



Greater Gariwerd Landscape

Draft Management Plan
November 2020

Authorised and published by Parks Victoria

Level 10, 535 Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

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Your submission is invited on this plan

This Greater Gariwerd Landscape Draft Management Plan is now released for public comment. Interested individuals, community organisations, groups and agencies are invited to make written submissions by Sunday 24th January 2021. Submissions can be mailed to:

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or

emailed to:

ParkPlan@parks.vic.gov.au

or

lodged online via the project page at:

www.engage.vic.gov.au/grampians-management-plan

All submissions will be carefully considered and taken into account when the final Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan is being prepared for approval. The names of people and groups making submissions will be published in the final plan unless comments are marked CONFIDENTIAL when submitted. After publication of the approved Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan, copies of all submissions will be made available for public inspection, unless marked CONFIDENTIAL.

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

Copies

This draft plan may be downloaded from:

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Copies of the draft plan may be purchased for \$10 (including GST) from:

Parks Victoria Information Centre
Level 10, 535 Bourke Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Phone: 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 draft 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 draft plan in partnership with Traditional Owners. A Project Steering Committee, 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 completed the online survey and who 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 draft 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* (Cwlth).

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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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 recognises 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 grandmother, our mother, our sister, our daughter. This acknowledgement 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.





Beehive Falls

Draft Management Plan

This Greater Gariwerd Landscape Draft Management Plan has been developed by Parks Victoria, the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and the Barendi 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.

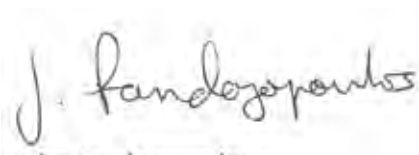
Gariwerd is a place revered and enjoyed by many. It is appreciated by visitors as well as local community members, including business owners and employees who work and live in the landscape or nearby towns. Strong partnerships with Traditional Owners, neighbouring landowners, tourism operators, volunteers 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 (Gariwerd) National Park 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 final 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.

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 draft plan has been prepared through consultation with a wide range of interested community and stakeholder groups and individuals. It aims to further community input on the proposed direction for the management of Gariwerd. Individuals and groups are encouraged to comment on this draft to help shape future management of this important landscape.



John Pandazopoulos
Chair



Matthew Jackson
Chief Executive Officer



Cathedral Rocks and Serra 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.

Today Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park is one of the best known and most significant parks in Victoria. The park's cultural and natural values are recognised as having outstanding significance to the nation through the 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 also 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 are preparing a management plan for the Greater Gariwerd Landscape. The landscape takes in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park, as well as Black Range State Park, Black Range Scenic Reserve, Red Rock Bushland Reserve, Mount Talbot Scenic Reserve and a small number of other adjacent reserves.

Parks Victoria recognises that Traditional Owners have legal rights to practice their culture and interact with these landscapes as landowners and managers. Traditional Owners have significant cultural responsibilities and roles in setting directions and priorities for this unique Aboriginal cultural landscape. Planning for this 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 draft 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 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 these.
- **Chapter 5** outlines how visitors would access and experience the parks and reserves.
- **Chapter 6** highlights the importance of active partnerships and good data for future park management.

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 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 19th 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.

Parks Victoria recognises the devastation caused to these 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 away their inherent rights to land, water and natural resources, Aboriginal people became the most disadvantaged in contemporary Australian society. Despite all of 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 prior to it becoming a national park.

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 and also to manage major threats to Country (including weed invasion, predation by introduced predators, over-grazing by herbivores, inappropriate fire regimes and 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% 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 a National Park and over the 40 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 re-introduction of native wildlife. Many of the species identified for re-introduction, such as quolls and bandicoots, have significant connections to the health of Country and to Traditional Owners.

Accelerated climate change represents a very real threat to Country 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 flooding events, 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 that have affected around 85% 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 flooding events and longer dry spells, often requiring management interventions.

Experiencing Gariwerd

Gariwerd is one of the most popular parks in Victoria. With around 1.3 million visits each year it is crucial to the visitor economy and employment within 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 management plan presents a range of strategies that support recreation and the flow-on economic benefits it provides, while balancing the protection of 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 the Brambuk Cultural Centre so that it can benefit Traditional Owners, the local community, local businesses and the park, as the place where all people meet together to start the journey into Gariwerd.

Traditional Owners will also be instrumental in shaping the cultural tourism offer on the Grampians Peaks Trail. The Grampians Peaks Trail will be a long-distance walking experience, showcasing 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 current and future 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, particularly during peak periods, affecting the visitor experience and posing safety issues. Many of the most popular sites of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park are found in the central corridor and this plan sets out several strategies to improve outcomes for that area.

The plan aims to build 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. Recreation and use will continue to be encouraged 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 planning and management of Country. Long-standing partnerships with research institutions, neighbouring landholders, local businesses and community groups will help to ensure land management programs achieve shared goals and mutual benefits, both within and outside the park. Growth in community volunteering, in particular through citizen science and recreational volunteering, will continue to be vital to the landscape's future management.

Together we can ensure Gariwerd is protected, respected and enjoyed.

A National Heritage listed landscape

Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park is recognised by the National Heritage List as having outstanding heritage value to the nation. The park was assessed and determined in 2006 as meeting 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 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.

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).



The Pinnacle

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Hollow Mountain trail

1 Overview

1.1 About this Draft Management Plan

The Greater Gariwerd Landscape Draft Management Plan is a strategic guide to the management of parks and reserves within the landscape planning area.

The planning area comprises Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park, Black Range State Park and some small nearby reserves. The draft 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.

While the final Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan will not be a joint management plan, it will be a plan that sets the foundations of how Parks Victoria and Traditional Owners transition to a future joint management plan. The plan acknowledges and supports the role of Traditional Owners as rights holders for Country, describing goals and strategies that Parks Victoria and Traditional Owners will work together on in order 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.

The final plan will provide 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

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 draft management 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 Gariwerd.

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 processes have progressed and the landscape itself. For example, Traditional Owner partnerships and recognition processes have evolved, planning at a landscape scale has commenced and successive major fire and flood events have impacted the landscape. Visitation has increased and key tourism initiatives, such as the Grampians Peaks Trail, have also emerged. These changes and the risks and opportunities they bring, provide the impetus for a new management plan that sets out a fresh vision for the future for Gariwerd.

Parks Victoria’s current approach to preparing management plans is to establish a single plan over multiple parks and reserves within a landscape area. 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 draft plan proposes 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 proposed in this plan. **Management Zones** provide a framework of areas where specific management controls are to be 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 priority for strategies has been defined as **Immediate** (commencing within 1–5 years); **Medium** (commencing beyond 5 years); and **as required**. Many strategies in the plan defined as **immediate** or **as required** will be implemented as part of day to day management of the parks and reserves. These will be reported and recorded through an annual review of operations activity e.g. the area treated for weeds.

1.2 Planning area

The Greater Gariwerd Landscape 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 major western Victorian regional townships of Ararat, Stawell and Horsham being within four local government areas – Ararat Rural City, Northern Grampians Shire, Southern Grampians Shire and Horsham Rural City.

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 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 m. The mountains are drained in the north and east by Baribial (Mount William Creek) in the central ranges by Barri yalug (Fyans Creek) and MacKenzie Creek, 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).

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, Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park, is 167,241 hectares; the next largest park is the Black Range State Park, 11,727 hectares.

The management plan area does not include private land and some other public areas that are 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. Woolhpooer 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 final plan’s strategies.



View from Mount William

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

Parks managed under the *National Parks Act 1975* and *National Parks Regulations 2013*

- Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park (168,241 ha) created in 1984
- Black Range State Park (11,727 ha) created in 1988

Natural Features Reserves managed under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, 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)
- Rowes Bushland Reserve (6.3 ha)

State Game Reserve managed under the *Wildlife Act 1975* and *Wildlife (State Game Reserves) Regulations 2014*

- Brady Swamp State Game Reserve (223 ha) created in 1993

Unreserved Crown Land managed under the *Forests Act 1958* and/or *Land Act 1958*

- Mount Difficult Plantation Campground (12.5 ha)
- Brambuk – The National Park and Cultural Centre (1.7 ha)

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 over 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 has now released its Pupungarli Marnmarnepu 'Owning Our Future' Aboriginal Self-Determination Reform Strategy 2020–2025.

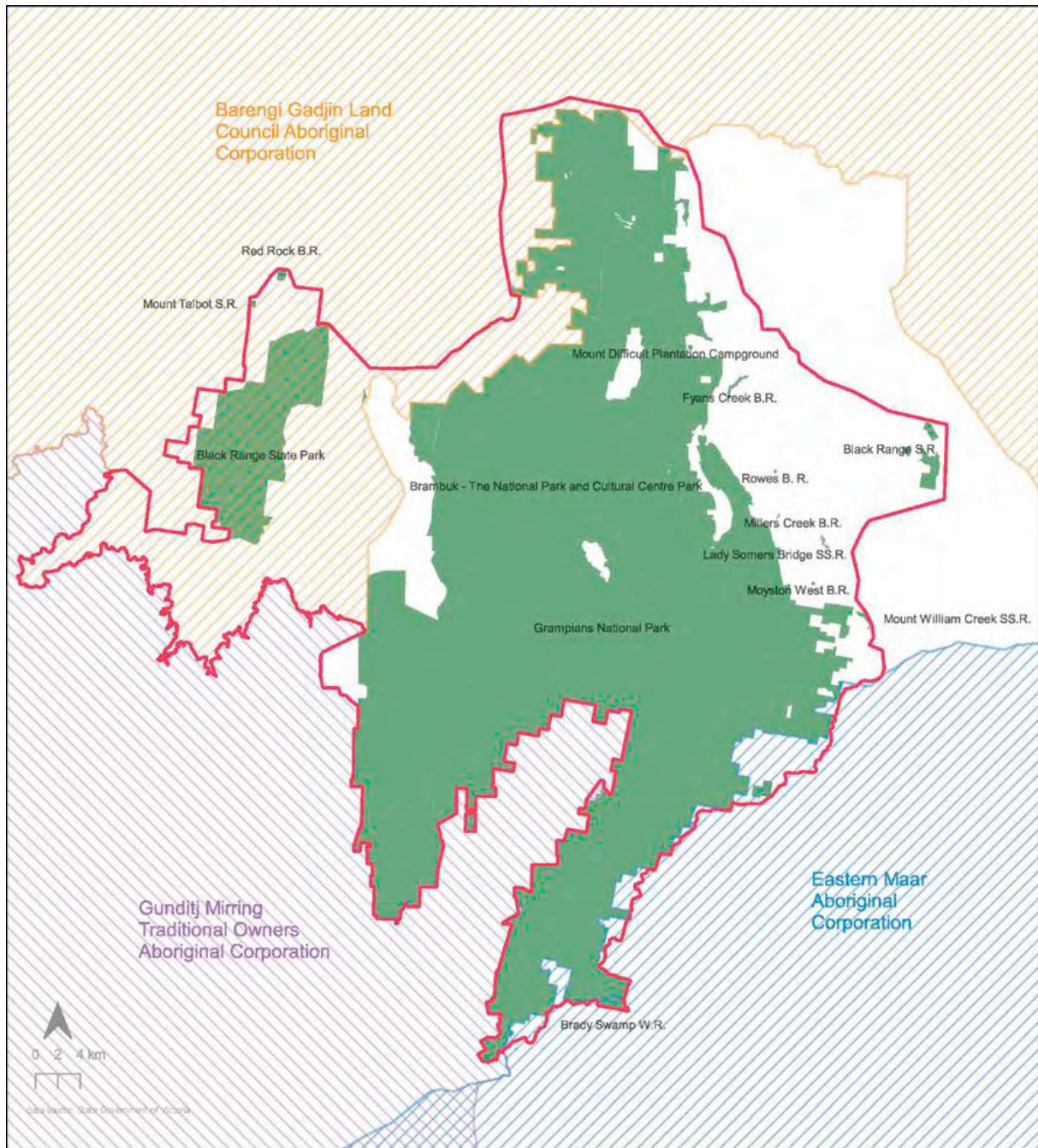
The partnership between Parks Victoria and Traditional Owners to develop this Draft Management Plan supports a key outcome of the DELWP strategy that, 'supports Traditional Owners rights on Country so that their aspirations for land, water and culture are realised'. The strategy identifies that this 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 plan there is no Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) appointed under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic.), no native title claimed determined under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth) and no Recognition and Settlement Agreement in place under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* (Vic.). 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 are within the EMAC RAP area (Figure 1.2).

Throughout this draft 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*).



Legend

- Greater Gariwerd Landscape
- Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
- Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation

Figure 1.1 Greater Gariwerd Landscape: Boundaries of Registered Aboriginal Parties appointed under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic)*, at March 2020.

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 Project. Despite an Indigenous Land Use Agreement being successfully negotiated between Traditional Owners and the State of Victoria that ensured rights would not be extinguished throughout the park, the native title claim was discontinued by Federal Court order on 18 June 2019 in the absence of an incorporated and representative entity being established.

Each of the three Traditional Owner corporations have whole-of-Country plans in place for the areas where they have achieved legal recognition. 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.*

Traditional Owners' connection to Country is based on land, culture and enduring associations which can be attached to a specific location or place and also attributed to broader landscapes and landscape features. The Aboriginal concept of 'Country' refers to all parts of the land, its waters, skies, living species and associated stories (Rose 1996). Damage to and desecration of any aspect of the environment, including cultural places, can have a significant impact on Traditional Owner's wellbeing, an impact related to the holistic notion of Country.

Acknowledgment of Traditional Owners and Welcome to Country are ways of showing respect to Traditional Owners and acknowledging their continuing connection to the land and waters of Victoria. A Welcome to Country is a cultural and spiritual protocol that is embedded in Traditional Owners' obligations to look after Country. It is a Traditional Owners' responsibility to welcome visitors on to Country and there is a reciprocal expectation that visitors will show respect for that Country.

Joint management is a probable outcome of any future Traditional Owner Settlement Agreement with the Victorian Government. The development and implementation of a joint management plan would be an opportunity to embed the aspirations and values outlined above throughout this landscape. The partnership approach being taken to develop and deliver the Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan is therefore building the relationships, capacity and capability for collaborative planning and recognises that a future joint management plan is likely to be developed by a Traditional Owner Land Management Board with support from Parks Victoria. The development and implementation of a joint management plan would be an opportunity to strengthen the aspirations and values outlined above throughout this landscape.

Through the Indigenous Land Use Agreement, Traditional Owners are recognised as ‘rights-holders’ having connection to Gariwerd and customary responsibilities to ‘Care for Country’. This means they have recognised legal and/or moral rights to Country, landscape, places and knowledge. Traditional Owners typically also hold a range of intellectual property rights connected to their customary and ecological knowledge, practices and skills. This differentiates them from stakeholders. Relationships of collaboration and partnerships are required with rights-holders, while in the case of stakeholders, a consultative approach is typical.

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

Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018

Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994

Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

Forests Act 1958

Heritage Act 2017

Land Act 1958

National Parks Act 1975

National Parks Regulations 2013

Parks Victoria Act 2018

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Reference Areas Act 1978

Road Management Act 2004

Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010

Water Act 1989

Wildlife (State Game Reserves) Regulations 2014

Wildlife Act 1975

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cwlth)

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)

Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)

The majority of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park is reserved and managed under the provisions of the National Parks Act 1975. The Park was proclaimed in 1984 as the Grampians National Park and has been managed under this Act for four decades, having been formerly designated State forest in 1872.

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 in those parks
- the protection and preservation of indigenous flora and fauna and of features of scenic or archaeological, ecological, geological, historic or other scientific interest in those parks
- the study of ecology, geology, botany, zoology and other sciences relating to the conservation of the natural environment in those parks
- 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 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 reasonably be considered an Aboriginal place for the purpose of management in accordance with the Act.

Parks Victoria must therefore prioritise preserving and protecting environmental and cultural values in the park and then where appropriate, support recreational activities.

This obligation is reinforced by the *Parks Victoria Act 2018* which defines the objects Parks Victoria must have regard to when performing its functions, exercising its powers and carrying out its duties. The objects 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 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 Victoria's *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 where 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 organisations 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. The Draft Land Management Strategy is being developed for community consultation. It will be supported by and reflect government legislation, policies and key priorities and responds to challenges such as climate change and increased visitation. It will also reflect the framework used in the Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Landscapes Strategy (in prep), which will detail Traditional Owner strategies 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.



Community engagement, 2019

1.5 Community input

Parks Victoria has a long-standing commitment to community input. Developing the management plan for Gariwerd has provided an opportunity for considerable community input to further evolve by including a wider audience during consultation. Effective consultation with the community and key stakeholders is critical to the development of the plan and the delivery of the management outcomes it identifies.

Stakeholders and community members were consulted through six community workshops, a drop-in session, an online survey and a series of 'listening posts' held in a range of locations across the Grampians region and Melbourne during September and October 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 plan.

Feedback and ideas were received from 452 people, with 259 people attending across the six community workshops; 16 people visiting listening posts or the drop-in sessions; and 177 people contributing their ideas online through Engage Victoria. Most participants said they visit the landscape regularly (at least once a year). A significant number of participants were also local community members, neighbours and business owners. Participants were also asked what activities they love to do in the landscape with the top three activities being bushwalking, camping and observing nature (plants and animals).

As part of the consultation, Parks Victoria established a Stakeholder Reference Group, which includes user group representatives and community organisations. There are 16 members in the group representing the following areas of interest: environment and conservation, cultural heritage, recreational use (including bushwalking, rock climbing, four-wheel driving), tourism, education, neighbouring community, community and civic participation and emergency management.

The Grampians-Gariwerd National Park Advisory Group is a long-established group convened by Parks Victoria to advise on a range of strategic issues relating to management of the national park. The group 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 organisations to provide better and sustainable recreation experiences in the parks and reserves that it manages, including the Victorian Climbing Club and Cliff Care, Four Wheel Drive Victoria, Bushwalking Victoria, Mountain Bike Australia, Australian Deer Association, Sporting Shooters Association of Australia and Field and Game Australia.

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

Further community feedback is now sought on this draft plan. The *Parks Victoria Act 2018* requires Parks Victoria to make draft management plans available for inspection by the public for at least 28 days and to have regard to any submissions made on a draft plan.

Parks Victoria will detail how community suggestions have been considered and whether they have been included in the final management plan. Where a suggestion has not been included, a reason will be provided.

Table 1.2 Summary of feedback informing the draft plan provided by the community.

Key themes raised	Response
Cultural heritage protection Participants wanted to see improvement in the way the cultural significance of the landscape is conveyed to visitors, including better education and information for visitors and recreational users to protect cultural heritage.	Strategies within the draft plan seek to recognise and protect cultural values through proposed management zones and overlays, increased education and interpretative signage and resources in the landscape, as well as building awareness within the visitor community and recreational user groups.
Environmental conservation Participants identified the need to reduce pest plants and animals in the landscape to conserve the environment. Increased resourcing to ensure the environment is conserved and visitor impacts are managed was also raised.	Strategies within the draft plan provide additional attention to environmental conservation measures, particularly pest plant and animal control. They will also ensure conservation is a priority when considering new tourism developments.
Recreational opportunities The importance of building a shared understanding between Parks Victoria, Traditional Owners and recreational users was identified. The need for rock climbing in the park to continue.	The draft plan seeks to resolve and clarify the management approach to recreational activities within the cultural landscape. This includes developing a permit system for rock climbing, addressing illegal track creation and improving support for camping and walking while maintaining 'wilderness and remote' recreational opportunities.
Visitor activities, facilities and access The need to explore opportunities to manage peak visitor times (e.g. through dispersal) was a key theme raised by participants.	Strategies are proposed in the draft plan to update and increase signage and interpretation at priority visitor sites, ensure amenities at popular sites and campgrounds meet the visitor needs at peak times and to facilitate increased monitoring of visitor behaviour when required.
Emergency management The management activity with the highest satisfaction was emergency management, however participants identified the importance of education and information for visitors and recreational users to improve emergency management. They also showed interest in increased cultural burning practices to reduce fire risk.	Extreme events will be more prevalent in the future therefore strategies to communicate this are proposed along with strategies to continue to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural emergencies. This includes planned burning strategies and traditional burning practices.



Gariwerd — Symbolic, Spiritual, Healing

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 state-wide Land Management Strategy (in draft). 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 draft Land Management Strategy (in prep) 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 risks are assessed and managed. These principles will guide 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 are used to summarise the broad intent of managing particular areas based on their values and potential uses.

They indicate which management directions have priority in different parts of parks and reserves and the types and levels of use appropriate in those zones. This minimises potential conflicts between uses and activities, or between activities 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) allow for localised natural and cultural values (such as threatened species or rock art) to be given high levels of protection by, for example restricting certain activities that are allowed in the surrounding zone.

Four zones have been applied to the Greater Gariwerd Landscape (Maps 2A and 2B). The proposed zones and their management purposes are summarised in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 Purposes and locations of proposed management zones (see Maps 2A and 2B).

Zone	Purpose/Location
<p>Cultural Conservation Zone</p> <p>The proposed application of the Cultural Conservation Zone across the majority of the planning area recognises the rich Aboriginal cultural landscape and the holistic approach supported by Traditional Owners and Parks Victoria.</p>	<p>Purpose: To 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.</p> <p>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 the majority of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.</p>
<p>Conservation and Recreation Zone</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Location: The whole of each Parks Victoria managed 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 Talbot Scenic Reserve, Mount William Creek Streamside Reserve, Moyston West Bushland Reserve, Reids Bushland Reserve, Rowes Bushland Reserve.</p>
<p>Reference Area Zone</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Location: The Sisters, Moora Valley, Grasree Creek, all within Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.</p>
<p>Recreation Development Zone</p>	<p>Purpose: Typically small areas with a high level of facility development and catering for high numbers of visitors.</p> <p>Location: Brambuk Cultural Centre and adjacent grounds.</p>

2.3 Overlays and Special Protection Areas

The proposed Overlays and SPAs for Gariwerd and their management purposes are identified in Maps 2A and 2B and summarised in Table 2.2.

Remote and Natural Areas (RNAs) are defined by 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 Aboriginal culture and 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 astrological 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.

Natural Quiet Overlay recognises the ecological benefit of natural quiet areas where noise from human activities is absent or at least not dominant. The overlay coincides with areas important for habitat and species protection highlighting that the area is an Aboriginal Cultural Landscape with significant cultural values. The Natural Quiet Overlay identifies some key locations in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park to be managed for biodiversity and cultural protection, where visitors can experience peace and quiet in the natural environment without artificial noise intrusion. Peace, quiet and serenity are a key aspect of being on Country. The overlay covers areas important for threatened species, that are managed to minimise habitat fragmentation and support natural processes so that these species survive and expand their populations. Reducing human disturbance and noise is one aspect of protecting these refugia areas.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are used in management plans to protect areas or sites where a higher value of management focus is required, including restrictions on activities to avoid impacts. This draft management plan proposes three different types of SPAs for Gariwerd: Cultural Values SPA, Natural Value SPA and Cultural Activity SPA:

- **SPAs for Cultural Values** have been determined by the location of significant registered Aboriginal cultural heritage and cultural places with tangible and intangible Aboriginal cultural values that require protection from human disturbance (see Section 3.5 – Traditional Owner cultural places).
- **SPAs for Natural Values** have been defined by the critical habitats of highest importance for threatened mammals including Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, Long-nosed Potoroo and Smoky Mouse, along with potential sites for the future re-introduction of captive-bred populations. They also include significant refugia for climate change. The management of SPAs (Natural Values) seek to protect threatened mammals and their critical habitats from human disturbance in the face of a changing climate (see Section 4.1 – Managing healthy ecosystems and Section 4.4 – Climate change).
- **SPAs for Cultural Activity** support cultural strengthening and renewal and reconnection to Country by protecting key sites where Traditional Owners may create new rock art in the landscape or that can be used for the return and repatriation of cultural material and ancestral remains. As rights-holders, the Traditional Owners may undertake these activities anywhere in Gariwerd, however SPAs for Cultural Activity recognise areas exclusively dedicated to these purposes. These areas will be established over time (during the life of the plan) to respond to Traditional Owner requirements to support cultural activities.

Many other areas have additional protection through legislative means, such as 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% 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 permitted uses such as public infrastructure. These areas are managed in accordance with licences, leases and other legislative means (see Section 5.7 – Authorised uses).

Table 2.2 Purposes and locations of proposed overlays and Special Protection Areas.

Overlay	Purpose/Location
Remote and Natural Area (RNA) Overlay	<p>Purpose: Managed to protect remote and natural attributes and prevent new and incremental developments including the construction of vehicle tracks, walking tracks and new structures.</p> <p>Location: Victoria Range, Serra Range and Major Mitchell Plateau in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.</p>
Visitor Experience Area (VEA) Overlay	<p>Purpose: Parks Victoria’s Visitor Experience Framework lists areas (VEAs) having specific directions to guide visitor services and visitor infrastructure.</p> <p>Location: See Chapter 5 – Experiencing Gariwerd</p>
Sky Country Overlay	<p>Purpose: A new overlay to protect views of the stars at night and silhouettes of the mountains from remote areas and significant viewing points.</p> <p>Location: Applied at major lookouts, RNAs and walk-in camping areas. Excludes areas adjacent to townships and settlements.</p>
Natural Quiet Overlay	<p>Purpose: A new overlay that recognises natural quiet in important habitat and cultural areas.</p> <p>Location: Applied at walk-in camping areas, surrounds of Reference Areas and RNAs. Excludes vehicle-based camping and areas adjacent to townships and settlements.</p>
Special Protection Area (Cultural Values)	<p>Purpose: To protect significant Aboriginal cultural values.</p> <p>Location: High value areas for specific cultural values.</p>
Special Protection Area (Natural Values)	<p>Purpose: To protect significant biodiversity and habitats, including refugia.</p> <p>Location: High value areas for specific natural values.</p>
Special Protection Area (Cultural Activity)	<p>Purpose: To support cultural strengthening, renewal and reconnection to Country.</p> <p>Location: Areas or locations for Traditional Owners to continue cultural practices such as hunting and resource utilisation, creation of scar trees and rock paintings or burial repatriations.</p>



Tchingal rising above The Balconies

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 foundational 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 around 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 Aboriginal 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:

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 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 19th century to the mid 20th 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 ancestral remains that had 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 covered in the following sections:

- Appreciation and support for a cultural landscape – Section 3.1. This section describes the ancient landscape that holds great cultural meaning today (Creating Country).
- A history of land management – Section 3.2. This section tells of the ways in which the People of Gariwerd settled, lived on, cared for and related to the landscape (Living on Country, Caring for Country and Spiritual life).
- Truth, healing and reconciliation – Section 3.3. 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 3.4. This section recognises that the cultural landscape is multi-layered and provides information on significant European colonisation sites and relics.
- Cultural places – Section 3.5. This section provides an overview of Traditional Owner cultural values and their management.
- Cultural renewal and strengthening – Section 3.6. 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. 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.

Werringan / 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 Appreciation and recognition of the cultural landscape

There are two parallel perspectives on the origin or creation of Gariwerd and its awe-inspiring features. Together, these ways of understanding the landscape provide a richer appreciation for the whole community and visitors. One is based on Western knowledge derived from geology and the study of ancient environments (palaeo-environmental studies) and the other is the Traditional Owner lore and spirituality of the Dreaming. From these stories we can understand connections to physical places in the landscape.

For Traditional Owners of Gariwerd, all of the landscape is part of one or more creation stories and the journeys of the creation ancestors that have left a physical legacy in the features of the landscape (see 'Creation ancestors' listed at the start of this plan). The cultural landscape is rich with named features and places relating to these stories and the creation beings. Both the actions and the physical bodies of creation ancestors remain as significant landscape 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. To appreciate the Traditional Owner perspective of the landscape is therefore to appreciate an inherently spiritual perspective.

From the Western scientific perspective, these same landscape features are connected to ancient geological processes. The geology of Gariwerd is made up of sediments deposited about 400 million years ago (Cayley & Taylor 1997). These sediments are composed of layers of massive sandstones, siltstones and mudstones which were originally deposited in a river or shallow marine environment folded and tilted during the Middle Devonian period, with later smaller earth movements causing further warping. Much of the landscape is sandstone with a high quartz content. Valleys were formed through erosion of softer surrounding sediments and along fault lines throughout the area. Granitic magma intruded into the Grampians 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 planning area 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 which led 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, with Traditional Owners occupying the area from at least 22,000 years ago (Wettenhall 2018, Bird & Frankel 2005). Many of the geological features across Gariwerd are therefore Traditional Owner cultural and story places. Cultural heritage also includes rock art, rock shelters (whether with known, tangible cultural materials or not), stone sources and quarries, rock wells (cultural and naturally modified), channels and stone arrangements.

The first colonists to encounter Gariwerd were the Surveyor-General of New South Wales, Major Thomas Mitchell and his exploratory party. The party included Granville Stapylton as well as an Aboriginal guide from Sydney named Piper, a botanist and various servants. When the party approached Gariwerd in the winter of 1836, they were entering into an ancient landscape characterised by the abrupt appearance of a series of ranges rising out of the relatively flat plains of western Victoria, interrupted only by low rounded (volcanic) hills.

These ranges were Gawa (Mount Difficult Range), Warranneyan (Mount William Range), Serra Range, Billawin (Victoria Range) and Burrunj (Black Range) to the west. The traditional names of these features in the landscape are a rich expression of the foundational identity of this cultural landscape. Giving of English names to these mountains by colonists such as Mitchell was 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).



Bunjil's Shelter

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 dingoes. 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.

These traditional creation stories and associated places in the landscape represent an opportunity for visitors and the broader community to appreciate and share a richer understanding of the cultural landscape and sense of place, that is Gariwerd. That opportunity for appreciation is critical to its long-term protection.

Symbolic names for ancient places

What is in a name? The names of places can help us to value, understand and celebrate their heritage. Many places in the landscape have had Traditional Owner names for thousands of years. Using them 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.

Aboriginal 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; to reinstate the Traditional Owner understandings and interpretations of this landscape for all to share; and to recognise the creation ancestors of Gariwerd and their spirit today.

Within the parks and reserves, Parks Victoria is the naming authority that can apply names to visitor sites, administrative areas, zones and in interpretation information etc. For example, Grampians Peaks Trail campgrounds all apply Aboriginal names. Official geographic place names are 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. It also encourages use of Aboriginal language across the Victorian government. 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 so named in 1984, when it was established. The Minister responsible for the now Geographic Place Names Act exercised his powers and named it Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park in 1989. Park signage and visitor information was then updated to Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park following the official name change but due to significant community backlash at the time, all park signage and visitor information quickly reverted to Grampians National Park and the National Parks Act was not amended to recognise the official name change. There is therefore a discrepancy between the National Parks schedule and the Official Geographic Names Victoria register. Community sentiment has evolved over more than three decades and there continues to be growing recognition and positive views on the use of Aboriginal place names and renaming. Throughout this plan, Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park is used as the current official place name.

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. This planning process presents an important opportunity to consider changing place names to Aboriginal language names, or formalising dual naming, in consultation with the relevant Traditional Owners.



Mud-dadjug (Mount Abrupt) is the body of one of the Bram-bram-bult brothers

Goal – Appreciation and recognition of the cultural landscape

The cultural landscape and its geological features are protected and recognised in collaboration with Traditional Owners.

Strategy

Priority level

Understand the Traditional Owner cultural values of landscape features, mountains, their silhouettes and skylines and ensure appropriate controls and regulations are adopted to maintain the symbolic and spiritual character of landscape features, mountains, their silhouettes and skylines, including the aesthetic values recognised under the National Heritage Listing (see also Authorised uses, Section 5.7).

Immediate

Apply park naming consistent with the official names from the Geographic Names Victoria register:

Immediate

- Seek amendment of park names on the Schedule of the National Parks Act to be consistent with the register, including Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.
- Update all park information signage and marketing to be consistent with the register, including the use of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.

In collaboration with Traditional Owners, research Aboriginal place names and investigate renaming of parks, reserves, mountain ranges and other geographic features. Undertake community consultation and where agreed, either rename visitor sites and other locations that do not require official place name changes via GNV or take formal proposals to GNV. Possible examples for future consultation could include:

Immediate

- Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park to be 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

Promote the understanding of Aboriginal place names, their meaning and significance within the cultural landscape through park information and interpretation.

Immediate

Ensure emergency management markers are adequately considered 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.

As required

Develop interpretative material to educate visitors about respecting the cultural landscape and undertaking activities that protect and preserve the landscape features rather than damaging these by rock 'stacking' or other acts that damage, deface, remove or otherwise interfere with any rock or similar natural object in the landscape (see Information, interpretation and education, Section 5.1).

Medium

3.2 A continuum of connection

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 responsibility to care for Country and the legacy of their ancestors. This enduring 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.

This section relates the ways in which people settled and continue to live in Gariwerd for more than 22,000 years. Integral to this is how the People of Gariwerd managed the landscape and adapted to changing environments over thousands of years (also addressed in Chapter 4). This section also describes the spiritual connection Traditional Owners have to the Gariwerd's plant and animal species, to the night skies and the wider setting of the mountain ranges.

Gariwerd is the traditional Country of the Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung. Early 19th 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% 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.

The Djab Wurrung and Jadawadjali language groups knew their Country intimately and moved around Country to cultivate and harvest food resources. Their interaction with and management of the environment, was linked to six seasons:

- In early summer, people delighted in the sweet nectar obtained from flowering banksias.
- Late summer was the time of large gatherings and feasting on eels.
- Autumn, provided an abundance of food and water. It was a time of great gatherings in the wetlands of Lake Lonsdale (and further afield at Lake Bolac).
- During winter, the season, people moved to the high country seeking refuge from the cold winds amongst the sandstone escarpments.
- Early spring was the season when birds are nesting and the time for harvesting the tuberous roots of the murnong (Yam Daisy, *Microseris lanceolata*), a plant food cultivated across large areas of land, which provided an important part of the People of Gariwerd's diet.
- Spring was the season when wildflowers are prolific and when birds laid eggs, snakes and lizards emerge and the sound of frogs and insects fill the air.

As the People of Gariwerd moved around the landscape, they left physical evidence of their occupation (and spiritual presence) at cultural heritage sites and specific places. For example, traditional campsites are often places 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 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 on the Duwul (Mount William) wetlands in late summer to catch the migrating eels. Robinson (1841, in Presland 1980) describes 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.

To Traditional Owners, nature and culture are not separate, but inter-connected and form part of their spiritual life. Clans were required to care for Country through regular ceremony and singing the creation of their Country. Movement across the landscape would have been determined, to some extent, by the spiritual responsibilities of clans (Context 2012).

The spiritual importance of the Greater Gariwerd Landscape cannot be captured in a few tangible associations but 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 creation of Gariwerd is associated with the story of Bunjil and various specific sites, as well as the night skies that have been identified as connected to this story. The telling and retelling of the stories of Bunjil and other creator ancestors would have formed an important part of storytelling as told through song, dance and ceremony. Today, storytelling remains a powerful way of interpreting the landscape and sharing culture.

Motifs associated with stories and ceremonies occur in the rock art throughout Gariwerd. Rock art is typically associated with spiritual, ceremonial and, on occasion, domestic cultural values. A number of other specific places have been identified by Traditional Owners including Bunjil's Shelter, places with motifs associated with stories and ceremonies, rock shelters with art, Rocklands Reservoir burial site, Reedy Creek ancestral remains, Lake Lonsdale ceremonial ring, 'Asses Ears' stone arrangement, ochre sources and silhouettes in the landscape. More generically, rock shelters without any tangible evidence of occupation have been noted by Traditional Owners as being of spiritual significance and having a capacity to evoke the presence of ancestors (Context 2020).

Goal — A continuum of connection

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

Strategy	Priority level
Ensure appropriate controls and regulations are adopted to ensure Traditional Owner cultural values of night skies as places associated with stories and the source of astrological knowledge and the continued visibility of Sky Country (see Section 2.3 – Overlays).	Immediate
Ensure appropriate controls and regulations are adopted to ensure the Traditional Owner cultural values of peace, quiet and serenity as part of the experience of Country are respected and to enhance the experience of visitors to Gariwerd (see Section 2.3 – Overlays).	Immediate
Continue to learn from traditional life on Country by understanding and applying traditional land management practices and documenting and protecting the places in the landscape associated with stories (e.g. rock shelters).	Immediate
Research and investigate the Duwul (Mount William) aquaculture system to rediscover, reveal and restore the system (see Section 6.4 – Research and monitoring)	Medium
Highlight the connection of traditional stories to places in the landscape as well as to develop understanding of traditional life and the adaptation of the landscape (see Section 5.1 – Information, interpretation and education).	Medium

3.3 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 assumptions of Terra nullius (land belonging to no-one) were rejected when the legal 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, colonisation 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.

The coastal area from Port Fairy to Warrnambool was extensively used for sealing and whaling from the early 1800s, and by the 1830s a small settlement associated with the whaling station on Griffiths Island had grown. The area that later became the Colony of Victoria officially became part of the Colony of New South Wales in 1836 with the establishment of the Port Phillip District. While the Henty family were ‘unauthorised’ colonisers in western Victoria beforehand, it was not until Major Thomas Mitchell 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, the Wimmera and the 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 also wandered freely over the landscape, eating and trampling important plant foods, notably murnong (Yam Daisy) and other tubers. Introduced grasses suffocated native grasses, native 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 or base from which the Djab Wurrung and Jadawadjali mounted raids on the colonist’s 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).

