending completion of site works)	22	4B
The Bleachers (Sundial Peak)	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	100	4E
The Breach (North)	Bouldering Area	83	4D
The Citadel	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	99	4E
	Bouldering Area	40	4B

Climbing Area	Category	Number	Map
The Elephants Hide	Designated Climbing Area	63	4D
The Lower Goon	Designated Climbing Area	72	4D
The Peking Face	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	55	4C
The Play Pen	Designated Climbing Area	12	4B
The Rockwall	Designated Climbing Area	49	4A
The Tower of Paine	Designated Climbing Area	66	4D
The Underworld	Designated Climbing Area	76	4D
The Upper Goon	Designated Climbing Area	71	4D
The Wall of China	Designated Climbing Area	77	4D
Tortoise Wall	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	97	4E
Tower Hill	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	89	4D
Trackside Boulders	Bouldering Area	21	4B
Tribute Wall	Designated Climbing Area	37	4B
Truckstop Wall	Designated Climbing Area	46	4A
Van Diemen's Land	Designated Climbing Area	39	4B
Venus Baths	Bouldering Area	62	4D
Wall of Fools South	Designated Climbing Area – LTO Only	8	4B
Warden Wall	Designated Climbing Area	42	4A
Watchtower	Designated Climbing Area	57	4D
West Flank	Designated Climbing Area	13	4B
Western Crag	Designated Climbing Area	4	4B
Western Wall	Designated Climbing Area – RNA	85	4D
Wild Flower Wall	Designated Climbing Area	69	4D
Wild Geese Wall	Designated Climbing Area	64	4D
Wildsides	Bouldering Area	30	4B
Windjammer	Designated Climbing Area	29	4B
Wurzlegummage (Upper and Lower)	Designated Climbing Area	80	4D

Climbing areas for review

Alex Creek	Barrs Buttress	Boot Hill Second Tier
Alex Creek Tiers	Base Camp Buttress	Bordel Buttress
Alpenglow Rock	Beehive Falls	Boronia Peak
An Unnamed Cliff	Besser Buttresses	Bosch Wall
Arch Wall	Big Wall	Boulder Rock
Astro Wall	Black Blocks	Breakfast Room Buttress
Back and Beyond	Black Range Road Outcrop	Briggs Bluff East
Backside Bouldering	Black Wall	Briggs Bluff North
Banksia Buttress	Blazed Rock	Brown Creek Gorge
Banksia Wall	Blind Mans Bluff	Budja Budja
Barbican Rocks	Blink Buttress	Burma Wall
Barbican Wall	Boot Hill	Burnt Shirt Buttress

Climbing areas for review

Calectasia Walls	Eagles Head Summit	Kamchatka
Camp Crag	Echo Creek Wall	Keeyuga Cathedral
Canyon Crag	Eclipse Buttress	Kindergarten Wall
Carters Col	Egypt	Koori Country
Castle Creek	Eldorado	Labour Ward
Castle Creek Upper	Epaminondas Buttress	Lake Wartook Lookout Area
Castle Rock	Espanol Spire	Lichen Land
Cave Cliff	Fallen Giant Area	Liomin Castle
Cave Wall	Fallen Slab Wall	Little Hands
Centipede Gully	Family Wall	Little Joe Hill
Centurion Walls	Ferret Hill	Livingstone
CG Wall	Filtons Folly	Lizardry Outcrop
Chatterbox Rock	First Dial	Locust Towers
Cinders Block	Flame Wall	Loon Attic
Cirque Creek	Fossil Rock	Lost Gummage
Clematis Bluff	Freestone Rocks	Lost World
Cliff Richard	Frogmouth Rock	Machu Picchu
Conifer Wall	G&T Buttress	Magic Mountain
Conservative Crag	Galaxy Walls	Maidens Delight
Coppermine Cliff	Gallery Creek	Mangy Kitten
Coup De Grace	Gang-Gang Rocks	Marianas Trench
Coyote Wall	Gap Hill	Mawson Slab
Crag X	Goat Crag	McDonald Creek Gorge
Craigend	Goat Wall	Meteorological Wall
Crazed Rock	Goldirocks	Minmin Hill
Creek Wall	Golton Wall	Mirage Rock
Crimson Tower	Gondwanaland	Mirage Wall
Crocodile Rock	Good Friday Gully	Monkey Buttress
Crystal Palace	Grand Old Man	Mount Bloody Impossible
Currajong Rocks	Graveyard Crag	Mount Difficult
Cut Lunch Walls	Green Gap Pinnacle	Mount Frederick
Davy Jones Locker	Grey Matter	Mount of Olives
Dazed Rock	Guernica Block	Mount Sturgeon
Dead Explorer Slab	Gully Cliffs South	Mount Thackeray
Death March Wall	Hardenbergia Rocks	Mount William Lower Cliff
Deep Creek Walls	HB Wall	Mount William Upper Cliff
Deceased Wall	Heatherlie Heights	Mount Zero West Walls
Devils Peak	High Wall	Mouse Rock
Distortion Wall	Hut Point	Mount Ida
Diving-Board Rocks	Infinity Wall	Mount Zero roadside Crag
Dragon Wall	Jacks Rest	Mount Zero Summit Cliff
Drama Wall	Jungle Gym	Musbury Crag
Dreamtime Wall	Jurassic Park	New Era Wall
Eagle Rock	Jurassic Wall	No Mans Land
Eagles Head	Kaitland	Norman Neve Memorial Pinnacle

