



# KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN

2011



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Master Plan provides a framework for visitor use, facilities and infrastructure in Kinglake National Park over the next 15 years. It also provides guidance for development of facilities and infrastructure in nearby areas to create linkages into the Park and associated off-Park visitor opportunities.

Management of Kinglake National Park occurs in accordance with the Kinglake National Park Management Plan adopted in 1996, which provides for conservation of the Park's environments and recreation consistent with its status as a national park. A Master Plan addressing future visitor opportunities and infrastructure became necessary following the catastrophic Black Saturday bushfires in February 2009, which resulted in the loss of many lives and homes in the area, burnt 98% of the Park and destroyed nearly all Park infrastructure.

In addition, the Master Plan takes account of anticipated changes in nature-based recreation as Melbourne's population grows. As the closest national park to Melbourne, situated at the edge of the city's northern growth corridor, Kinglake National Park is expected to experience increasing visitation from first time visitors and a wide range user groups.

The Master Plan was developed in close consultation with the community, Park user groups, Parks Victoria staff, local government and management agencies. The consultation process consisted of:

- an open day in the Park in October 2009;
- opportunities for the community and stakeholders to comment throughout March 2010 on Strategic Directions for the Park;
- meetings throughout the process with stakeholder groups;
- release of the Draft Master Plan and a summary flyer for comment over a 6 week period in June and July 2010, accompanied by a series of consultation events and public displays in local communities. A total of 64 submissions were received, with the majority of respondents supporting most of the proposals in the Draft Master Plan.

More details of the consultation process, a summary of comments received and the status of the treatment of these comments in the final Master Plan is contained in Appendix G of this Master Plan.

Strategic Directions for Kinglake National Park were developed to guide the Master Plan's approach to future visitor opportunities and infrastructure. In summary, the main goals are to:

- provide high quality experiences that are socially, environmentally and economically sustainable and ensure the ongoing protection of Park values;
- enhance the Park's contribution to regional visitation and economic growth;
- strengthen the Park's identity and linkages between the Park and the community and between the separate Park blocks;
- enhance and provide diverse visitor opportunities that attract a range of visitor markets.

The Master Plan envisages Kinglake National Park as 'Melbourne's most accessible national park', with diverse opportunities for visitors and the local community to engage with the Park's natural and cultural values. Attracting and providing enjoyable and meaningful experiences for new national park visitors will be a key focus. There will be a range of opportunities suitable for different preferences, abilities and timeframes - including scenic viewing, picnicking, play, learning, walking, cycling, horse riding and camping.

The Park's identity and attractiveness will be enhanced by a major viewing platform at Mount Sugarloaf which will showcase the expansive views to Melbourne and allow opportunity to interpret the Park's values (especially for first time visitors). The viewing platform will be accessible by road and will be linked into the network of walking and cycle tracks which traverse the popular Masons Falls area.

Popular areas in the Park will be restored and enhanced. These include Masons Falls Lookout, Masons Falls Picnic Area, Jehosaphat Gully, The Gums Camping Area and Island Creek Picnic Area. A range of recreation and nature appreciation opportunities and access to a variety of tracks will be provided at these key visitor locations. The Park will also provide different visitor settings – including comfortable bushland experiences and facilities and quiet family picnicking, camping, walking and cycling; and a range of active walking, cycling, mountain biking and horse riding trails. Many of the Park's visitor opportunities will be suitable for school and other educational groups.

A new visitor node, trackhead and mountain bike trail is proposed at Marshalls Road, near Buttermans Track, providing a link between the Mount Everard Track in the Park and new tracks developed to the south of the Park. A new camping area at this location will also be investigated. Visitor facilities will be developed in a previously cleared area which is being rehabilitated as part of the Biolink Project which will establish a vegetation and habitat corridor between the Park and the adjoining Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve.

Track linkages into the Park from settlements along the Whittlesea-Kinglake Road and Healesville-Kinglake Road and linkages between the separate Park blocks are also proposed and will be implemented in conjunction with local Councils and community stakeholders.

Improved directional and interpretive signage will be a key way to identify the Park, enhance visitor appreciation of Park values and assist in orienting visitors between the separate Park blocks. Park interpretation methods will include contemporary interactive approaches designed to appeal to first time visitors, younger visitors and education groups.

The Master Plan aims to achieve a high level of sustainable design and management for the Park's facilities through use of energy and water efficient designs, lightweight or recycled materials and minimisation of building and road footprints where practical.

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# PART A - BACKGROUND

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose of the Master Plan

#### **Need for a Master Plan**

This Master Plan is intended to set a 15 year framework for Kinglake National Park to offer local residents and visitors opportunities to recreate in natural and cultural landscapes, while preserving the Park's unique biodiversity at a time of recovery from the effects of the 2009 bushfire and rapid urbanisation of adjacent areas.

In February 2009 about 98% of Kinglake National Park was burnt in the catastrophic Black Saturday bushfires which resulted in the loss of many lives and homes in the area. Almost all of the infrastructure in the Park was destroyed and significant impacts on the Park's vegetation and animal communities occurred as a result of the fires.