Recent research undertaken by the University of Newcastle estimates that a total of 54 massacres were perpetrated in Victoria between 1788 and 1930, totalling approximately 1207 victims (University of Newcastle 2020). The Djab Wurrung were victims in at least 35 recorded massacres and for the Jadawadjali there are at least 17 recorded (Clark 1995).

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 other colonists who laid the blame for the counter-attacks by Aboriginal people on the provocations of the colonisers motivated by occupying land (Bride 1898).

There are at least sixteen documented massacre events 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 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 party involved in the 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; and the reference in the Gippsland Guardian 6 July 1860; and Ararat Advertiser June 1860.

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

Early 19th century estimates of the Jadawadjali population are 1500–4400 and for the Djab Wurrung 1600–5000 (Clark 1990). By the mid 19th 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 Western District, reaching into the Gariwerd area. Colonists exerted pressure on the government for more and 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 19th century operated with the skilled assistance of Aboriginal labour. 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).

Even today, such atrocities are challenging for many parts of the community to acknowledge. The sense of sadness, loss, anger and dispare 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.

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).

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 saw those children 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 park, 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 level
Work with Traditional Owners and colonial historians to develop messaging about Traditional Owner and colonial history for Gariwerd that considers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Immediate
Develop joint stories at colonial heritage sites like Brim Springs, Zumsteins, Mafeking, Migunang wirab (MacKenzie Falls) and vantage points along the Grampians Peaks Trail.	Immediate



Heatherlie Quarry

3.4 Colonial heritage

The colonists who settled Gariwerd in the mid 19th century brought a very different approach to managing the land than that practised by Traditional Owners. It was based on extracting resources like water, stone and gold, as well as clearing forests 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, their works damaged the natural and cultural landscape and had a catastrophic impact on Traditional Owners, despite the resistance described in Section 3.3. Place names and language that was 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 honestly confronting the costs and impacts on the society and culture of the Traditional Owners.

From the 1850s to the turn of the century, water infrastructure projects and mining and quarrying industries were active in the Gariwerd area, significantly changing the landscape and health of Country. Many of these land uses no longer exist, though their footprint on the landscape is still evident and Country continues to slowly heal from associated impacts.



Sawmilling in Victoria Valley

In 1880 a weir was built on Fyans Creek to provide water to Stawell. This diversion weir diverted some of the flow into a 12 km wooden flume system that was built through dense bush to a one-kilometre tunnel. The 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).

The desire for high quality sandstone for building construction in the early years of Melbourne spurred the quarrying industry, especially at Mud-dadjug (Mount Abrupt) and Gar (Mount Difficult). During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, large amounts of high-quality freestone 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 of historical, scientific (technical) and social significance at the State level. The quarry provided the first really durable freestone (sandstone) discovered in Victoria. The quarry is also of historical significance for its involvement, from 1882 onwards, with the supply of stone for Parliament House 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, which was managed as State forest from 1872 to 1984. 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). Much of the national park has been subjected to past forestry practices and wood harvesting activities. 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, with some of the earliest apiary sites in Victoria. Honey production is a significant colonial industry that still continues today, with 100 sites in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and ten in Black Range State Park (see Section 5.7 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). 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 the Grampians, as they were then known, became a popular holiday destination for motorists. Government spending on road making 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 all combined to increase tourism in Gariwerd and its surrounding area. A 1950s poster highlights 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 wellbeing and 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.

Goal — Colonial heritage	
Significant European colonial sites and relics are understood, celebrated and protected from damaging processes and activities.	
Strategy	Priority level
Identify sites of significance and include these in the interpretation of the layers of history in the cultural landscape.	Immediate
Encourage research into past land use and utilisation activities.	Longer-term
Undertake works at key sites (the Stawell fluming, Heatherlie sandstone quarry, Zumsteins, Mafeking gold mining, Golton copper-mine, Germain Grave shingle cutters, Moora Moora homestead, Strachans Hut) in accordance with advice from relevant experts on conservation actions and heritage plans.	As required
Develop and implement ongoing condition monitoring programs at key cultural places and landscapes (see Section 6.4 – Research and monitoring).	Medium
Seek opportunities with partners to develop and preserve significant colonial sites.	As required



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

3.5 Traditional Owner cultural places

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 simultaneously a tangible motif and the product of an intangible cultural practice.

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).

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.



Manja Shelter

Aboriginal 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*. The 2006 Act provides Traditional Owners with legislative ownership of all ancestral remains and secret or sacred objects in Victoria. It establishes a system of Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) to enable legislative control and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in their defined geographic regions. The Act also establishes 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 (Cwlth)* 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.

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 the decision making for the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage, while recognising the responsibility and accountability Parks Victoria has as the land manager. Traditional Owner groups are also currently engaged in the preparation of Cultural Heritage Management Plans which includes ‘consultation’ regarding the management of their cultural heritage and employment in field work (survey and archaeological excavation).

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) or Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) is in place.

Tangible Aboriginal cultural heritage and intangible values

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 – 3.3 as well as Table 3.1) and documented as a result of archaeological field surveys.

Different categories of cultural places are identified through archaeological survey and these are distributed across Gariwerd. Such places typically contain objects (e.g. stone artefacts, hearths and painted

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.

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. creation stories associated with painted images; remains of historical places where Traditional Owners are known to have worked).

These objects 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/or 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 resource preparation and consumption.

Gariwerd contains 474 Aboriginal places (comprising 587 features) registered on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) as at 27 May 2020. Of these, 277 Aboriginal places are located within parks and reserves managed by Parks Victoria. Stone artefact scatters, most of which are low density with small numbers of artefacts, dominate the documented cultural places in Gariwerd, making up almost half (47.2%) of all the VAHR recorded cultural places (Context 2020). Shelters with painted (pigment) rock art are the next most common component, with 132 places comprising 22.5% of all recorded places. This number represents more than 60% of the state's rock art sites (Parks Victoria 2003). Culturally modified trees, mounds, stone quarries and hearths are the next most common place types.

The planning area contains relatively few recorded examples of burials, stone grinding grooves, ochre sources and rock. It should be noted that the extent of archaeological 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 contained in the VAHR, the area of Gariwerd that has been surveyed by archaeologists and Traditional Owners for cultural places is estimated to be less than 5% (Martin in prep).

Places are continually added to the VAHR: for example, as part of the Parks Victoria project to identify cultural places and cultural values in rock climbing areas within Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park, 125 climbing areas were inspected (44% of known climbing areas). 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 in prep). A further survey specific to rock art sites in the Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within the Gariwerd (Grampians) National Park resulted in two previously unrecorded art sites being located and, in addition, image-enhancement technology enabled the identification of additional art at known sites.

Given the number of registered sites, coupled with recent re-discoveries that add to the overall understanding of the landscape, it is clear that there remains an extensive amount of Aboriginal cultural heritage yet to be located in areas that have not been comprehensively surveyed. This supports the principle of a precautionary approach to risk management – which is best practice when managing unknown or unobserved values.

While tangible Aboriginal 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.

The notion of 'sites' has long been pervasive in archaeological theory and practice and, from the 1960s, as discrete assemblages of material traces of past human presence entered into Australian Aboriginal heritage legislation. By 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).

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 significant places with cultural, spiritual, historic, social and other intangible values, irrespective of the presence of tangible Aboriginal 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bunjil’s Shelter • Rock art sites • Participation in archaeological field surveys • Brambuk Cultural Centre ceremony space • Wetlands ochre sources • Views to and from Gariwerd
Historic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massacre sites and sites of conflict • Post-contact Aboriginal graves • Homesteads at which Aboriginal stockmen and domestics worked
Aesthetic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views to and from Gariwerd • Silhouettes
Scientific or research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First peoples: Druak and Billimina rock shelters • Tanderrum Festival and ceremony (1990s) • Use of traditional fire regimes
Educational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brambuk Cultural Centre • Rock art sites open to public
Recreational and amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places associated with gatherings of Budja Budja Aboriginal Corporation women’s group (Reed Lookout, MacKenzie Falls) • Places from which resources gathered for art making
Economic, ecological and resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places associated with gatherings • Bunjil’s Shelter
Aspirational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Aboriginal cultural values; and the need for greater accountability and responsibility for managing risks to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Because there is potentially extensive Aboriginal 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 of 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:

- road construction and maintenance
- bushfires and fire management (a particular threat to scarred trees and rock art)
- vegetation clearance and timber extraction
- water and landscape erosion
- recreational visitation and associated infrastructure
- land uses such as grazing and agriculture
- pest plants and animals.

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.

People don't recognise the values we have here, some of this art; all of this art, has stories attached and 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 are recognised, respected, protected and celebrated in partnership with Traditional Owners.

Strategy	Priority level
Recognise Gariwerd as Traditional Owner Country and thus a cultural landscape necessitating respectful and culturally appropriate behaviours.	Immediate
Develop protocols with Traditional Owners for identifying, documenting, assessing, protecting, managing and presenting all 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.	Immediate
Establish priorities for future field survey 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.	Immediate
Implement regulations to protect cultural places from visitor impacts and apply strategies to enable recreational activities that are culturally appropriate and respectful to Country (see Section 5.2 – Recreation Strategies).	Immediate
Ensure rock art sites open and promoted for public visitation are appropriately managed and interpreted in partnership with Traditional Owners.	Immediate
Develop and implement ongoing condition monitoring programs at key cultural places and landscapes (see Section 6.4 – Research and monitoring).	Immediate
Work with Traditional Owners to develop messaging to recognise and promote landscape features associated with their cultural heritage (e.g. stories, naming, interpretation).	Immediate
Work with Traditional Owners to recognise and respect intangible or spiritual values associated with places and landscape features.	Immediate
Work with Traditional Owners to identify culturally appropriate information and interpretation methods and media to share with visitors to Gariwerd (see Section 5.1 – Information, interpretation and education).	Immediate

3.6 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).

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).

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, Aboriginal 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 e.g. adapting 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.

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 level
Enable Traditional Owner community activities to take place at relevant cultural places.	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 5.6 and 6.1). Continue to meet contemporary building codes such as all abilities access and building regulations.	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
Establish protocols for how visitors are welcomed to Country.	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
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.	As required
Communicate the ‘voices’ of Traditional Owners through renewal of interpretation e.g. information provided by BGLC, EMAC, GMTOAC for boards, signs and interactive media (see Section 5.1 – Information, interpretation and education).	Medium
Develop opportunities to increase the capacity of Traditional Owners to lead planning and management of Country (see Section 6.1 – Managing with Traditional Owners).	Immediate
Collaborate with Traditional Owners to support new contemporary rock art and protect these places as part of cultural renewal and strengthening.	

Brambuk – A unique building for a symbolic landscape

Brambuk was designed by architect Greg Burgess, drawing design 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 e.g. 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 wheelchair and Sherpa Volunteers are also available for park visitors.

Traditional Owners and Parks Victoria will be working 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 newly formed Strategic Partnership Committee of Traditional Owner corporations (see Section 6.1 – Managing with Traditional Owners). With the Grampians Peaks Trail being 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 5.6 – Tourism and commercial visitor services).



Brambuck – The National Park and Cultural Centre



Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby

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 traditional land management through the use of fire and other approaches. With colonial invasion, those Traditional 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. Over the last 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 those 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 the 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.

At 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 environmental niches and habitat types – a montane habitat, gullies, wetlands, creeks, rivers, rocky outcrops, woodlands, heathlands, forests, etc.

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 it does not fall evenly. Rainfall varies from 550 mm in the north to 700 mm in the south and up to 895 mm 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 and are an example of adaptation and isolation. Endemic eucalypts growing on the mountain ranges are unique species from hybridisation with snow gum.

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% of Victoria's wildlife species recorded in this landscape. Gariwerd is an important habitat stronghold for a number of rare or endangered species, listed as threatened for their protection and conservation.

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 over 1,300 native plant species and 49 of these are endemic. 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 particularly important for its abundance of bird species. The low open shrubby woodlands support many nectar-feeding birds and the tall open forests are important for hollow-dependent species such as the Powerful Owl. Over 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.

A Conservation Action Plan for the Greater Gariwerd Landscape was released by Parks Victoria 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 the potential actions that can be taken together 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 ten-step process that included facilitated workshops with Parks Victoria staff and stakeholders to identify the priority threats to ecosystems and what management strategies and actions will improve their condition over the next 15 years. These strategies, alongside Traditional Owner knowledge and experience, have been used to develop the healthy Country strategies in this plan.

Some threats lie outside the direct control of land managers — for example, those that relate to global climate change. Such threats, however, can be planned for and managed by Parks Victoria in partnership with the three Traditional Owner corporations to build resilience across the landscape.

All these matters are covered in the following themes:

- Managing healthy ecosystems – Section 4.1
- Fire management – Section 4.2
- Water management – Section 4.3
- Climate change – Section 4.4

An evolving environment

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

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

Time	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 5500–3500 years ago Mid-Holocene	Wettest period of the Holocene. Ranges densely vegetated and much of the area may have been relatively inaccessible. Drying conditions in the mid-Holocene.	Emergence of aquaculture in the areas to the south and west of Gariwerd. Increased environmental stress caused by the drier climate. Rock art begins to be created.
3500–2000 years ago 2000 years ago onward Late Holocene	Dry but unstable climatic conditions. Arrival of the Dingo. Wetter period. Drier climate; falling lake levels; comparable to early Holocene.	Intensification of landuse 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.
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 in the late twentieth century. Increasing dryness and bushfire severity associated with human induced climate change (global warming).	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 for example 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 dingos, 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, which destroyed the native plants on the open grasslands, did not wreak the same scale of damage on the ecology of the Gariwerd ranges.

The combination of introduced rabbits, goats, deer, foxes, cats and feral honeybees severely impacted local ecosystems, animals and plants. Large-scale poisoning to remove wildlife from grazing leases decimated 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 *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, causing significant and permanent damage to 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 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, 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 aligns with many Traditional Owner values. Supporting the inclusion of traditional ecological knowledge in land management practices such as cultural water flows and the rekindling of cultural burning practices, can heal Country and help to achieve conservation outcomes.



Grampians Pincushion-lily

The legacy of a changed landscape

The rich biodiversity and intact ecosystems managed under regimes of Aboriginal land management have unequivocally been degraded since colonial invasion. The environment around Gariwerd has changed dramatically as a result of 170 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 Aboriginal burning regimes
- land clearing, ring barking, 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 Eagle and Dingo
- introduction of weeds, pests and pathogens
- intensification of agricultural systems including broad scale monocultures
- establishment of settlements and civil infrastructure including roads, mining, quarrying etc.

The parks and reserves of 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 relatively isolated hotspot for biodiversity with intact ecosystems, surrounded by a predominantly fragmented and modified rural landscape (see Figure 4.1).

Over many decades, contemporary land management practices have evolved across rural landscapes including through programs such as Landcare that 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 rated areas in Figure 4.1 are hotspots for a diverse range of flora and fauna species and communities, many of which are rare, threatened or otherwise listed' under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act) and Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (FFG Act). Many species are endemic or highly represented at a statewide scale.

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 are now 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.

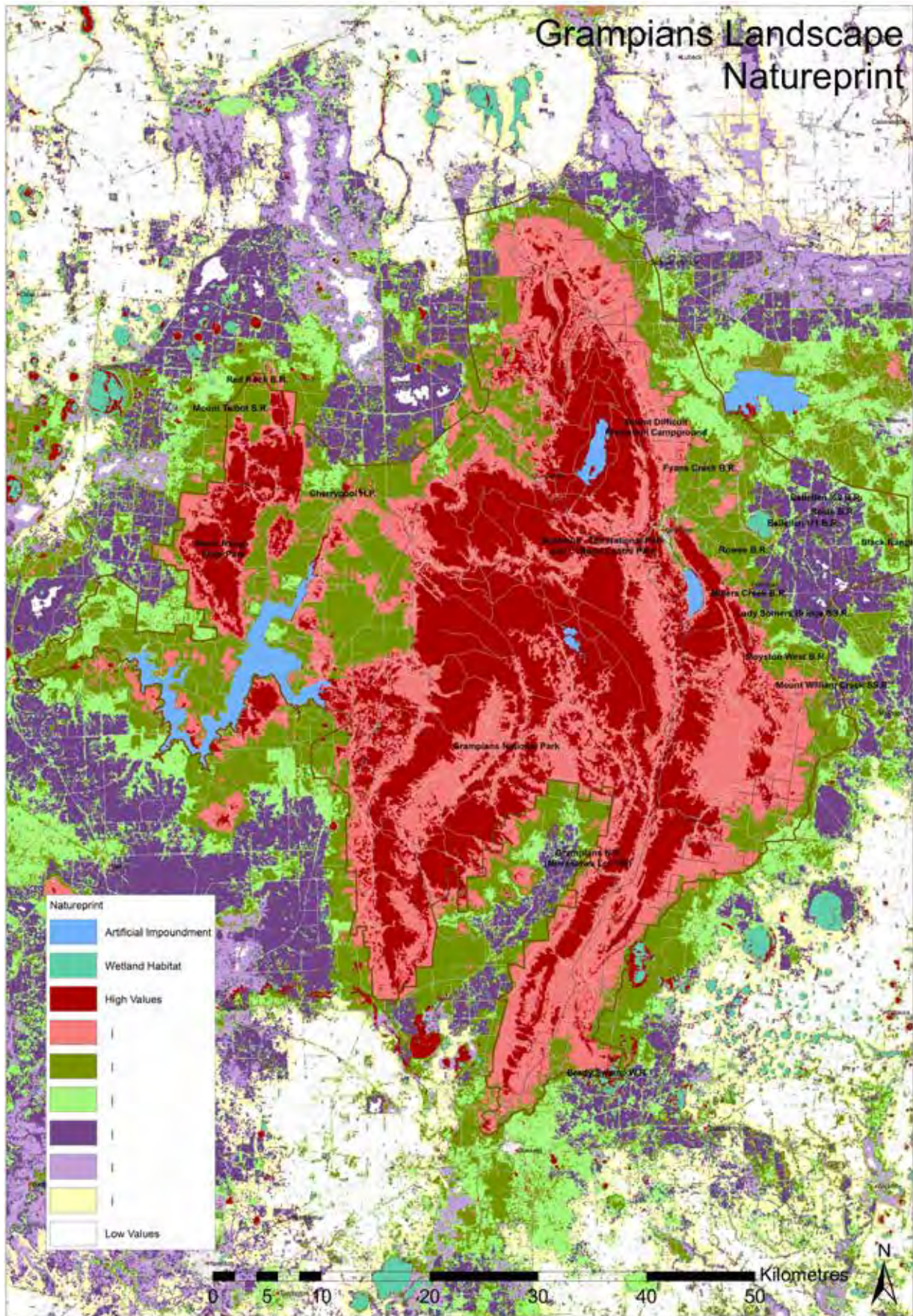


Figure 4.1 Greater Gariwerd Landscape biodiversity value. (Source: Natureprint)

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 types of ecosystems are: Heathy Forest and Woodland, Rocky Knoll, Herb Forest and Woodland, Mixed Forest, Heathland (treeless), Wetlands, Riparian, Montane and Wet Forest. The size (area) of the nine ecosystems in the landscape is shown in Table 4.2. The component Ecological Vegetation Classes and Ecological Vegetation Divisions can be found in the Conservation Action Plan (Parks Victoria 2019).

Table 4.2 Ecosystem areas in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape.

Conservation asset (ecosystem)	Area (ha)	% of total
Heathy Forest and Woodland	86,845	47
Rocky Knoll	28,540	15
Herb Forest and Woodland	21,012	11
Mixed Forest	19,382	11
Heathland (treeless)	13,640	7
Wetlands	8910	5
Riparian	2879	2
Montane	1930	1
Wet Forest	1107	1

For each ecosystem that follows, the Conservation Action Plan (Parks Victoria 2019) identifies important species and ecological communities as a focus for conservation efforts.

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, FFG-listed Temperate Woodland Bird Community, Powerful Owl, Barking Owl, Barn Owl and Spot-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, Elegant Spider Orchid, Greencomb Spider Orchid, 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.

- 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, Spot-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 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.

Montane mainly occurs 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 30m 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.

Restoring biodiversity

Since the declaration 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.

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

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 can also 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 and/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 continues to improve.
 The knowledge and practices of Traditional Owners is combined with best available science to develop clear, long-term ecosystem management strategies and priorities.

Strategies	Priority level
Manage ecosystems holistically, integrating cultural and natural values, to improve their health and resilience in the face of climate change and other stressors.	Immediate
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. Update the Conservation Action Plan to reflect the knowledge and practices of Traditional Owners.	Immediate
Integrate Traditional Owner knowledge systems, land management practices and customary uses to increase the resilience of ecosystems and Traditional Owner wellbeing.	Immediate
Address key threats to terrestrial ecosystems, namely those with the greatest impact on the regeneration, recruitment and restoration of species and ecological communities (see Risks and Threats to Natural Values).	Immediate
Improve habitat connectivity, maintaining habitat complexity and the effect on growth-stage composition across the landscape.	Immediate

Restoring key species

Restoration commonly focuses on revegetation, with the aim of providing habitat that will enable animals to recover through natural processes. However, animal re-introduction is also important in some contexts. Several native animals of conservation significance no longer occur in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape. Some small woodland mammal species (e.g. Southern Bettong, Eastern Quoll and Eastern Barred Bandicoot), were made locally extinct through past sheep grazing, the introduction of rabbits, strychnine baiting and predation by foxes and cats. Special Protection Areas (Appendix 3 and Map 2) have been designated in the plan to protect priority habitats for Southern Brown Bandicoot, Long-nosed Potoroo, Smoky Mouse, Heath Mouse and for the current and future release sites for Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby.

- Southern Brown Bandicoot and Long-nosed Potoroo.** The 2006, 2013 and 2014 bushfires severely burnt most of the woodlands in the landscape, resulting in complete loss of the tree canopy and understory and in some instances 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, 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, 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 and Heath Mouse.** The limited records of Smoky Mouse occur in 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.
- **Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby.** Previous practices such as sport hunting and the fur trade also 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 FFG Act and vulnerable under the EPBC Act, the Draft Action Statement for Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby (formal consultation draft DELWP 2019) sets the objective of establishing an ambitious escalation of the captive breeding program and new reintroduced populations at several suitable locations in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park to reduce the risk of this species becoming extinct in the wild. A landscape-scale assessment of Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby habitat within the Grampians region was conducted to identify refuge areas available to them (Malam 2012). Seven locations throughout Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and one location in Black Range State Park were identified as potentially suitable for re-introduction. Steep and complex rocky environments were recognised as offering rock-wallabies protection against terrestrial predators due to their inaccessibility, with rock shelter sites offering protection from flying predators. Human disturbance from recreational activities such as dispersed camping, campfires and rock climbing poses a considerable issue for rock-wallaby re-introduction (Mentz and Tempest 2009).

Goal – Restoring key species

Priority habitats including relevant Special Protection Areas are managed to support the re-introduction and recovery of key fauna.

Strategies

Priority level

In collaboration with Traditional Owners, investigate the re-introduction of Dingo, Eastern Quoll, Spot-tailed Quoll, Southern Bettong, Eastern Barred Bandicoot and other threatened or culturally significant wildlife. Develop specific Conservation Action Plans to evaluate and implement any proposal (including the benefit to cultural renewal, revitalising knowledge and contributing to threatened species management).

Medium

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). (Refer also Section 4.4 – Climate Change and Section 6.4 – Research and monitoring.)

Immediate

Protect the critical habitat for Brush Tailed Rock-wallaby and support an expanded program for new releases under the revised FFG Action Statement.

Immediate

Minimise human disturbance of priority habitat at current and future release sites including relevant Special Protection Areas and the Natural Quiet Overlay.

Protect the critical habitat for populations of Southern Brown Bandicoot and Long-nosed Potoroo:

Immediate

- Minimise human disturbance of priority habitat including relevant Special Protection Areas.
- Ensure long unburnt areas containing 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.



Eastern Pigmy-possum

The return of culturally important wildlife

Traditional Owner society relates deeply to native wildlife. Many species have an important place in the Aboriginal cosmos. 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 important species, such as Koala, Eastern Quoll and Spot-tailed Quoll and the Dingo, that have not previously been a strategic focus for biodiversity conservation action within the Greater Gariwerd Landscape.

Spot-tailed Quoll and Eastern Quoll

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

Eastern Quolls has 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 within NSW. There are currently no plans to reintroduce this species to the Grampians.

Releases from captive breeding programs or from translocation would provide the only opportunity for the recovery of both species within the Greater Gariwerd Landscape.

Dingo

The genetically pure Dingo is considered to be extinct in Victoria due to wild dog control and hybridisation with wild dogs. Dingo hybrids still occur in parts of eastern and north-western Victoria. Dingoes are an important cultural species that have for thousands of years had a symbiotic relationship as semi-wild companions to Aboriginal people. Dingoes, were the top-order predators of the terrestrial ecosystem and also hunted in cooperation with Aboriginal people. Dingoes have an important ecological role and may have the potential to support the management of overabundant macropods (kangaroos and wallabies) and to suppress cats and foxes. There are, however, many unknown interactions or outcomes that may result from their reintroduction to the existing state of ecosystems.

The re-establishment of Dingo or Dingo-hybrid populations in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape has the potential to cause community concerns due to possible conflicts with grazing. Programs for the re-introduction of Dingoes have also been raised by other Traditional Owner groups in other parts of Victoria and are being investigated.

Risks and threats to natural values

A range of risks and threats exist to nature and wildlife in the planning area. Priority threats identified for the care and safeguarding of Gariwerd include:

- **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 key species native to Gariwerd and cultural places (e.g. feral goats damage rock art motifs and rock shelter deposits). Introduced plants are impacting on key species native to Gariwerd 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 (or extinction) 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

Predation by foxes and cats is a key threat to the ecosystems of Gariwerd, as described in the Conservation Action Plan (Parks Victoria 2019).

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 re-introduction and recovery of populations of native small mammal species such as Southern Brown Bandicoots, Long-nosed Potoroos, Eastern Quolls, Spot-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 Spot-tailed Quoll.

Strategies	Priority level
Implement landscape-scale fox and feral cat baiting programs coordinated with adjacent landholders and Landcare groups.	Immediate
Aim to suppress fox and feral cat densities to the level where translocations can occur to restore native wildlife species across the landscape. Investigate potential long-term partnerships to install predator-proof-fences in large areas to enable research, trial re-introductions and create insurance populations.	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 re-introductions and translocations (e.g. Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Long-nosed Potoroo).	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
Establish innovative research partnerships between farmers and academic institutions to investigate and trial native predator re-introduction (quoll and Dingo) 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

Invasion by terrestrial weeds is a key threat to the ecosystems of Gariwerd, as described in the Conservation Action Plan (Parks Victoria 2019).

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 level
Control environmental weeds through surveillance and rapid management intervention to prevent the establishment of new and emerging weeds and by containing Sallow Wattle to its current extent.	Immediate
Develop eradication plans for new and emerging species. Assess the feasibility of eradication and containment objectives.	As required
Contain or eradicate new and emerging weeds.	Immediate
Implement coordinated, cross-tenure responses including partnerships with Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs), Landcare groups and neighbouring landholders. Work with Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) to develop identification materials, especially to help neighbouring landholders identify young plants and implement rapid control of new, emerging and established high-risk weeds.	Medium
Protect important species and ecological communities from high-risk weeds and pathogens through work with Traditional Owners, DJPR and DELWP and develop partnerships with CMAs, Landcare groups and neighbouring landholders.	Medium
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.	As required
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 are key threats to the ecosystems of Gariwerd, as described in the Conservation Action Plan (Parks Victoria 2019).

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 has 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 park). 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 level
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
Implement monitoring to improve the understanding of the impacts of over-grazing and over-browsing on vegetation in the landscape through the mapping and monitoring of values at highest risk and the distribution and movement patterns of priority herbivore species (native and introduced).	Medium
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 km ² .	Immediate
Contain goats using appropriate methods in collaboration with stakeholders to maintain target density of less than 8 goats per km ² . 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 2 per km ² .	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.	As required
Monitor the impacts of macropod grazing at priority locations and implement control programs if required.	As required

Diseases / biosecurity

Disease is a key threat to the ecosystems of Gariwerd, as described in the Conservation Action Plan (Parks Victoria 2019).

The introduction and spread of environmental diseases is an issue for Gariwerd and for public land in particular. 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 *Phytophthora* 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. Heathy 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 *Phytophthora* 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 *Phytophthora* 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 *Phytophthora* dieback, the only effective technique to prevent spread is to restrict management activities and off-track access to remote areas.

Goal – Diseases / biosecurity

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

Strategies	Priority level
Build understanding of the impact of infectious diseases on Traditional Owner totemic species and other important native species.	Medium
Contain the spread of <i>Phytophthora</i> and Chytridiomycosis to currently infected areas by implementing strict pathogen hygiene protocols. Identify and monitor key invasion points and pathways e.g. vehicles, visitors).	Immediate
Rehabilitate roads / tracks / trails that have high levels of infestation that are identified as key invasion points and pathways.	As required

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 Gariwerd area 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 Yuuuloin 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.

The South West landscape residual bushfire risk is currently at around 55% (DELWP Safer Together Website). Residual risk fell sharply following the 2006 bushfire and has continued to gradually decline due

to planned burning and more recent bushfires. It has begun to increase in recent years as fuel re-accumulates in fire-affected areas. Residual risk is projected to decrease to 49% as planned burning scheduled in the joint fuel management program is carried out, but without planned burning the risk will return to 62% by 2021.

Fire can be a threat to Traditional Owner cultural places and in particular 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 also identified additional risk in relation to:

- a lack of engagement with and employment of Traditional Owners in fighting bushfires and preparation for planned burns
- a lack of mapping of cultural places and cultural values as a basis for decision-making with regard to fighting bushfires and undertaking planned burning
- a lack of awareness of Traditional Owner cultural values by fire crews, which can result in unnecessary impacts on cultural places and cultural landscapes
- a lack of application of Aboriginal fire regimes may contribute to the increased likelihood of bushfires. Cultural burns are a method of Caring for Country and for Traditional Owners to be on Country
- a lack of recognition of Traditional Owner engagement in fighting bushfires and in undertaking planned burns as an opportunity for connect to Country.

Inappropriate fire management is a key threat to the ecosystems of Gariwerd, as described in the Conservation Action Plan (Parks Victoria 2019). 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 5.5) this requires substantial fire management planning and response. Fire management, in the context of the work of Parks Victoria, refers to bushfires (wildfires) and planned burning, including opportunities for the re-introduction of cultural burning/fire regimes into the landscape.

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). This century, there have been three major bushfires that have affected around 85% 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 Mt 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.

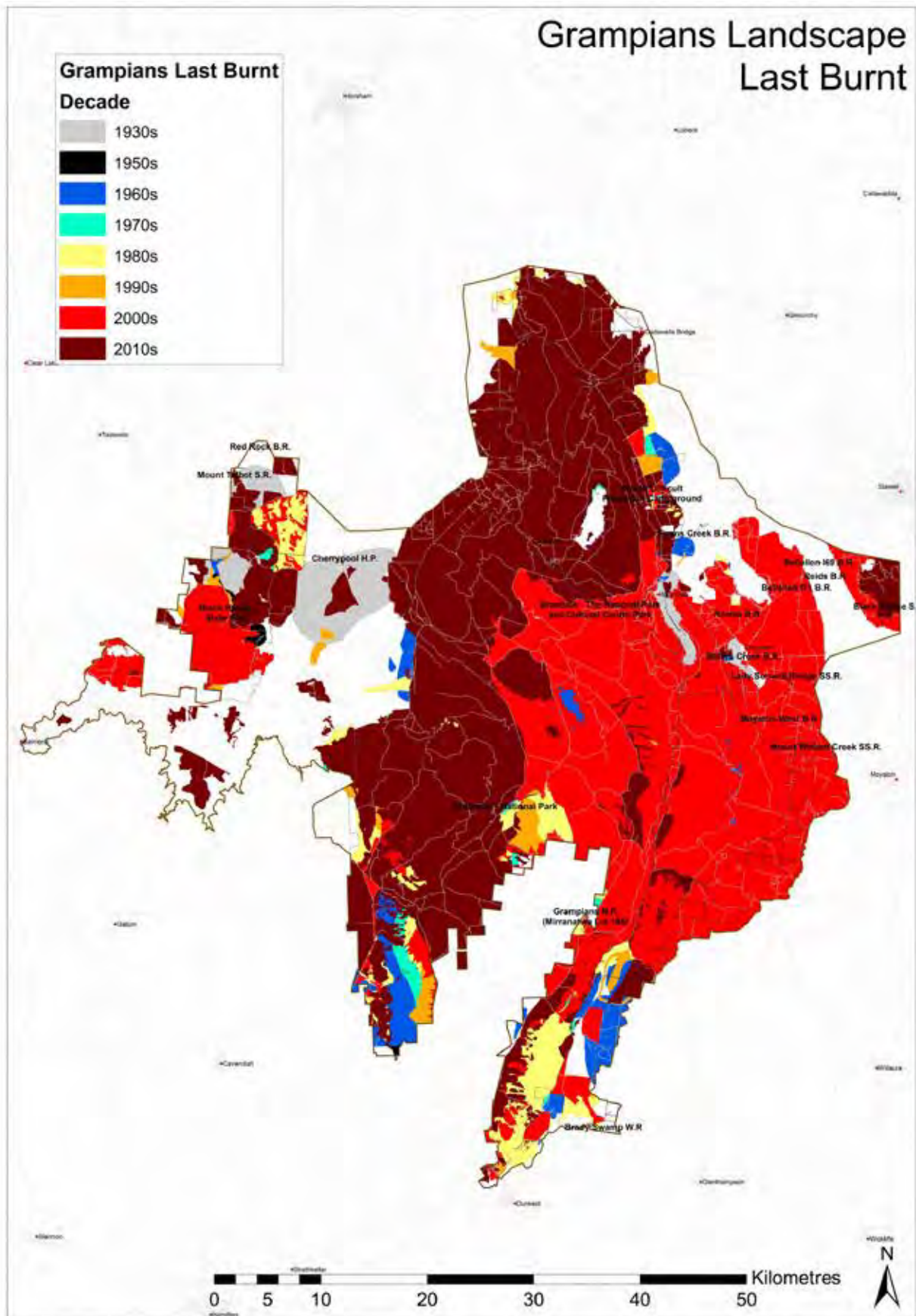


Figure 4.2 Greater Gariwerd Landscape, areas last burnt prior to July 2020.



Cultural Burning at Dyurrite

Cultural burning

Cultural burning and the potential partnerships between Forest Fire Management Victoria, Parks Victoria and the three Traditional Owner corporations is supported by recent State policy: The Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Fire Strategy (Forest Fire Management Victoria 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 re-introduced, adapted and applied wherever possible to allow for healing and caring for Country. This 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 re-introduced.

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 Forest Fire Management Victoria (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 level
Support the implementation of the Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Fire Strategy for the cultural use of fire to be re-introduced, adapted and applied wherever possible, to allow for healing and caring for Country.	Immediate
Collaborate in partnerships between Traditional Owners and FFMV, DELWP, Parks Victoria and other fire management agencies through planning, capability development, formal agreements as operational partners and in the implementation of joint operations on ground.	Immediate
Implement new burning regimes across the planning area that focus on ecological and cultural objectives, while recognising and responding to asset protection and public safety.	Medium
Plan, manage and contain bushfires to ensure the protection and management of significant cultural and environmental places and values.	Immediate
Recognise and support Intellectual Property rights associated with Traditional Owner cultural burning practices.	Immediate

Public land fire management

DELWP is responsible for fire management on all public 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.

DELWP is now developing strategies to manage fuels 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 will bring together existing plans, strategies and understandings of risk, including Regional Strategic Fire Management Plans, the 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 and communities to set clear objectives and devise strategies to achieve them. It will result in a common understanding of risk and a common plan for reducing it. Strategic bushfire management planning will inform 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, also to complement community protection). A landscape management zones strategy for the Grampians was recently completed and will be a long-term plan for using fire in the broader landscape.

Local knowledge and partnerships are critical to successful fire management. Local Parks Victoria staff play a key role in the forest fire fighting team, along with local CFA and DELWP staff and volunteers. 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 level
Apply ecologically sensitive fire to fire-dependent ecosystems, based on shared Traditional 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 and Traditional Owner Country Plans.	Immediate
Actively exclude fire from fire-sensitive ecosystems and other high-priority areas, such as for populations of Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby and Long-nosed Potoroo.	Immediate
Partner with Traditional Owners, strategic bushfire management agencies and the community. Where possible, work with partners across land tenures to minimise the area of necessary fire breaks.	Immediate
Work with DELWP to assist in the ongoing development of strategic bushfire management plans for Gariwerd, ensuring they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, 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 <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> (see Section 4.3).	Immediate
With the support of partner agencies, maintain fuel breaks and the strategic road network required for emergency access, plus critical fire facilities within the park e.g. Victoria Valley Airbase, fire dams, Reed Fire tower and the helipad network.	Medium



Post-fire recovery, February 2006

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 mm 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 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 (GMMWater) 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 their 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) that 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 a serious 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. 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.

Restoring the Wannon River floodplain

The Wannon River flows out of the south-east corner of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park (approximately 12 km 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 naturally discharges into Brady Swamp, however it must fill to a certain height before the natural discharge channel and wider connecting floodplain receive flows. An artificial cutting in the lunette bank that separates Gooseneck Swamp from Brady Swamp, was enabling the swamp to freely drain 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 structure 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 alternative, original watercourse and floodplain of the Wannon River, which now activates when the water levels in these wetlands reach their natural sill 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.