Climbing areas for review

Nettle Rocks	Rural Rocks	The Prow
Occupational Hazard	Samba Rocks	The Radiator
Off Road Walls	Sawmill Cliff	The Second Dial
Old Wave Wall	Shadowlands	The Shanghai Face
Orange Blossom Wall	Shangri-la	The Sixth Dial
Outsider Rocks	Shock Rock	The Sun Gate
Pangaea	Sicke Wall	The Terraces
Party Wall	Sign Cemetery	The Tombstones
Pastoral Buttress	Solar Ridge	The Turret
Pellant Pinnacle	Spanish Galleon	The Unnamed Cliff
Peverill Pillar	Split Pinnacle	The Watchface
Pinnacle Lookout	Spurt Wall	The Workshop
Point 447	Stumpytail Rock	The Zumyangs
Porcelain Wall	Suburbia	Thryptomene Wall
Pot Wall	Superbia	Tienanmen
Prism Wall	Swamp Wall	Tombstone Rock
Pump Wall	Taj Mahal	Town Slab
Punter's Pinnacle	Teddy Bear Walls	Troopers Creek Cliff
Pygmy Terraces	The Avenue	Victoria Point Boulders
Queensland Cliff	The Backblocks	Victory Wall
Rambla	The Breach (Sth)	War Wall
Rammed Wall	The Cheesecake	Watchmen
Red Cave	The End of the Earth	Watchmen Wall
Red Light Buttress	The Fifth Dial	Water Race Wall
Red Rock Gallery	The First Wannon Wall	Wave Wall
Red Rock Pinnacles	The Flatiron	Weathered Wall
Red Sail	The Fourth Dial	Weirs Creek
Redneck Paradise	The Garrets	Western Bloc
Renaissance Walls	The Labyrinth	Western Walls
Rhinos Horn	The Land That Time Forgot	Wildebeest
Roadside Crag	The Mount William Road Cliff	Wonderland Carpark Access
Roadside Creek Ravine	The Observatory	Worlds End
Roadside Prow	The Peanut Gallery	Worthless Wall
Rosetta Ridge	The Piccaninny	Wuss Rock
Ross Walls	The Pinnacles	

Appendix 3: Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

See Map 2: Management Zones and Overlays.

Natural Values Special Protection Areas

SPA Number	SPA Name	Country
NV1	MacKenzie River	P
NV2	Werdug	BTRW
NV3	Mt Talbot	BTRW
NV4	Djibilara	BTRW
NV5	Boreang West	SBB
NV6	Boreang East	BTRW
NV7	Silverband	SM
NV8	Moora Moora	BTRW
NV9	Billawin North	BTRW
NV10	Billawin South	BTRW
NV11	Dalton Peak	LNP, SBB, SM
NV12	Serra Range A	LNP, SBB, HA
NV13	Seven Dials	SM
NV14	Red Man Bluff	HA
NV15	Bomjinna	SBB
NV16	Jaranula	LNP, SBB, SM
NV17	Castle Creek	SBB
NV18	Billawin A	LNP, SM, HA
NV19	Billawin B	LNP, SM, HA
NV20	Southern Victoria Range A	SBB, SM
NV21	Southern Victoria Range B	SM
NV22	Southern Victoria Range D	SBB, HA
NV23	Southern Victoria Range C	SBB, SM
NV24	Serra Range South	SBB, SM
NV25	Burrah Burrah	SBB
NV26	Mud-dagjug	SBB, SM