This Master Plan and associated development of post bushfire visitor opportunities for Kinglake National Park is taking place in the context of bushfire reconstruction and recovery planning and assistance taking place under the guidance of the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRA). Under *Rebuilding Together – A Statewide Plan for Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery* (VBRRA, 2009), funds have been allocated for restoring and improving recreation and tourism facilities and infrastructure, including in Kinglake National Park. The Kinglake Flowerdale Toolangi Townships Comprehensive Design Framework (the KFT Plan) will guide reconstruction and recovery in the townships near the Park. It is intended that there will be integrated implementation of the Master Plan and the KFT Plan.

The Master Plan was prepared in consultation with management and community stakeholders including:

- the City of Whittlesea, Nillumbik Shire Council and Murrindindi Shire Council;
- local community groups ;
- recreational groups, including bushwalking, cycling and horse riding groups;
- conservation groups; and
- Parks Victoria staff.

#### **Relationship to the Park Management Plan**

Kinglake National Park protects 22,360ha of significant and varied ecosystems, representative of the foothills and southern slopes of the Great Dividing Range. The Park was created in 1928 and substantially extended during the 1980s and again in 1995. As a National Park this area is reserved and managed under the *National Parks Act 1975*. The Act requires that the natural condition of the Park and its natural and other features be preserved and protected and that provision is made for the use of the Park by the public for enjoyment, recreation, education and research. The management aims of the Park are derived from the National Parks Act and broadly govern all aspects of park management (National Parks Service, 1996).

These aims are:

#### Resource Conservation -

- *preserve and protect the natural environment;*
- *allow natural environmental processes to continue with the minimum of disturbance and maintain biodiversity;*
- *conserve features of archaeological, historical and cultural significance;*

#### Park Protection -

- *protect water catchments and streams;*
- *protect human life, the Park and adjacent lands from injury by fire;*
- *eradicate or otherwise control introduced plants, animals and diseases;*

#### The Park Visit -

- *provide opportunities for appropriate recreation and tourism;*
- *promote and encourage an appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the Park's natural and cultural values and its recreational opportunities;*
- *encourage appropriate Park use and behaviour and foster a conservation ethic in visitors;*
- *take reasonable steps to ensure safety of visitors;*

#### Other -

- *provide for and encourage scientific research, surveys and monitoring that will contribute to a better understanding and management of the Park;*
- *co-operate with local, state and interstate government authorities, the community and other interested organisations to assist in the management of the Park;*

The Management Plan for Kinglake National Park, which was adopted in 1996 and is due for review in about 2011, sets out the values and associated management strategies under each of these broad aims. This Management Plan served as a basis for development of the Master Plan and will inform and ultimately govern implementation of the Master Plan strategies and proposals. The Management Plan is a statutory document. Therefore, any proposals in the Master Plan which diverge from the current Management Plan (i.e. a change of use) will need to go through a comprehensive review process, associated with the upcoming review of the Management Plan.

#### **Master Plan Content**

Because of the changed situation for the Park and surrounding region resulting from the 2009 fires, a Strategic Directions Statement was developed as a first step in the process to guide the Master Plan (a copy is provided in Appendix A). The key goals for visitor management of Kinglake National Park set by the Strategic Directions Statement are to:

- enhance the Park's contribution to regional visitation and economic growth;
- strengthen the Park's identity and linkages between the Park and the community and between the separate Park blocks;
- enhance and provide diverse visitor opportunities that attract a range of visitor markets;
- provide high quality experiences that are socially, environmentally and economically sustainable and ensure the ongoing protection of Park values.

This Master Plan for Kinglake National Park provides Park-wide strategies and site based proposals for the recovery and reconstruction of the Park that meet the goals outlined above.

The core elements of the Master Plan comprise:

- Background - descriptions of Park values, visitor use and the planning context for development of future visitor opportunities (Sections 1-3);
- A Vision for management of the Park as Melbourne’s most accessible National Park (Section 4);
- Master Plan Strategies – strategies and actions for key areas of visitor use, information and interpretation, and facility design (Section 5);
- Design Elements; a selection of specific design features in the park that convey the proposed design language (Section 6);
- Precinct Design Concepts - design concepts for three key visitor precincts that demonstrate how Master Plan proposals may typically be realised (Section 7);
- An Implementation Plan providing priorities and allocating responsibilities for implementing the Master Plan (Section 8).

## 1.2 The Park

Kinglake National Park is the largest national park close to Melbourne and one of the major nature-based destinations within an hour’s drive of the city. The Park is situated 65 km north-east of the city centre on the steep southern escarpment and undulating plateau of the Great Dividing Range. Figure 1 shows the location of Kinglake National Park.

The Park covers an area of 22,360 hectares and is divided into several separate blocks separated by the small settlements and rural areas of the Kinglake Ranges and the foothills between Whittlesea and Yarra Glen (see Figure 2). A major high voltage powerline traverses the Park.