Cultural water

Geological activity at Gariwerd established a well-watered landscape of swamps, shallow lakes and ephemeral pools (Figure 4.3). 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 150m and is 2m wide with more of the Mount William aquaculture system potentially buried under outwash from early 19th century gold mining (Williams 1988). The complex aquaculture system observed is an important area to Aboriginal custodians, despite being largely destroyed.

Traditional Owners assert the need to better recognise environmental/cultural water flows; to protect the landscape from further water capture; and for controls on water extraction from rivers and groundwater supplies (in Gariwerd and surrounds).

In some locations, environmental water (water set aside for use to achieve ecological outcomes) can be delivered to re-instate some 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 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 park 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 level
Work with water and catchment authorities to improve knowledge of the Traditional Owner cultural ecology of waterways in the landscape.	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.	Immediate
Conduct Traditional Owner-guided field surveys for cultural materials revealed when artificial water bodies are at low levels.	Medium
Interpret the water and wetland systems as a key element in sustaining life across Country.	Medium
Support GHCMA and GWMWater to deliver the annual delivery of environmental water, through contribution to the development and renewal of plans such as CMA Environmental Water Management Plans, Seasonal Watering Plans and waterway strategies.	Immediate
Identify opportunities for waterways and wetlands that do not currently receive environmental water to have more natural water regimes reinstated.	Medium
Register all water infrastructure in the park estate. 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 and restore flow regimes (see Section 5.7 – Authorised uses).	Immediate



The historic Stawell flume



Mountain Dragon

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 further generates impacts on visitor experiences and the viability of surrounding communities reliant on agriculture.

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.

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.

With one third of Victoria's flora, approximately 17% of Victoria's wildlife and significant Aboriginal cultural heritage values, Gariwerd is also an important study area for the effects of climate change on the environment.

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 Gariwerd) 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.

Precious refuges for wildlife

Extreme climatic events and large wildfires are predicted to increase as the world's climate warms. In the face of further 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 unique topography and geology of Gariwerd creates its own 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 7-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.



Eastern Pygmy-possum

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 despite past observations being located in 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 con

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 level
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In collaboration with Traditional Owners, incorporate planning for climate change and the transition to drier conditions and more frequent severe weather events into land management practices. Facilitate the adaptation of ecosystems (e.g. the identification and protection of, as well as maintenance of connectivity to, drought refugia).	Immediate
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For landscape resilience and healthy Country, ensure appropriate controls and regulations are adopted 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 re-introduction of captive bred populations. Define Special Protection Areas for these priority natural values (see Section 2.3).	Immediate
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Continue to actively manage other threats in order to maintain the resilience of Country and the cultural values it supports (e.g. soil compaction and erosion mechanisms, predation by foxes and cats on ground-dwelling animals, reduced herbivore impacts to maintain floristic diversity and vegetation structure).	Immediate
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At the five-year review, 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 process.	Medium
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Interpret and communicate the impacts of climate change (including the frequency of 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
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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
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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
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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
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Trail to Mount Stapylton in Gariwerd's northern section

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 Aboriginal 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 Aboriginal 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. These matters are addressed in:

- Information, interpretation and education – Section 5.1
- Visitor experience: access, recreation activities and site strategies – Sections 5.2 to 5.4
- Visitor risks and safety – Section 5.5
- Tourism partnerships, marketing and promotion – Section 5.6
- Authorised uses – Section 5.7.

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 proposed 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, Aboriginal Heritage Act and other legislation. Significant changes are proposed. 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
- transport improvements on the Western Highway, reducing the travel time from Melbourne, making Gariwerd more accessible
- crowding at key sites such as MacKenzie Falls (Migunang wirab), 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, ebikes 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.



Welcome to Gariwerd

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 and provide spiritual protection and so 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. Aboriginal place names – see Section 3.1). Priorities include:

- ensuring visitors and the economy can 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 regulation, 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 National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap, where they can obtain park information, maps and guidebooks and where they can also connect with Traditional Owner cultural heritage of Gariwerd through interpretive displays, the Dreaming Theatre, the bushfoods cafe and

cultural activities, native gardens and walking paths. Brambuk has played an instrumental role over several decades in 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. New trailheads at key points on the Grampians Peaks Trail will provide additional visitor opportunities and can also provide a sense of arrival and orientation and critical safety information.

Orientation and visitor information is also included in Parks Victoria’s visitor guides, walking track guides and online media.

The draft Interpretation and Signature Experiences Activation Plan developed by Parks Victoria in partnership with Traditional Owners and community (Parks Victoria 2019) establishes a framework for interpretation for the Grampians Peaks Trail and is an approach to interpretive planning that can be applied across Gariwerd.

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 level
Liaise with and support cooperative relationships between information centres, regional tourism associations and Brambuk National Park and Cultural Centre.	Immediate
Develop a signage strategy for Gariwerd. Ensure key park entry signage incorporates the regulatory rules to manage appropriate visitor behaviour.	Immediate
Work with Traditional Owners to identify culturally appropriate information and interpretation including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring consistent information about Traditional Owner culture, history and heritage informs interpretation, signage, digital media and face-to-face talks, walks and experiences understanding of the significance 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. 	Immediate
Ensure information and welcome signs recognise Traditional Owners and reflect their presence in the landscape.	Immediate
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
Support Brambuk National Park and Cultural Centre as a centre for providing information and education, including services for Grampians Peaks Trail hikers such as orientation, long-term parking and transport to trailheads.	Immediate

5.2 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 800km of vehicle roads and tracks and approximately 300km 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 Maps 3A-3E 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, such as Halls Gap–Mount Zero Road and Glenelg River Road, 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 which 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 Shire Councils.

Four-wheel Drive (4WD) touring has become increasingly popular with Victoria, which is now officially recognised as the Premier State in terms of the extent of free, open and available four-wheel drive tracks. The 'Grampians Drive' is promoted as one of Victoria's Iconic 4WD Adventures. The 286km 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 the State government, Parks Victoria and DELWP 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.

A number of Licensed Tour Operators (LTOs) offer four-wheel drive tours within 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.

Goal – Vehicle access

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

Strategies	Priority Level
Liaise with DELWP to manage and maintain public roads and tracks as defined on Maps 3A – 3E, in accordance with the <i>Road Management Act</i> .	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.	Immediate
Investigate and identify access to MVO tracks for Licensed Tour Operators and schools for transporting supplies and equipment.	Immediate
Continue to support the work of Four Wheel Drive Victoria member clubs on tracks within Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.	Immediate
Seek to have unused road reserves gazetted as part of the surrounding park or reserve.	Medium

5.3 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 3.6 – Cultural renewal and strengthening.

From 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 to longer hikes, camping, scenic driving to 4WD touring, picnicking to rock climbing. Recreation is undertaken largely in a self-reliant manner, while some takes place in larger, organised groups. Activities are also run through recreational groups, licensed tour operators and schools through the outdoor education sector (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 Aboriginal 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 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 proposed on recreation where activities risk harming these values.

The following sections outline proposed management of specific activities. A summary of the management of all recreational activities is provided in Table 5.3.

Aircraft: drones, scenic flights and hang-gliding

The *National Parks Regulations 2013* define aircraft as powered aircraft, gliders and piloted balloons including model aircraft, ultra-lights and Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAs or drones). Under the regulations, launching or landing aircraft, including drones or RPAs, is prohibited unless in accordance with a permit or in an area set aside for the activity.

Flights over the park can impact the natural quiet that 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 (FNA) 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.

Any RPA launching or landing in a national or state park requires a permit under the National Parks Regulations 2013. Recreational use of RPAs by the general public is prohibited on Parks Victoria managed land without a permit.

Hang-gliding has been undertaken in western Victoria since the early 1970s from launch sites at Ben Nevis, (nationally and internationally significant launch site) Colliers Gap, Mount Sugarloaf, Mount Buangor and Cave Hill. There are no launch sites within the planning area. Parks Victoria has reviewed three potential locations identified by the Victorian Hang-gliding and Parasailing Association – Reed Lookout, Boroka Lookout and Mount William. Both lookouts are unsuitable due to their high visitor use and the infrastructure that would be required in these places to provide for the activity. Mount William lacks public vehicle access. Development for hang-gliding would require upgrading access and parking in the summit area. Parks Victoria and Traditional Owners determined that this was inappropriate due to the potential impacts on tangible and intangible values such as cliff-dwelling fauna and nesting sites, priority habitat for the threatened Smoky Mouse and visual impact.

Goal – Aircraft	
Continue to restrict use of aircraft.	
Strategies	Priority Level
Prohibit launching, hang-gliding, parasailing and use of RPAs (drones).	Immediate
Review the Fly Neighbourly Advice in relation to the provisions of the Natural Quiet Overlay.	Immediate

Walking (including hiking and trail running)

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

The landscape has long been a popular hiking destination and an extensive network of walking tracks has developed over time. Walks 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 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.

The Grampians Peaks Trail is being developed to be one of the Walk Victoria's Icons long distance trails, planned to be completed by early 2021. It will be a thirteen-day walk from Mura Mura (Mount Zero) to Dunkeld over a number of peaks. Some existing trails will link with the Grampians Peaks Trail, providing shorter options and day loops (see information on next page).

The provision of information and preparation materials to enhance walker safety are a vital part of the hiking experience, achieved through park visitor guides, Parks Victoria walking guides and commercial topographic map providers. Online social media and apps are, however, impacting the quality of visitor information, promoting closed tracks and inappropriate off-track walking.

Goal – Walking

A range of walking experiences is provided, from short easy walks to multi-day challenging walks.

Strategies	Priority Level
Remove vehicle-based camping and public vehicle access at hike-in campgrounds to establish 'hike-in only' experience.	Immediate
Maintain a walking track network as described in Appendix 4.	Immediate
Work with bushwalking clubs and develop volunteer programs to allow hikers and user groups to help maintain the walking track network and associated facilities.	Medium
Provide a reporting mechanism so that users can report track and facility condition and share observations on native flora and fauna or pest plants and animals.	Medium
Install walking track counters on Grampians Peaks Trail and other main trails.	Medium
Investigate improvements to the existing walking track network through linkages to the Grampians Peaks Trail (including rehabilitation and rationalisation) providing opportunities for day loops and overnight walks.	Medium
Develop all-abilities access trails as per Section 5.4 – The visitor experience.	Medium
Prohibit off-track walking where this poses a risk to visitors or the environment: Reed Lookout, Designated Climbing Areas, MacKenzie Falls.	Immediate



Hike-in camp, Grampians Peaks Trail

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 will offer 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 will link into a number of existing tracks creating offering options for shorter day and overnight walks.

Twelve hike-in campgrounds are planned to be completed by summer 2021 (see Maps 3A – 3E and Table 5.1): Gar, Werdug, Bugiga, Stoney Creek Group Camp, Barri Yalug, Duwul Balug, Durd Durd, Yarram, Wannan, Djardi-djawara and Mud-Dadjug. Hike-in huts to support commercial guided walks are being developed at two Grampians Peaks Trail campgrounds – Gar and Werdug.

The Grampians Peaks Trail route will be a high quality, memorable journey incorporating many of the features of Gariwerd, while protecting the important natural and cultural values of the park. It will offer a range of experiences with different levels of difficulty and accommodation providing opportunities for day walkers, overnight walkers, experienced hikers and school groups. Walkers will 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 dining. Planning is underway for Licensed Tour Operators to provide walking 'packages' or tours on these sections, which will include inclusions such as transport, on-trail guiding, food and accommodation and connections to off-trail accommodation and dining.

Infrastructure to support the Grampians Peaks Trail and hiking opportunities are expected to elevate the status of Gariwerd to international markets, creating a world-class tourism experience.

Goal – Grampians Peaks Trail

Provide a world class, long-distance thirteen day walk between Mount Zero and Dunkeld with a variety of walking standards to provide a range of experiences focussing on Gariwerd as an Aboriginal cultural landscape.

Strategies	Priority Level
Provide walking tracks, including feeder and link tracks and hiker huts and hike-in campgrounds as per Table 5.1 and Map 3A – 3E to provide a diversity of hiking experiences and itineraries from day walks to the complete 13 day hike.	Immediate
Develop minor gateways as major trailheads for the Grampians Peaks Trail (refer to Gunigalg, Mud-dadjug and Budga Budga VEAs for details).	Immediate
Support the upgrade of other trailheads and linking tracks to allow for a range of walk options utilising the Grampians Peaks Trail.	Immediate
Close the following existing tracks and visitor areas as offsets for new sections of trail: Golton Gorge North Walking Track, Delleys Dell Walking Track, Dairy Creek Walking Track, Sundial to Delleys Dell Walking Track and Bellfield to Dairy Creek Track.	Immediate
Implement the Six Seasons of Gariwerd: Grampians Peaks Trail Interpretation Plan in partnership with Traditional Owners and tour operators.	Immediate
Investigate establishing hike-in huts, co-designed with Traditional Owners, at Barigar, Barri Yalug, Duwul Balug, Wannon, Djardi-djawara, Mud-dadjug 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 private providers of shuttle services, off-park parking and off-park accommodation.	Immediate
Work with local governments, local business and communities to support the walk including providing infrastructure in towns, managing access and supporting the development of local businesses.	Immediate
Support councils in the transformation of Halls Gap and Dunkeld into internationally recognised 'walking towns' with businesses that provide world class products and services.	Longer-term
Provide on-line information and booking, consistent with the Six Seasons of Gariwerd: 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.	Immediate
Investigate extending on-line information and booking to other hikes and activities in the park.	Medium
Develop a Grampians Peaks Trail hikers phone app that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provides trail information so hikers can plan their hike• allows hikers to record and book their itinerary, including booking support services, such as pre- and post-hike accommodation, shuttles or food drops• records hikers' emergency contact information• allows hikers to share their progress en route and report any issues or changes in itinerary• allows park managers to locate or communicate with hikers in case of emergencies.	Medium
Minimise the overlap between Grampians Peaks Trail hikers and other park users.	Immediate
Consider Grampians Peaks Trail photo point at Chautauqua Peak.	Immediate
Implement Grampians Peaks Trail vegetation offset plan.	Immediate
Maintain Remote and Natural Area values where the trail traverses this area.	Immediate



Stapylton Camping Area

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 areas set-aside for campfires (usually formal campgrounds and picnic areas) and limited to the constructed fireplaces provided. Gas and liquid fuel stoves are generally not restricted except in accordance with Total Fire Ban requirements.

Goal –Campfires

Opportunities for safe campfire experiences are provided.

Strategies	Priority Level
Permit campfires in public fireplaces, which will be provided in key locations.	Immediate
Permit solid fuel appliances and barbecues within designated camping and day visitor areas.	Immediate
Limit collection of wood for campfires to designated areas only. Allow disease free wood to be brought into the park for use in campfires.	Immediate
Prohibit campfires in hike-in locations (see Camping below); hikers must use gas or liquid fuel stoves.	Immediate

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.

These 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 outcomes for protecting Country. 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.

A review of camping has been undertaken as part of the preparation of this plan. As a result, camping will only be permitted in designated camping areas only within Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and Black Range State Park (see Table 5.1 and Table 5.3).

Some of the more popular dispersed camping areas will be retained and managed as official designated camping areas while others will be rehabilitated (see Table 5.1). In addition, a number of new hike-in campgrounds are being developed as part of the Grampians Peaks Trail. In summary:

- Thirty-one existing campgrounds and camping areas will be maintained in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. Of these:
 - twelve are associated with the Grampians Peaks Trail (to be completed by summer 2021)
 - two huts (roofed accommodation) developed at Grampians Peaks Trail – Gar and Werdug – are under construction. Further, six sites may be investigated for potential development of huts in the future.
- Zumsteins overflow carpark (also known as the old RSL Cottages) will be considered for development as a campground catering for Recreational Vehicle- style camping.
- Five popular ‘dispersed’ camping areas in the planning area will be managed as designated camping areas: Red Gum Lease, Serra Road, Moora Moora, Old Lodge and Burunj.
- Two designated camping areas will be established in Black Range State Park at either end of the escarpment – one adjacent to the helipad west of Mudadgadjin Picnic Area and one at the east end of Muirfoot Track.
- Options for serviced camping and accommodation will be investigated as part of the future Traditional Owner operation of the Brambuk National Park and Cultural Centre.
- Three existing designated camping areas in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park will be closed and rehabilitated. These are:
 - Oasis (Deep Creek) Hiker Camp, which is within a culturally sensitive area.
 - First Wannon Hiker Camp, which is to be superseded by Grampians Peaks Trail camping areas.
 - Boreang camping areas, which will be superseded by the development of new designated camping areas around Moora Moora Reservoir.

Traditional Owners have expressed the need for areas for cultural gatherings and activities (see Section 3.6 – Cultural renewal and strengthening). This may mean that some sites would be unavailable to other visitors during cultural activities and may include preferential booking of camping areas and campgrounds.

Table 5.1 Proposed camping (see Maps 3A – 3E).

Existing camping area or campground to be maintained	New camping area or campground to be investigated or established	Existing camping area or campground to be removed
Vehicle accessible Campgrounds — Fees and bookings apply		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stapylton • Troopers Creek • Smiths Mill • Coppermine • Borough Huts • Buandik • Strachans • Jimmy Creek • Wannon Crossing • Kalyrna Falls * • Plantation * 	<p>Investigate...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zumsteins • Brambuk National Park and Cultural Centre 	
Vehicle Accessible Camping Areas — Free camping, no bookings required		
<p>Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount Thackeray • Stony Creek Road (expansion of additional sites to the west along road) <p>Other areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherrypool Roadside • Brady Swamp 	<p>Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Gum Lease • Serra Road • Ingleton Track junction • Moora Moora (up to four camping areas) [4wd] • Old Lodge [4wd] • Wallaby Rocks (up to four camping areas) [4wd] <p>Black Range State Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HGH Corner • Mudadgadjin • Muirfoot Track 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boreang (subject to the establishment of Moora Moora)
Grampians Peaks Trail Campgrounds — Fees and bookings apply		
<p>Existing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bugiga • Stony Creek Group Camp <p>Under construction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barigar • Gar • Werdug • Barri Yalug • Duwul • Durd Durd • Yarram • Wannon • Djardi-djawara • Mud-dadjug • Coppermine Group camp 	<p>Huts are planned for Barigar and Gar and may be considered at other GPT campgrounds if demand exists.</p>	
Hike-in Campgrounds — Fees and bookings apply		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longpoint West * • Longpoint East * 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Wannon (subject to establishment of Duwul and Durd Durd GPT camps)
Hike-in Camping Areas — Free camping in Remote and Natural Area, no bookings required		
Fortress		Oasis (Deep Creek)

* Existing free camping areas to be upgraded and fees applied.

Goal – Camping

Provide a range of camping opportunities that minimise impacts to natural and cultural values

Strategies	Priority Level
Provide for camping as per Table 5.1.	Immediate
Support camping in designated camping areas only.	Immediate
Investigate additional huts associated with Grampians Peaks Trail campgrounds.	Immediate
Maintain current day visitation facilities in the bushland reserves within the landscape.	Immediate

Cycling

Mountain biking and road cycling are increasingly popular in Victoria. Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park offers opportunities for cycling on the existing public road network but does not provide for mountain biking. The development of mountain biking facilities within the planning area is not considered appropriate and mountain bikers will be directed to the mountain biking development in nearby Ararat Hills.

Goal – Cycling

Continue to provide for cycling on public vehicular roads and tracks.

Strategies	Priority Level
Permit cycling, including mountain biking, on public roads.	Immediate
Do not allow cycling 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 both 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 the Gariwerd parks unless within a vehicle in transit through the park or if they are an assistance dog. Dogs are permitted on-leash at Plantation Campground, a vehicle-based campground within State Forest on the eastern edge of the Mount Difficult Range.

Goal – Dog walking

Manage access for dogs consistent with land tenure regulations.

Strategies	Priority Level
Prohibit dogs within all National and State parks (including within parked cars with the exception of dogs on-lead on the walking track between Delleys Bridge and Lake Bellfield. (See Map 3C)	Immediate
Permit assistance and companion dogs	Immediate
Permit the use of hunting dogs in areas open to hunting in Table 5.2.	Immediate

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 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 Level
Allow horse riding as per Map 3.	Immediate
Do not permit camping with horses.	Immediate

Hunting

Parks Victoria supports recreational hunting where it is appropriate. Within the planning area, hunting is not allowed in national or state parks but is permitted within some reserves. Recreational hunting is permitted in adjoining State forest.

Goal – Hunting

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

Strategies	Priority Level
Permit hunting as per Table 5.2.	Immediate

Table 5.2 Hunting locations within Gariwerd.

Reserve	Hunting
Bellellen 169 Bushland Reserve – Bellellen	Permitted
Bellellen 171 Bushland Reserve – Bellellen	Permitted
Brady Swamp State Game Reserve – south-east of Grampians NP	Permitted
Fyans Creek Bushland Reserve – NNE of Halls Gap	Permitted
Lady Somers Bridge Streamside Reserve – near Pomonal	Permitted
Millers Creek Bushland Reserve – near Pomonal	Permitted
Mount Talbot Scenic Reserve – North of Black Range	Not permitted
Mount William Creek Streamside Reserve – near Moyston	Permitted
Moyston West Bushland Reserve – near Moyston	Permitted
Red Rock Bushland Reserve – North of Black Range	Permitted
Reids Bushland Reserve – Bellellen	Not permitted
Rowes Bushland Reserve – near Pomonal	Permitted
Other reserves:	
Brambuk – The National Park and Cultural Centre Park	Not permitted
Cherrypool Highway Park	Not permitted
Black Range Scenic Reserve – South of Stawell	Permitted
Mount Difficult Plantation Campground	Permitted

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

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

Priority Level

Immediate

Rock climbing and bouldering

Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park is nationally and internationally recognised for its world-class rock climbing. Parks Victoria and Traditional Owners recognise the physical, social and economic benefits of rock climbing, supporting Parks Victoria's Healthy Parks Healthy People approach of fostering healthy and active communities. A diverse and extensive range of climbing opportunities will therefore continue to be supported.

To date, climbing has been relatively unregulated. The substantial growth in popularity has, however, led to challenges for management including harm to the environment and to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

In February 2019, Special Protection Areas of the park were formally closed to climbing to protect values, such as rock art and native vegetation, from trampling at the base of climbs. Parks Victoria acknowledges that these changes have concerned climbers. Parks Victoria is obliged to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and a more measured and regulated approach to rock climbing is being established.

The activity

Rock climbing covers a range of activities. For the purpose of this plan, Parks Victoria is using the following definitions:

- **Traditional climbing:** Rock climbing based on the adventure of ascending a route. Climbers mainly use 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). Traditional climbing routes may include some bolted anchor points.
- **Abseiling:** Descending a rock face or other near-vertical surface using ropes and devices to manage the descent. It is often used by rock climbers to descend after completing a climb but can also be a standalone activity, often as part of an outdoor education program.
- **Sport climbing:** Climbs that are based on usually short, single-pitch routes. They are generally considered safer as there is a heavy reliance on fixed protection and lower-off points (permanent anchors at the top of a sport climb).
- **Bouldering:** Rock climbing without a rope or similar fall protection. Usually a short sequence of climbing moves close to the ground (generally at heights less than 4 metres). Boulders are often protected with a bouldering mat on the ground beneath the climbing area and sometimes with a team of spotters.

All recreation activities can have an impact on environmental and cultural values through unauthorised vegetation removal and the development of infrastructure such as camps and access tracks and lack of processes for dealing with waste or risk. This is particularly so where development has been informal. Rock climbing, once a low-level activity, has grown in popularity. Development of the sport within the park has been largely unplanned and has now reached a point where a new planned approach is required.

Aboriginal cultural heritage and rock climbing commonly intersect. The cliff faces, boulders and rock shelters used by climbers and boulderers are the same areas that the ancestors of Traditional Owners occupied. Rock art, stone quarries and artefact scatters are usually located in these areas, meaning that rock climbing is often conducted where there is a high potential for Aboriginal cultural heritage to exist. Even without tangible evidence of occupation, rock shelters are of spiritual significance to Traditional Owners, having a capacity to evoke the presence of ancestors. The majority of rock shelters remain undocumented and unmapped.

All tangible and intangible cultural values are required to be protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. Aboriginal cultural heritage surveys undertaken throughout Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park in 2019 confirmed that rock climbing has had an adverse impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage and natural values. Observed impacts included:

- deliberate scratching and painting with charcoal, typically on the cliff face at the bases of climbs
- chalk on rock faces, which can be difficult to remove and can stain the surface of the cliff face (commonly associated with bouldering and sport climbing)
- installation of bolts, or fixed protection, in rock faces
- damage to vegetation, soil compaction and erosion caused by pedestrian traffic, particularly access routes to the top and base of the cliffs that do not have suitable infrastructure and around belay points and congregation areas at the base of cliffs.

In some locations, the aggregated impacts, including a high number of bolts, use of glue and a proliferation of chalk, is extensive and has significantly altered the natural and cultural state of cliff faces and rock shelters. Rock art, being faded and often difficult to see, is at risk of being abraded or damaged from this physical contact. Quarries likewise are also at risk from climbing chalk and rock that may be dislodged or directly damaged.

Sport climbing typically occurs at steep cliff faces and while there is a low likelihood of Aboriginal cultural heritage being present at elevation, cultural heritage may be present at the base of such climbs. It also involves the installation of bolts into rock faces and leads to vegetation trampling and soil compaction along the base of cliff lines.

Compared to traditional and sport climbing, bouldering is considered to pose a greater threat to Aboriginal cultural heritage and natural values due to the activity being conducted closer to ground level, extending along and around the base of rock features. This coincides with the zone where rock shelters, rock art, quarries and other cultural heritage is likely to occur and therefore bouldering may cause harm through trampling, touching the rock surface and the intensive use of chalk. Because of bouldering's intensive trampling footprint, partly due to the social nature of the activity and the use of bouldering mats along and around the base of rock features, it also poses a greater threat of damaging vegetation, soil compaction and erosion and has the potential to harm both surface and subsurface archaeological deposits.

Proposed Rock Climbing Areas

Climbing areas have been defined using information from third parties including some published books and the Crag website (www.thecrag.com), which contains information about climbing areas and routes provided by the climbing community. This information has been used to assist in determining locations and relative popularity of rock climbing and bouldering sites.

Using this information, Parks Victoria defined 281 Possible Climbing Areas across the park. An assessment of these Possible Climbing Areas was then commenced to determine the potential impact of climbing on cultural and environmental values and to inform decisions as to where rock climbing can take place under the new plan.

Parks Victoria has to date proposed determinations for 155 of these 281 areas:

- A total of 86 Designated Climbing Areas are currently proposed to be established and this represents an extensive and diverse climbing opportunity containing upto 2000 published climbing routes.
- An additional 3 Designated Climbing Areas (LTO only) will be accessible only through a Licensed Tour Operator.
- There are also 66 Climbing Not Permitted areas where climbing is proposed to be excluded.

The most popular climbing areas have been a priority for assessment. This was determined to be the number of 'ticks' a climbing route received as an indicator of its popularity according to the Crag data. The assessed areas represented approximately 70% of climbing interest within the park (based on the Crag dataset). All areas nominated by Licensed Tour Operators, participants in the Rock Climbing Round Table, and by climbers during community engagement sessions were included for assessment.

Appendix 2 outlines the status of determinations for each climbing area that has been assessed to date. The status for these areas has been determined by evaluations of natural values an assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage, and consultation with Traditional Owners. A range of data and modelling for critical natural values were considered in these assessments. The most significant risk from climbing was associated with the disturbance of critical habitats for two threatened species: Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby and Smoky Mouse.

Bouldering and the use of bouldering mats will not be permitted in most Designated Climbing Areas due to the assessed risks and impacts. The evaluation and determination of a limited number of bouldering sites within a few Designated Climbing Areas will consider the need for sites to be able to accommodate intensive use and will determine the feasibility and the appropriateness of containing and mitigating impacts. Where supported, site controls may need to be implemented prior to permitting the activity.

Parks Victoria is seeking that, during the exhibition of the draft management plan, climbers review climbing areas included in Appendix 2, and if any areas of demonstrated existing use are not included, then these are nominated for evaluation. This will then establish all additional Possible Climbing Areas to be assessed. These evaluations are thorough and resource intensive and the determination of the remaining 126 Possible Climbing Areas will not be finalised by the targeted release date of the final management plan. Parks Victoria aims to complete evaluations and determinations for the remaining areas of most active climbing use, completing the highest priority areas within 12 months of the release of the final management plan. Areas not completed within that timeframe will then be evaluated on the basis of demonstrated need. From the release of the final management plan, no climbing will be permitted in any remainnig Possible Climbing Area until an evaluation and determination is finalised. Additional Designated Climbing Areas that are declared will be publicised. The evaluation and determination for potential bouldering sites within Designated Climbing Areas will be undertaken in parallel with the above assessment process.

All Designated Climbing Areas will be subject to specified conditions of a Rock Climbing Permit. Some conditions may vary to reflect the values of a particular area, such as Remote and Natural Areas. For areas where rock climbing is permanently excluded, rehabilitation may be necessary to remove the impacts of unauthorised tracks, soil compaction, vegetation loss and bolting. Where climbing 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 required, enabling periodic review. The outcome of these reviews may see 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.

How were Designated Climbing Areas determined?

Climbing is to be prohibited except within Designated Climbing Areas in accordance with specified conditions of a Rock Climbing Permit. **Appendix 2** lists the status of **281 areas** and these are shown on **Maps 4A–4H**.

The categories below define the proposed outcomes for climbing access arrangements for various locations at the time of publication. **Figure A2.1 in Appendix 2** shows the decision-making workflow to determine these outcomes.

Designated Climbing Areas – 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 of these areas may also be used by Licensed Tour Operators. The Designated Climbing Areas are depicted in green on Maps.

- **86** areas have currently been determined and include approx. 1600 to 2000 climbing routes.

Note: Bouldering and bouldering mats are to be prohibited in these areas unless specified as one of a limited number of ‘bouldering permitted’ locations (locations yet to be determined).

Designated Climbing Areas (LTO Only) – These climbing areas are to be used exclusively by Licensed Tour Operators. There is known risk to tangible Aboriginal cultural heritage and management measures have been completed to mitigate those risks in accordance with a permit under the Aboriginal Heritage Act. Rock climbing in these areas will be permitted subject to specific conditions of the LTO permit. Designated Climbing Areas are depicted in Blue on Maps. Bouldering is to be prohibited.

- **3** areas have been determined and include less than 50 climbing routes.

Climbing Not Permitted – An area where rock climbing (including bouldering) is excluded due to significant cultural or significant environmental values. In these areas Aboriginal cultural heritage is known or has been re-discovered, or environmental values exist, such as priority habitats for threatened wildlife. Climbing cannot be permitted as the risk is too great. These areas are depicted in red on Maps.

- **66** areas have been determined and include approximately 2000 to 2300 climbing routes.

Possible Climbing Areas (Under Review) – Areas that are yet to be assessed or where the outcomes of evaluations are yet to be determined. Rock climbing (including bouldering) will not be permitted in these areas on an interim basis following the release of the final management plan but may be allowed in the future subject to the outcomes of assessments. Management measures to protect values are being considered, to determine if climbing (and/or bouldering) is appropriate. If appropriate, climbing will be permitted in the future following the completion of management measures. On determination, these areas will be allocated to either the Climbing Not Permitted or Designated Climbing Area categories. The areas are depicted in orange on Maps.

- **126** areas remain in this category and include approximately 2300 to 2500 climbing routes. (additional areas may be added to this list)



Abseiling in Gariwerd

Goal – Rock climbing and bouldering

Manage rock climbing opportunities to ensure the protection of cultural and natural values.

Strategies	Priority Level
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Allow climbing in the Designated Climbing Areas only (refer to Appendix 2 and Maps 4A-H).	Immediate
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Areas yet to be assessed which may be deemed as appropriate, may become additional Designated Climbing Areas in the future.

No new potential climbing areas will be designated following the publication of the final Management Plan. Climbers are invited, however, to nominate areas with demonstrated existing use (i.e. published information) that are not currently noted (in Appendix 2 and Maps 4A-H) for consideration for the final Management Plan.

Rock climbing is to be prohibited in any identified exclusion zone within Designated Climbing Areas. This may include significant rock shelters and sites of tangible Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Allow bouldering and use of bouldering mats only within a limited number of Designated Climbing Areas (yet to be determined).	Immediate
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- Determine sites to be assessed for their suitability for management of bouldering.
- Assessment to consider threat to cultural and natural values and methods for containment of impacts and mitigating risks.
- Where supported, site controls may be required prior to permitting the activity.

Publish an authorised guide, showing approved climbing and bouldering areas, access and conditions for use.	Immediate
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Require climbers and boulderers to obtain a free climbing permit (valid for one year) prior to climbing. Permits will only be issued following a cultural induction to ensure climbers are aware of and protect cultural and environmental values. In accordance with the permit, climbers will:	Immediate
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- be permitted to use temporary protection and temporary anchors consistent with minimal impact and clean climbing techniques
- be prohibited from installing any fixed protection (such as bolts) or interfering with any rock, including the use of paints, brushes, adhesives, drills, hammers, chisels or similar equipment
- be required to minimise the use of chalk and only use chalk coloured to match the rock (e.g. brown, grey, orange). White chalk to be prohibited.
- only access climbing and bouldering areas via the designated access 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 equipment (bolt anchors, belay points, abseil stations etc.) has been installed or maintained at a suitable standard and that use of such equipment is at the climber's discretion and that they therefore agree to assess and accept the risk of using such anchors.

Climbing and bouldering events and competitions will not be permitted.	Immediate
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Permit Licensed Tour Operators (LTOs) with existing climbing access to continue to access the areas identified in Appendix 2 and Maps 4A–4H in accordance with their licence provisions subject to periodic review.	Immediate
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Monitor and review 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.	Medium
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Rock climbing permit – City of Colorado Springs Case Study

Climbers will be asked to obtain a permit for climbing in Gariwerd to allow the Traditional Owners and Parks Victoria to monitor and understand how the area is used and to help you understand how you can protect the area.

There are many examples around the world where rock climbing is managed in a similar way. For example, the **City of Colorado Springs**, in Colorado, USA, uses such a system. Climbing in their parks is only allowed on designated routes via an annual permit. Climbers seeking a permit must agree to conditions similar to that proposed for Gariwerd:

- climbing is only permitted on established routes in designated areas
- climbers may only use a chalk substitute, coloured to match the cliff
- no new permanent anchors are allowed
- closures may be put in place at times to protect park values such as cliff-nesting raptors
- breaches of the rules can result in loss of a permit or fines.

Management of fixed protection

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 to provide safety in the event of a fall. 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. Fixed 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 are estimated to be thousands of anchors throughout the park installed by unknown individuals without approval from the land manager and to an unknown standard of installation. Ultimately climbers acknowledge that rock climbing is hazardous and that all protection (fixed and temporary anchors, belay points and abseil stations) is subject to a range of factors including damage from previous users, weathering and age and may not be of a suitable standard. Climbers are expected to assess each fixed anchor as a matter-of-course while climbing.

Rock bolting itself can damage rock faces and have a detrimental impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. Significant impact on the natural and cultural state of cliffs has occurred through the proliferation of bolting. The assessment or removal of all unauthorised fixed anchors is, however, not feasible.

Goal – Management of fixed protection

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

Strategies	Priority Level
Do not allow the installation of new anchors.	Immediate
The use of temporary protection and temporary anchor points is permitted consistent with minimal impact and clean climbing techniques.	Immediate
Work with the climbing community to ensure existing anchors are only removed or replaced with the authorisation of Parks Victoria. Close any climbing areas where unauthorised replacement or addition of anchors occurs.	Immediate
Ensure climbers are aware of the risk of fixed protection and that Parks Victoria cannot warrant that any fixed equipment (bolt anchors, belay points, abseil stations etc.) has been installed or maintained at a suitable standard, that use of such equipment is at the climber's discretion and that they therefore agree to assess and accept the risk of using such anchors.	Immediate
Remove anchors in areas where climbing is not permitted.	Medium
Remove or disable anchors within declared Remote and Natural Areas. New anchors or replacement of anchors are not to be authorised in RNAs.	Medium



Kayaking in the wetlands

Water-based activities (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, 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 and also takes place at MacKenzie Falls (Migunang wirab), where there have been a number of injuries and drownings (see Section 5.5 – Visitor risks and safety). 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.

Summary of activities

Proposed conditions for recreational activities are provided in Table 5.3. The conditions may not apply where they limit the ability of Traditional Owners to exercise their rights. A range of additional restrictions may apply in some Special Protection Areas as shown in Appendix 3.

Table 5.3 Summary of proposed recreation activities.