Key to Country

BTRW	Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby Country	SM	Smoky Mouse Country
SBB	Southern-brown Bandicoot Country	LNP	Long-nosed Potoroo Country
HA	High Altitude Country	P	Platypus Country

Cultural Values Special Protection Areas

SPA Number	SPA Name	Purpose
CV1	Bellfield	Cultural Values Precinct
CV2	Billawin A	Cultural Values Precinct
CV3	Billawin B	Cultural Values Precinct
CV4	Billawin C	Intact Country Precinct
CV5	Billawin C	Cultural Values Precinct
CV6	Billawin D	Cultural Values Precinct
CV7	Billawin E	Intact Country Precinct
CV8	Billimina	Cultural Values Precinct
CV9	Boggy Creek	Cultural Values Precinct
CV10	Brim Creek	Intact Country Precinct
CV11	Bundaleer	Cultural Values Precinct
CV12	Bunjil	Cultural Values Precinct
CV13	Cultivation Creek	Intact Country Precinct
CV14	Djibilara	Cultural Values Precinct
CV15	Eastern Rocks	Cultural Values Precinct
CV16	Gar A	Cultural Values Precinct
CV17	Gar B	Cultural Values Precinct
CV18	Goat Track	Intact Country Precinct
CV19	Golton Creek	Intact Country Precinct
CV20	Golton Gorge	Cultural Values Precinct
CV21	Gulgurn Manga	Cultural Values Precinct
CV22	Gunigalg A	Cultural Values Precinct
CV23	Gunigalg B	Cultural Values Precinct
CV24	Gunigalg C	Cultural Values Precinct
CV25	Heatherlie	Heatherlie Quarry (HV 69487)
CV26	Lil Lil	Intact Country Precinct
CV27	Manja	Intact Country Precinct
CV28	Mosquito Creek	Intact Country Precinct
CV29	Mount Talbot	Intact Country Precinct
CV30	Mount William Creek A	Intact Country Precinct
CV31	Mount William Creek B	Intact Country Precinct
CV32	Mt Thackery	Intact Country Precinct

SPA Number	SPA Name	Purpose
CV33	Mudadgadjiin A	Intact Country Precinct
CV34	Mudadgadjiin B	Cultural Values Precinct
CV35	Muline	Intact Country Precinct
CV36	Ngamadjidj	Cultural Values Precinct
CV37	Nguddingiri (Eastern Mt Difficult)	Cultural Values Precinct
CV38	Paddy's Castle	Cultural Values Precinct
CV39	Pohlner's	Cultural Values Precinct
CV40	Potters Creek	Cultural Values Precinct
CV41	Red Rock	Intact Country Precinct
CV42	The Balconies	Cultural Values Precinct
CV43	Valley Creek	Cultural Values Precinct
CV44	Wartook A	Cultural Values Precinct
CV45	Wartook B	Cultural Values Precinct
CV46	Wudjub-guyun North	Cultural Values Precinct
CV47	Wudjub-guyun Summit	Cultural Values Precinct
CV48	Wudjub-guyun West	Cultural Values Precinct
CV49	Yanganaginj Njawi	Intact Country Precinct
CV50	Zumsteins	Cultural Values Precinct

Appendix 4: Vehicle Roads and Tracks

Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park

Road name	Road category
Asses Ears Road	Open Road
Beehive Track	Open Road – 4WD
Bellfield Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Billywing Road	Open Road
Billywing Track	Open Road
Bomjinna Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Boundary Track	Open Road
Branch Creek Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Briggs Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Brimpaen Road	Open Road
Bullawin Road	Open Road
Burma Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Burnt Hut Creek Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Cassidy Gap Road	Open Road
Chinaman Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Cooinda Burrong Road	Open Road
Coppermine Track	Open Road – 4WD
Cranages Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Crute Link Track	Open Road
Crute Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Glenisla Crossing Track	Open Road
East Wartook Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Emmett Road	Open Road
Fields Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Flagstaff Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Flatrock Road	Open Road
Geerack Track	Open Road – 4WD
Geranium Springs Track	Open Road
Glenelg River Road	Open Road
Glenisla Crossing Road	Open Road