Kinglake National Park is at the western end of a large area of reserves (including national parks and state forest) extending along the Great Dividing Range and Dandenong Ranges to the north and east of Melbourne. The Park is bordered by private land; the Mt Disappointment and Mt Robertson State Forests in the west and north and the Toolangi State Forest in the east; the Toorourrong Reservoir Park in the south west near Whittlesea; and the Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve near Christmas Hills in the south. (See Regional Context in Figure 2)

The main visitor access to the Park from the Melbourne area is on the Whittlesea Yea Road in the west, the Melba Highway in the east and the narrow, winding Heidelberg Kinglake Road from St Andrews in the south. These roads connect to the Whittlesea Kinglake Road and the Kinglake Healesville Road which run between the townships along the edge of the escarpment. These roads and several sealed secondary roads provide access to the various Park blocks.

The Park is located in five different local government areas – the City of Whittlesea and the Shire of Nillumbik in the south, the Shire of Yarra Ranges in the south east, the Shire of Murrindindi in the north and the Shire of Mitchell in the north west.

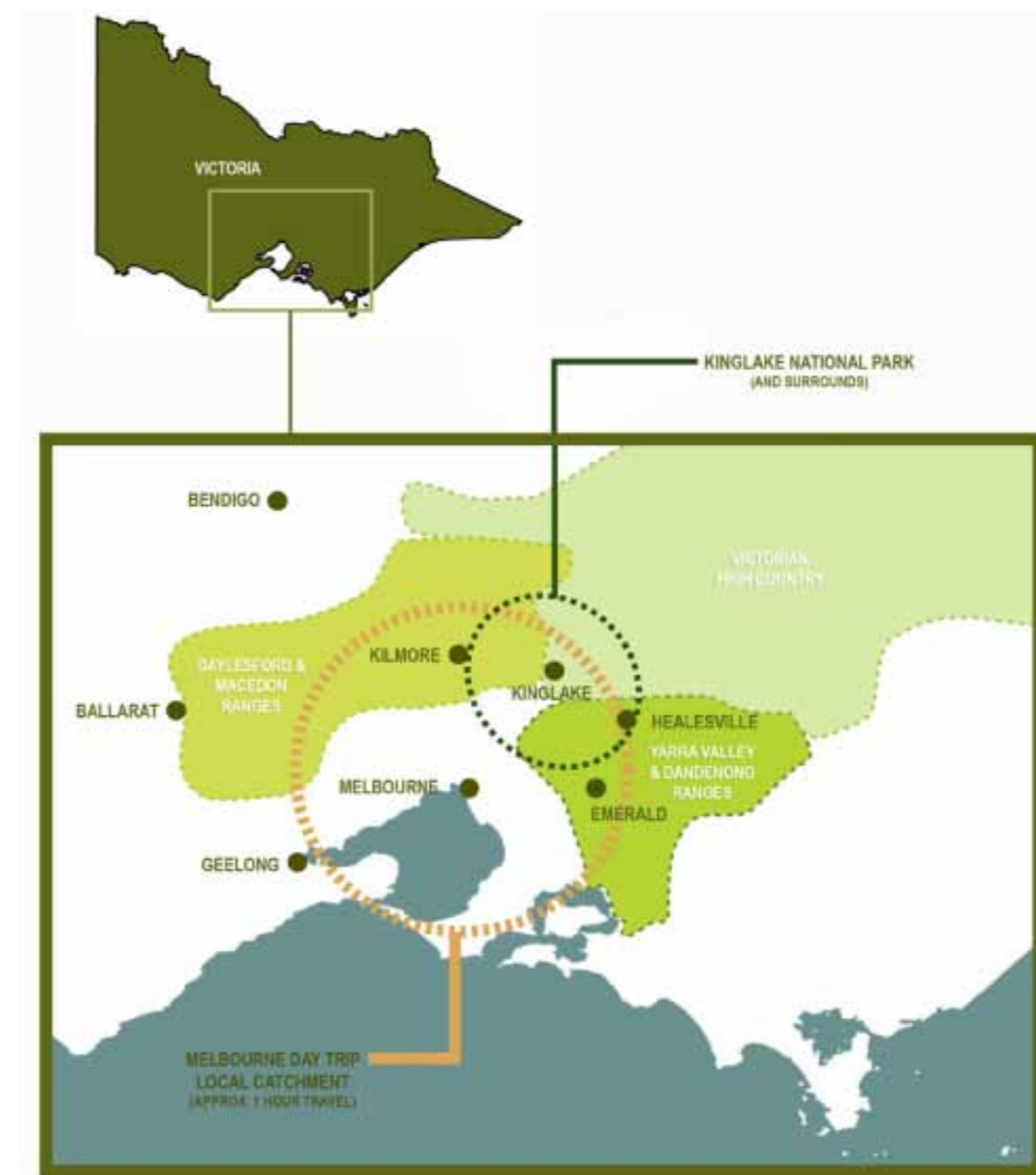