Activity	Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park	Black Range State Park	Black Range Scenic Reserve	Other reserves*	Conditions
Campfires: open fire in a constructed fireplace	Yes	Yes	No	Yes – only at Wildlife Reserves	All year
Campfires: fire outside a constructed fireplace	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Only in a commercially designed and manufactured appliance in a day visitor use or camping areas where there are constructed fireplaces
Campfires: firewood collection	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Only from designated areas
Campfires: fuel stoves, gas BBQs etc.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Only in a commercially designed and manufactured appliance
Camping: designated sites	Yes	Yes	No	No	May be subject to fees
Camping: dispersed	No	No	No	Conditional	Only Cherrypool Highway Reserve and Brady Swamp State Game Reserve
Car rallies	Subject to a Permit	Subject to a Permit	No	No	Non-competitive events on public roads only. Transport sections only
Caving	No	No	No	No	
Competitive events	Subject to a Permit	Subject to a Permit	No	No	Subject to a permit
Cycling	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Allowed on open public roads only
Mountain biking (off open roads)	No	No	No	No	Allowed on open public roads only
Dog walking	No, except track between Delleys Bridge and Lake Bellfield.	No	Yes	Yes	On leash except for hunting areas
Drones	No	No	No	Yes	Under permit
Education activities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Fishing	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Some areas; limited suitability
Fishing: bait collection, grubbing	No	No	No	No	
Fossicking	No	No	No	No	
Fossil collection	No	No	No	No	

Activity	Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park	Black Range State Park	Black Range Scenic Reserve	Other reserves*	Conditions
Four-wheel driving	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Allowed on open public roads only
Gaming, augmented reality (e.g. Pokémon)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Geocaching	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Digging or vegetation disturbance not permitted
Hang gliding	No	No	No	No	
Hiking: off trail	Yes, conditional	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some off-track walking may be closed (with signage) to protect sensitive areas
Hiking: on trail	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Horse riding	Limited	No	No	Yes	Refer to Appendix 5 for tracks open to horse riding
Horse riding: camping	No	No	No	No	
Hunting	No	No	No	Yes	Refer to Table 5.2
Orienteering and rogaining	No	Subject to a Permit	No	Subject to a Permit	Subject to an event permit
Parasailing	No	No	No	Not Applicable	No suitable areas
Picnicking	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Prospecting	No	No	No	Yes	
Rock sports: bouldering	Subject to a Permit (locations to be determined)	No	No	Subject to a Permit	
Rock sports: climbing and abseiling	Subject to a Permit	Subject to a Permit	No	Subject to a Permit	Only within designated areas (refer to Appendix 2 and Maps 3A – 3F)
Swimming	Conditional	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Yes	Swimming not permitted at the base of MacKenzie Falls
Trail bike riding	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Allowed on open public roads only
Trail running	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

* Does not include Brady Swamp State Game Reserve, which will continue to operate under the *Wildlife Act 1975* and *Wildlife (State Game Reserves) Regulations 2014*.

5.4 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 park 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 – 3F. The plan describes these areas and recommends strategies to manage them into the future.

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 are 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 Level

Develop Mura Mura (Mount Zero) as a minor 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 provision of a trailhead for Grampians Peaks Trail.	Immediate
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Provide a diverse range of walking trails, from 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.	Medium
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Work with the tourism industry to support park visitor experiences, including providing orientation, interpretation, parking and accommodation services adjacent to the park.	Medium
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Under the direction of Traditional Owners, continue to provide a culturally appropriate visitor experience at Gulgurn Manja and Ngamadjidj rock art sites.	Immediate
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Provide car-based camping at Gunigalg (Mount Stapylton) and Coppermine Campgrounds, including interpretation of mining history at Coppermine.	Immediate
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Support Grampians Peaks Trail, including camping for hikers at Barigar Campground.	As required
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Cater for increased demand with development of the disused sand quarry on Pohlner Rd for parking and day visitor use.	As required
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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 re-introduction 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 Level
Maintain car-based camping at the relocated Troopers Creek Campground. Investigate renaming the campground using Traditional Owner language.	Immediate
Rehabilitate the former Troopers Creek Camping Area and close Wind Cave – Tilwinda Falls Loop Track and walking track access to Gar (Mount Difficult).	Immediate
Maintain other walking tracks as semi-remote walking for experienced walkers.	Immediate
Provide wayfinding signs from linking tracks to the Grampians Peaks Trail.	Immediate
Remove and rehabilitate Briggs Bluff Hikers Camping Area and Mount Difficult Hikers Camping Area. Direct hikers to other camps.	Immediate
Upgrade Longpoint East and Longpoint West to bookable campgrounds with fees, suitable for large groups (i.e. schools).	Immediate
Work in partnership with local government to improve traffic management and safety at Beehive Falls Carpark.	Immediate

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 Level
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.	Longer-term
Investigate establishment of a walking trail linking Heatherlie Quarry, Plantation Campground and Halls Gap.	Longer-term
Upgrade Plantation Campground to include bookable sites with fees, sites suitable for campervans and continue to permit camping with dogs.	Medium
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

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 Level
Develop interpretation of Traditional Owner culture, history and heritage (see Section 5.1 – Interpretation, information and education).	Immediate
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 National Park and Cultural Centre for use on designated trails.	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 site capacity, visitor experience and safety.	Immediate
Prohibit off-track access at The Balconies at Reed Lookout and Boroka Lookout. Develop site controls such as barriers.	Immediate
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.	Immediate
Investigate developing car-based camping at Zumsteins, including sites suitable for caravans, campers and recreational vehicles.	Immediate
Liaise with VicRoads to manage growth in road cycling and safety issues on the Mount Victory and Mount Difficult Roads.	Immediate
Investigate opportunities for walking links between key sites, including possible links between Halls Gap and Wartook townships.	Medium
Collaborate with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water regarding recreation infrastructure at Lake Wartook.	Immediate

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 MacKenzie Falls (Migunang wirab).

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
- 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 MacKenzie Falls (Migunang wirab) 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. Proposed 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.

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 base of the falls, slipped and fallen into the waterfall's plunge pool and become trapped in the undercut rock beneath the falls. Swimming is actively discouraged at the falls due to the dangers, however many visitors are motivated by the prospect of having their photo taken standing as close to the base of the falls as possible.

Central corridor issues and opportunities (continued)

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:

- providing high impact communication signage 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
- modifying the rock at the base of the falls to prevent people standing in areas of high risk
- 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.

Reed and Boroka Lookouts offer spectacular viewpoints across Gariwerd. Overcrowding can be an issue at these sites, as can people going off-track. Reed 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:

- providing high impact signage regarding the risk and regulations
- 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).

Budga Budga (Wonderland)

The Budga Budga 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 the Brambuk 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 – Budga Budga 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 Level

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 Budga Budga (Wonderland) section, including the provision of a central trailhead 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

Prohibit orienteering and rogaining in the Wonderland Range.

Immediate

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.
- 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 National Park and Cultural Centre

Immediate

- Support the management and development of Brambuk 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.

Goals – Budga Budga 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.

- 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, hiking and rock climbing.

Goal – Victoria Valley VEA

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

Strategies	Priority Level
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 camping area; investigate provision of sites suitable for caravans, campers and recreational vehicles.	Immediate
Close and rehabilitate Boreang Camping Area upon development of Moora Moora camping area.	Immediate
Recognise the existing informal camping around Moora Moora Reservoir. Develop a site plan for camping areas.	Immediate
Recognise the 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.	Immediate
Maintain tracks and signage to support Grampians Iconic 4WD Adventure.	Immediate
Investigate developing a Victoria Valley Nature Drive.	Immediate

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 will be extended to include Seven Dials and Ngarra Mananinja gadjin (Redman Bluff) with the development of the Grampians Peaks Trail. Much of this VEA is a declared Remote and Natural Area; infrastructure within a Remote and Natural Area must be kept to a minimum and no new infrastructure is permitted. Mount William Road provides access to a carpark, 2 km 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 Level
Investigate options for a Duwul ‘highest peak’ experience focusing on sunrise and sunset viewing (e.g. cultural tours).	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
Remove First Wannon hike-in campground within the Remote and Natural Area once Grampians Peaks Trail Duwul and Durd Durd campgrounds are constructed.	Immediate
Maintain car-based camping and day visitor facilities at Jimmy Creek.	Immediate
Protect declared Remote and Natural Area values, including the prohibition on establishing accommodation structures.	Immediate

Mafeking

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

Goal – Mafeking VEA

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

Strategies	Priority Level
Maintain vehicle-based camping at Kalyrna Falls, including improving suitability for caravans, camp trailers and recreational vehicles.	Immediate
Develop a heritage plan for Mafeking, highlighting the area’s extensive community history.	Medium
Investigate upgrading existing tracks (and minor trailhead) to link Pomonal to the Grampians Peaks Trail.	Immediate

Mud-Dadjug

In the Gariwerd creation story, Mud-dadjug (Mount Abrupt), which marks the southern end of the range, is the body left behind by one of the Bram-bram-bult brothers. The area includes a number of other peaks such as Bainggug (The Piccaninny) and Wurgarri (Mount Sturgeon), which are popular, challenging hiking destinations. The Grampians Icon 4WD route passes through the area. Dunkeld township services the area and the Grampians Icon 4WD route 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 Level
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Promote Mud-dadjug as the southern gateway, reflecting the story of the Bram-bram-bulk 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
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Work with the local community to support Dunkeld as a key part of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park southern gateway.	Immediate
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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.	Immediate
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Investigate transport options, such as a shuttle bus, to support access to hike trailheads.	Immediate
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Link existing walking tracks into Grampians Peaks Trail.	Immediate
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Work with local government to promote a two-wheel drive touring loop drive from Dunkeld to Mirranatwa Gap.	Immediate
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Maintain Wannon Crossing as a vehicle-based campground.	Immediate
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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 Level
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Undertake cultural values surveys where required.	Immediate
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Allow low level recreation, including camping, subject to protection of cultural and natural values.	Immediate
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Provide for duck hunting with gun dogs in season.	Immediate
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Continue to allow camping and campfires within the reserve.	Immediate
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Prohibit domestic firewood collection	Immediate
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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 Level
Maintain low key, short to medium length walks for well prepared and experienced visitors.	Immediate
Provide opportunities to learn about Gariwerd's first people through direct engagement with Traditional Owners.	Immediate
Provide for basic camping in designated areas, including Cherrypool Highway Park and recognising the existing informal camping at HGH corner and managing as a designated camping area.	Immediate
Manage Mudadgadjun Picnic Area as a low-key picnic, day visitor and cultural education area for groups and guided tours.	Immediate
Determine suitable locations and establish camping areas to support walking experiences in Black Range State Park.	Medium
Maintain Escarpment Walking Track as a hiking experience; ensure hiker safety with improved track marking and signage.	Immediate

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 Level
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 Level
Under the direction of Traditional Owners, continue to provide a culturally appropriate visitor experience at Bunjil's Shelter rock art site.	Immediate
Provide basic recreation facilities.	Immediate

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 Level
Undertake cultural value surveys where required.	Immediate
Permit hunting as per Table 5.2.	Immediate
Allow low level recreation, including camping, subject to protection of cultural and natural values.	Immediate
Prohibit domestic firewood collection.	Immediate

Visitor Experience Journeys

Two Visitor Experience Journeys have been described for Gariwerd. The Grampians Peaks Trail is described under Walking in Section 5.3, 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 Level
Maintain existing drive to track standards as on Maps 3A – 3F	Immediate
Consult with Four Wheel Drive Victoria regarding management of the Grampians Iconic Drive 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.	Immediate
Provide information about the drive at Dunkeld and Halls Gap information centres.	Immediate
Improve signage and interpretation to improve understanding of park values and promote responsible driving and recreation.	Immediate
Work with tourism partners and Victorian Four-Wheel Drive Association to increase awareness of the Iconic 4WD Adventure.	Immediate
Work with local tourism partners to improve linkages with off park accommodation and activities.	Immediate

5.5 Visitor risks and safety

Gariwerd's rugged topography, changeable weather and opportunities for remote recreation present inherent risks to visitors. This 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 seeking selfie photographs and this 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 the 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 discouraged at Migunang wirab (MacKenzie Falls) due to the risk of injury and drowning. Despite warning signs, there have, tragically, been six drownings at the falls since 2004. 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 seen this 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 park closed for public safety on Code Red days. Overnight hikers are requested to register their trip at Brambuk 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. The Parks Victoria 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 level
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.	Immediate
Provide signage about the hazards at MacKenzie Falls, including messages in languages other than English.	Immediate
Audit identified risks and hazards within the landscape regularly in accordance with Parks Victoria’s Risk Management Guidelines.	Immediate
Review priority risk mitigation measures for key sites in the Central Corridor (see Central Gariwerd VEA – Section 5.4).	Immediate
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
Investigate the improvement of phone coverage across the Grampians Peaks Trail. Advise users which areas have poor reception.	Immediate
Provide safety updates to tour operators and community groups that undertake activities within the parks.	As required

5.6 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, after Port Campbell and Point Nepean National Parks.

Tourism is an important industry across the Grampians region, representing around 7% of the region’s economy and generating around 10% 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.

At the time of writing, the COVID-19 pandemic is having 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, Horsham Rural City, 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.



Trail Rider

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 5.3, 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 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 dining. 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 that enhances 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 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 and provides licences for approximately 180 tour operators who offer organised tours and recreational activities. This includes 30 licensed tour operators 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 licensed tour operators

It is proposed that in late 2020 a planning process will commence for Brambuk National Park and Cultural Centre. Led by the Gariwerd Traditional Owner corporations in partnership with Parks Victoria, the aim is 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.

Strategies	Priority level
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 Traditional Owner communities to devise a new operating model and refreshed cultural experiences and visitor services for Brambuk National Park and Cultural Centre.	Immediate
Work with Grampians Tourism to promote the Aboriginal cultural landscape of Gariwerd and Grampians Peaks Trail to visitors.	Immediate
Investigate feasibility and possible locations for low impact ecologically sensitive roofed accommodation as part of a co-design process with Traditional Owners.	Immediate
Encourage commercial operators to assist in the protection of park values and the management of its facilities.	Immediate
With respect to the Grampians Peaks Trail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop a process for assessing private sector initiatives to ensure they support the walk's development and sustainability and the park's environmental and cultural values support community and commercial services, attractions and events that augment a hiker's experience encourage the private sector to demonstrate responsible use of the park and advocacy of park values. 	Medium

5.7 Authorised uses

A number of formal instruments (e.g. leases, licences, consents) are 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 provides important catchments for water resources 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 park, 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. Ultimately a long-term view is required to ensure the cultural landscape is preserved and that the land is retained in, or returned to, its natural state as far as possible. 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 Mount Duwil (Mount William), Telstra and National Broadband Network infrastructure near Mura Mura (Mount Zero) and electricity transmission infrastructure at Lake Wartook, MacKenzie Falls (Migunang wirab), Duwil (Mount William) and Mafeking.

Wannon Water and Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water (GMMWater) operate water management infrastructure within Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park of importance 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 park. GMMWater 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 GMMWater. A consent will clarify how GMMWater 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 park 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.

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 less people and if they are acting in accordance with regulations. Larger exercises require a separate permit.

Major events and functions

The 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 under the proposals in this draft management plan 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 3.6 – Cultural renewal and strengthening). At times, there may be a need to exclude other visitors during when cultural activities are being undertaken. This could be through the identification of designated areas for Traditional Owner use as well as 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 of and 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 5.3 – Recreational Activities)

What is counterbalancing?

A counterbalancing approach at a landscape scale should recognise the impacts of previous incremental development and land use that have modified the natural and cultural state of Country, often reducing intact ecosystems by fragmenting the landscape.

There are limits to how the loss of an intact ecosystem can be offset. Offsets on degraded land require long timeframes to see recovery and habitat improvement. Authorised uses and licences for infrastructure by various public agencies may also be exempt from statewide vegetation offset requirements. There are however opportunities to ensure counterbalancing of impacts is considered in any approval for new infrastructure at Gariwerd.

Vegetation offsets, while one possibility, commonly do not counterbalance losses with other attributes in the landscape. Policies in Victoria have primarily focused on offsetting the active removal of vegetation and may typically provide outcomes in totally separate areas of the state including:

- acquisitions of private land for inclusion into the conservation estate
- reclassifying the reservation status of existing public land to a higher conservation status
- investment in habitat improvements in another location.

There is also the potential for land managers to consider the need to balance the impacts of new infrastructure on a broader range of values by:

- imposing a market value to the land impacted
- co-investments in heritage management
- co-investment in landscape-scale conservation and species management programs
- in-kind works and services within the parks and reserves.

As additional visitor infrastructure is established in Gariwerd's north and south (both inside and outside the park), there are some prospects of landscape-scale counterbalancing to establish greater overall landscape integrity. Examples include the wider application of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or overlays that restrict activities and exclude incremental development in sensitive and symbolic areas. These can provide significant directions for an area to be managed consistently, with specified objectives for the cultural landscape or wilderness values etc.

A case in point is Mud-dadjug (Mount Abrupt), the body left behind by one of the Bram-bram-bult brothers, which marks the southern end of Gariwerd. Traditional Owners wish to ensure the symbolic and spiritual character of the mountain silhouette is maintained. Indeed, in this natural setting, most people would want to see the area's visual amenity preserved. A proposal for infrastructure that might alter the landscape character of Mud-dadjug is therefore unlikely to be favoured and proponents should consider alternative options outside the park whenever possible as part of their strategic, long-term approach, thereby protecting the unique cultural landscape.

Occupancies

Cooinda-Burrong Scout Camp is located within the park, near the park boundary, at Wartook. The two-hectare camp area contains a number of 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 level
Manage current and proposed uses in accordance with the legislative and policy framework and minimise any impacts on park values and visitor experiences.	Immediate
All proposals for new public infrastructure will be referred to Traditional Owner corporations, with cost recovery for assessment to be provided by the applicant.	As required
Minimise ad hoc incremental development and the proliferation of infrastructure within the Gariwerd parks and reserves. Ensure individual proposals for new infrastructure are aligned with strategic plans to ensure the broader scope of long-term infrastructure proposals are considered in their entirety, alongside the proposals of other agencies and that an agreed holistic regime can be sustained.	As required
Work with Telstra to develop a strategic approach to improve communications around the park focusing on priority VEAs, the road network through the central corridor and Grampians Peaks Trail – to support visitor access to information and emergency management at high risk locations. Consider digital pollution and the potential for identifying ‘dark spots’ as part of the visitor experience.	Immediate
Ensure infrastructure proposals meet the objectives of the Sky Country and Natural Quiet Overlays to avoid significant features of the Aboriginal cultural landscape including impacts on mountain silhouettes and visual amenity, as well as the creation of sound and/or light pollution.	As required
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
Ensure approvals include mitigations for impacts that provide a net benefit for the parks including offsets or counterbalances elsewhere in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape.	As required
Establish licences, consents or other legal arrangements to authorise the continuation of appropriate use – in accordance with the strategies above.	As required
Facilitate an appropriate formal consent with GWMWater to manage water infrastructure with Greater Gariwerd Landscape.	Immediate
Develop a strategic approach with public authority partners to resource, identify, assess and approve appropriate infrastructure across all parks and reserves in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape.	Immediate
Maintain an effective register of all authorised public authority occupations in the park.	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.	As required
Prioritise the maintenance of beekeeping sites after emergencies and remove debris to improve the accessibility and safety of sites.	As required
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

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.

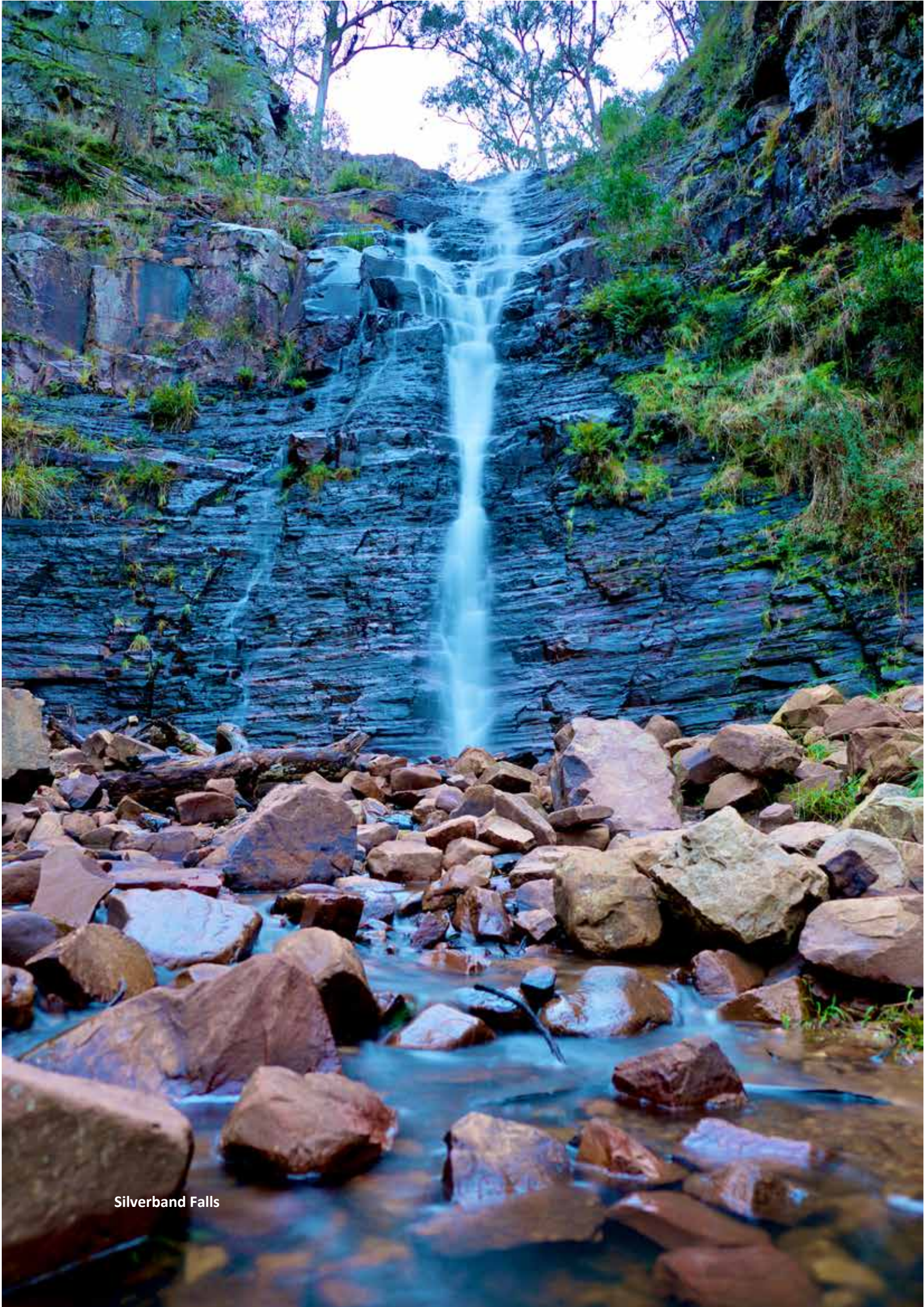
Liaise with the Defence Force so that training in climbing skills within the park assists with: Medium

- management of rock climbing bolts and other fixed protection within designated rock climbing areas
- remediation of bolts and chalk at priority rock shelters and lower cliff faces to restore them to their natural and cultural state.

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. Favour events and functions that provide community benefits or complement the park values. 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 Coinda Burrong. Immediate



Silverband Falls



Emu

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.

The Country connects many areas beyond its boundaries e.g. cultural stories that cross through Gariwerd; the flow of water from the landscape to adjoining communities; the views to and from Gariwerd and the emotions they elicit. Many of the management issues that arise in the landscape must therefore be understood 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 combined with specific programs and projects designed to tackle the management needs of this unique landscape.

Successful partnerships involve strong governance, pooling knowledge, building people's capabilities and developing agreed protocols. This can be through formal agreements between Traditional Owners and Parks Victoria, DELWP, local government and other government departments or authorities. It can also be achieved through agreements with individuals and community groups, acknowledging the knowledge and resources that each party brings.

Partnerships will also be required to help deliver the research and long-term monitoring necessary to determine the effectiveness of management actions. This can include agency and university-based research, as well as opportunities for 'citizen science'. Different forms of knowledge – science and traditional knowledge, for example – can be combined to bring new understandings and adapt management. The ongoing collection of information and evidence will not only assist management decisions, it will help to test assumptions and fill gaps in knowledge to continue building the understanding of Gariwerd.

These matters are covered in:

- Managing with Traditional Owners – Section 6.1
- Coordinated management – Section 6.2
- Working with community – Section 6.3
- Research and monitoring – Section 6.4.



Traditional Owner workshop 2020

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 (in prep)* 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 prep).

Parks Victoria understands the importance of Gariwerd as a cultural landscape and is developing the 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 sit on the project decision-making group and are involved in the deliberation of the final 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 (e.g. 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 based on the goodwill and cooperation between Parks Victoria, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation.

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 journey.

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. To address this issue, the draft plan identifies strategies to foster improved respect for Traditional Owners, cultural places, practices and responsibilities.

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 level
Co-design with BGLC, EMAC and GMTOAC the pathway towards joint management. This should describe the most important changes Traditional Owners want to achieve for the People of Gariwerd, Country, and the wider community by implementing joint management – providing a guide for all partners against which progress can be tracked and reported. It could include staged outcomes (e.g. 1–5 years, 6–15 years and 16–25 years) to establish, build and sustain aspects such as jobs and local business, cultural knowledge and practices, wellbeing and governance arrangements.	Immediate
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.	Immediate
Develop reconciliation projects between Traditional Owners and other Victorians that raise the importance of supporting processes of continuing cultural renewal and strengthening.	Medium
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.	Immediate
Ensure Gariwerd is a culturally safe space for Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal peoples. Recognise and document the links between respect for people, cultural places and practices and the relationships with local inhabitants and visitors. Understand the potential risks to Traditional Owners when engaging with visitors on Country, and establish protocols for managing culturally inappropriate behaviour.	Immediate
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 5.6 – Tourism and commercial visitor services).	Immediate

6.2 Coordinated management

There are also a range of Commonwealth and State government agencies with responsibilities that relate to Gariwerd, including DELWP, Forest Fire Management Victoria, the Northern and Southern Grampians Shires, Ararat and Horsham Rural City Councils, 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 cooperative management with Traditional Owners, partners and other agencies. For example, Parks Victoria has a formal arrangement with DELWP and 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 park 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. 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, private water diversions (some of which are unlicensed) located within Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and close to its boundary and legacy boundary encroachments.

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 level
Establish and maintain effective relationships with all key partners to help implement the vision, goals and strategies in the Management Plan.	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. Seek participation and support from other agencies as needed to access expertise and funding to support this work.	Immediate
Work collaboratively and cooperatively with neighbouring landowners to address issues on or near the boundary of the parks and reserves.	As required
Implement planning and zoning changes that strengthen the protection of park values e.g. work with DELWP and local governments to investigate suitable planning scheme zoning and overlays to reflect the management purposes of the parks and progressively correct those not consistent with a park's public uses. Ensure any future additions to the parks have appropriate planning scheme zoning and overlays and that park developments and uses comply with relevant planning schemes.	Medium
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 skies amenity and noise pollution from any adjacent developments.	As required
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.	Medium
Continue to work with freehold landowners, local government, DELWP and road authorities where access through park is required for practical access to freehold land.	As required
Work with DELWP to progressively close unused road reserves and add these areas to the parks. 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.	As required
Progressively work through legacy encroachments to park boundaries by either licensing or removing existing unauthorised uses. Prevent or remove new encroachments.	Longer term



The Grampians Volunteer Track Ranger Program

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. These economic benefits are a key enabler for communities to function and prosper, allowing them to build social cohesion, social capital and healthy communities.

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 both 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 draft plan also indicated support for building stronger partnerships with clubs, tour operators, universities and schools that utilise the area, to build stewardship for cultural and natural values of the parks. Other potential partners include the Friends of Grampians-Gariwerd (a volunteer group encouraging and educating people to understand, enjoy and protect the national park), 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 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.

Goal – Working with community

The broader community is actively engaged in helping to care for Country.

Strategies	Priority level
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, story-telling, 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
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Grampians-Gariwerd • Landcare and similar groups • recreation groups. 	Medium

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 draft management plan proposes 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 statewide 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 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.

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
- 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, relevant 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 proposed 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 funding, alternative measures may be identified as more information becomes available and Traditional Owner cultural concepts and practices are progressively integrated.

Table 6.1 Key knowledge gaps for Gariwerd.

Aboriginal 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 Aboriginal 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 Aboriginal contemporary 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 <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> monitoring.
Burn history mapping.
Visitor use / recreation
A framework of messaging about Traditional Owner culture, history and heritage.
A public education program on the significance of rock shelters.
A works program to remove, replace or move rock climbing bolts.
Restoration requirements at rock climbing sites (designated sites or where climbing has been excluded).
A communications plan for the landscape to aid emergency management.
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/tourism

- Level of participation in education and interpretation programs.
- Condition of visitor facilities and the road and track network.
- Level of participation in Licensed Tour Operator tours.
- 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).

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).
- 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 and review rock climbing areas and compliance and consider further management as required, including in 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 level
Explore new ways to bring Traditional Owner adaptive land/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.	Immediate
Support continual gathering of appropriate cultural knowledge and stories for park and reserve management, for future generations and to enable Traditional Owners to meet cultural obligations.	Immediate
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
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).	Medium
Develop research partnerships led by Traditional Owners and integrate applied research to help inform and improve management effectiveness.	Medium
Encourage collaborative biodiversity surveys, where possible combining citizen science and traditional knowledge, recognising both the scientific and cultural value of species and ecological communities.	Medium
Support research into the impacts of climate change and mitigation measures that could be applied in the landscape.	Medium
Co-design with Traditional Owners 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.	Immediate
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
Facilitate the establishment and coordination of a Technical Advisory Group, to provide advice and support potential partnership projects in the planning area.	Medium
Facilitate research and monitoring to increase knowledge and understanding of visitor use, satisfaction and impact – particularly at key visitor sites or areas of planning priority such as Migunang wirab (MacKenzie Falls) and Wudjub-guyun (Hollow Mountain).	Immediate
Monitor visitor compliance with the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> , other legislation and park regulations.	Immediate



Migunang wirab (MacKenzie Falls)

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Lace Monitor

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:

- Clark, I. D. & Heydon, T. (2002) Dictionary of Aboriginal Placenames in Victoria, Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages, University of Ballarat, Mount Helen.
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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)	Cherrypool	
Djibilara (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Asses Ears	Djibilara (Jadawadjali)
Duwul (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Mount William	Worranneyan (Djab Wurrung)
Gar (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Mount Difficult	Gawa (Jadawadjali)
Ginigalg (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Mount Stapylton	Gunigalg
Jananginj Njau (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Victoria Gap	
Jaranghi-jalil	Moyston	
Jaranula (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Mount Lang	
Larngibunja (Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung)	Chimney Pots	

Aboriginal language name	English name	Alternative Aboriginal language place name(s)
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	
Ngarriwarrwil (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); Tolelokewarr (Djab Wurrung)

Appendix 2: Designated Climbing Areas

Figure A2.1 Decision process for climbing areas.

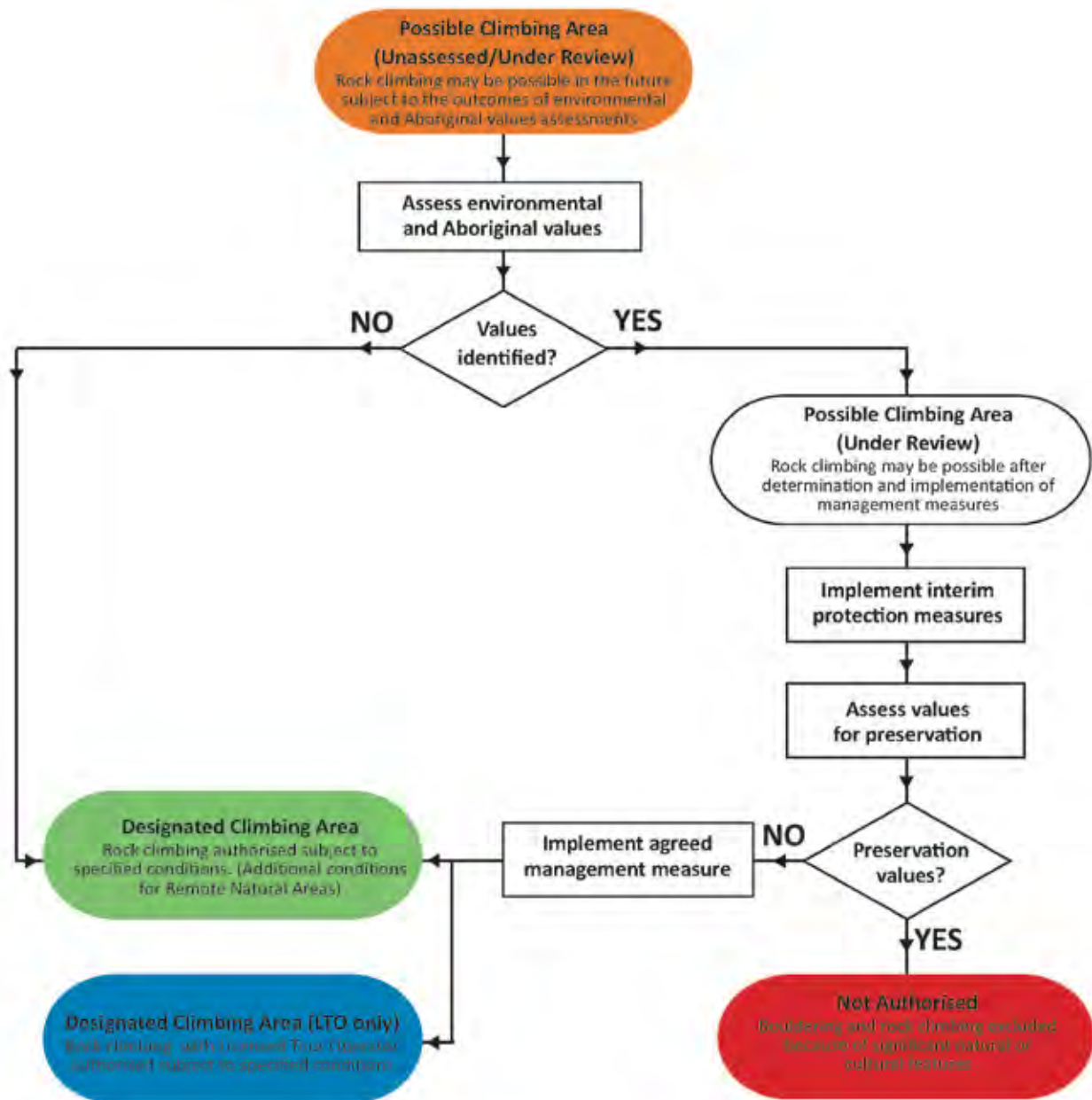


Table A2.1 Details of climbing areas.