Road name	Road category
Goat Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Golton Link Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Golton South Track	Open Road – 4WD
Greens Creek Road	Open Road
Griffin Track	Open Road (eastern end) – Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Halls Gap-Mt Zero Road	Open Road
Happy Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Harrops Track (Red Rock Road to Glenelg River Road)	Open Road
Heatherlie Track	Open Road – 4WD
Henham Shortcut	Open Road – 4WD
Henham Track	Open Road
Hines Track	Open Road – 4WD
Homestead Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Ingleton Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Jensens Road	Open Road
Jimmy Creek Road	Open Road
Kalymna Falls Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Launders Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Link Track (Pohlner Road to Smiths Road)	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Link Track (Serra Road to Henham Track)	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Lodge Road	Open Road
Long Point Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Lynchs Crossing Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Lynchs Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
MacKenzie Falls Road	Open Road
Mafeking Road	Open Road
Mair Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Matthews Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Mitchell Road	Open Road
Moora Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Mount Cassell Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure

Road name	Road category
Mount Difficult Road (Boroka Lookout to Wartook Road)	Open Road
Mount Difficult Road (Mt Victory Road to Boroka Lookout)	Open Road
Mount Difficult Track (Halls Gap Road to Watch Tower Track)	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Mount Difficult Track (Watch Tower Track to Heatherlie Quarry)	Open Road
Mount William Road	Open Road
Mt William Picnic Ground Track	Open Road
Neates Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Old Mill Road	Open Road
Olive Plantation Road	Open Road
Osslers Track	Open Road
Phillips Island Track	Open Road – 4WD
Plantation Road	Open Road
Pohlner Link Track	Open Road
Pohlner Road	Open Road
Pomonal Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Red Hill Road	Open Road
Red Rock Road	Open Road
Redman Track	Open Road
Reed Lookout Road	Open Road
Ricky North Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Rose Creek Road	Open Road
Rosea Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Sanders Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Sawmill Track	Open Road – 4WD
Serra Range Track (north of Cassidy Gap Road)	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Serra Range Track (south of Cassidy Gap Road)	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Serra Road (Glenelg River Road to Grampians Road)	Open Road
Serra Road (Glenelg River Road to Syphon Road)	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Seven Dials Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only

Road name	Road category
Shilcock Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Spears Track	Open Road
Stapylton Campground Road	Open Road
Stockyard Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Stony Creek Road	Open Road
Sundial Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Syphon Road	Open Road – 4WD
Taylors Track	Open Road
Terraces Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Victoria Range Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Victoria Range Track South	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Vowel Creek Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Wallaby Rocks Track	Open Road – 4WD
Waterworks Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Yananaginji Njawi Track	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only
Yarram Gap Road	Open Road
Yarram Park Road	Open Road
Zumstein Track	Open Road
Zumstein Track (Zumsteins to Chinaman Tk)	Management Vehicles and Walkers Only

Black Range State Park

Road name	Road category
East Boundary Track	Open Road
Mudadgadjin Picnic Ground Road	Open road subject to seasonal closure
Muirfoot Track	Open road subject to seasonal closure

Appendix 5: Walking Tracks

Grades are explained in the key at end of table.

Track	Location	Distance (km)	Grade
GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK			
Andersons	Mount Zero	To be determined	
Asses Ears [Djibalara]	Wallaby Rocks Track – Asses ears	3.0	5
Barc Cliff Track	Hollow Mountain Track	0.2	3
Barri Yalug Loop	Brambuk Loop – Tandara Road – Brambuk Loop	2.5	2
Beehive Falls	Beehive Falls Carpark – Beehive Falls	1.4	2
Beehive Falls Link	GPT – Beehive Falls	2.5	4
Billimina Shelter	Buandik Campground – Jardwadjali Falls – Billimina	1.7	3
Bluff Lookout	Mackenzie Falls – Bluff Lookout	1.1	2
Boroka Track	Boroka Lookout Carpark – Mount Victory Road – GPT	4.2	3
Boronia Link	Brambuk Loop – Boronia Peak Track	0.3	3
Boronia Peak	Delleys Bridge – Boronia Peak	4.5	3
Brambuk Loop	Brambuk Centre – Wetlands	2.0	1
Briggs Bluff	GPT – Briggs Bluff	1.0	4
Broken Falls	MacKenzie Falls Track – Broken Falls	0.5	2
Brownings Loop	Mafeking Picnic Area	1.0	3
Bullaces Glen Link	Venus Baths – Bullaces Glen	0.5	3
Bullaces Glen Loop	Loop walk from Mount Victory Road	0.4	3
Bundaleer	Rosea Track – Bundaleer	0.4	5
Bun-nah Trail	Zumsteins – Fish Falls – MacKenzie Falls	4.0	3
Burma Track	Silverband Road – Ingleton Firetrail	3.6	5
Burrong Falls	Rose Creek Road – Burrong Falls	0.3	2
Castle Rock	Rosea – Castle Crag	3.0	5
Chatauqua Peak	Bullaces Glen – GPT Chatauqua Peak	1.5	3
Chimney Pots, The	Chimney Pots carpark – Chimney Pots	4.0	4
Coppermines Walk	Coppermine Campground	0.8	3
Devils Gap Link	Sundial Carpark – Devils Gap	0.5	3
Fortress	Harrops Track – Victoria Range Road	6.0	4
Gar Summit	GPT – Gar summit	1.5	4
Garden of the Grampians	Silverband Road – Pinnacle Track	2.5	3