FIGURE 1. STATE CONTEXT



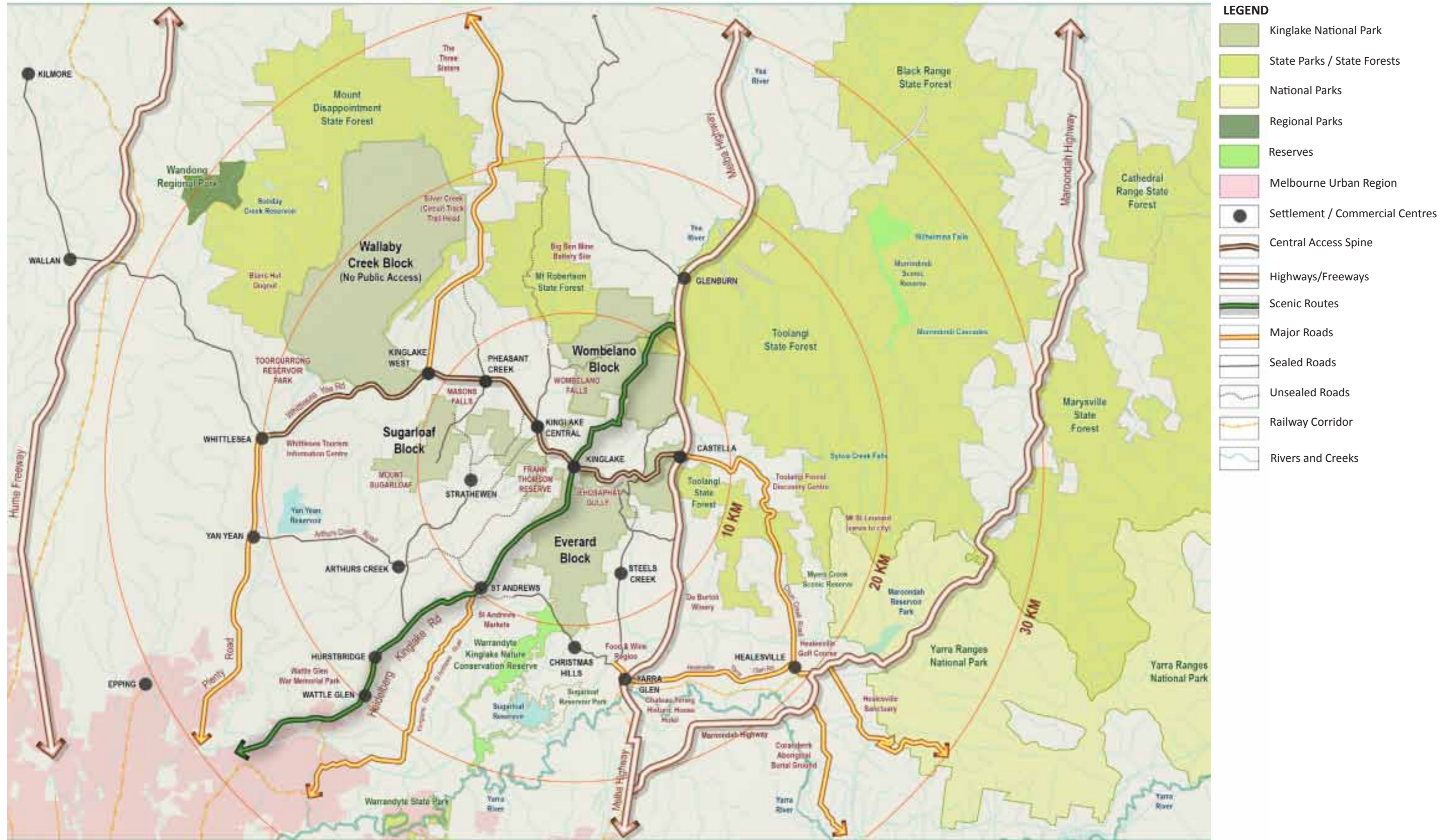


FIGURE 2. REGIONAL CONTEXT

MAP SCALE 1:250,000 @ A3





## 2. ANALYSIS OF NATURAL VALUES & VISITOR USE

### 2.1 Natural Values

Situated on the boundary of the Highlands-Southern Fall and Highlands-Northern Fall Bioregion, Kinglake National Park protects a rich variety of native vegetation and fauna habitats which were once more widespread in the area. It also plays an important role in protecting the condition of one of the catchments for Melbourne's water supply. The Park contains:

- about 600 native vascular plants, over 40 native mammals, 90 native bird species, several fish and reptiles and 3 rare butterfly species;
- several rare or threatened plants (nine in the blocks open to the public and seven in the Wallaby Creek Catchment);
- 31 rare or threatened fauna species (across all blocks);
- sites of botanical significance (four of National significance and 12 of State significance).

The Kinglake Ridge forms an ecological boundary between the steeply dissected terrain and drier climate of the southern fall of the Park and the less steep and slightly wetter climate of the northern fall. Variance in geology, topography and rainfall have resulted in a range of vegetation communities (Refer to Ecological Vegetation Classes map, Figure 3).