Area name	Area number	Map	No. climbing routes	Climbing Category
Afterglow Wall	47	4B	5–10	Designated Climbing Area
Amnesty Wall Area	31	4B	25–50	Climbing Not Permitted
Andersens East	30B	4B	275–300	Climbing Not Permitted
Andersens West	30A	4B	275–300	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Back Wall (LTO Only)	12	4B	25–50	Designated Climbing Area (LTO Only)
Backside Bouldering	161	4D	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Bad Moon Rising Wall	56	4B	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
Band Of Gypsies	202	4F	25–50	Climbing Not Permitted
Barbican Rocks	108	4C, 4G	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Barbican Wall	107	4C, 4G	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Barc Cliff (LTO Only)	7	4B	10–15	Designated Climbing Area (LTO Only)
Base Camp Buttress	162	4D	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Beehive Falls	80	4A	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Bellerophon Wall	25	4B	25–50	Designated Climbing Area
Bellfield Peak	134	4D	5–10	Designated Climbing Area
Bernard's Boulders	266	4J	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Between the Sheeps	49	4B	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Billywing Buttress – Closed	221	4F	25–50	Climbing Not Permitted
Bird Wall	15	4B	15–25	Climbing Not Permitted
Black Blocks	278	4K	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Black Ian's Rocks	269	4K	125–150	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Black Range Road Outcrop	274	4K	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Black Sheba's Buttress	275	4K	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Black Wall	160	4D	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Blazed Rock	109	4C	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Blind Mans Bluff	106	4C, 4G	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Blockbuster Buttress	122	4D	10–15	Designated Climbing Area
Bordel Buttress	79	4A	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Boronia Peak	166	4D	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Boulder Rock	153	4D	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Bouldering Buttress	48	4B	0–5	Designated Climbing Area
Bowler Boulder	11	4B	15–25	Climbing Not Permitted
Breakfast Room Buttresses	99	4C	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Budja Budja	164	4D	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Bullaces Buttress	114	4D	5–10	Designated Climbing Area

Area name	Area number	Map	No. climbing routes	Climbing Category
Bundaleer Nth (RNA)	146	4D	75–100	Designated Climbing Area
Bundaleer Sth (RNA)	147	4D	50–75	Climbing Not Permitted
Burnt Shirt Buttress	237	4G	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Burrunj North	276	4K	50–75	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Burrunj South	277	4K	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Cakewalk Wall	259	4H	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
Calectasia Walls (RNA)	148	4D	0–5	Designated Climbing Area
Campground Boulders	67	4A	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Castle Rock	231	4G	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Cave Of Ghosts Cliffs	68	4A	10–15	Designated Climbing Area
Cave of Man Hands – Closed	227	4F	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Central Buttress	39	4B	25–50	Designated Climbing Area
Centurion Walls	81	4A	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Chatauqua Peak	113	4D	10–15	Designated Climbing Area
Cherub Wall	180	4E	50–75	Climbing Not Permitted
Cirque Creek	104	4C, 4G	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Citadel	51	4B	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Clean Cut Walls	189	4F	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Clematis Falls	112	4D	0–5	Designated Climbing Area
Clicke Area (incl. Kindergarten routes)	28	4B	25–50	Designated Climbing Area
Cloggy (RNA)	251	4H	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
Cloud Cuckoo Land	24	4B	5–10	Designated Climbing Area
Club Wall	198	4F	0–5	Climbing Not Permitted
Conifer Wall	178	4E	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Corner Crag	201	4F	0–5	Climbing Not Permitted
Crag X	207	4F	75–100	Climbing Not Permitted
Crock Wall	121	4D	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
Crocodile Rock	168	4D	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Curiosity Crag	244	4H	25–50	Designated Climbing Area
Currajong Rocks	101	4C	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Cut Lunch Walls	53	4B	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Davy Jones Locker	229	4G	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Diving-Board Rocks	174	4D	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Dolgoruki Wall and Three Tiers	18	4B	5–10	Designated Climbing Area
Drama Wall	83	4A	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Dreamtime Wall	241	4G	100–125	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)

Area name	Area number	Map	No. climbing routes	Climbing Category
Eagle Rock	211	4F	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Eagles Head	247	4H	50–75	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Eastern Walls	19	4B	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
Echidna Wall (bouldering)	5	4B	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Eclipse Buttress	150	4D	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Eldorado	240	4G	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Emu Crag	21	4B	5–10	Designated Climbing Area
Emu Rock	194	4F	10–15	Climbing Not Permitted
Epsilon Wall	26	4B	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
Epsilon Wall Bouldering	27	4B	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Equinox Walls (RNA)	143	4D	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
Eureka Towers	188	4F	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Eureka Wall	187	4F	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Featherswords	204	4F	0–5	Climbing Not Permitted
Flying Blind Area	6	4B	25–50	Climbing Not Permitted
Forrest Rock	110	4D	10–15	Designated Climbing Area
Frenchmans Beret	128	4D	5–10	Designated Climbing Area
Gallery Creek	239	4G	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Gang-Gang Rocks	100	4C	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Generation Gap	193	4F	5–10	Climbing Not Permitted
Giant's Staircase (RNA)	140	4D	25–50	Designated Climbing Area
Gilham's Crag	252	4H	100–125	Climbing Not Permitted
Goat Crag	96	4C	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Golton Rocks	62	4A	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Gondwanaland – Closed	190	4F	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Green Gap Pinnacle	236	4G	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Grey and Green Walls	41	4B	25–50	Designated Climbing Area
Ground Control Caves	42	4B	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Gunn Buttress	32	4B	15–25	Climbing Not Permitted
Hardenbergia Rocks	98	4C	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Heatherlie Heights	88	4A	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Hollow Mountain Cave	35	4B	25–50	Climbing Not Permitted
Hollywood Bowl	196	4F	25–50	Climbing Not Permitted
Hut Point	270	4K	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
I Forget Wall	73	4A	5–10	Designated Climbing Area
Infinity Wall	157	4D	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Interpretation Wall	20	4B	5–10	Designated Climbing Area
Joey Blocks	183	4E	10–15	Climbing Not Permitted

Area name	Area number	Map	No. climbing routes	Climbing Category
Jungle Gym	185	4F	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Koalasquatsy Wall	54	4B	10–15	Designated Climbing Area
Labour Ward	156	4D	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Lake Wartook Lookout Area	94	4C	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Lebanon	90	4C	10–15	Designated Climbing Area
Left Side (RNA)	139	4D	50–75	Designated Climbing Area
Left Wall	14	4B	15–25	Climbing Not Permitted
Legoland	52	4B	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Lemonade Wall	16	4B	10–15	Designated Climbing Area
Lichen Land	95	4C	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Liomin Castle	233	4G	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Little Hands Cave – Closed	228	4F	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Little Joe Hill	177	4D	50–75	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Lookout Point Wall	136	4D	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
Loopeys	36	4B	25–50	Climbing Not Permitted
Lower Taipan	45	4B	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
Lunar Walls	93	4C	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
Mackeys Peak	117	4D	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
Main Cliff (RNA)	141	4D	75–100	Designated Climbing Area
Main Wall	13	4B	25–50	Climbing Not Permitted
Maul Wall	181	4E	10–15	Climbing Not Permitted
Millennium Caves – Closed	226	4F	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Mirage Rock	97	4C	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Mirage Wall	82	4A	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Monkey Buttress	272	4K	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Moorra Rocks	103	4C	5–10	Climbing Not Permitted
Mother Buttress	225	4F	5–10	Climbing Not Permitted
Mount of Olives	65	4A	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Mount Zero West Walls	2	4B	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Mountain Lion (RNA)	255	4H	50–75	Designated Climbing Area
Mouse Rock	271	4K	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Mt Fox	197	4F	25–50	Climbing Not Permitted
Mt Ida	163	4D	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Mt Pleasant	70	4A	15–25	Climbing Not Permitted
Mt Pox (RNA)	245	4H	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
Mt Talbot	273	4K	15–25	Climbing Not Permitted

Area name	Area number	Map	No. climbing routes	Climbing Category
Mt Zero roadside Crag	3	4B	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Mt Zero Summit Cliff	1	4B	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Muline Crag	192	4F	25–50	Climbing Not Permitted
Musbury Crags	154	4D	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Neurology Wall	133	4D	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
No Mans Land	87	4A	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Northern Cliff	263	4J	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Northern Wall	38	4B	25–50	Designated Climbing Area
Out to Lunch Wall (RNA)	249	4H	0–5	Designated Climbing Area
Pacific Ocean Wall	84	4A	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Paddys Castle	184	4E	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Pangaea Walls	4	4B	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Pastoral Buttress	175	4D	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Peasant Wall	218	4F	0–5	Climbing Not Permitted
Pensioners Wall Area	33	4B	10–15	Designated Climbing Area
Peverill Pillar	165	4D	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Picasso Block	206	4F	0–5	Climbing Not Permitted
Pine Wall	92	4C	0–5	Designated Climbing Area
Point 447	64	4A	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Point Sunshine	124	4D	10–15	Designated Climbing Area
Porcelain Wall	179	4E	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Possum Rocks	220	4F	5–10	Climbing Not Permitted
Pump Wall (Campbell's Rock)	261	4H	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Punter's Pinnacle	151	4D	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Queensland Cliff	208	4F	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Rain Wall	224	4F	15–25	Climbing Not Permitted
Red Rock Pinnacles	203	4F	75–100	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Red Wall Area incl Echoes Block	37	4B	50–75	Climbing Not Permitted
Redneck Paradise	209	4F	0–5	Climbing Not Permitted
River Road Rocks (RNA)	258	4H	5–10	Designated Climbing Area
Rosea Far Right (RNA)	142	4D	10–15	Designated Climbing Area
Ross Walls	279	4K	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Ruined Castle (RNA)	248	4H	25–50	Designated Climbing Area
Rural Rocks	176	4D	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Sabre Gully	40	4B	0–5	Designated Climbing Area
Samba Rocks	172	4D	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Sandinista Cliffs East	34B	4B	0–5	Designated Climbing Area

Area name	Area number	Map	No. climbing routes	Climbing Category
Sandinista Cliffs West	34A	4B	0–5	Climbing Not Permitted
Scoop Rocks	212	4F	15–25	Climbing Not Permitted
Seclusion Wall	238	4G	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Sentinel Cave	72	4A	10–15	Designated Climbing Area
Sherpa Rocks	213	4F	5–10	Climbing Not Permitted
Signal Peak	127	4D	5–10	Designated Climbing Area
Slander Gully (RNA)	246	4H	25–50	Designated Climbing Area
Socrophiliac Buttress	115	4D	0–5	Designated Climbing Area
Solar Ridge	235	4G	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Southern Cliff	264	4J	5–10	Climbing Not Permitted
Spanish Galleon	186	4F	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Split Pinnacle	86	4A	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Spurt Wall	46	4B	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Stony Peak (RNA)	145	4D	0–5	Designated Climbing Area
Suburbia	159	4D	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Sundial Peak	137	4D	0–5	Climbing Not Permitted
Sunny Boy Block	217	4F	0–5	Climbing Not Permitted
Superbia	158	4D	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Syria	89	4C	10–15	Designated Climbing Area
Taipan Wall	43	4B	75–100	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Tangerine Slide (RNA)	254	4H	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
The Back of Beyond	234	4G	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
The Breach (RNA)	253	4H	25–50	Designated Climbing Area
The Breadboard (RNA)	257	4H	0–5	Designated Climbing Area
The Catacombs	215	4F	15–25	Climbing Not Permitted
The Cheesecake	265	4J	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
The Chimney Pots	260	4H	25–50	Climbing Not Permitted
The Crater	219	4F	0–5	Climbing Not Permitted
The Dungeon	57	4B	10–15	Climbing Not Permitted
The Elephants Hide	119	4D	5–10	Designated Climbing Area
The Far Pavilion	200	4F	25–50	Climbing Not Permitted
The First Dial	230	4G	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
The Flatiron	243	4H	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
The Fortress	242	4H	50–75	Climbing Not Permitted
The Gallery – Closed	223	4F	25–50	Climbing Not Permitted
The Garrets	155	4D	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
The Grand Canyon	131	4D	50–75	Designated Climbing Area
The Grandstand	205	4F	0–5	Climbing Not Permitted
The Guardhouse	71	4A	5–10	Designated Climbing Area

Area name	Area number	Map	No. climbing routes	Climbing Category
The Kindergarten (bouldering)	29	4B	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
The Lost Pavilion	199	4F	5–10	Climbing Not Permitted
The Lower Goon	126	4D	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
The Mt William Road Cliff	232	4G	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
The Olive Cave	76	4A	10–15	Climbing Not Permitted
The Peanut Gallery	170	4D	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
The Peking Face (RNA)	105	4C, 4G	50–75	Designated Climbing Area
The Piccaninny	267	4J	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
The Pinnacles	171	4D	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
The Play Pen	23	4B	5–10	Designated Climbing Area
The Plaza Strip	50	4B	10–15	Climbing Not Permitted
The Promised Land	91	4C	15–25	Climbing Not Permitted
The Radiator	167	4D	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
The Ravine	74	4A	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
The Snake Pit	59	4B	15–25	Climbing Not Permitted
The Solarium	210	4F	10–15	Climbing Not Permitted
The Studio	222	4F	5–10	Climbing Not Permitted
The Terraces	173	4D	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
The Tower	216	4F	10–15	Climbing Not Permitted
The Tower Bouldering	214	4F	25–50	Climbing Not Permitted
The Tower of Paine	118	4D	5–10	Designated Climbing Area
The Underworld	129	4D	5–10	Designated Climbing Area
The Unnamed Cliff	78	4A	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
The Upper Goon	125	4D	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
The Wall of China	130	4D	75–100	Designated Climbing Area
The Watchtower	111	4D	50–75	Designated Climbing Area
Thryptomene Wall	268	4K	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Titanic Boulder	66	4A	15–25	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Tombstone Rock	169	4D	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Tortoise Wall (RNA)	250	4H	25–50	Designated Climbing Area
Tower Hill (RNA)	149	4D	25–50	Designated Climbing Area
Town Slab	152	4D	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Trackside boulders	44	4B	75–100	Climbing Not Permitted
Trackside boulders (Mt Abrupt)	262	4J	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Tribute Wall	55	4B	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
Truckstop Wall	75	4A	5–10	Designated Climbing Area

Area name	Area number	Map	No. climbing routes	Climbing Category
Tunnel Cliff	8	4B	10–15	Climbing Not Permitted
Unnamed cliff	77	4A	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Upper Wurzlegummage Wall	135	4D	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
Valley of the Giants	138	4D	50–75	Climbing Not Permitted
Van Diemen's Land	58	4B	5–10	Designated Climbing Area
Venus Baths	116	4D	50–75	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Wallaby Rocks	182	4E	5–10	Climbing Not Permitted
Wall of Fools Nth	10	4B	5–10	Climbing Not Permitted
Wall of Fools Sth (LTO Only)	9	4B	25–50	Designated Climbing Area (LTO Only)
Wall of The West Wind	195	4F	0–5	Climbing Not Permitted
Warden Wall	69	4A	5–10	Designated Climbing Area
Watchmen Wall	63	4A	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Wedge Tail Boulders	256	4H	10–15	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Weirs Creek	191	4F	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
West Flank	22	4B	25–50	Designated Climbing Area
Western Bloc	102	4C	25–50	Climbing Not Permitted
Western Crags	17	4B	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
Western Wall (RNA)	144	4D	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
Wild Flower Wall	123	4D	25–50	Designated Climbing Area
Wild Geese Wall	120	4D	0–5	Designated Climbing Area
Wildebeest	85	4A	25–50	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Wildsides	61	4B	5–10	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)
Windjammer	60	4B	15–25	Designated Climbing Area
Wonderland Carpark Access	132	4D	0–5	Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)

Appendix 3: Special Protection Areas

See Map 2A: Management Zones and Overlays.

Key Values	Purpose/Objective	Specific management arrangements
Special Protection Areas CV1–53		
Any archaeological or historical remains as defined by the <i>National Parks Regulations 2013</i> or any Aboriginal object, Aboriginal place or Ancestral remains as defined by the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> . Other cultural values	Avoid human disturbance to maximise preservation of significant registered Aboriginal cultural heritage in compliance with the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> and fulfilling the terms of the National Heritage Listing.	Only passive recreation activities, such as walking and wildlife observation are permitted.
Special Protection Areas NV4, NV8–10, NV20, NV23, CV21, CV36, CV37, CV41, CV44, CV46–53		
Natural Quiet Overlay	Avoid human disturbance to maximise preservation of habitat and cultural values	No recreation activities except passive recreation activities, such as walking and wildlife observation, are permitted. Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.
Special Protection Area NV1 Ginigalg		
Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby habitat	Avoid human disturbance in rocky habitat occupied by Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby (EPBC listed) and high quality potential habitat identified as suitable for future release sites.	Only passive recreation activities, such as walking and wildlife observation are permitted.
Special Protection Area NV2 Werdug		
Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby habitat	Avoid human disturbance in rocky habitat occupied by Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby (EPBC listed) and high quality potential habitat identified as suitable for future release sites.	Only passive recreation activities, such as walking and wildlife observation are permitted.
Special Protection Area NV3 Mt Talbot		
Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby habitat	Avoid human disturbance in rocky habitat occupied by Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby (EPBC listed) and high quality potential habitat identified as suitable for future release sites.	Only passive recreation activities, such as walking and wildlife observation are permitted.
Special Protection Area NV4 Djibilara		
Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby habitat	Avoid human disturbance in rocky habitat occupied by Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby (EPBC listed) and high quality potential habitat identified as suitable for future release sites.	Only passive recreation activities, such as walking and wildlife observation are permitted.

Key Values	Purpose/Objective	Specific management arrangements
Special Protection Area NV5 Boreang West		
Southern Brown Bandicoot habitat	Minimise human disturbance to habitat of Southern Brown Bandicoot (EPBC listed) such as wetland fringes and heathland, by activities such as track creation or inappropriate fire regimes.	Standard restrictions on recreation activities apply (see Section 5.3). Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.
Special Protection Area NV6 Boreang East		
Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby habitat	Avoid human disturbance in rocky habitat occupied by Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby (EPBC listed) and high quality potential habitat identified as suitable for future release sites.	Only passive recreation activities, such as walking and wildlife observation are permitted.
Special Protection Area NV7 Silverband		
Smoky Mouse habitat	Minimise human disturbance to habitat of Smoky Mouse (EPBC listed), including dry ridgeline forest and heath, from activities causing habitat loss and fragmentation, such as track creation, altered fire regime and dieback.	Standard restrictions on recreation activities apply (see Section 5.3). Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.
Special Protection Area NV8 Moora Moora		
Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby habitat	Avoid human disturbance in rocky habitat occupied by Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby (EPBC listed) and high quality potential habitat identified as suitable for future release sites.	Only passive recreation activities, such as walking and wildlife observation are permitted.
Special Protection Area NV9 Billawin North		
Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby habitat	Avoid human disturbance in rocky habitat occupied by Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby (EPBC listed) and high quality potential habitat identified as suitable for future release sites.	Only passive recreation activities, such as walking and wildlife observation are permitted.
Special Protection Area NV10 Billawin South		
Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby habitat	Avoid human disturbance in rocky habitat occupied by Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby (EPBC listed) and high quality potential habitat identified as suitable for future release sites.	Only passive recreation activities, such as walking and wildlife observation are permitted.

Key Values	Purpose/Objective	Specific management arrangements
Special Protection Area NV11 Dalton Peak		
Long-nosed Potoroo, Southern Brown Bandicoot and Smoky Mouse habitat	Minimise human disturbance to habitat of these EPBC listed species and reduction of vegetation cover in potential habitat, including protecting ground cover from damage and inappropriate fire regimes.	Standard restrictions on recreation activities apply (see Section 5.3). Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.
Special Protection Area NV12 Serra Range A		
Long-nosed Potoroo, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Smoky Mouse habitat and high-altitude ecosystem (refugia)	Avoid human disturbance to occupied habitat, enhance habitat connectivity and maintain climate refuges, including by protecting habitat from damaging activities and inappropriate fire regimes.	Only passive recreation activities, such as walking and wildlife observation are permitted. Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.
Special Protection Area NV13 Seven Dials		
Smoky Mouse habitat	Minimise human disturbance to habitat of Smoky Mouse (EPBC listed), including dry ridgeline forest and heath, from activities causing habitat loss and fragmentation, such as track creation, altered fire regime and <i>Phytophthora dieback</i> .	Standard restrictions on recreation activities apply (see Section 5.3). Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.
Special Protection Area NV14 Red Man Bluff		
High-altitude ecosystem (refugia)	Maintain climate refuges, including by protecting habitat from damaging activities and inappropriate fire regimes.	Standard restrictions on recreation activities apply (see Section 5.3). Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.
Special Protection Area NV15 Bomjinna		
Southern Brown Bandicoot habitat	Minimise human disturbance to habitat of Southern Brown Bandicoot (EPBC listed), such as wetland fringes and heathland, by activities such as track creation or inappropriate fire regimes.	Standard restrictions on recreation activities apply (see Section 5.3). Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.
Special Protection Area NV16 Duwul		
Long-nosed Potoroo, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Smoky Mouse habitat and high-altitude ecosystem (refugia)	Avoid human disturbance to occupied habitat, enhance habitat connectivity and maintain climate refuges, including by protecting habitat from damaging activities and inappropriate fire regimes.	Only passive recreation activities, such as walking and wildlife observation are permitted. Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.

Key Values	Purpose/Objective	Specific management arrangements
Special Protection Area NV17 Cathedral Rocks		
Smoky Mouse habitat	Minimise human disturbance to habitat of Smoky Mouse (EPBC listed), including dry ridgeline forest and heath, from activities causing habitat loss and fragmentation, such as track creation, altered fire regime and Phytophthora dieback.	Standard restrictions on recreation activities apply (see Section 5.3). Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.
Special Protection Area NV18 Jaranula		
Long-nosed Potoroo, Southern Brown Bandicoot and Smoky Mouse habitat	Minimise human disturbance to habitat of these EPBC listed species and reduction of vegetation cover in potential habitat, including protecting ground cover from damage and inappropriate fire regimes.	Standard restrictions on recreation activities apply (see Section 5.3). Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.
Special Protection Area NV19 Castle Creek		
Southern Brown Bandicoot habitat	Minimise human disturbance to habitat of Southern Brown Bandicoot (EPBC listed), such as wetland fringes and heathland, by activities such as track creation or inappropriate fire regimes.	Standard restrictions on recreation activities apply (see Section 5.3). Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.
Special Protection Area NV20 Billawin		
Long-nosed Potoroo, Smoky Mouse habitat and high-altitude ecosystem (refugia)	Minimise human disturbance to habitat, enhance habitat connectivity and maintain climate refuges, including by protecting habitat from damaging activities and inappropriate fire regimes.	Standard restrictions on recreation activities apply (see Section 5.3). Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.
Special Protection Area NV21 Southern Victoria		
Smoky Mouse and Southern Brown Bandicoot habitat	Minimise human disturbance to priority habitat by activities such as track creation and inappropriate fire regimes.	Standard restrictions on recreation activities apply (see Section 5.3). Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.
Special Protection Area NV22 Southern Victoria Range B		
Smoky Mouse habitat	Minimise human disturbance to habitat of Smoky Mouse (EPBC listed), including dry ridgeline forest and heath from activities causing habitat loss and fragmentation, such as track creation, altered fire regime and Phytophthora dieback.	Standard restrictions on recreation activities apply (see Section 5.3). Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.

Key Values	Purpose/Objective	Specific management arrangements
Special Protection Area NV23 Southern Victoria Range D		
Southern Brown Bandicoot and high-altitude ecosystem (refugia)	Minimise human disturbance to habitat and reduction of vegetation cover in potential habitat, including protecting climate refuges from damaging activities and the impact of fire.	Standard restrictions on recreation activities apply (see Section 5.3). Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.
Special Protection Area NV24 Southern Victoria Range C		
Smoky Mouse and Southern Brown Bandicoot habitat	Minimise human disturbance to priority habitat by activities such as track creation and inappropriate fire regimes.	Standard restrictions on recreation activities apply (see Section 5.3). Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.
Special Protection Area NV25 Serra Range South		
Smoky Mouse and Southern Brown Bandicoot habitat	Minimise human disturbance to priority habitat by activities such as track creation and inappropriate fire regimes.	Standard restrictions on recreation activities apply (see Section 5.3). Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.
Special Protection Area NV26 Burrah Burrah		
Southern Brown Bandicoot habitat	Minimise human disturbance to habitat of Southern Brown Bandicoot (EPBC listed), such as wetland fringes and heathland, by activities such as track creation or inappropriate fire regimes.	Standard restrictions on recreation activities apply (see Section 5.3). Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.
NV27 Mud-dadjug		
Smoky Mouse and Southern Brown Bandicoot habitat	Minimise human disturbance to priority habitat by activities such as track creation and inappropriate fire regimes.	Standard restrictions on recreation activities apply (see Section 5.3). Where appropriate exclude fire from unburnt refugia.

Appendix 4: Vehicle Roads and Tracks

Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park

Road name	Road class	Road category
Asses Ears Road	Minor Road	Public Road
Beehive Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Bellfield Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Billywing Road	Secondary Road	Public Road
Billywing Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Bomjinna Track	Rough Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Boronia Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Boundary Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Briggs Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)
Brim Springs Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Brimpaen Road	Secondary Road	Public Road
Bullawin Road	Minor Road	Public Road
Burma Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Burnt Hut Creek Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)
Burrong Short Cut	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)
Carter Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Cassidy Gap Road	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Chinaman Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)
Cooida Burrong Road	Minor Road	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Coppermine Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Cranages Track	Rough Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Crute Link Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Crute Track	Rough Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Dunns Crossing Track	Rough Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
East Wartook Track	Rough Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Emmett Road	Minor Road	Public Road
Fields Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Flagstaff Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)
Flatrock Road	Minor Road	Public Road
Geerack Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Glenelg River Road	Secondary Road	Public Road
Glenisla Crossing Road	Secondary Road	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Goat Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)
Golton Link Track	Rough Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Golton South Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Greens Creek Road	Secondary Road	Public Road
Griffin Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Halls Gap-Mt Zero Road	Secondary Road	Public Road
Happy Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)

Road name	Road class	Road category
Harrops Track (Red Rock Road to Glenelg River Road)	Minor Road	Public Road
Henham Shortcut	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Henham Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Hines Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Homestead Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)
Hut Creek Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Ingleton Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Jensens Road	Secondary Road	Public Road
Jimmy Creek Road	Minor Road	Public Road
Kalymna Falls Track	Rough Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Launders Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Link Track (Pohlner Road to Smiths Road)	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)
Link Track (Serra Road to Henham Track)	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Lodge Road	Secondary Road	Public Road
Long Point Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Lynchs Crossing Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)
Lynchs Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)
MacKenzie Falls Road	Primary Road	Public Road
Mafeking Road	Minor Road	Public Road
Mair Track North	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)
Matthews Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)
Mitchell Road	Minor Road	Public Road
Moorra Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)
Mount Cassell Track	Rough Track	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)
Mount Difficult Road (Boroka Lookout to Wartook Road)	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Mount Difficult Road (Mt Victory Road to Boroka Lookout)	Secondary Road	Public Road
Mount Difficult Track (Halls Gap Road to Watch Tower Track)	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Mount Difficult Track (Watch Tower Track to Heatherlie Quarry)	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Mount William Road	Secondary Road	Public Road
Mt William Picnic Ground Track	Minor Road	Public Road
Neates Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Old Mill Road	Minor Road	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Olive Plantation Road	Secondary Road	Public Road
Osslers Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Phillips Island Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Plantation Road	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Pohlner Link Track	Minor Road	Public Road
Pohlner Road	Minor Road	Public Road
Pomonal Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)

Road name	Road class	Road category
Red Hill Road	Secondary Road	Public Road
Red Rock Road	Minor Road	Public Road
Redman Track	Minor Road	Public Road
Reed Lookout Road	Secondary Road	Public Road
Ricky North Track	Rough Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Rose Creek Road	Secondary Road	Public Road
Rosea Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)
Sanders Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)
Sawmill Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Serra Range Track (north of Cassidy Gap Road)	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)
Serra Range Track (south of Cassidy Gap Road)	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Serra Road (Glenelg River Road to Grampians Road)	Secondary Road	Public Road
Serra Road (Glenelg River Road to Syphon Road)	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Seven Dials Track	Rough Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Shilcock Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Spears Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Stapylton Campground Road	Secondary Road	Public Road
Stockyard Track	Rough Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Stony Creek Road	Minor Road	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Sundial Road (Management to be resolved)	Secondary Road	Public Road
Syphon Road	Minor Road	Public Road
Taylor's Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Terraces Track	Rough Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Victoria Range Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)
Victoria Range Track South	Rough Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Wallaby Rocks Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Waterworks Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (MVO)
Western Highway Link Road	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Wonderland Road	Secondary Road	Public Road
Yananagiji Njawi Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Yarram Gap Road	Secondary Road	Public Road
Yarram Park Road	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Zumstein Track	Minor Road	Public Road
Zumstein Track (Zumsteins to Chinaman Tk)	Rough Track	Operational Road (MVO)

Black Range State Park

Road name	Road class	Road category
East Boundary Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Open All Year)
Mudadgadjiin Picnic Ground Road	Minor Road	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)
Muirfoot Track	Access Road / Track	Operational Road (Seasonal Closure)

Appendix 5: Walking Tracks

Grades are explained in the key at end of table.

Track	Type	Location	Distance (km)	Grade
GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK				
Andersons	climb access	Hollow Mountain Track		4
Asses Ears [Djibalara]	walking track	Wallaby Rocks Tk – Asses ears	3.0	5
Barc Cliff track	climb access	Hollow Mountain Track		3
Barri Yalug Loop	walking track	Brambuk Loop – Tandara Rd – Brambuk Loop	2.5	2
Beehive Falls	walking track	Beehive Falls Carpark – Beehive Falls	1.4	2
Beehive Falls Link	walking track	GPT – Beehive Falls	2.5	4
Billimina Shelter	walking track	Buandik campground – Jardwadjali Falls – Billimina	1.7	3
Bomjinna	closed	Bomjinna – Mt William Carpark		
Boroka Lookout	walking track	GPT (Wonderland) – Boroka Lookout Carpark – Mt Victory Road	4.2	3
Boronia Link	walking track	Brambuk Loop – Boronia Peak Tk	0.3	3
Boronia Peak	walking track	Delleys Bridge – Boronia Peak	4.5	3
Brambuk Loop	walking track	Brambuk Centre /wetlands	2.0	1
Briggs Bluff	walking track	GPT – Briggs Bluff	1.0	4
Broken Falls	walking track	MacKenzie Falls Tk – Broken Falls	0.5	2
Brownings Loop	walking track	Mafeking Picnic Area	1.0	3
Bullaces Glen link	walking track	GPT (Venus Baths) – Bullaces Glen	0.5	3
Bullaces Glen Loop	walking track	Loop walk from Mt Victory Rd	0.4	3
Bundaleer	climb access	Rosea Rd – Bundaleer climbing site	0.3	3
Bundaleer	climb access	Rosea Tk – Bundaleer	0.4	5
Bun-nah Trail	walking track	Zumsteins – Fish Falls – MacKenzie Falls	4.0	3
Burma Track	walking track	Silverband Rd – Ingleton Firetrail	3.6	5
Burrong Falls	walking track	Rose Creek Rd – Burrong Falls	0.3	2
Calecstasia Falls	closed	Tower Hill area		
Castle Rock	walking track	Rosea – Castle Crag	3.0	5
Chatauqua Peak	walking track	Bullaces Glen – GPT Chatauqua Peak	1.5	3
Chimney Pots, The	walking track	Chimney Pots carpark – Chimney Pots	4.0	4
Coppermines Walk	walking track	Coppermine Campground	0.8	3
Dairy Creek	closed	To Dairy Creek carpark		
Dairy Creek Link	closed			
Delley West	closed	Sundial Track		
Delleys Dell	closed	Rosea carpark		
Devils Gap	closed	Devils Gap to High Rd.		
Devils Gap Link	walking track	Sundial Carpark – Devils Gap	0.5	3

Track	Type	Location	Distance (km)	Grade
Epacris Falls	closed	Mt Victory Rd – Epacris Falls		
Fortress	walking track	Harrops Tk – Victoria Range Rd	6.0	4
Garden of the Grampians	walking track	Silverband Rd – Pinnacle Track	2.5	3
Golton Gorge North	closed	Golton Gorge Picnic Area		
Golton Gorge South	walking track	Golton Gorge picnic area	2.3	3
Grampians Peaks Trail 01 (Gunigalg) N1	walking track	Mt Zero Picnic Area – Barigar hike-in campground	12.9	4
Grampians Peaks Trail 01a (Stapylton Summit)	walking track	GPT – Stapylton summit	0.3	4
Grampians Peaks Trail 02 (Gar) N2	walking track	Barigar hike-in campground – Gar hike-in campground	11.3	4
Grampians Peaks Trail 02a (Gar summit)	walking track	GPT – Gar summit	1.5	4
Grampians Peaks Trail 03 (Werdug) N3	walking track	Gar hike-in campground – Werdug hike-in campground	14.0	4
Grampians Peaks Trail 04 (Budja Budja) N4	walking track	Werdug hike-in campground – Halls Gap	13.0	4
Grampians Peaks Trail 05 (Wonderland) C1	walking track	Halls Gap – Bugiga hike-in campground	8.6	4
Grampians Peaks Trail 05a (Lakeview Lookout)	walking track	GPT – Lakeview lookout	0.5	3
Grampians Peaks Trail 06 (Mount Rosea) C2	walking track	Bugiga hike-in campground – Barri Yalug hike-in campground	14.2	4
Grampians Peaks Trail 07 (Seven Dials) C3	walking track	Barri Yalug hike-in campground – Duwul hike-in campground	12.0	4
Grampians Peaks Trail 08 (Duwul) C4	walking track	Duwul hike-in campground – Durd hike-in campground	15.6	4
Grampians Peaks Trail 09 (Durd Durd) C5	walking track	Durd hike-in campground – Yarram hike-in campground	12.5	4
Grampians Peaks Trail 10 (Serra Range) S1	walking track	Yarram hike-in campground – Wannon hike-in campground	11.9	4
Grampians Peaks Trail 11 (Djardii-djawara) S2	walking track	Wannon hike-in campground – Djardii-djawara hike-in campground	15.4	4
Grampians Peaks Trail 12 (Mud-dadjug) S3	walking track	Djardii-djawara hike-in campground – Mud-dadjug hike-in campground	10.4	4
Grampians Peaks Trail 13 (Dunkeld) S4	walking track	Mud-dadjug hike-in campground – Dunkeld	12.1	4
Grand Canyon Loop	walking track	GPT – Grand Canyon – GPT	0.4	3
Grand Staircase	climb access	Rosea track – Grand Staircase/Mt Rosea		4
Gulgurn Manja Shelter	walking track	Hollow Mountain carpark – art shelter	0.7	3
Halls Gap Bike Path	cycle – shared	Brambuk – Tymna Drive (Bellfield township)		1
Halls Gap Bike Path	cycle – shared	Brambuk – Grampians Rd		1

Track	Type	Location	Distance (km)	Grade
Heatherlie – Mt Difficult Quarry Historic walk	walking track	Heatherlie Track – Heatherlie Quarry	1.2	3
Heatherlie Township Loop	walking track	Heatherlie Township – Heatherlie Quarry historic site	1.2	3
Hollow Mountain	walking track	Hollow Mountain carpark – Hollow Mountain	1.1	4
Hut Creek	walking track	Harrops Tk – Victoria Range Rd	6.0	4
Kalymna Falls	walking track	Kalymna campground – Kalymna Falls	1.2	4
Kindergarten	climb access		0.8	
Longpoint East	walking track	GPT – Longpoint East camp	1.0	4
Longpoint West	walking track	GPT (Gar Summit) – Longpoint West camp	2.0	4
MacKenzie Falls	walking track	MacKenzie Falls – Lookout – base of falls	1.8	2
Mackeys Peak – Pinnacle	walking track	Halls Gap – Mackeys Peak – The Pinnacle	3.7	3
Manja Shelter	walking track	Manja trailhead – Manja Art site	1.3	3
Mount Abrupt Link	walking track	Mt Abrupt carpark – GPT Mt Abrupt	1.5	3
Mount Difficult (Gar)	closed	Old Troopers Creek campground		
Mount Sturgeon Link	walking track	Victoria Valley Rd – Mt Sturgeon	3.0	3
Mount Thackeray	walking track	Victoria Range Rd – Mt Thackeray	1.0	4
Mountain Lion	climb access	Tower Hill area		5
Mt Rosea Sth /Cathcart Chislett Memorial track	closed	Mt Rosea – Borough Huts		
Mura	walking track	Mt Zero Picnic Area – Mt Zero	1.1	3
Netherby Towers	closed	Lake Bellfield area/Terraces Fireline		
Ngamadjidj Shelter	walking track	Stapylton Campground – Art Shelter	0.3	2
Paddys Castle	walking track	Glenelg River Rd – Paddys Castle	0.3	3
Plantation Link	proposed	GPT – Mt Difficult Rd (plantation)	2.0	4
Red Gum Walk	walking track	Henham Track	0.6	2
Silverband Falls	walking track	Silverband Rd – Silverband Falls	0.7	2
Splitters Falls	walking track	GPT – Splitters Falls	0.1	3
Stapylton Campground Link	walking track	Pohlner Rd walk tk junc – Stapylton campground	1.3	4
Stapylton Loop South	walking track	Pohlner Rd walk tk junc – GPT (north)	1.6	4
Stapylton Loop West	walking track	Pohlner Rd walk tk junc – GPT (Flat Rock)	2.9	4
Summerday Valley Track	climb access	Hollow Mountain Track	0.3	3
Sundial Peak	walking track	Sundial Carpark – Sundial Peak – Viewpoint – MVO	2.5	3
Taipan	climb access		0.8	
Teddy Bear Gap	walking track	Jimmy Creek Campground	2.5	3

Track	Type	Location	Distance (km)	Grade
Telstra Tower	walking track	GPT (Telstra Tower) – Pohlner Rd (south)	1.5	4
The Balconies	walking track	Reed Carpark – The Balconies	1.1	1
Tilwinda Falls	closed	Old Troopers Creek campground		
Tilwinda Loop	closed	Old Troopers Creek campground		
Tower Hill	walking track	Rosea Track – Tower Hill	0.5	4
Tunnel track	walking track	Tunnel Trailhead- Terraces Fireline	3.1	3
Turret Falls	walking track	Wonderland Trailhead -Turret Falls	1.2	3
Venus Baths Loop	walking track	Halls Gap – GPT (Venus Baths)	1.0	4
Wallaby Rocks [Moorngalg Rocks]	walking track	Wallaby Rocks Tk – Wallaby Rocks	0.1	4
Wartook Lookout	walking track	Mt Difficult Rd – GPT (Wartook Lookout)	0.5	4
Watchtower	climb access	Mt Zero Rd – Watchtower climbing site	0.3	3
West Bun-nah Trail	walking track	Zumsteins – Park boundary – Wartook	4.5	3
Wild Sheep Hills	walking track	Sheep Hills carpark – Mt William carpark	6.0	4
Zumsteins Historic Walk	walking track	Zumsteins Cottages walk	0.3	2
BLACK RANGE STATE PARK				
Art shelter and Escarpment Walk	walking track	Black Range State Park	8.0	5
Mt Byron	walking track	Muirfoot track – Mt Byron	1.5	4
Wild Man Cave	walking track	Muirfoot track	0.5	3
BLACK RANGE SCENIC RESERVE				
Bunjil Shelter Walk	walking track	Black Range Scenic Reserve	0.1	3

KEY

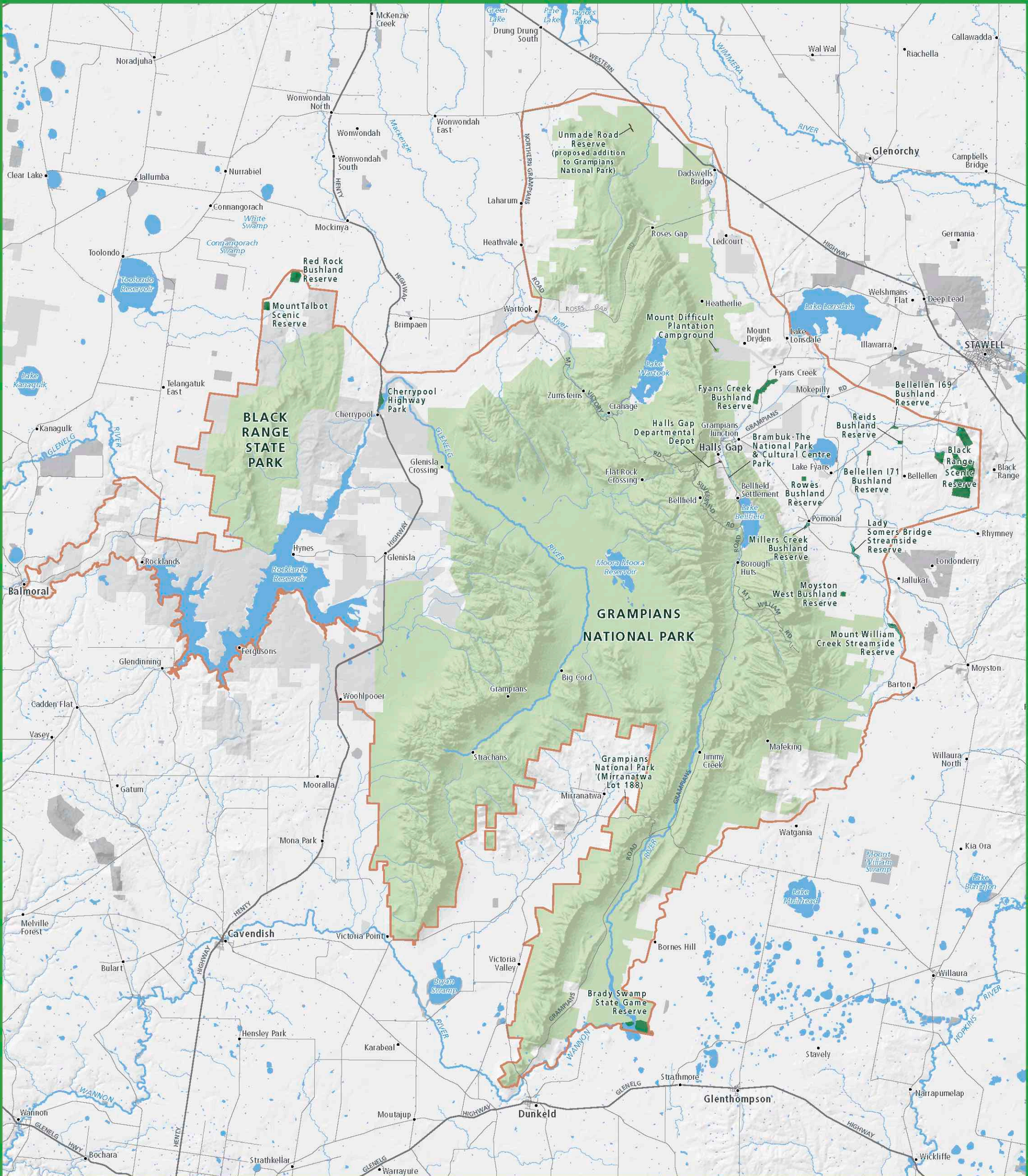
Australian Standards Classification – tracks

- Grade 1 Grade One is suitable for people with a disability with assistance
- Grade 2 Grade Two is suitable for families with young children
- Grade 3 Grade Three is recommended for people with some bushwalking experience
- Grade 4 Grade Four is recommended for experienced bushwalkers
- Grade 5 Grade Five is recommended for very experienced bushwalkers



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.





GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Map 1 - Planning Area and Land Tenure



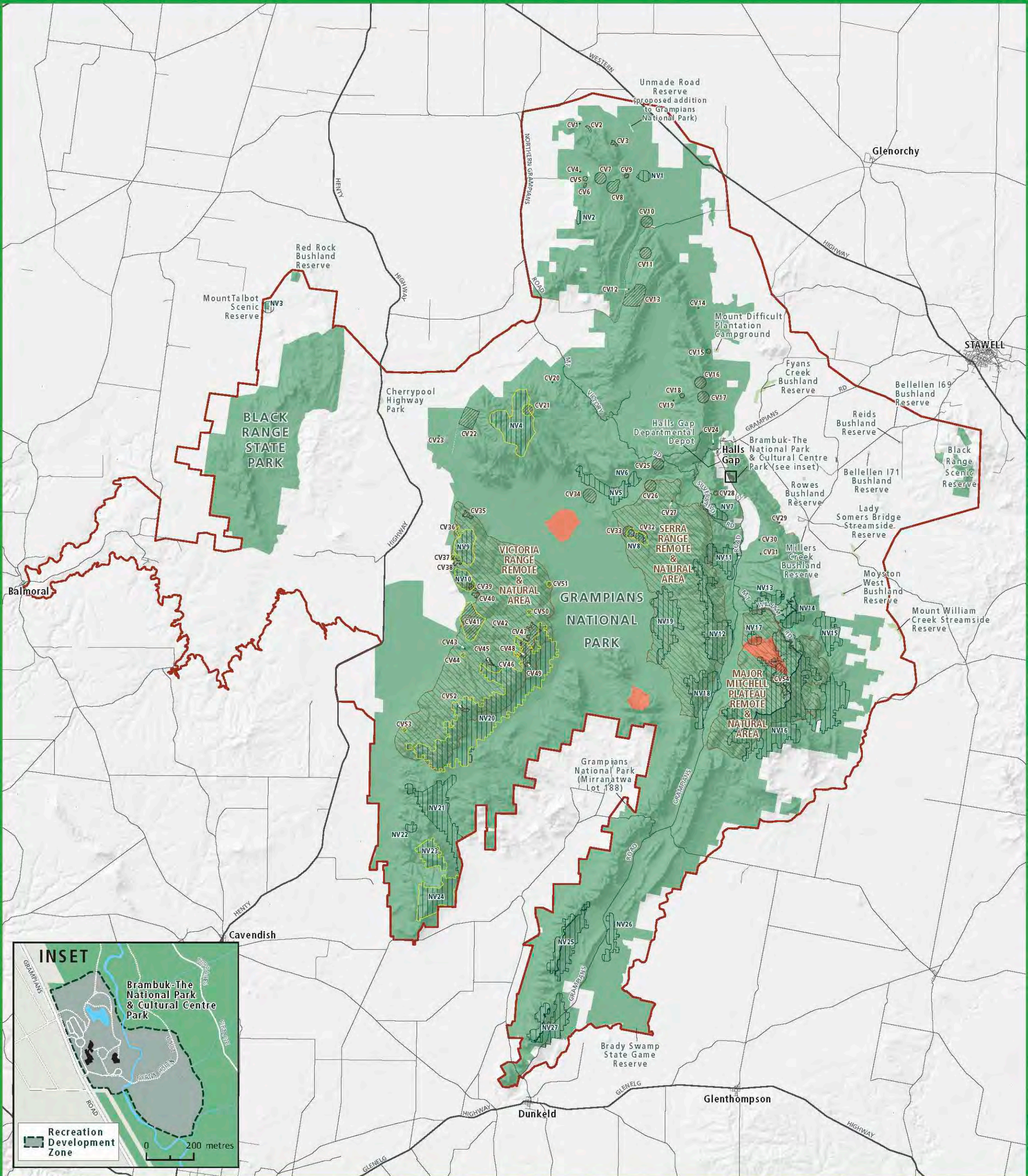
Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA 94)
Projected MGA Zone 54

This map supersedes all previous editions.

Data source acknowledgements:
The State of Victoria and Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

Scale at A3: 1: 310,000

<p>Planning Area</p>	<p>Planning Area Land Tenures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National & State Park Unreserved Forest Parks Victoria managed Natural Features Reserves: (Bushland Reserves / Scenic Reserves / Highway Parks / Streamside Reserves / State Game Reserves) Unreserved Crown Land Parks Victoria managed 	<p>Not included in Planning Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks Victoria managed Other Public Land 	<p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeway/highway Main road Sealed road <p>Water features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterbody River
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GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management Zones: Map 2 - Proposed Management Zones and Overlays



Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA 94)
Projected MGA Zone 54

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Data source acknowledgements:
The State of Victoria and Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

Planning Area

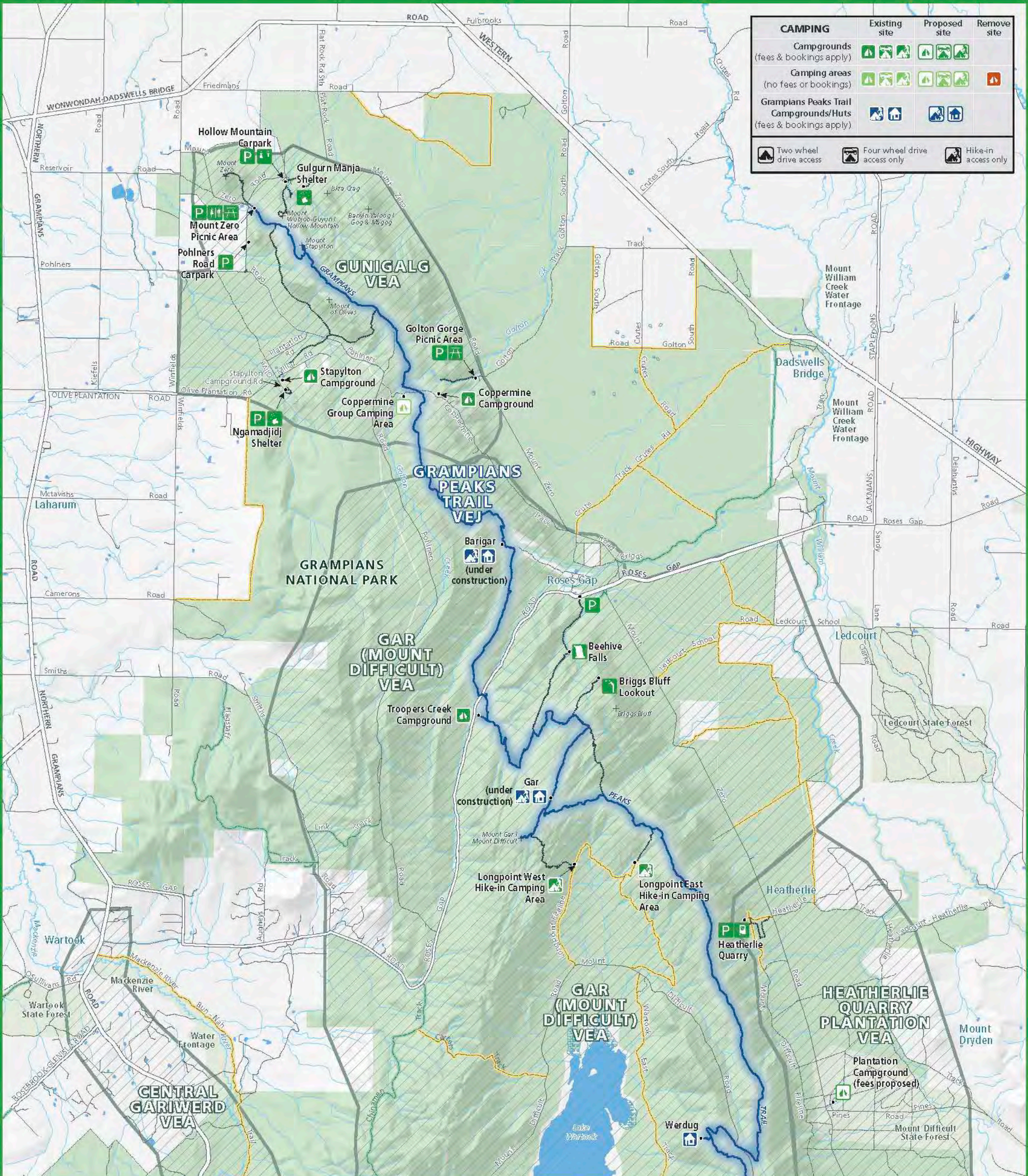
Management Zones & Overlays

- Cultural Conservation Zone
- Conservation & Recreation Zone
- Reference Area Zone
- Recreation Development Zone
- Cultural Values Special Protection Area
- Natural Values Special Protection Area
- Remote & Natural Area
- Natural Quiet Area

Roads

- Freeway/highway
- Main road
- Sealed road

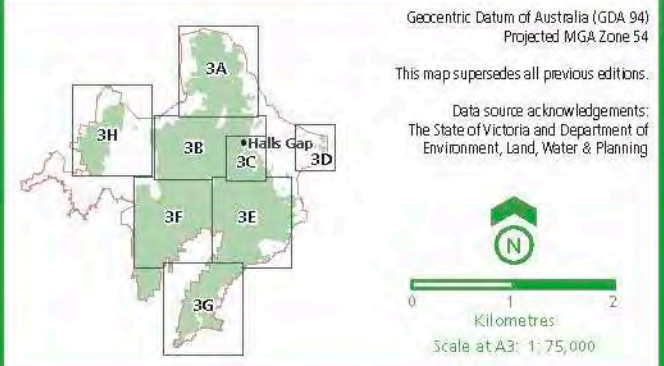
Sky Country Overlay applies to the whole of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park



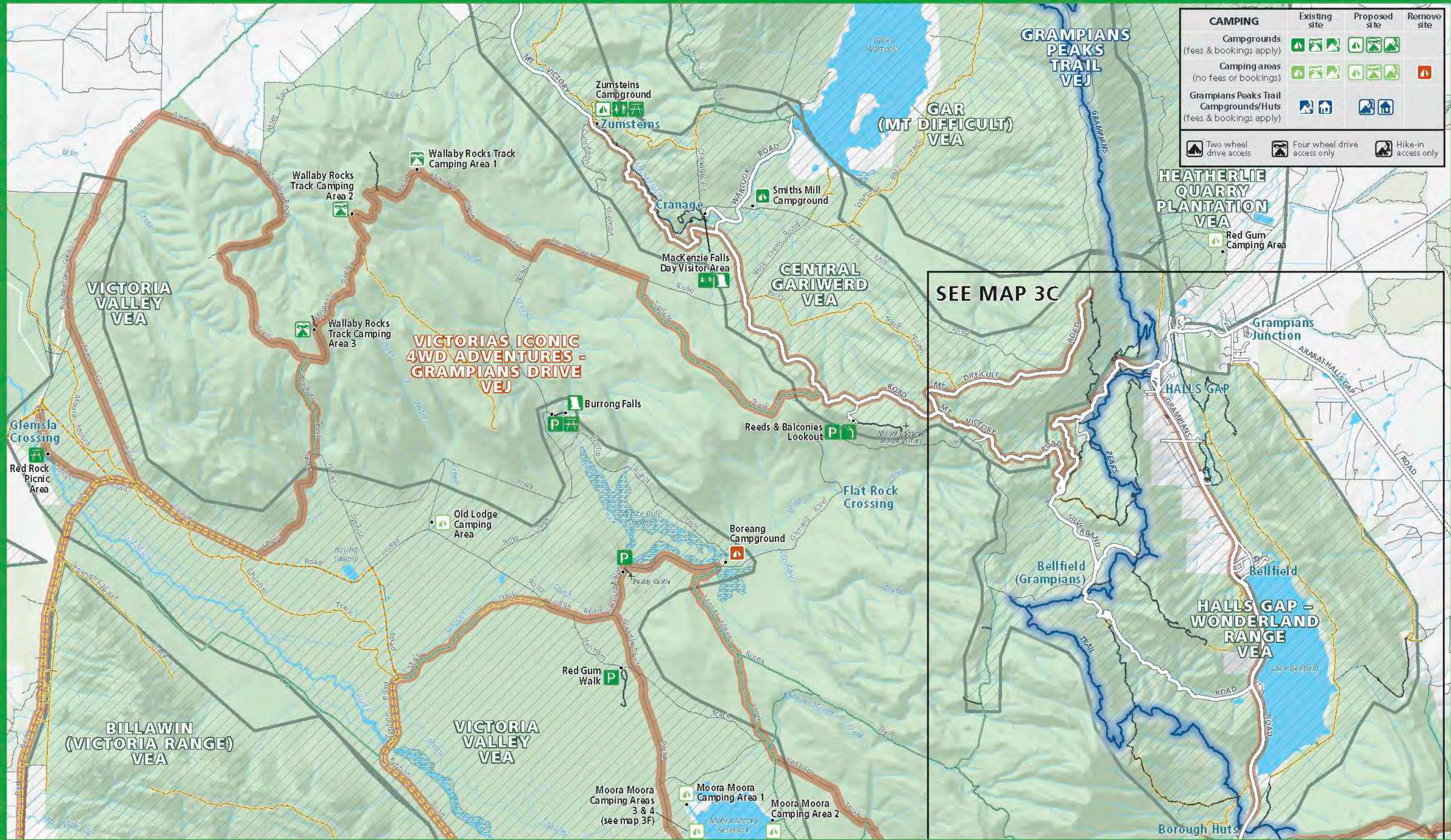
CAMPING	Existing site	Proposed site	Remove site
Campgrounds (fees & bookings apply)			
Camping areas (no fees or bookings)			
Grampians Peaks Trail Campgrounds/Huts (fees & bookings apply)			
Two wheel drive access	Four wheel drive access only	Hike-in access only	

GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Map 3A - Visitor Access & Destinations (Gunigalg, Gar & Heatherlie Quarry VEA)



Land Tenure	Visitor Experience	Visitor Experience	Roads	Water features
National & State Park	Carpark	Toilets	Freeway/highway	Waterbody
Other reserves	Picnic area	Lookout	Main road	Wetland
Visitor Experience Area (VEA)	Waterfall	Historical site	Sealed road	River
Visitor Experience Journey (VEJ)	Aboriginal site (Public rock art site)	Walking track	Unsealed road	Management vehicles only
Grampians Peaks Trail	Site location marker	4WD	4WD	Seasonal closure
Horse riding permitted		Management vehicles only		



CAMPING	Existing site	Proposed site	Remove site
Campgrounds (fees & bookings apply)			
Camping areas (no fees or bookings)			
Grampians Peaks Trail Campgrounds/Huts (fees & bookings apply)			

Two wheel drive access	Four wheel drive access only	Hike-in access only
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GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Map 3B - Visitor Access & Destinations (Central Gariwerd)

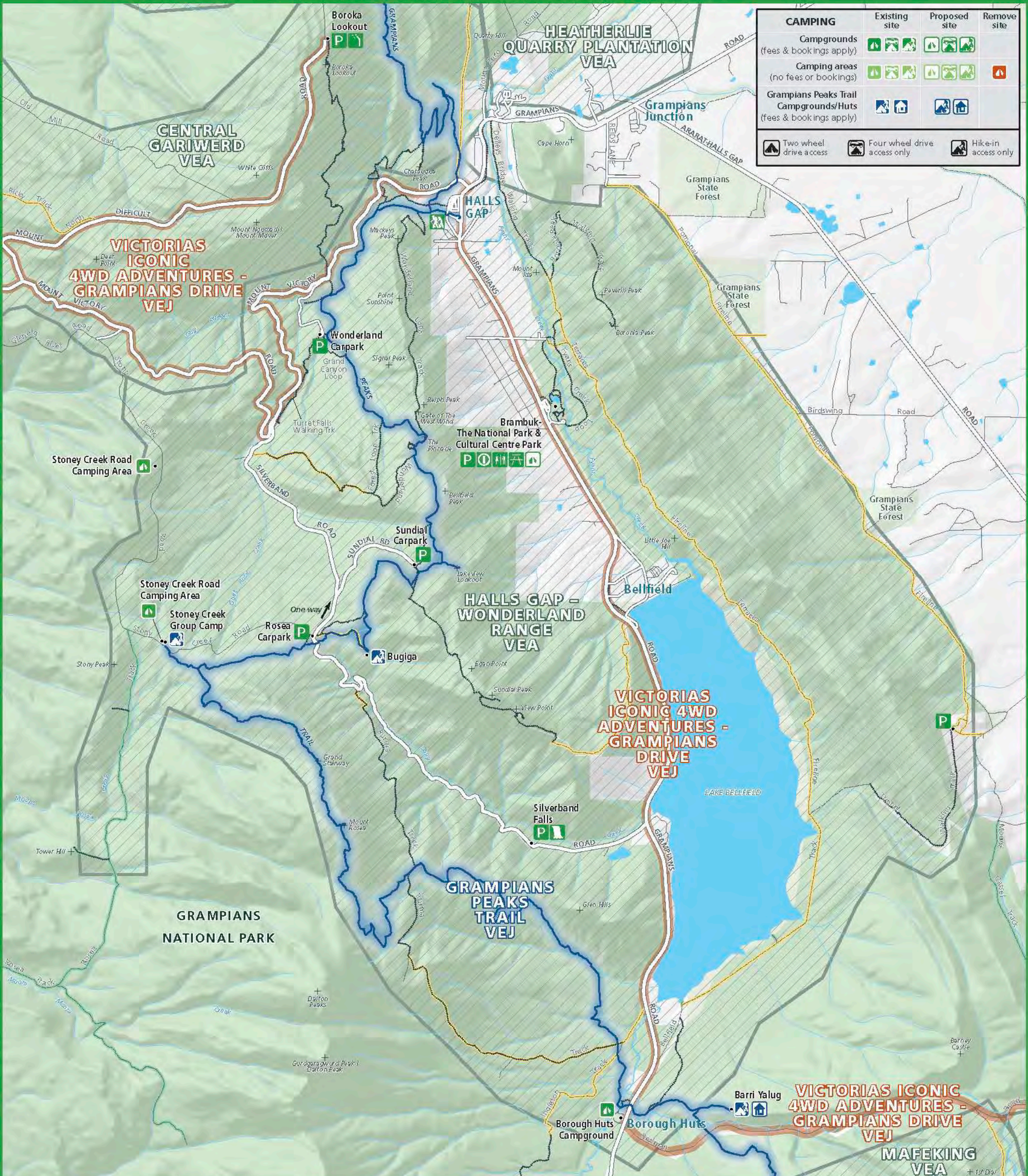


Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA 94)
Projected MGA Zone 54

This map supersedes all previous editions.

Data source acknowledgements:
The State of Victoria and Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

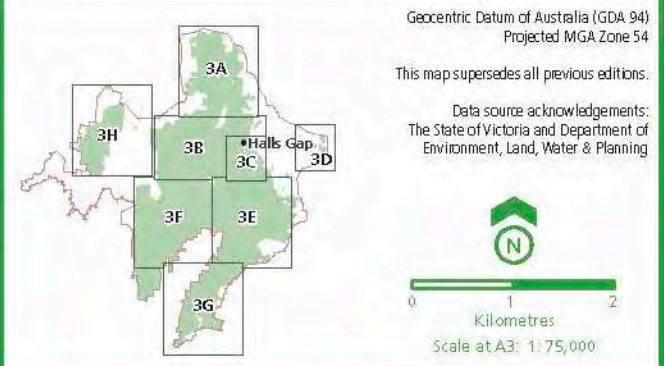
<p>Land Tenure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National & State Park Other reserves <p>Visitor Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor Experience Area (VEA) Visitor Experience Journey (VEJ) Grampians Peaks Trail Horse riding permitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site location marker Carpark Toilets Picnic area Aboriginal site (Public rock art site) Lookout Historical site Waterfall 	<p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeway/highway Main road Sealed road Unsealed road 4WD Walking track Management vehicles only Seasonal closure 	<p>Water features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterbody Wetland River
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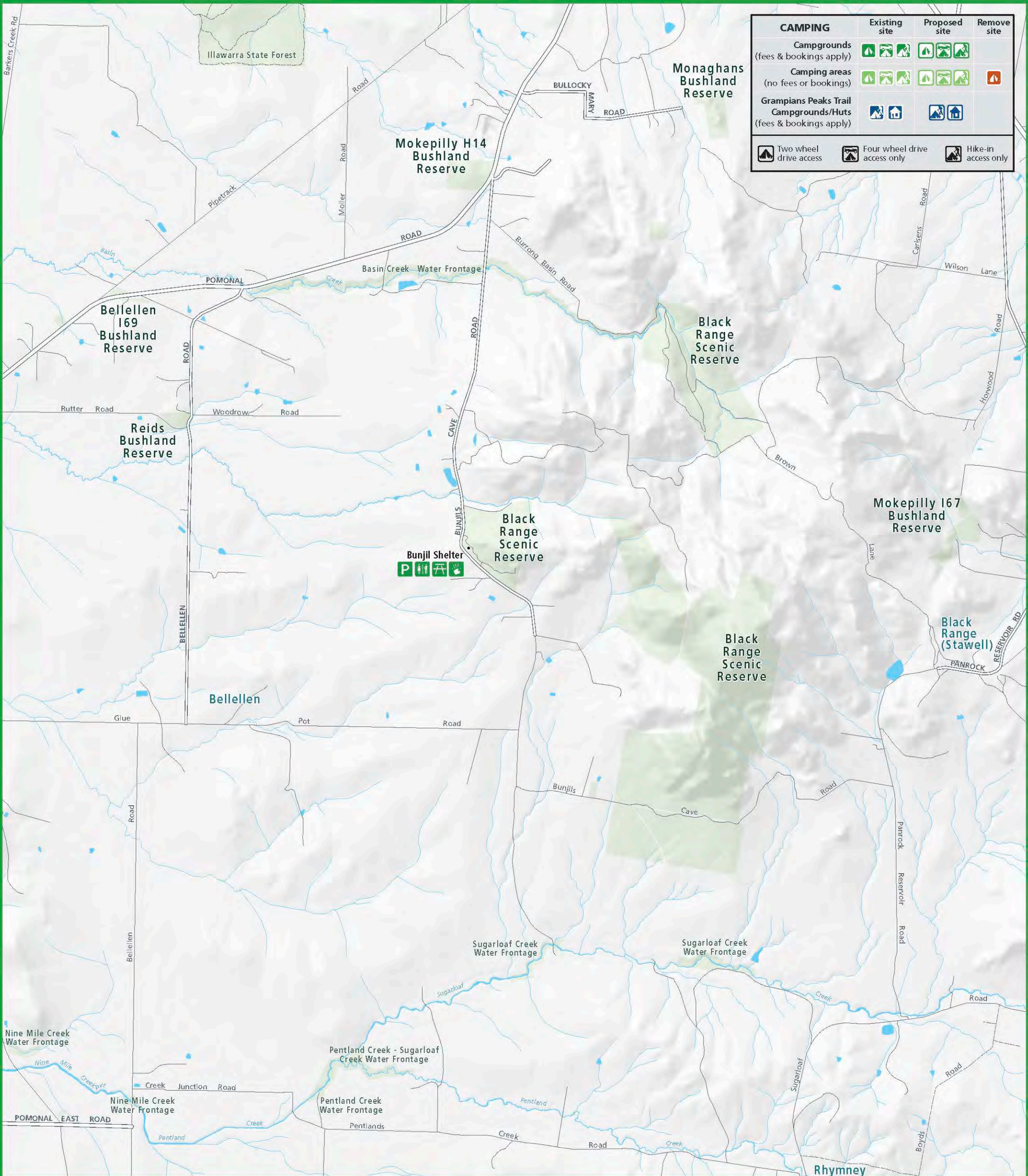
CAMPING	Existing site	Proposed site	Remove site
Campgrounds (fees & bookings apply)			
Camping areas (no fees or bookings)			
Grampians Peaks Trail Campgrounds/Huts (fees & bookings apply)			
Two wheel drive access	Four wheel drive access only	Hike-in access only	

GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Map 3C - Visitor Access & Destinations (Central Gariwerd & Halls Gap-Wonderland Range VEA)

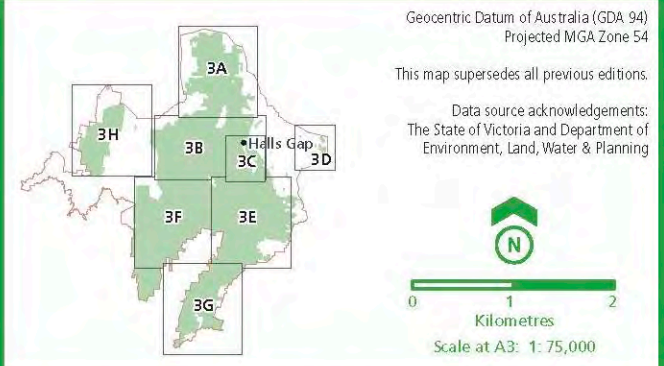


Land Tenure	Visitor Experience	Landmarks	Roads	Water features
National & State Park	Site location marker	Aboriginal site (Public rock art site)	Freeway/highway	Waterbody
Other reserves	Carpark	Lookout	Main road	Wetland
	Toilets	Historical site	Sealed road	River
	Picnic area	Waterfall	Unsealed road	
	Visitor Experience Area (VEA)		4WD	
	Visitor Experience Journey (VEJ)		Walking track	
	Grampians Peaks Trail		Management vehicles only	
	Horse riding permitted		Seasonal closure	

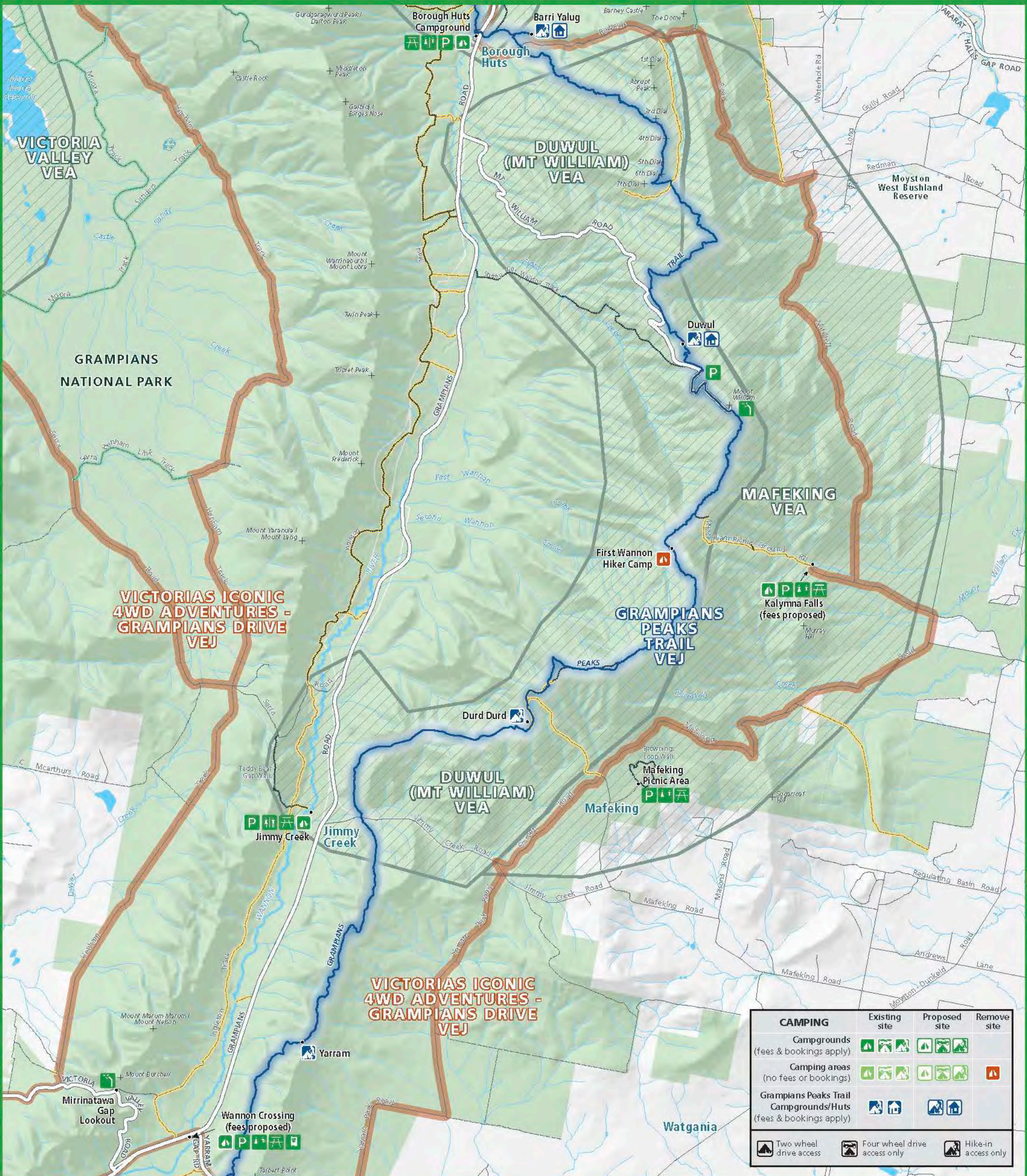


GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Map 3D - Visitor Access & Destinations (Black Range Scenic Reserve)



<p>Land Tenure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National & State Park Other reserves 	<p>Visitor Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor Experience Area (VEA) Visitor Experience Journey (VEJ) Grampians Peaks Trail Horse riding permitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site location marker Carpark Toilets Picnic area Aboriginal site (Public rock art site) Lookout Historical site Waterfall 	<p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeway/highway Main road Sealed road Unsealed road 4WD Walking track Management vehicles only Seasonal closure 	<p>Water features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterbody Wetland River
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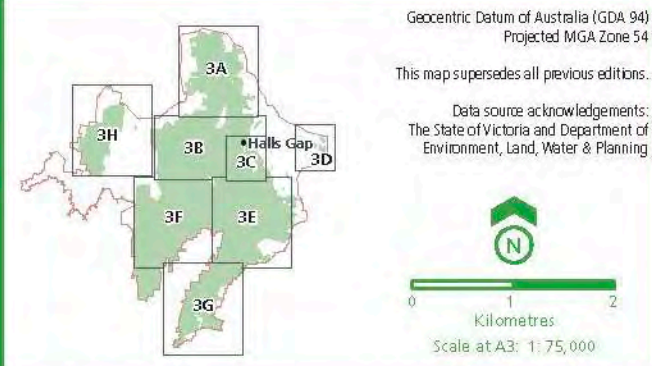


CAMPING	Existing site	Proposed site	Remove site
Campgrounds (fees & bookings apply)			
Camping areas (no fees or bookings)			
Grampians Peaks Trail Campgrounds/Huts (fees & bookings apply)			

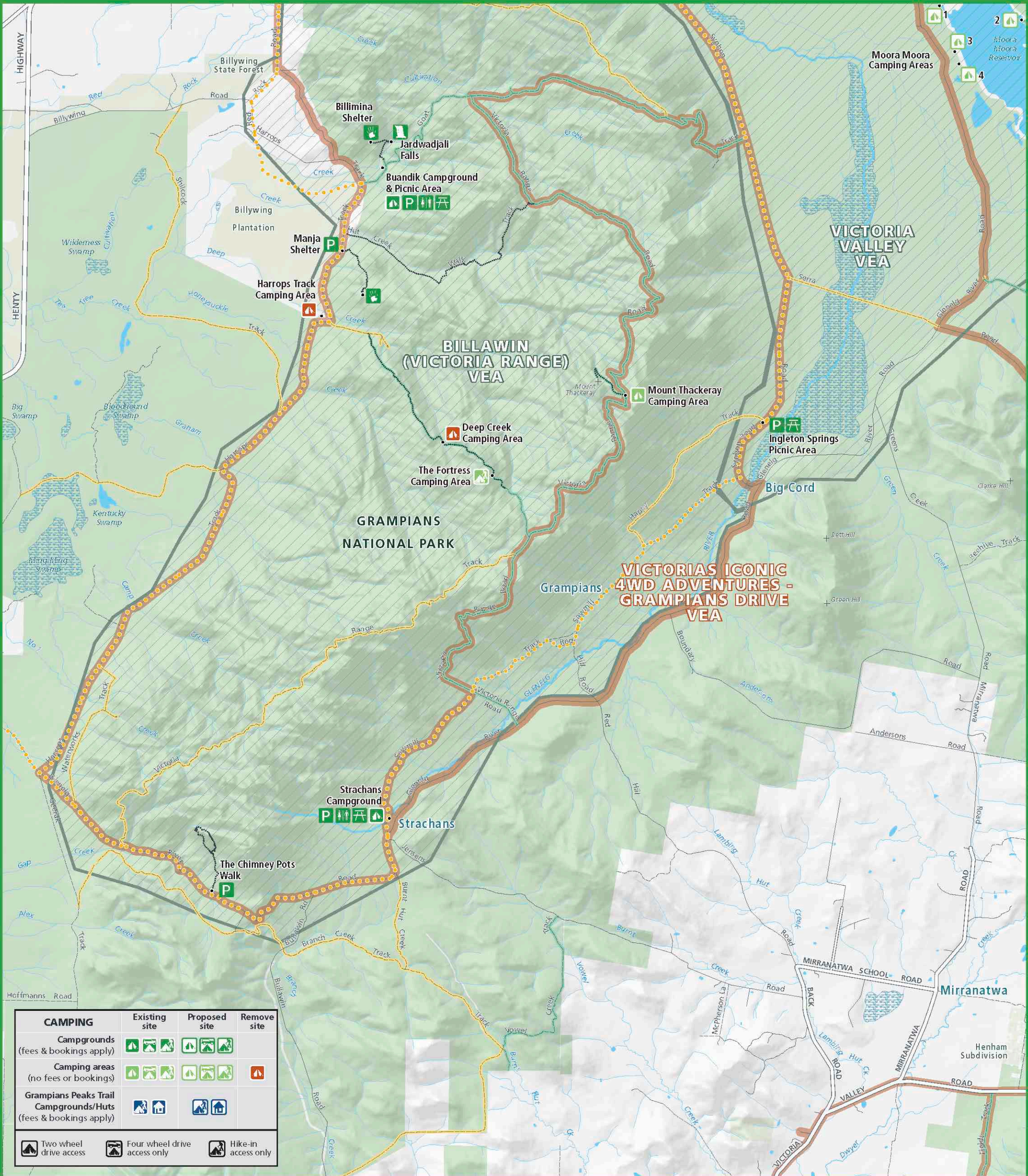
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GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Map 3E - Visitor Access & Destinations (Duwal (Mt William) & Mafeking VEA)