Track	Location	Distance (km)	Grade
Golton Gorge South	Golton Gorge Picnic Area	2.3	3
Grampians Peak Trail		148.5	4
GPT 01 – Gunigalg	Mount Zero Picnic Area – Barigar hike-in campground	12.9	4
GPT 02 – Gar	Barigar hike-in campground – Gar hike-in campground	11.3	4
GPT 03 – Werdug	Gar hike-in campground – Werdug hike-in campground	14.0	4
GPT 04 – Budja Budja	Werdug hike-in campground – Halls Gap	13.0	4
GPT 05 – Wonderland	Halls Gap – Bugiga hike-in campground	8.6	4
GPT 06 – Mount Rosea	Bugiga hike-in campground – Barri Yalug hike-in campground	14.2	4
GPT 07 – Seven Dials	Barri Yalug hike-in campground – Duwul hike-in campground	12.0	4
GPT 08 – Duwul	Duwul hike-in campground – Durd Durd hike-in campground	15.6	4
GPT 09 – Durd Durd	Durd Durd hike-in campground – Yarram hike-in campground	12.5	4
GPT 10 – Serra Range	Yarram hike-in campground – Wannon hike-in campground	11.9	4
GTP 11 – Djardii-djawara	Wannon hike-in campground – Djardii-djawara hike-in campground	15.4	4
GPT 12 – Mud-dadjug	Djardii-djawara hike-in campground – Mud-dadjug hike-in campground	10.4	4
GPT 13 – Dunkeld	Mud-dadjug hike-in campground – Dunkeld	12.1	4
Grand Canyon Loop	GPT – Grand Canyon – GPT	0.4	3
Grand Staircase	Rosea Track – Grand Staircase/Mount Rosea		4
Gulgurn Manja Shelter	Hollow Mountain carpark – Gulgurn Manja Art Shelter	0.7	3
Halls Gap Bike Path	Halls Gap – Brambuk – Lake Bellfield	2.0	1
Heatherlie Township Loop	Heatherlie Township – Heatherlie Quarry Historic Site	1.2	3
Hollow Mountain	Hollow Mountain carpark – Hollow Mountain	1.1	4
Hut Creek	Harrops Track – Victoria Range Road	6.0	4
Kalymna Falls	Kalymna campground – Kalymna Falls	1.2	4
Lakeview Lookout	GPT – Lakeview lookout	0.5	3
Longpoint East	GPT – Longpoint East Camp	1.0	4
Longpoint West	GPT – Longpoint West Camp	2.0	4
MacKenzie Falls	MacKenzie Falls – Lookout	1.8	2
Mackeys Peak – Pinnacle	Halls Gap – Mackeys Peak – The Pinnacle	3.7	3
Manja Shelter	Manja Trailhead – Manja Art Site	1.3	3
Mount Abrupt Link	Mount Abrupt carpark – GPT Mount Abrupt	1.5	3
Mount Sturgeon Link	Victoria Valley Road – Mount Sturgeon	3.0	3