#### Effects of the 2009 fire

Vegetation communities and aquatic habitats in the Park are recovering from the effects of the 2009 fire. Preliminary findings in recent post fire vegetation surveys (ABZECO et al, 2010) suggest that the wildfire has had varying impacts on the Park's biodiversity. While in most cases the fire has initiated beneficial processes in vegetation communities such as recruitment, growth and flowering, it has also had irreversible impacts on some significant vegetation stands. The most devastated areas were those burnt during the most intense period of the fire. These include Everard, Sugarloaf and Wallaby Creek Catchment Blocks (refer to Figure 4, Fire Intensity).

The recent survey conducted by ABZECO et al (2010) has discovered a high diversity of significant flora species, including a range of rare species not previously known to exist in the Park (for example *Pomaderris vacciniifolia*, Round-leaf Pomaderris).

The 2009 fire will likely have a dominant influence on the forest structure for the next century, resulting in different landscape settings for visitors than those which were present before the fire. The following offers a brief description of likely vegetation regeneration patterns across the Park:

- Sugarloaf and Everard Blocks – due to vegetation types and the high intensity of the fire, vegetation is expected to regenerate at a slower rate, resulting in a dense understorey over the next 15 to 20 years and ultimately multi-stemmed trees. The landscape character in these areas is likely to vary somewhat from the pre-fire landscape permanently as a result;
- north western Wombelano Block – was burnt in 2006 and experienced less severe fire intensity in 2009. The regeneration from the 2006 fire will continue;
- the mixed species forest of south eastern Wombelano Block – a green cover is expected to be established within 3 to 5 years, with growth expected to thin and forests to regain an appearance similar to pre-fire conditions within 10 to 20 years;
- Mountain Ash forests of the Wallaby Creek Catchment and part of Jehosaphat Gully – Mountain Ash trees are killed by fire and will regenerate from seed. A dense vegetation cover of regenerating understorey species and juvenile trees around large dead trees (which will eventually fall over) is expected over the next 20 years.

Undoubtedly the 2009 fire has had a significant impact on many fauna species, with large numbers of animals lost. While no formal fauna surveys have been conducted since the fires, incidental observations by ABZECO et al. (2010) indicate some positive findings. Several regionally significant rare bird species were sighted and there have been several sightings of Red-necked Wallabies. The fire has resulted in a vast reduction in small mammal numbers (such as the Brush Tailed Phascogale and Common Dunnart) in the Park.

The Watsons Creek Biolink Project aims to construct a corridor of continuous vegetation from the neighbouring unburnt Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve to allow animals to re-inhabit the Park. This involves revegetation (with the help of volunteers) of an area of former farmland in the south of the Everard Block near Marshalls Road which was transferred to the Park in 2006. Park management, particularly in the immediate post fire recovery period, will be focussed on biodiversity surveys, biodiversity management and land protection and gaining a greater understanding of the Park's biodiversity and the effects of fire.

### 2.2 Cultural Values

Kinglake National Park occupies the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri and Taungurung peoples. As well as forming an ecological boundary, the Kinglake Ridge (approximately along the line of the current Whittlesea-Kinglake Road and Healesville-Kinglake Road) is the boundary between these two indigenous groups. A range of Aboriginal sites have been found in the Park, including sites revealed by the 2009 bushfire.

Many examples of relics and evidence of European history such as pastoral activities, mining, sawmilling, agriculture and logging, occur within in the Park.

Within the Wallaby Creek closed catchment and at Toorourrong Reservoir Park there are a number of outstanding intact examples of Melbourne's early water catchment infrastructure including 'The Cascades' which was used to redirect water from catchments north of the Great Dividing Range to Yan Yean Reservoir.

In addition, the area has a long history as a destination for sightseers, tourists and naturalists. The Park is significant in the history of conservation reserves, the first section (around Masons Falls, Jehosaphat Gully and Wombelano Falls) being declared in 1928 and 1929 after a campaign by dedicated individuals and conservation and naturalist groups.

The Park has been an important recreational resource providing opportunities for a range of passive and active experiences within a natural forested environment one hours' drive from Melbourne.