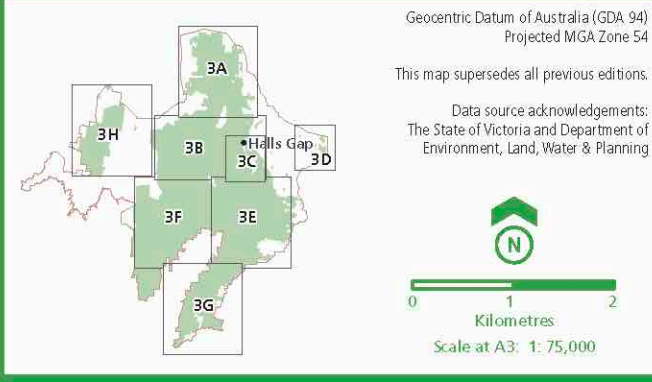


Land Tenure	Visitor Experience	Roads	Water features

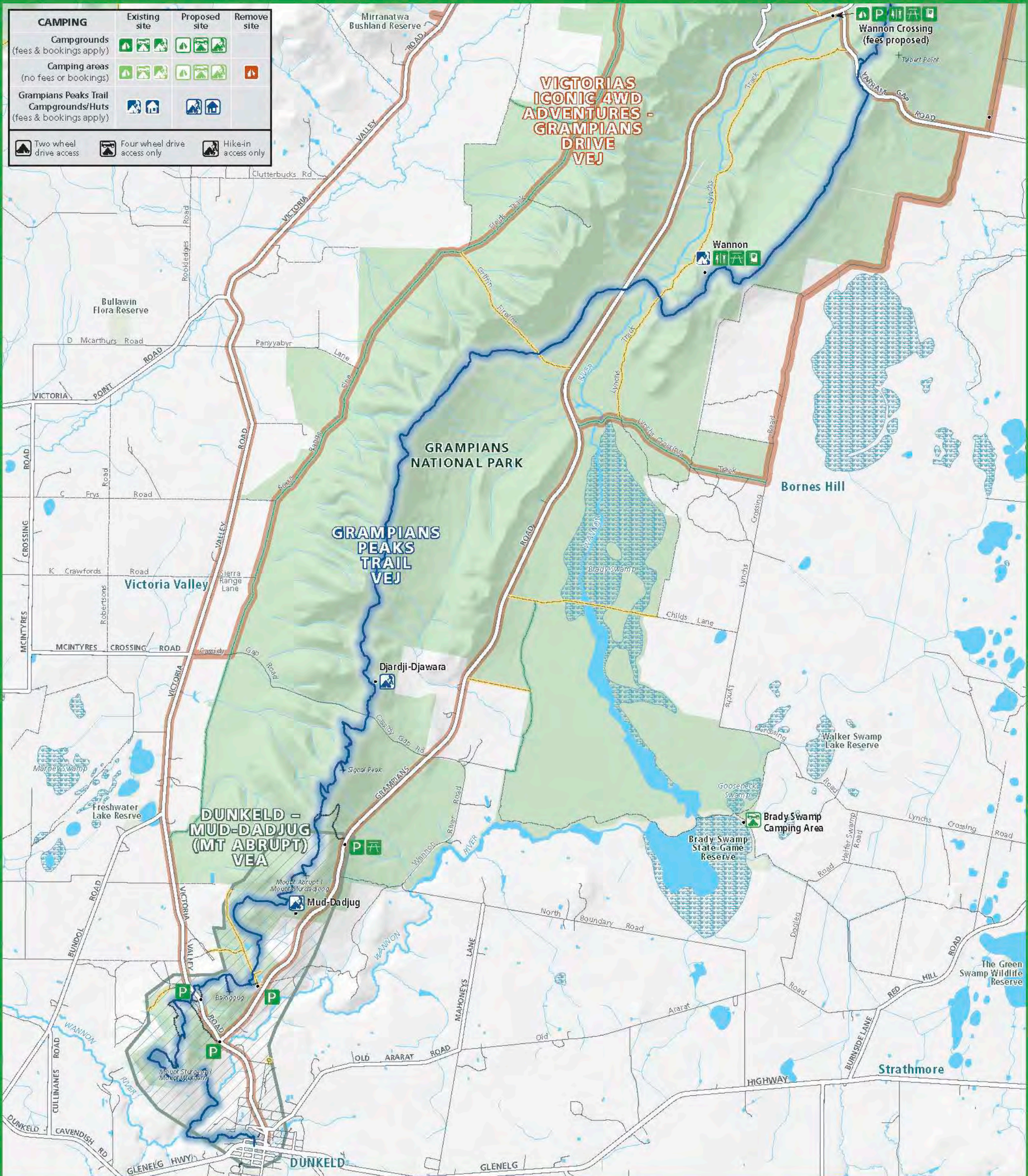


GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

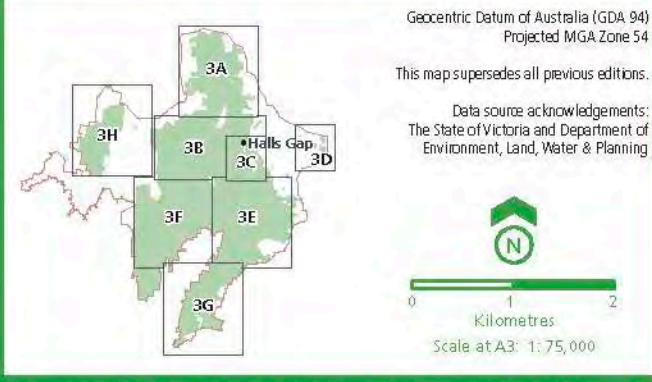
Map 3F - Visitor Access & Destinations (Victoria Valley & Billawin (Victoria Range) VEA)



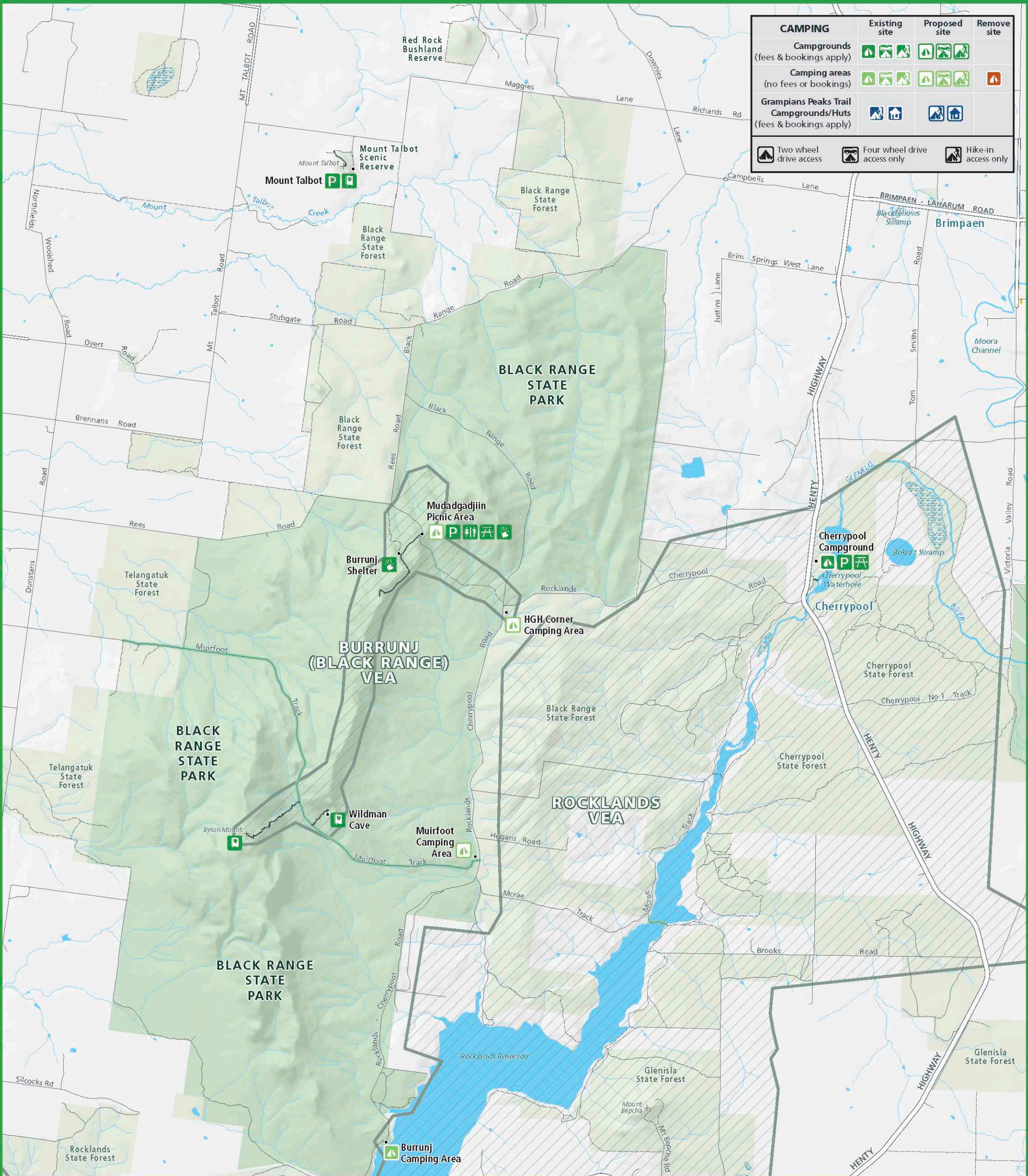
Land Tenure	Visitor Experience	Roads	Water features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National & State Park Other reserves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site location marker Carpark Toilets Picnic area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeway/highway Main road Sealed road Unsealed road 4WD Walking track Management vehicles only Seasonal closure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterbody Wetland River
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal site (Public rock art site) Lookout Historical site Waterfall 			



GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN
Map 3G - Visitor Access & Destinations (Dunkeld - Mud-Dadjug (Mt Abrupt) VEA)



<p>Land Tenure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National & State Park Other reserves <p>Visitor Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor Experience Area (VEA) Visitor Experience Journey (VEJ) Grampians Peaks Trail Horse riding permitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site location marker P Carpark T Toilets A Picnic area L Lookout H Historical site W Waterfall 	<p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeway/highway Main road Sealed road Unsealed road 4WD Walking track Management vehicles only Seasonal closure 	<p>Water features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterbody Wetland River
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CAMPING	Existing site	Proposed site	Remove site
Campgrounds (fees & bookings apply)			
Camping areas (no fees or bookings)			
Grampians Peaks Trail Campgrounds/Huts (fees & bookings apply)			

GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Map 3H - Visitor Access & Destinations (Burrunj & Rocklands VEA)

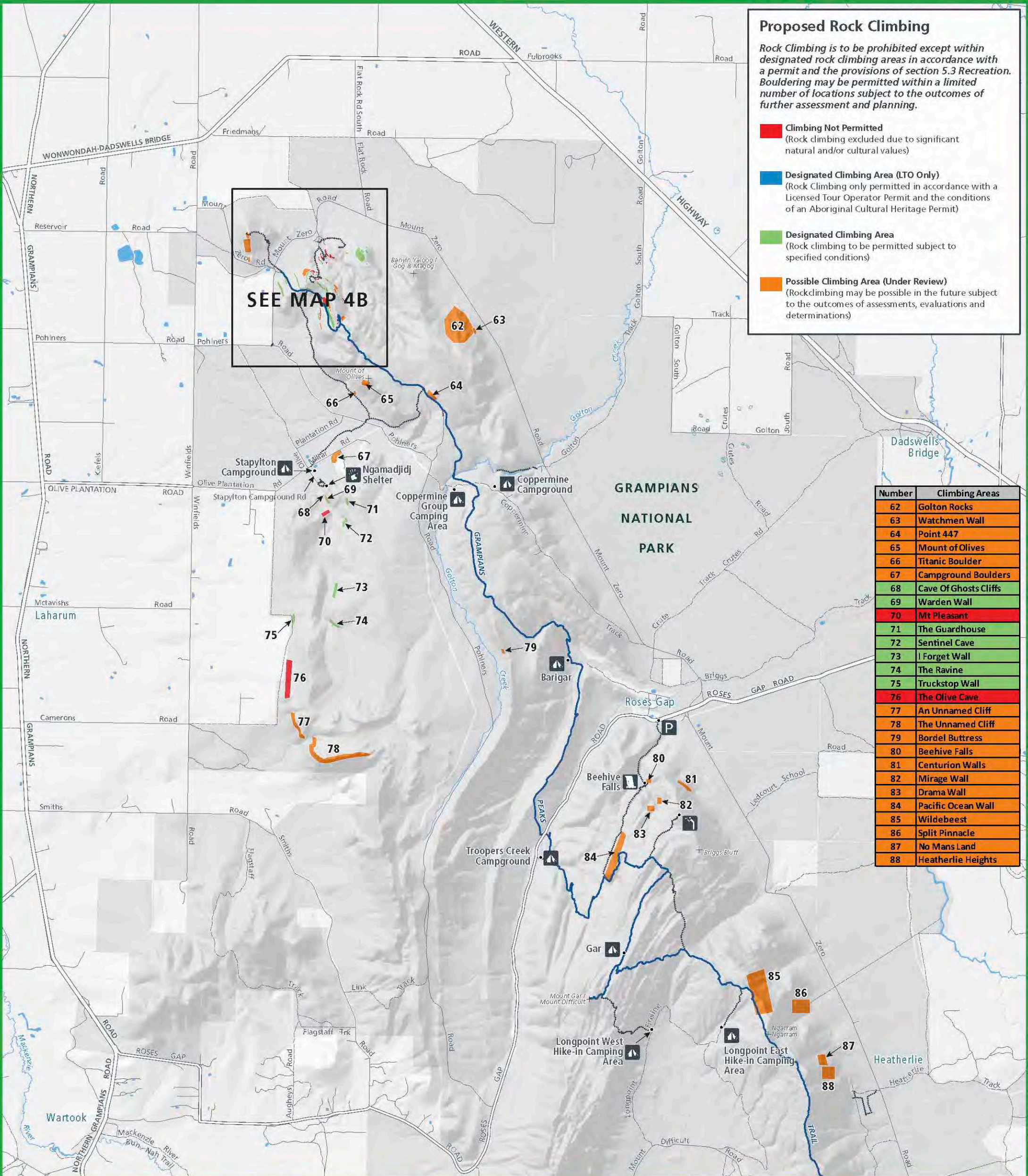


Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA 94)
Projected MGA Zone 54

This map supersedes all previous editions.

Data source acknowledgements:
The State of Victoria and Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

<p>Land Tenure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National & State Park Other reserves 	<p>Visitor Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor Experience Area (VEA) Visitor Experience Journey (VEJ) Grampians Peaks Trail Horse riding permitted 	<p>Visitor Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site location marker Carpark Toilets Picnic area Aboriginal site (Public rock art site) Lookout Historical site Waterfall 	<p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeway/highway Main road Sealed road Unsealed road 4WD Walking track Management vehicles only Seasonal closure 	<p>Water features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterbody Wetland River
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Proposed Rock Climbing

Rock Climbing is to be prohibited except within designated rock climbing areas in accordance with a permit and the provisions of section 5.3 Recreation. Bouldering may be permitted within a limited number of locations subject to the outcomes of further assessment and planning.

- **Climbing Not Permitted**
(Rock climbing excluded due to significant natural and/or cultural values)
- **Designated Climbing Area (LTO Only)**
(Rock Climbing only permitted in accordance with a Licensed Tour Operator Permit and the conditions of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Permit)
- **Designated Climbing Area**
(Rock climbing to be permitted subject to specified conditions)
- **Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)**
(Rockclimbing may be possible in the future subject to the outcomes of assessments, evaluations and determinations)

Number	Climbing Areas
62	Golton Rocks
63	Watchmen Wall
64	Point 447
65	Mount of Olives
66	Titanic Boulder
67	Campground Boulders
68	Cave Of Ghosts Cliffs
69	Warden Wall
70	Mt Pleasant
71	The Guardhouse
72	Sentinel Cave
73	I Forget Wall
74	The Ravine
75	Truckstop Wall
76	The Olive Cave
77	An Unnamed Cliff
78	The Unnamed Cliff
79	Bordel Butress
80	Beehive Falls
81	Centurion Walls
82	Mirage Wall
83	Drama Wall
84	Pacific Ocean Wall
85	Wilbebest
86	Split Pinnacle
87	No Mans Land
88	Heatherlie Heights

GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN
Map 4A - Rock Climbing (Gunivalg - Gar)



Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA 94)
 Projected MGA Zone 54

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Data source acknowledgements:
 The State of Victoria and Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

0 1 2
 Kilometres
 Scale at A3: 1: 65,000

Planning Area Land Tenure

- Parks Victoria estates

Visitor Sites
 (indicative only & subject to change)

- Site location
- Camping
- Toilets
- Lookout
- Waterfall
- Aboriginal site (Public rock art site)
- Information
- Parking
- Picnic area
- Trail head

Roads & Tracks

- Freeway/highway
- Main road
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4WD
- Walking track
- Grampians Peaks Trail

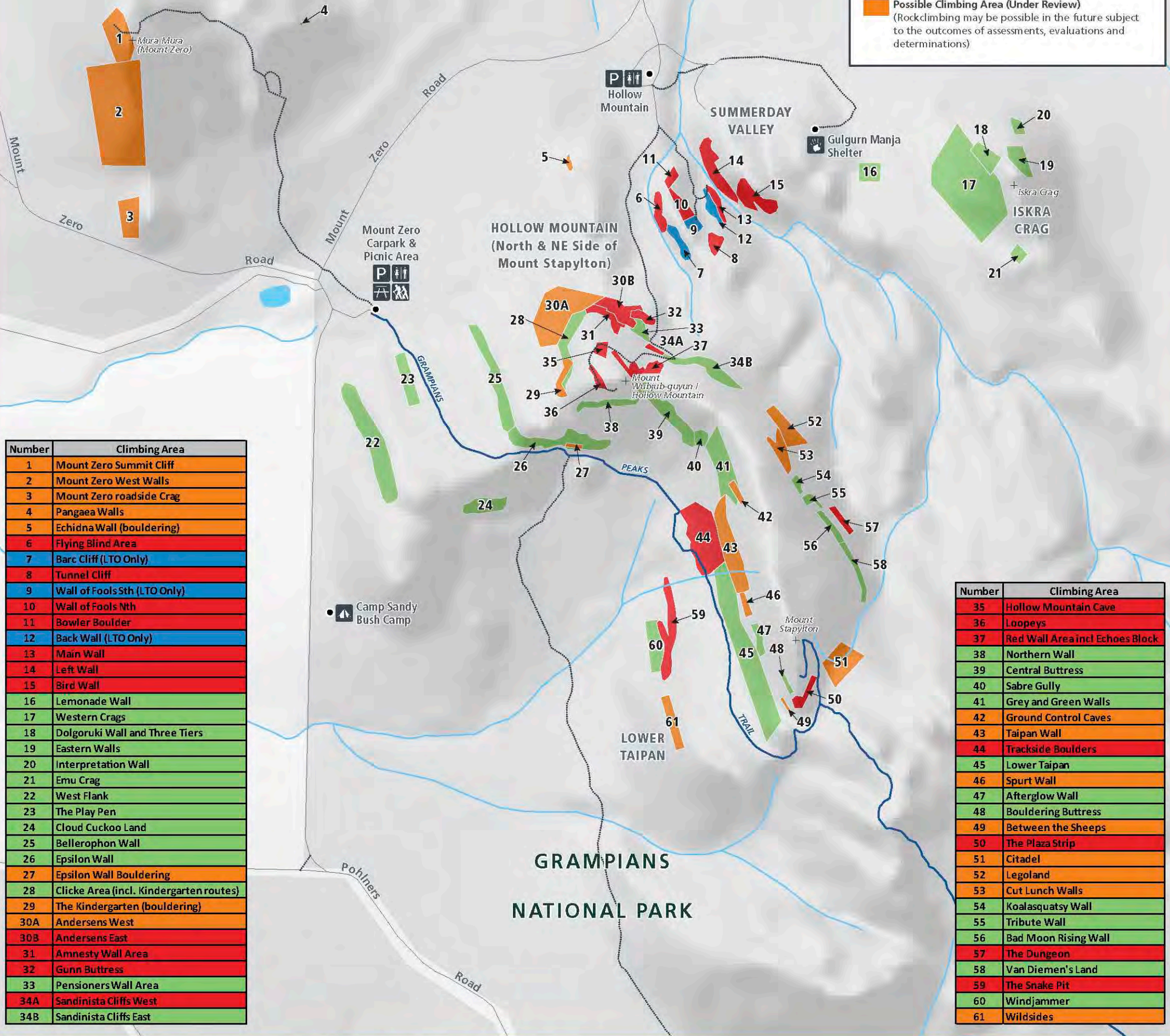
Water Features

- Waterbody
- Wetland
- River

Proposed Rock Climbing

Rock Climbing is to be prohibited except within designated rock climbing areas in accordance with a permit and the provisions of section 5.3 Recreation. Bouldering may be permitted within a limited number of locations subject to the outcomes of further assessment and planning.

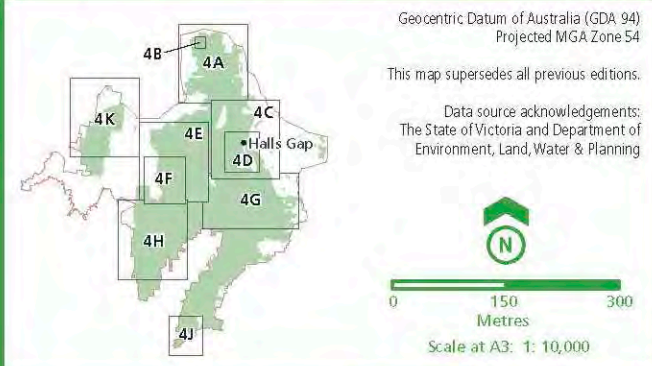
- **Climbing Not Permitted**
(Rock climbing excluded due to significant natural and/or cultural values)
- **Designated Climbing Area (LTO Only)**
(Rock Climbing only permitted in accordance with a Licensed Tour Operator Permit and the conditions of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Permit)
- **Designated Climbing Area**
(Rock climbing to be permitted subject to specified conditions)
- **Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)**
(Rock climbing may be possible in the future subject to the outcomes of assessments, evaluations and determinations)



Number	Climbing Area
1	Mount Zero Summit Cliff
2	Mount Zero West Walls
3	Mount Zero roadside Crag
4	Pangaea Walls
5	Echidna Wall (bouldering)
6	Flying Blind Area
7	Barc Cliff (LTO Only)
8	Tunnel Cliff
9	Wall of Fools Sth (LTO Only)
10	Wall of Fools Nth
11	Bowler Boulder
12	Back Wall (LTO Only)
13	Main Wall
14	Left Wall
15	Bird Wall
16	Lemonade Wall
17	Western Crags
18	Dolgoruki Wall and Three Tiers
19	Eastern Walls
20	Interpretation Wall
21	Emu Crag
22	West Flank
23	The Play Pen
24	Cloud Cuckoo Land
25	Bellerophon Wall
26	Epsilon Wall
27	Epsilon Wall Bouldering
28	Clicke Area (incl. Kindergarten routes)
29	The Kindergarten (bouldering)
30A	Andersens West
30B	Andersens East
31	Amnesty Wall Area
32	Gunn Buttress
33	Pensioners Wall Area
34A	Sandinista Cliffs West
34B	Sandinista Cliffs East

Number	Climbing Area
35	Hollow Mountain Cave
36	Loopeys
37	Red Wall Area incl Echoes Block
38	Northern Wall
39	Central Buttress
40	Sabre Gully
41	Grey and Green Walls
42	Ground Control Caves
43	Taipan Wall
44	Trackside Boulders
45	Lower Taipan
46	Spurt Wall
47	Afterglow Wall
48	Bouldering Buttress
49	Between the Sheeps
50	The Plaza Strip
51	Citadel
52	Legoland
53	Cut Lunch Walls
54	Koalasquatsy Wall
55	Tribute Wall
56	Bad Moon Rising Wall
57	The Dungeon
58	Van Diemen's Land
59	The Snake Pit
60	Windjammer
61	Wildsides

GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN Map 4B - Rock Climbing (Gunivalg Inset)



Planning Area Land Tenure
■ Parks Victoria estates

Visitor Sites
(indicative only & subject to change)

- Site location
- ⛺ Camping
- 🚻 Toilets
- 🔍 Lookout
- 🌊 Waterfall
- 🏠 Aboriginal site (Public rock art site)
- ℹ Information
- P Parking
- 🍷 Picnic area
- 👤 Trail head

Roads & Tracks

- Freeway/highway
- Main road
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4WD
- ⋯ Walking track
- Grampians Peaks Trail

Water Features

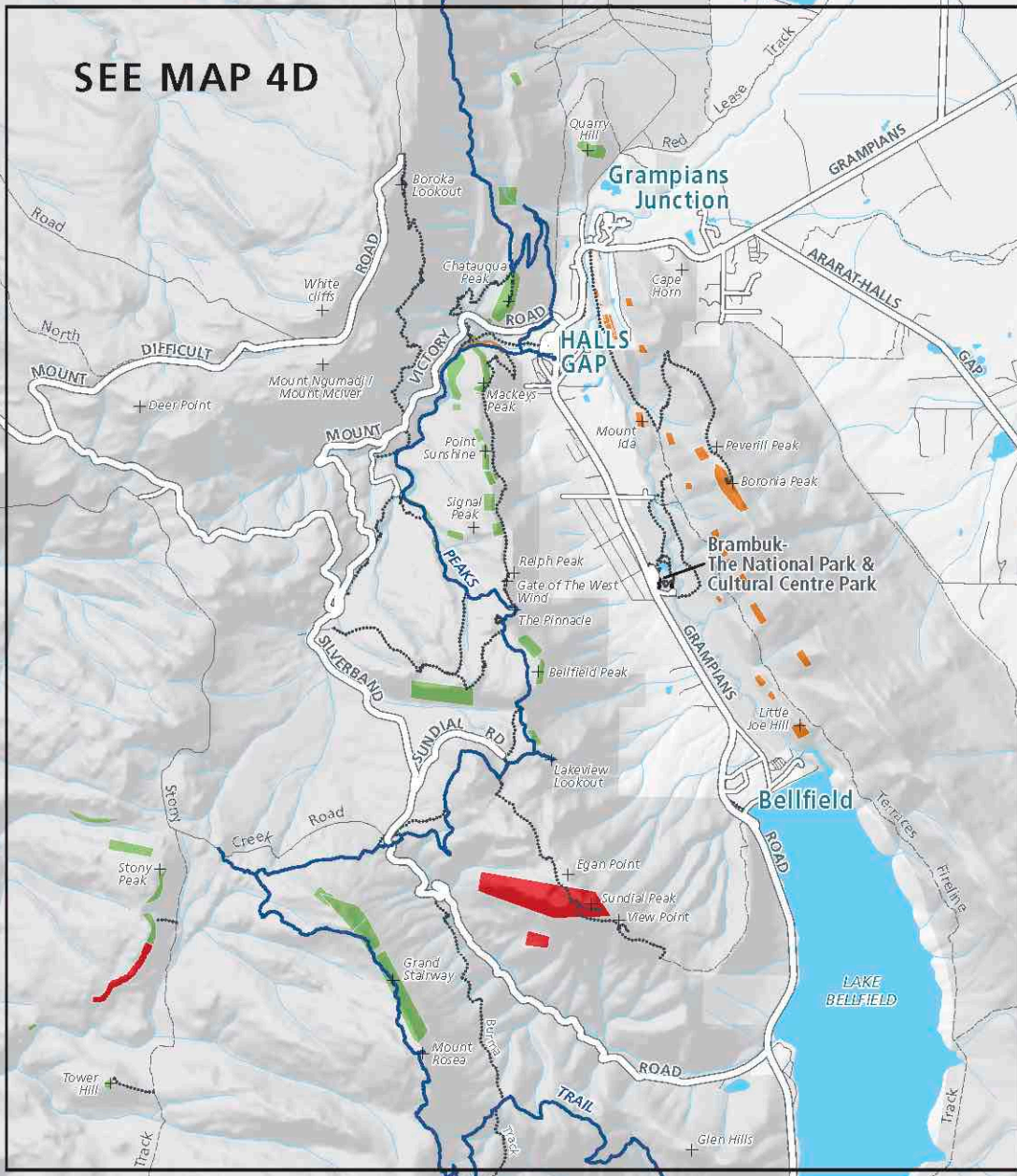
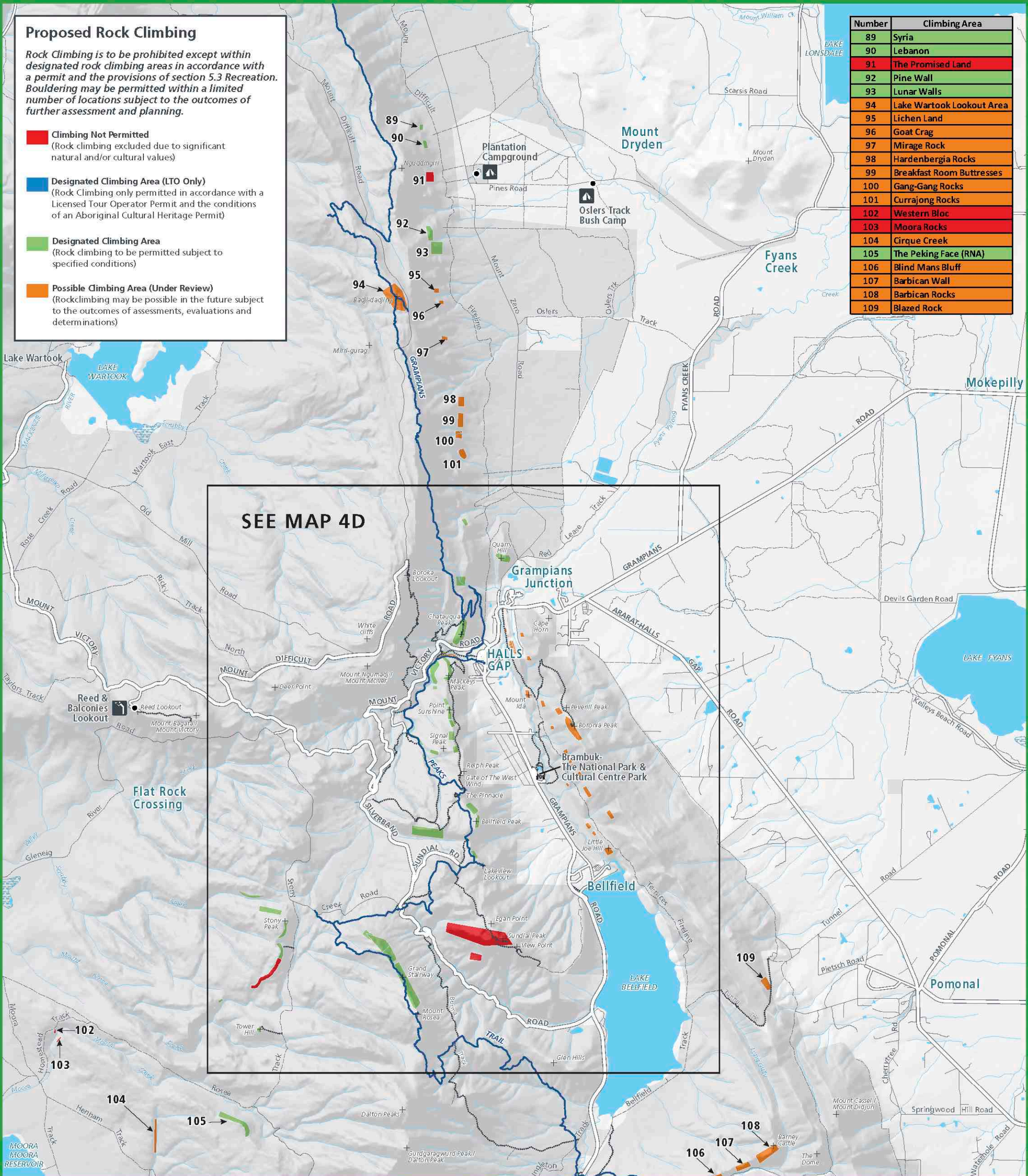
- Waterbody
- ▨ Wetland
- River

Proposed Rock Climbing

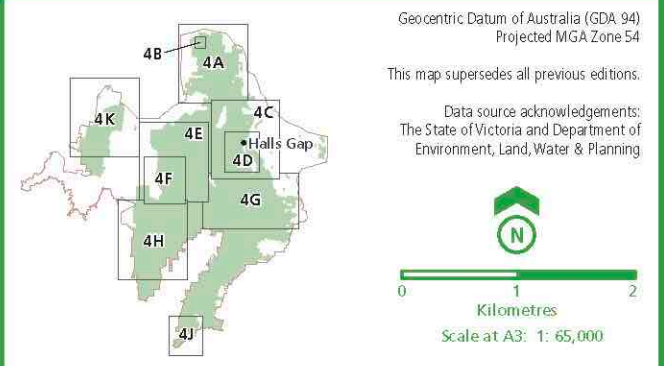
Rock Climbing is to be prohibited except within designated rock climbing areas in accordance with a permit and the provisions of section 5.3 Recreation. Bouldering may be permitted within a limited number of locations subject to the outcomes of further assessment and planning.

- **Climbing Not Permitted**
(Rock climbing excluded due to significant natural and/or cultural values)
- **Designated Climbing Area (LTO Only)**
(Rock Climbing only permitted in accordance with a Licensed Tour Operator Permit and the conditions of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Permit)
- **Designated Climbing Area**
(Rock climbing to be permitted subject to specified conditions)
- **Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)**
(Rockclimbing may be possible in the future subject to the outcomes of assessments, evaluations and determinations)

Number	Climbing Area
89	Syria
90	Lebanon
91	The Promised Land
92	Pine Wall
93	Lunar Walls
94	Lake Wartook Lookout Area
95	Lichen Land
96	Goat Crag
97	Mirage Rock
98	Hardenbergia Rocks
99	Breakfast Room Buttresses
100	Gang-Gang Rocks
101	Currajong Rocks
102	Western Bloc
103	Moora Rocks
104	Cirque Creek
105	The Peking Face (RNA)
106	Blind Mans Bluff
107	Barbican Wall
108	Barbican Rocks
109	Blazed Rock



GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN Map 4C - Rock Climbing (Halls Gap)



Planning Area Land Tenure

- Parks Victoria estates

Visitor Sites
(indicative only & subject to change)

- Site location
- ▲ Camping
- ♿ Toilets
- 👁️ Lookout
- 🌊 Waterfall
- 🏠 Aboriginal site (Public rock art site)
- ℹ️ Information
- P Parking
- 🍷 Picnic area
- 👣 Trail head

Roads & Tracks

- Freeway/highway
- Main road
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4WD
- Walking track
- Grampians Peaks Trail

Water Features

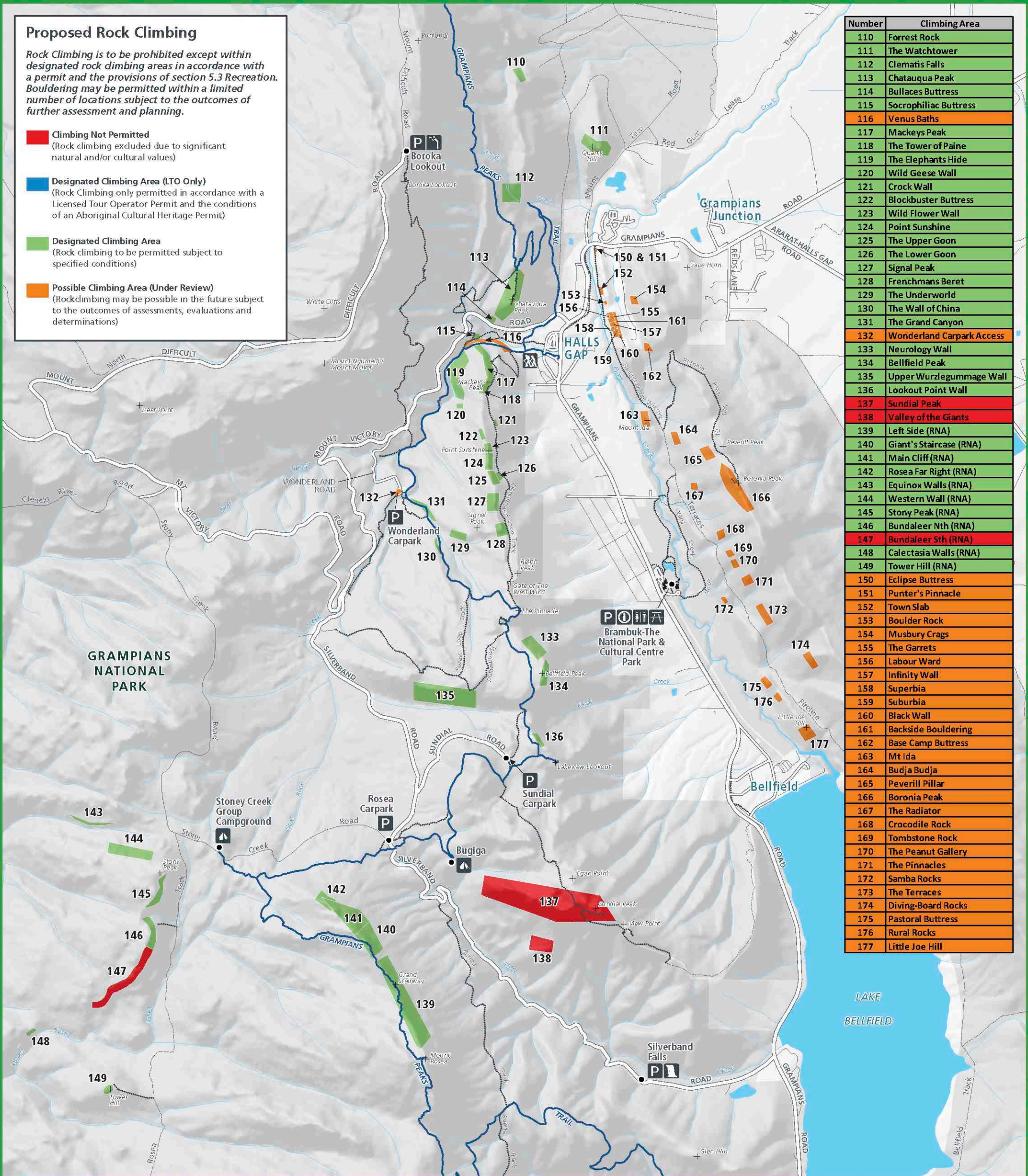
- Waterbody
- Wetland
- River

Proposed Rock Climbing

Rock Climbing is to be prohibited except within designated rock climbing areas in accordance with a permit and the provisions of section 5.3 Recreation. Bouldering may be permitted within a limited number of locations subject to the outcomes of further assessment and planning.