Track	Location	Distance (km)	Grade
Mount Thackeray	Victoria Range Road – Mount Thackeray	1.0	4
Mountain Lion	Tower Hill area	0.5	5
Mura	Mount Zero Picnic Area – Mount Zero	1.1	3
Ngamadjidj Shelter	Stapylton Campground – Ngamadjidj Art Shelter	0.3	2
Paddys Castle	Glenelg River Road – Paddys Castle	0.3	3
Plantation Link	GPT – Mount Difficult Road (plantation)	2.0	4
Red Gum Walk	Henham Track	0.6	2
Silverband Falls	Silverband Road – Silverband Falls	0.7	2
Splitters Falls	GPT – Splitters Falls	0.1	3
Stapylton Campground Link	Pohlner's Road walking track junction – Stapylton Campground	1.3	4
Stapylton Loop South	Pohlner's Road walking track junction – GPT (north)	1.6	4
Stapylton Loop West	Pohlner's Road walking track junction – Flat Rock	2.9	4
Stapylton Summit	GPT – Stapylton summit	0.3	4
Summerday Valley Track	Hollow Mountain Track	0.3	3
Sundial Peak	Sundial Carpark – Sundial Peak – Viewpoint – MVO	2.5	3
Taipan Wall	Mount Zero Carpark	0.5	4
Teddy Bear Gap	Jimmy Creek Campground	2.5	3
Telstra Tower	GPT (Telstra Tower) – Pohlner's Road (south)	1.5	4
The Balconies	Reed Carpark – The Balconies	1.1	1
Tower Hill	Rosea Track – Tower Hill	0.5	4
Tunnel track	Tunnel Trailhead – Terraces Fireline	3.1	3
Turret Falls	Wonderland Trailhead – Turret Falls	1.2	3
Venus Baths Loop	Halls Gap – GPT (Venus Baths)	1.0	4
Wallaby Rocks	Wallaby Rocks Track – Wallaby Rocks	0.1	4
Wartook Lookout	Mount Difficult Road – GPT (Wartook Lookout)	0.5	4
Watchtower	Mount Zero Road – Watchtower	0.3	3
West Bun-nah Trail	Zumsteins – Park boundary – Wartook	4.5	3
Wild Sheep Hills	Sheep Hills carpark – Mount William carpark	6.0	4
Zumsteins Historic Walk	Zumsteins Cottages Walk	0.3	2

Track	Location	Distance (km)	Grade
BLACK RANGE STATE PARK			
Art Shelter and Escarpment Walk	Black Range State Park	8.0	5
Mount Byron	Muirfoot Track – Mount Byron	1.5	4
Wild Man Cave	Muirfoot Track	0.5	3
BLACK RANGE SCENIC RESERVE			
Bunjil's Shelter Walk	Black Range Scenic Reserve	0.1	3

KEY

Australian Standards Classification – tracks

Grade 1 Suitable for people with a disability with assistance

Grade 2 Suitable for families with young children

Grade 3 Suitable for people with some bushwalking experience

Grade 4 Suitable for experienced bushwalkers

Grade 5 Suitable for very experienced bushwalkers

Appendix 6: Organisations that provided a submission on the draft management plan

Parks Victoria would like to thank all individuals and organisations who provided a submission or undertook surveys via the Engage Victoria website. In accordance with Parks Victoria's privacy policies, the names of individuals who made submissions are not listed.

Animal Liberation Victoria	Horsham Rural City Council
Arapiles District Community Group	Mardi - Chi Dingo Foundation
Aspiring Guides NZ Ltd	Melbourne Climbing School
Association for Conservation of Australian Dingoes	Mountaineering Victoria
Australian Climbing Association New South Wales	National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia
Australian Climbing Association Victoria	National Wild Dog Action Plan
Australian Dingo Foundation	Nature Glenelg Trust
Australian Superfine Wool Growers Association	Northern Grampians Shire Council
Big Long Run Pty Ltd (organisers of Wonderland Run)	Outdoor Education Group
Blackheath Bouldering Gym	Outdoors Victoria
Bushwalking Victoria	Project Platypus
ClimbingQTs	RMIT Outdoor Club
Crag Stewards Victoria	Save Grampians Climbing
DELWP Forest and Fire Operations Division	Sport Climbing Victoria
Dunkeld Community Group	Victorian Climbing Club
Friends of Bats & Bushcare Inc.	Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF)
Friends of Grampians Gariwerd	Victorian Farmers Federation (Wimmera branch)
Four Wheel Driving Victoria	Victorian Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association
Gariwerd Wimmera Reconciliation Network	Victorian National Parks Association
Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority	Victorian Stud Merino Sheep Breeders Association
Grampians Advisory Group	Wimmera Catchment Management Authority
Grampians Tourism	Women Uprising (Climbing)
Halls Gap Fire Brigade	



Gariwerd is a Cultural Landscape reflecting the lives of the ancestors of the Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung people.

This plan looks to honouring those ancestors and the Country they created, to respecting the Traditional Owners of today, and to building an understanding of Country and how we can walk upon it with respect together.