FIGURE 3. ECOLOGICAL VEGETATION CLASSES

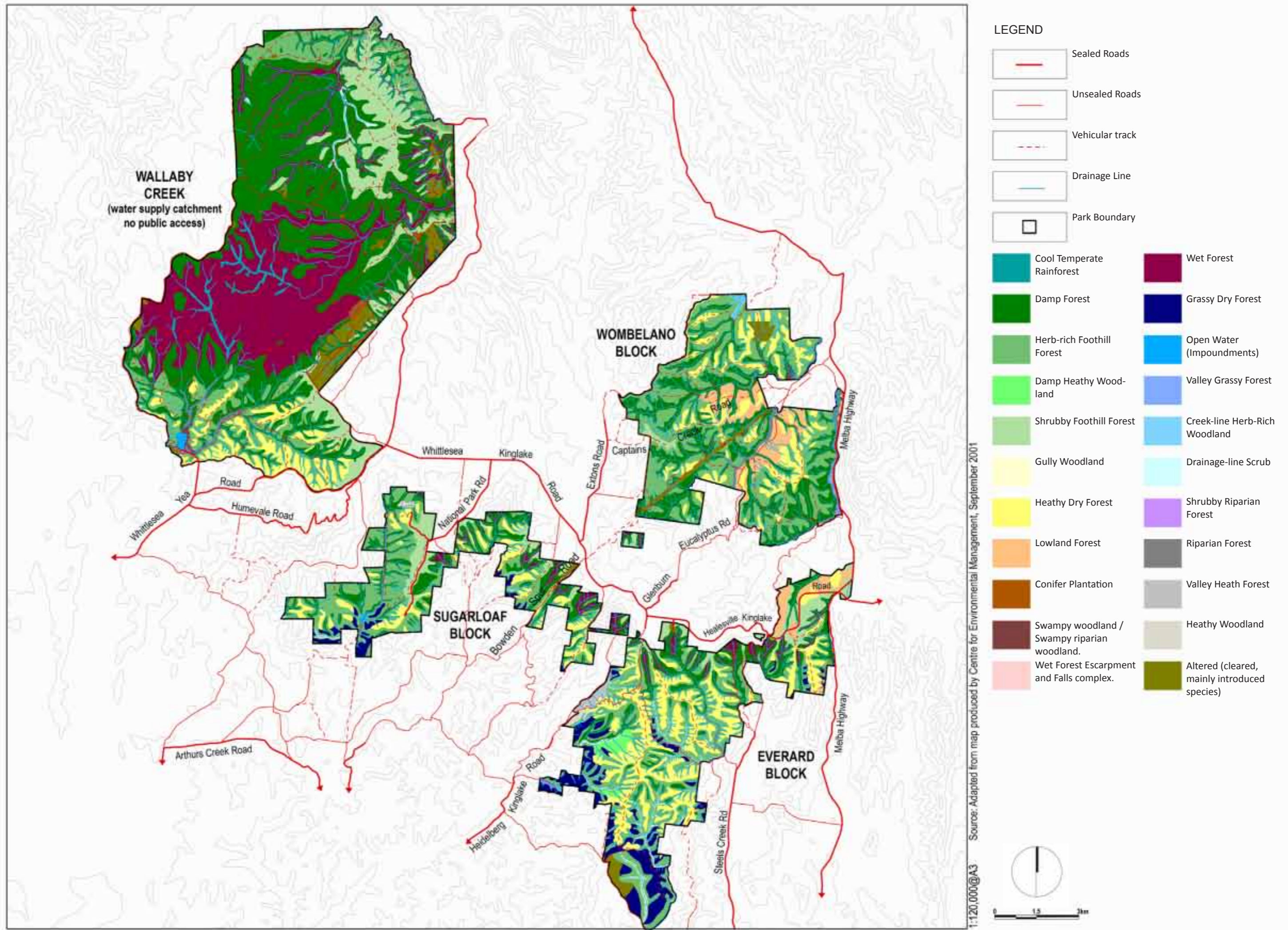
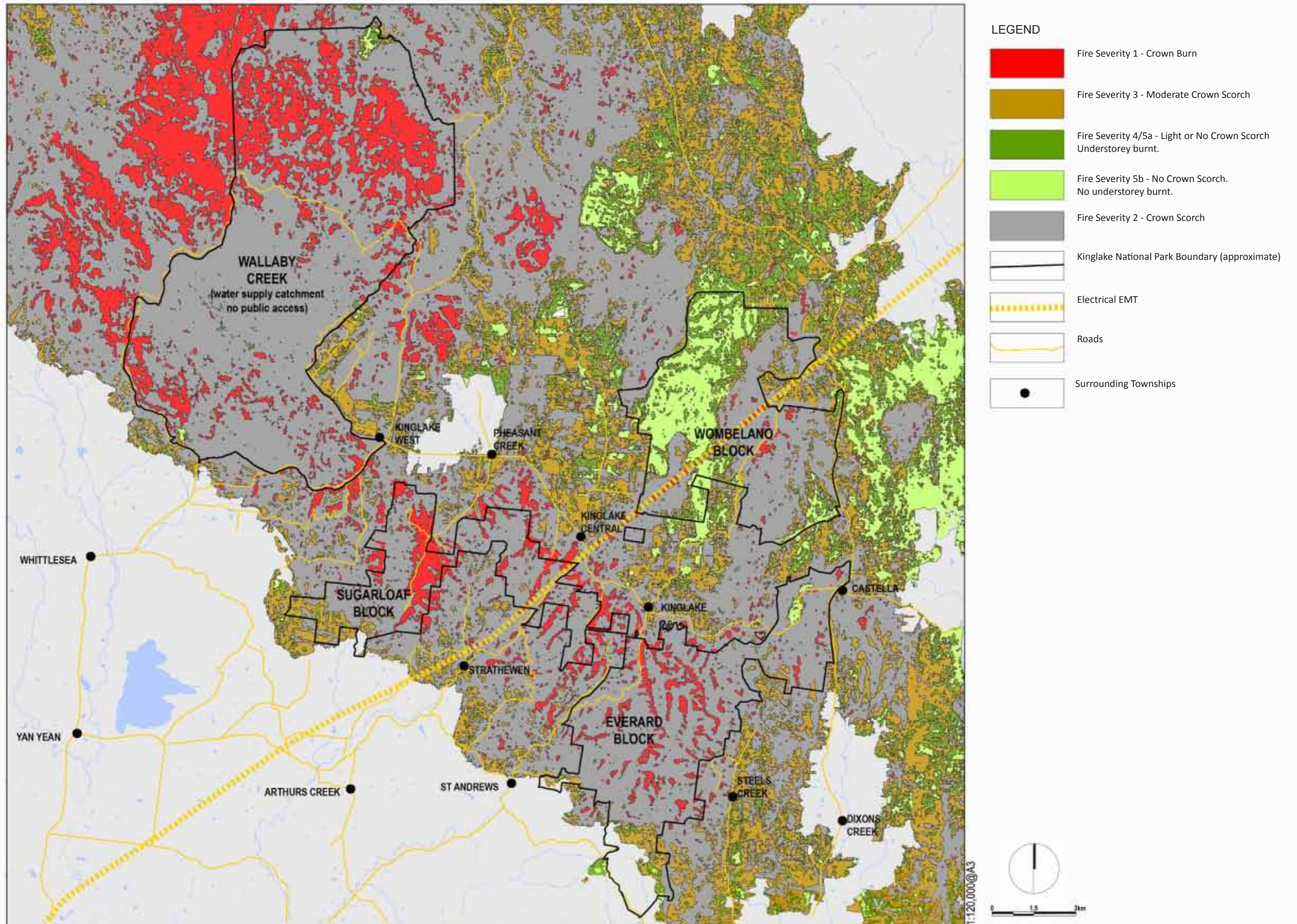