- **Climbing Not Permitted**
(Rock climbing excluded due to significant natural and/or cultural values)
- **Designated Climbing Area (LTO Only)**
(Rock Climbing only permitted in accordance with a Licensed Tour Operator Permit and the conditions of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Permit)
- **Designated Climbing Area**
(Rock climbing to be permitted subject to specified conditions)
- **Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)**
(Rockclimbing may be possible in the future subject to the outcomes of assessments, evaluations and determinations)

Number	Climbing Area
110	Forrest Rock
111	The Watchtower
112	Clematis Falls
113	Chataqua Peak
114	Bullaces Butress
115	Socrophiliac Butress
116	Venus Baths
117	Mackeys Peak
118	The Tower of Paine
119	The Elephants Hide
120	Wild Geese Wall
121	Crock Wall
122	Blockbuster Butress
123	Wild Flower Wall
124	Point Sunshine
125	The Upper Goon
126	The Lower Goon
127	Signal Peak
128	Frenchmans Beret
129	The Underworld
130	The Wall of China
131	The Grand Canyon
132	Wonderland Carpark Access
133	Neurology Wall
134	Bellfield Peak
135	Upper Wurzlegummage Wall
136	Lookout Point Wall
137	Sundial Peak
138	Valley of the Giants
139	Left Side (RNA)
140	Giant's Staircase (RNA)
141	Main Cliff (RNA)
142	Rosea Far Right (RNA)
143	Equinox Walls (RNA)
144	Western Wall (RNA)
145	Stony Peak (RNA)
146	Bundaleer Nth (RNA)
147	Bundaleer Sth (RNA)
148	Calectasia Walls (RNA)
149	Tower Hill (RNA)
150	Eclipse Butress
151	Punter's Pinnacle
152	Town Slab
153	Boulder Rock
154	Musbury Crags
155	The Garrets
156	Labour Ward
157	Infinity Wall
158	Superbia
159	Suburbia
160	Black Wall
161	Backside Bouldering
162	Base Camp Butress
163	Mt Ida
164	Budja Budja
165	Pevehill Pillar
166	Boronia Peak
167	The Radiator
168	Crocodile Rock
169	Tombstone Rock
170	The Peanut Gallery
171	The Pinnacles
172	Samba Rocks
173	The Terraces
174	Diving-Board Rocks
175	Pastoral Butress
176	Rural Rocks
177	Little Joe Hill



GREATER GARIWERD DRAFT LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN Map 4D - Rock Climbing (Halls Gap Inset)



Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA 94)
Projected MGA Zone 54

This map supersedes all previous editions.

Data source acknowledgements:
The State of Victoria and Department of
Environment, Land, Water & Planning

Planning Area Land Tenure

- Parks Victoria estates

Visitor Sites
(indicative only & subject to change)

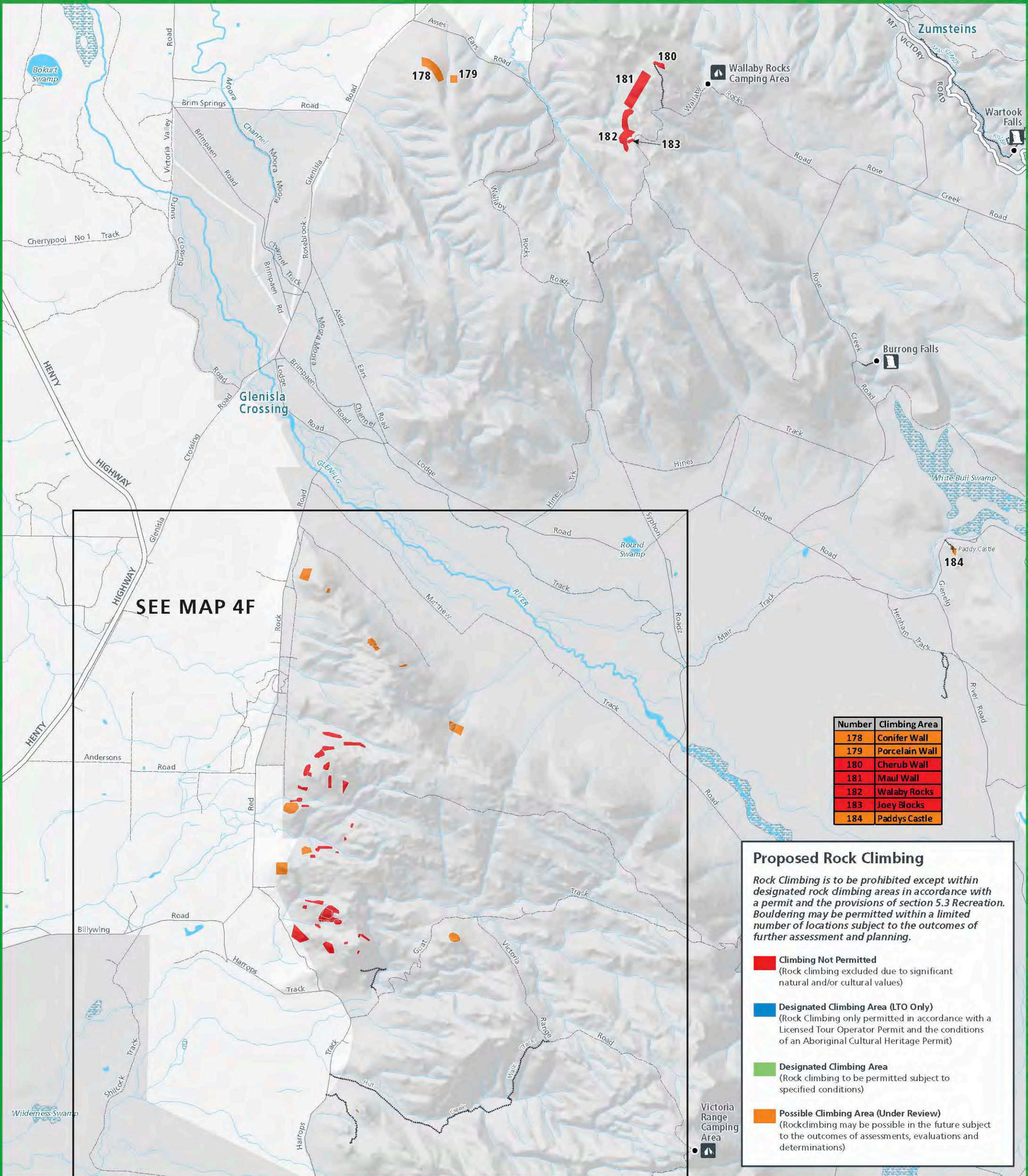
- Site location
- Camping
- Toilets
- Lookout
- Waterfall
- Aboriginal site (Public rock art site)
- Information
- Parking
- Picnic area
- Trail head

Roads & Tracks

- Freeway/highway
- Main road
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4WD
- Walking track
- Grampians Peaks Trail

Water Features

- Waterbody
- Wetland
- River



GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Map 4E - Rock Climbing (Central Gariwerd)



Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA 94)
Projected MGA Zone 54

This map supersedes all previous editions.

Data source acknowledgements:
The State of Victoria and Department of
Environment, Land, Water & Planning

Scale at A3: 1: 65,000

Planning Area Land Tenure

- Parks Victoria estates

Visitor Sites
(indicative only & subject to change)

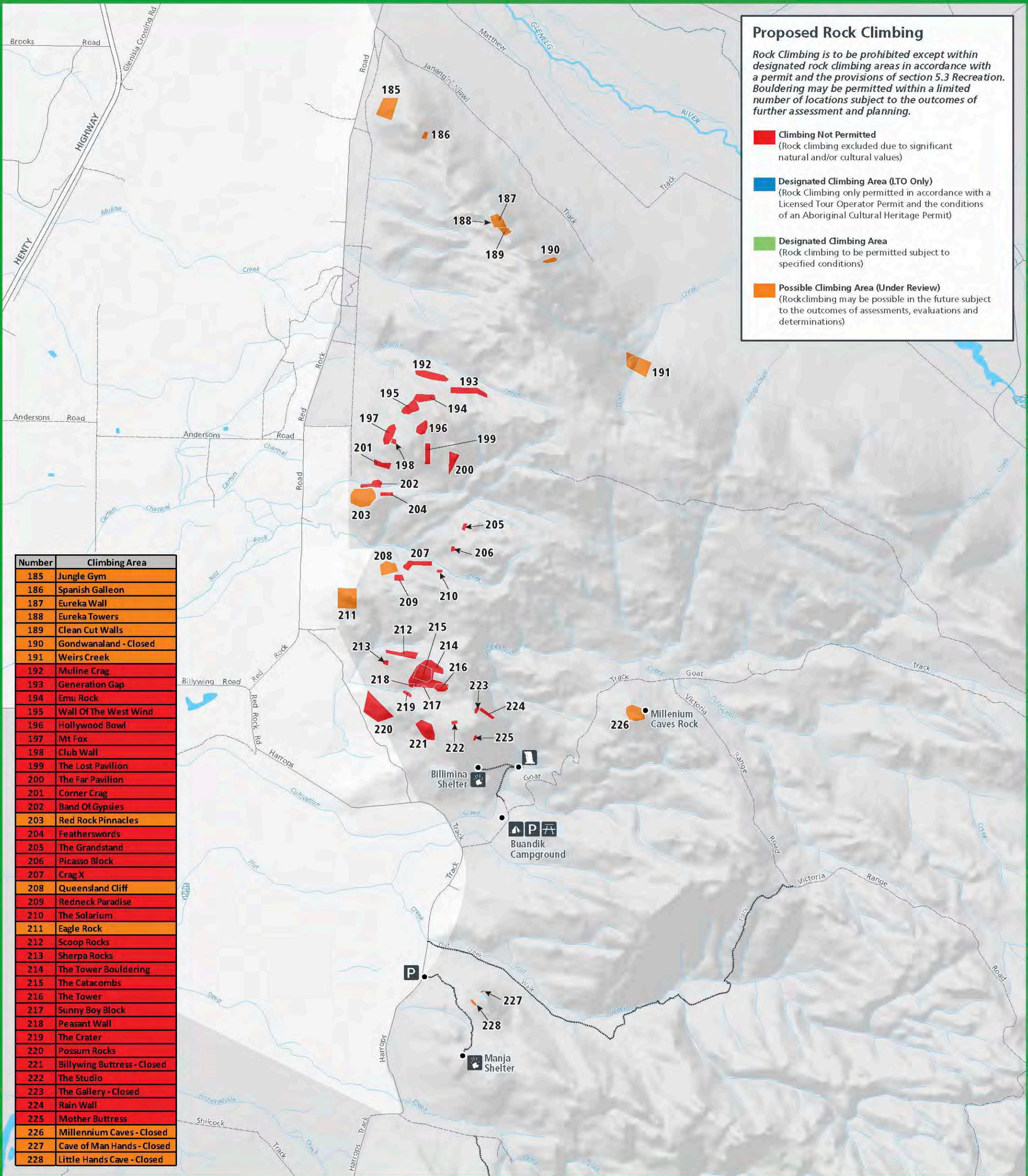
- Site location
- Camping
- Toilets
- Lookout
- Waterfall
- Aboriginal site (Public rock art site)
- Information
- Parking
- Picnic area
- Trail head

Roads & Tracks

- Freeway/highway
- Main road
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4WD
- Walking track
- Grampians Peaks Trail

Water Features

- Waterbody
- Wetland
- River



Proposed Rock Climbing

Rock Climbing is to be prohibited except within designated rock climbing areas in accordance with a permit and the provisions of section 5.3 Recreation. Bouldering may be permitted within a limited number of locations subject to the outcomes of further assessment and planning.

- Climbing Not Permitted**
(Rock climbing excluded due to significant natural and/or cultural values)
- Designated Climbing Area (LTO Only)**
(Rock Climbing only permitted in accordance with a Licensed Tour Operator Permit and the conditions of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Permit)
- Designated Climbing Area**
(Rock climbing to be permitted subject to specified conditions)
- Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)**
(Rockclimbing may be possible in the future subject to the outcomes of assessments, evaluations and determinations)

Number	Climbing Area
185	Jungle Gym
186	Spanish Galleon
187	Eureka Wall
188	Eureka Towers
189	Clean Cut Walls
190	Gondwanaland - Closed
191	Weirs Creek
192	Muline Crag
193	Generation Gap
194	Emu Rock
195	Wall Of The West Wind
196	Hollywood Bowl
197	Mt Fox
198	Club Wall
199	The Lost Pavilion
200	The Far Pavilion
201	Corner Crag
202	Band Of Gypsies
203	Red Rock Pinnacles
204	Featherswords
205	The Grandstand
206	Picasso Block
207	Crag X
208	Queensland Cliff
209	Redneck Paradise
210	The Solarium
211	Eagle Rock
212	Scoop Rocks
213	Sherpa Rocks
214	The Tower Bouldering
215	The Catacombs
216	The Tower
217	Sunny Boy Block
218	Peasant Wall
219	The Crater
220	Possum Rocks
221	Billywing Buttress - Closed
222	The Studio
223	The Gallery - Closed
224	Rain Wall
225	Mother Buttress
226	Millennium Caves - Closed
227	Cave of Man Hands - Closed
228	Little Hands Cave - Closed

GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Map 4F - Rock Climbing (Billawin North)



Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA 94)
Projected MGA Zone 54

This map supersedes all previous editions.

Data source acknowledgements:
The State of Victoria and Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

Planning Area Land Tenure

- Parks Victoria estates

Visitor Sites (indicative only & subject to change)

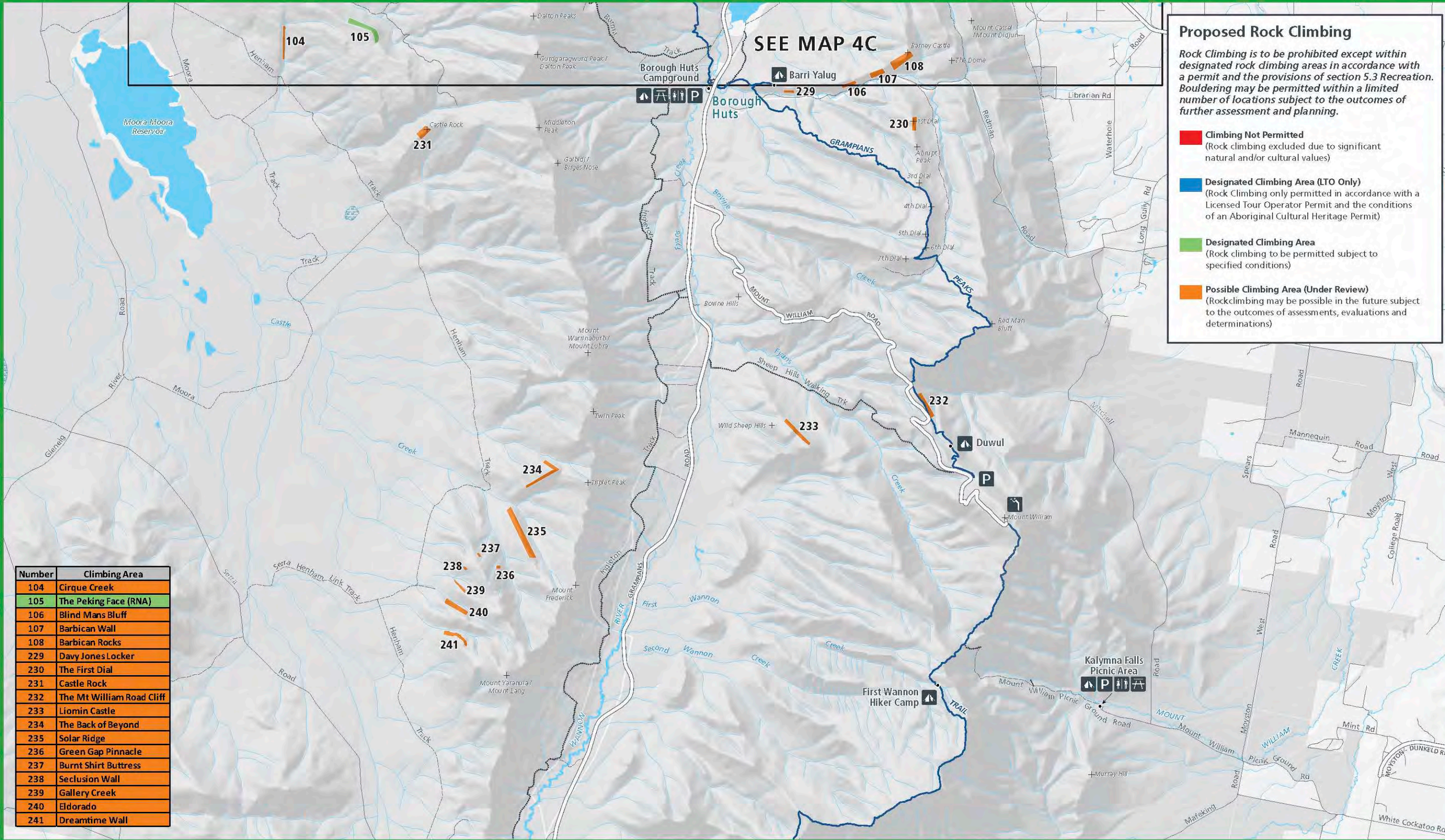
- Site location
- Camping
- Toilets
- Lookout
- Waterfall
- Aboriginal site (Public rock art site)
- Information
- Parking
- Picnic area
- Trail head

Roads & Tracks

- Freeway/highway
- Main road
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4WD
- Walking track
- Grampians Peaks Trail

Water Features

- Waterbody
- Wetland
- River



Proposed Rock Climbing

Rock Climbing is to be prohibited except within designated rock climbing areas in accordance with a permit and the provisions of section 5.3 Recreation. Bouldering may be permitted within a limited number of locations subject to the outcomes of further assessment and planning.

- Climbing Not Permitted** (Rock climbing excluded due to significant natural and/or cultural values)
- Designated Climbing Area (LTO Only)** (Rock Climbing only permitted in accordance with a Licensed Tour Operator Permit and the conditions of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Permit)
- Designated Climbing Area** (Rock climbing to be permitted subject to specified conditions)
- Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)** (Rockclimbing may be possible in the future subject to the outcomes of assessments, evaluations and determinations)

Number	Climbing Area
104	Cirque Creek
105	The Peking Face (RNA)
106	Blind Mans Bluff
107	Barbican Wall
108	Barbican Rocks
229	Davy Jones Locker
230	The First Dial
231	Castle Rock
232	The Mt William Road Cliff
233	Liomin Castle
234	The Back of Beyond
235	Solar Ridge
236	Green Gap Pinnacle
237	Burnt Shirt Buttress
238	Seclusion Wall
239	Gallery Creek
240	Eldorado
241	Dreamtime Wall

GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Map 4G - Rock Climbing (Duwul)



Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA 94)
Projected MGA Zone 54

This map supersedes all previous editions.

Data source acknowledgements:
The State of Victoria and Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

Planning Area Land Tenure

- Parks Victoria estates

Visitor Sites (indicative only & subject to change)

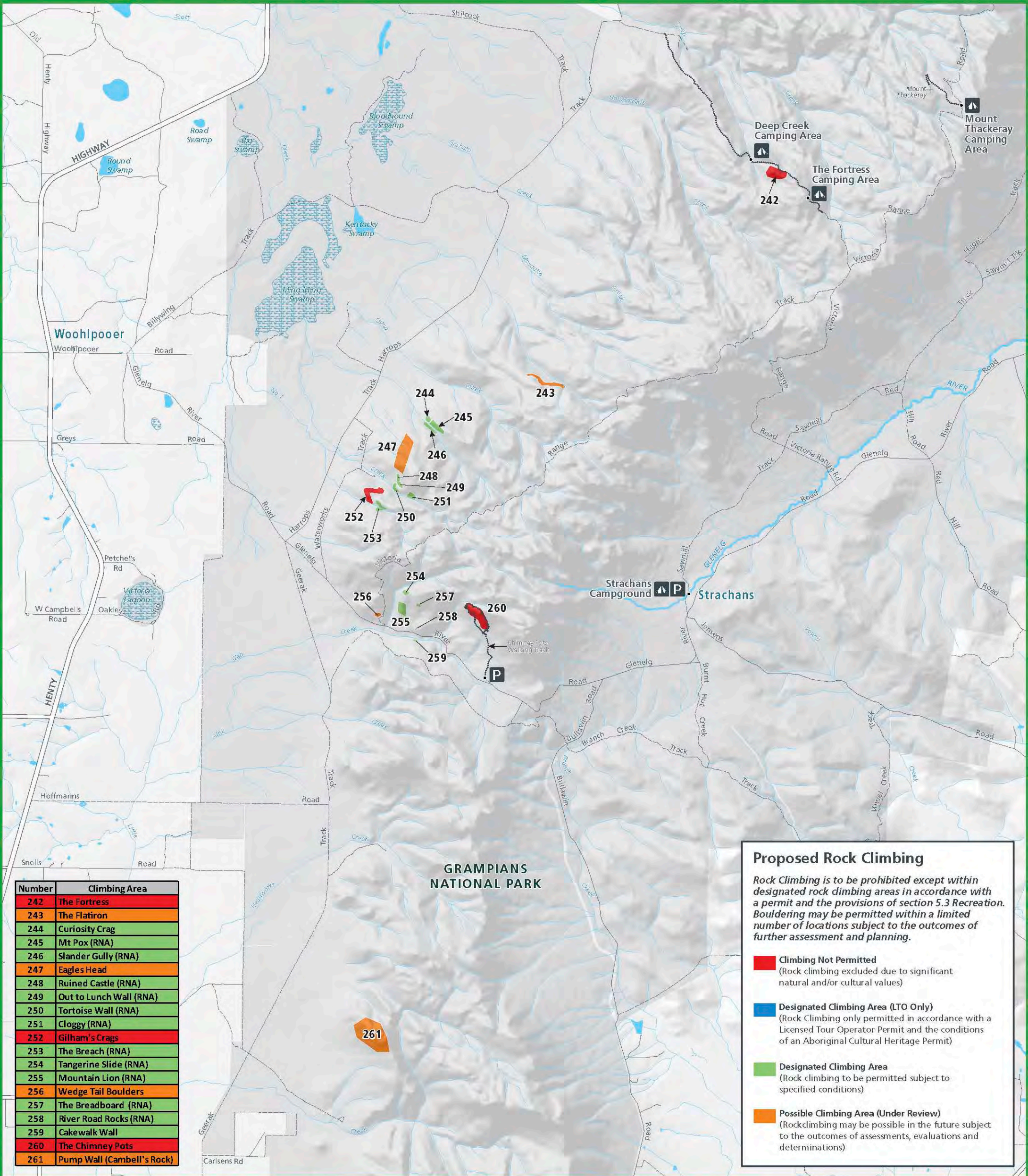
- Site location
- Camping
- Toilets
- Lookout
- Waterfall
- Aboriginal site (Public rock art site)
- Information
- Parking
- Picnic area
- Trail head

Roads & Tracks

- Freeway/highway
- Main road
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4WD
- Walking track
- Grampians Peaks Trail

Water Features

- Waterbody
- Wetland
- River



Number	Climbing Area
242	The Fortress
243	The Flatiron
244	Curiosity Crag
245	Mt Pox (RNA)
246	Slander Gully (RNA)
247	Eagles Head
248	Ruined Castle (RNA)
249	Out to Lunch Wall (RNA)
250	Tortoise Wall (RNA)
251	Cloggy (RNA)
252	Gilham's Crags
253	The Breach (RNA)
254	Tangerine Slide (RNA)
255	Mountain Lion (RNA)
256	Wedge Tail Boulders
257	The Breadboard (RNA)
258	River Road Rocks (RNA)
259	Cakewalk Wall
260	The Chimney Pots
261	Pump Wall (Cambell's Rock)

Proposed Rock Climbing

Rock Climbing is to be prohibited except within designated rock climbing areas in accordance with a permit and the provisions of section 5.3 Recreation. Bouldering may be permitted within a limited number of locations subject to the outcomes of further assessment and planning.

- Climbing Not Permitted** (Rock climbing excluded due to significant natural and/or cultural values)
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- Designated Climbing Area** (Rock climbing to be permitted subject to specified conditions)
- Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)** (Rockclimbing may be possible in the future subject to the outcomes of assessments, evaluations and determinations)

GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Map 4H - Rock Climbing (Billawin South)



Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA 94)
Projected MGA Zone 54

This map supersedes all previous editions.

Data source acknowledgements:
The State of Victoria and Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

Planning Area Land Tenure

- Parks Victoria estates

Visitor Sites (indicative only & subject to change)

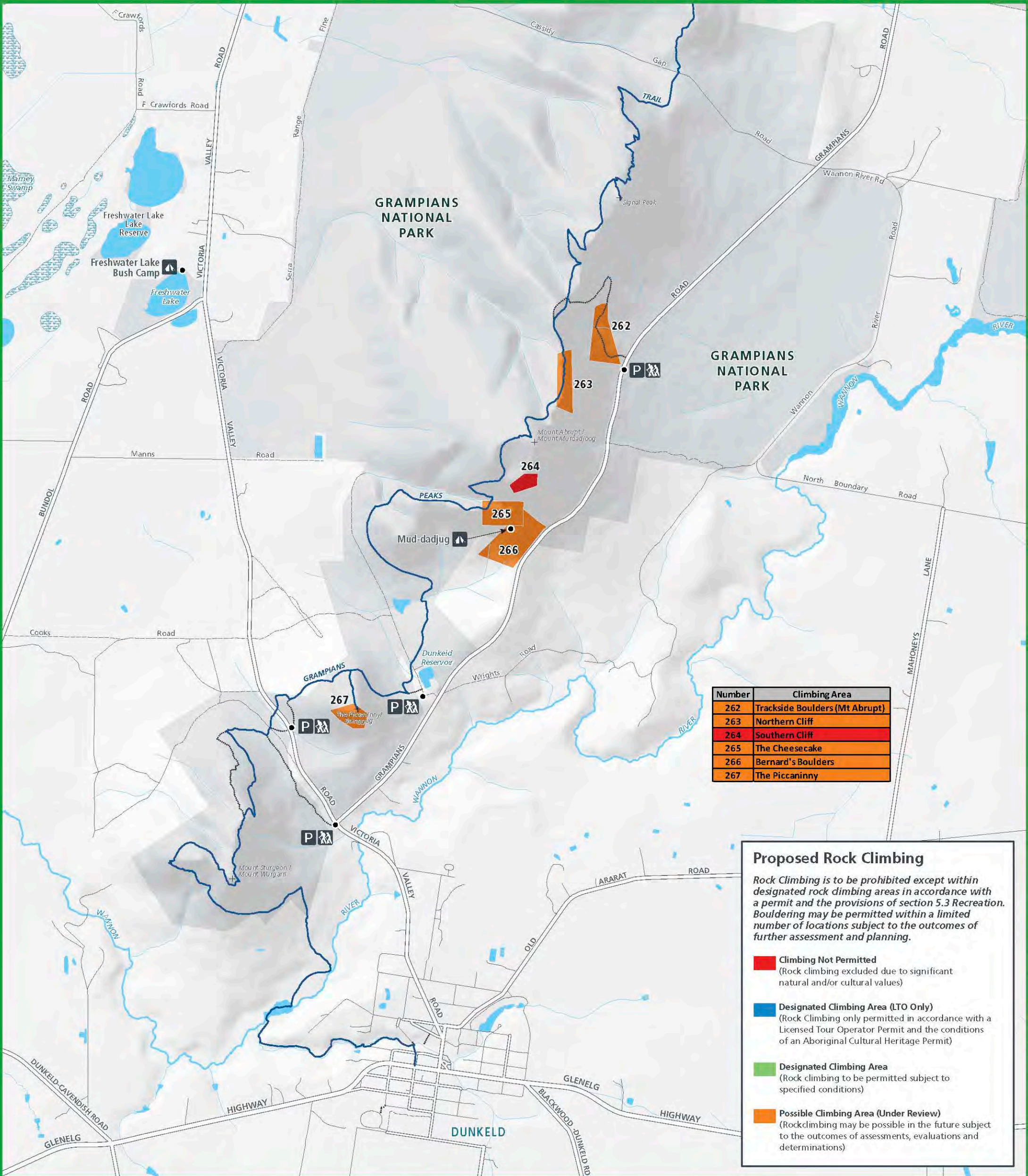
- Site location
- Camping
- Toilets
- Lookout
- Waterfall
- Aboriginal site (Public rock art site)
- Information
- Parking
- Picnic area
- Trail head

Roads & Tracks

- Freeway/highway
- Main road
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4WD
- Walking track
- Grampians Peaks Trail

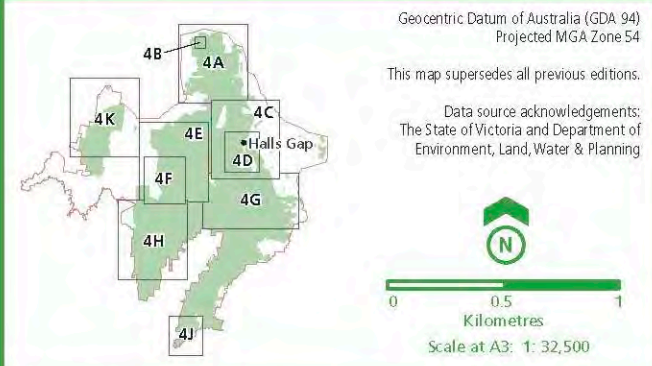
Water Features

- Waterbody
- Wetland
- River



GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

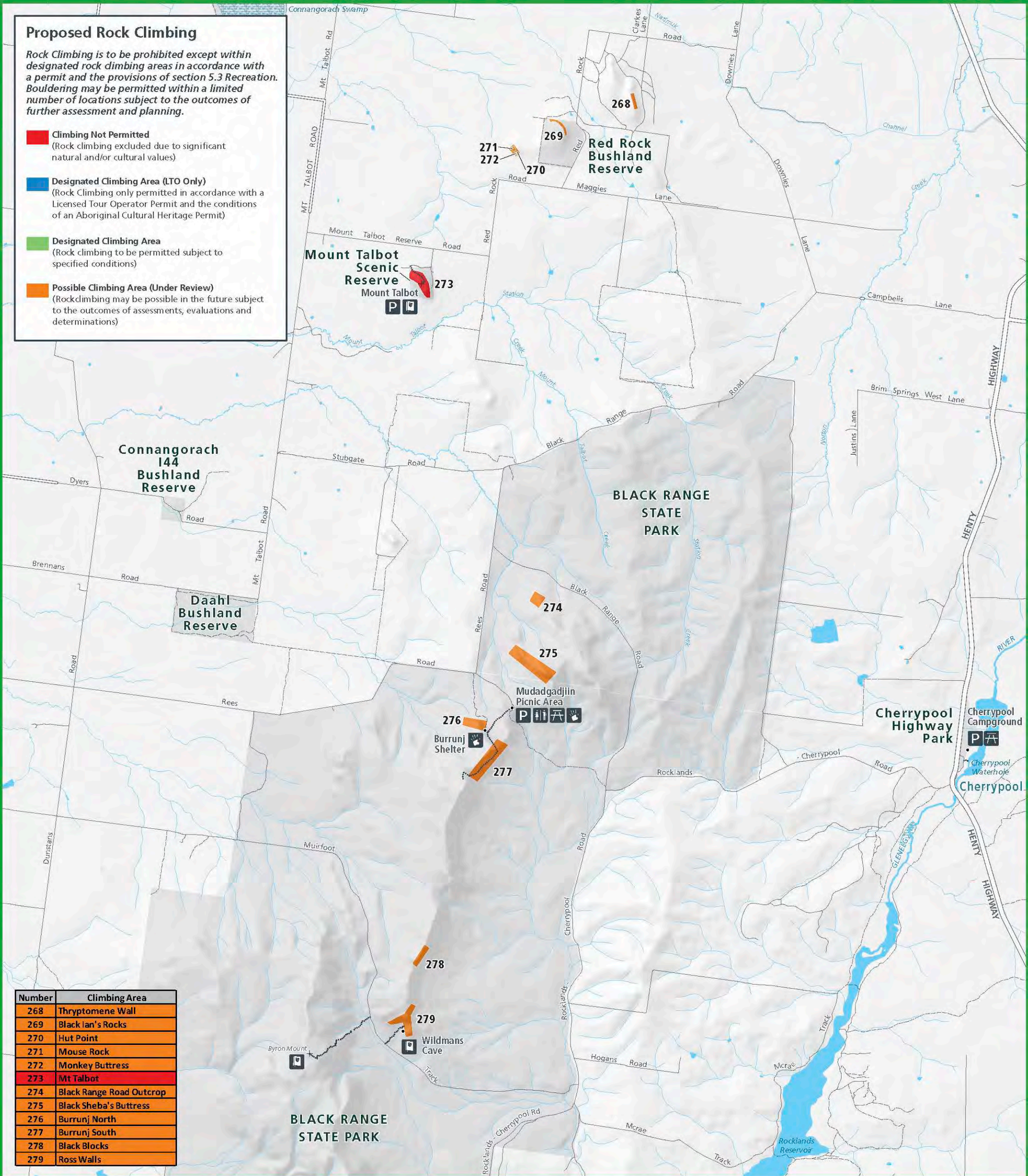
Map 4J - Rock Climbing (Mud-dadjug)



Proposed Rock Climbing

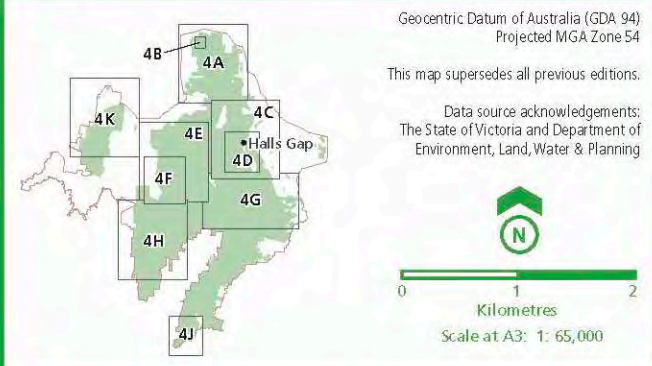
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- **Designated Climbing Area (LTO Only)**
(Rock Climbing only permitted in accordance with a Licensed Tour Operator Permit and the conditions of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Permit)
- **Designated Climbing Area**
(Rock climbing to be permitted subject to specified conditions)
- **Possible Climbing Area (Under Review)**
(Rockclimbing may be possible in the future subject to the outcomes of assessments, evaluations and determinations)



Number	Climbing Area
268	Thryptomene Wall
269	Black Ian's Rocks
270	Hut Point
271	Mouse Rock
272	Monkey Buttress
273	Mt Talbot
274	Black Range Road Outcrop
275	Black Sheba's Buttress
276	Burrunj North
277	Burrunj South
278	Black Blocks
279	Ross Walls

GREATER GARIWERD LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN Map 4K - Rock Climbing (Burrunj)



<p>Planning Area Land Tenure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks Victoria estates 	<p>Visitor Sites (indicative only & subject to change)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Site location ▲ Camping ♿ Toilets 🔍 Lookout 🏠 Historical site 🏠 Aboriginal site (Public rock art site) i Information P Parking 🏠 Picnic area 🏠 Trail head 	<p>Roads & Tracks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeway/highway Main road Sealed road Unsealed road 4WD Walking track Grampians Peaks Trail 	<p>Water Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterbody Wetland River
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