FIGURE 4. FIRE INTENSITY MAP





### 2.3 Landscape Character

The topography of Kinglake National Park is characterised by distinctive ridge and gully formations (especially at the southern fall), with the Whittlesea-Kinglake Road and Healesville-Kinglake Road forming a strong east west ridge at the heart of the four Park blocks. Landscapes range from the open parkland character of Frank Thomson Reserve to the enclosed forest at Masons Falls, the high canopy forest of Jehosaphat Gully, with its dramatic tree fern forested floor and the dense low canopy structure of much of Wombelano Block.

Based on variances in topography and vegetation communities, several landscape character types have been identified (see Figure 5):

- Open eucalypt forest - mixed eucalypt species (Messmate Stringybark and Narrow-leaf Peppermint) to 25m tall with a low highly diverse understorey including a range of shrubs, grasses and herbs. Semi enclosed visual experience; focus is on trees and mid distance views.
- Damp/Riparian Forest - tall eucalypt forest (Mountain Grey Gum and Manna Gum), with dense understorey including tree ferns. Occurring in gullies and along riparian corridors the visual experience is one of enclosure, the visitor is surrounded by dense vegetation and hill slopes; the visual focus becomes the immediate context.
- Dry forest - dry open eucalypt forest (Broad-leaved Peppermint and Mountain Grey Gum) with low understorey made up of heaths and peas. Visual experience involves long views and a sense of dryness.
- Shrubby open forest - occurring on ridges and exposed slopes, open eucalypt forest (Red Box and Silver Top Ash) with a distinct middle understorey layer and a ground cover of grasses and herbs. Semi-enclosed visual experience, trees are spaced further apart and the middle understorey becomes more visually dominant.
- Foothill forest - occurring on lower slopes and in gullies, medium to tall eucalypt forest (Messmate Stringybark and Narrow-leaf Peppermint), with a dense understorey and diverse ground layer. Semi enclosed visual experience; visitor is surrounded by gentle slopes and dense vegetation.
- Dry grassy forest - low open, poor form eucalypt forest (Narrow-leaf Peppermint, Mountain Grey Gum and Long Leaf Box) with a low and sparse understorey. Occurs on ridges and steep slopes resulting in a dry and exposed visual experience, with long views.
- Wet Forest - occurs in sheltered sites in gullies and on southern aspects, tall eucalypt (Mountain Ash) overstorey with a dense shrubby understorey and a moist, fern rich ground layer. Visual experience is dominated by a sense of enclosure, the visitor is surrounded by moist ferns and shrubs with tall eucalypt trees interspersed.

Although extensive views can be had looking south from the Whittlesea-Kinglake Road towards Melbourne, there are few long distance views within the Park itself except at Mount Sugarloaf and Frank Thomson Reserve (which provide spectacular views towards Melbourne and Port Phillip Bay) and glimpses of views to the valley floor at Jehosaphat Gully. The spectacular waterfalls at Masons Falls and Wombelano Falls flow over high cliffs in deep creeks.

The visitor perception of a cohesive experience of the National Park's landscape character is largely precluded by:

- the lack of comprehensive directional and information signage along the principal access roads or within the Park;
- the fragmented nature of the Park blocks;
- situation of the principal access roads to those blocks mostly outside the Park's boundaries, within a rural agricultural or semi urban context.



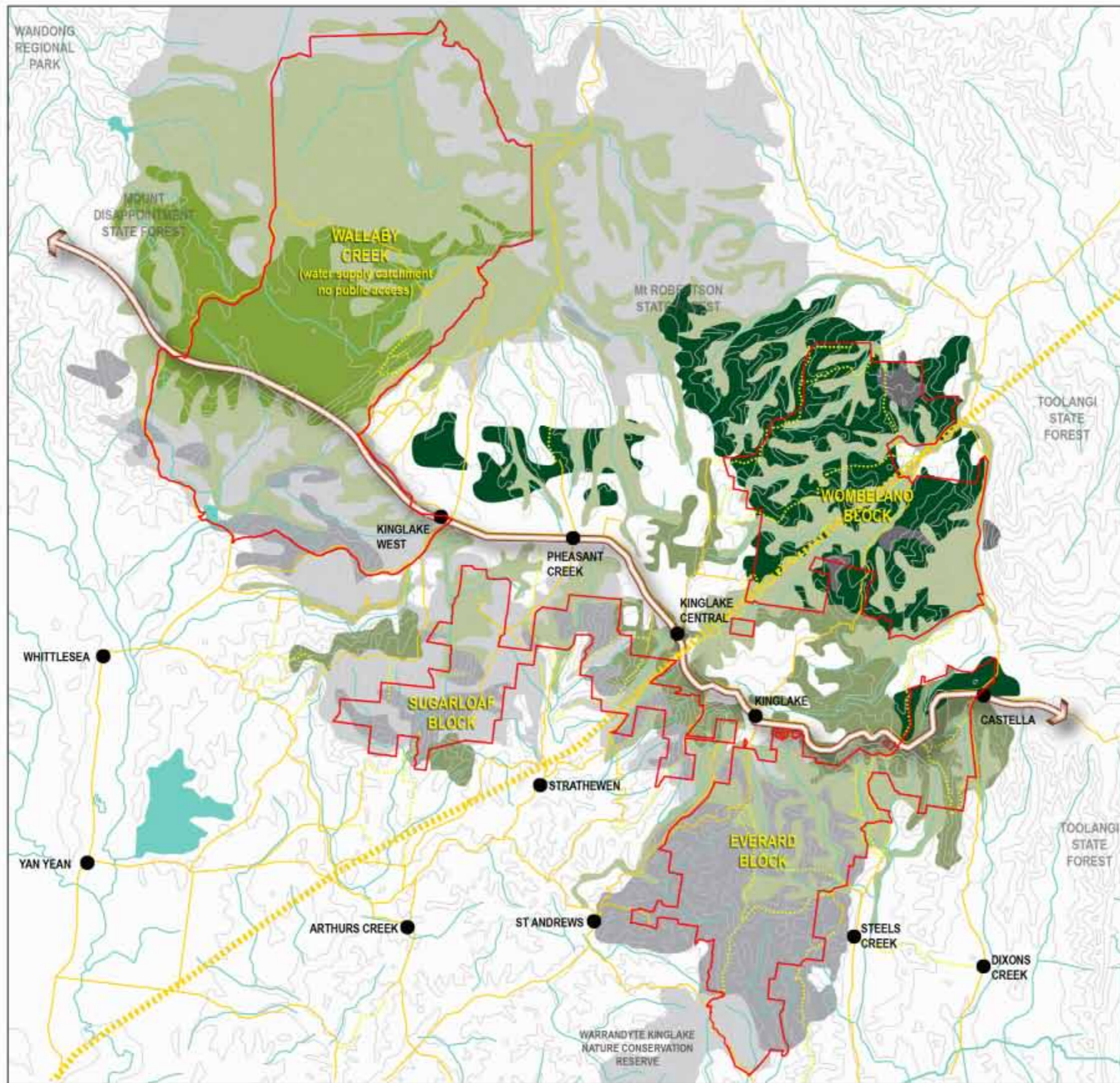
**Photo 1** - An understanding of the ecological and Aboriginal significance of the Kinglake ridge is a key to integrating the townships with the Park.












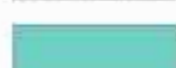



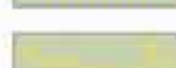
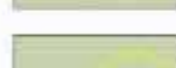
**Photo 2** - Round Leaf Pomaderris from recent flora survey.



FIGURE 5. TOPOGRAPHY AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER



LEGEND

-  Kinglake National Park Boundary (approximate)
-  Open Eucalypt Forest: mixed eucalypt species (including Messmate Stringybark & Narrow Leaf Peppermint) to 25m tall with low-highly diverse understorey including a range of shrubs, grasses and herbs.
-  Damp/Riparian Forest: Tall eucalypt forest (Mountain Grey Gum and Manna Gum) with a dense understorey including tree ferns.
-  Dry Forest: dry open eucalypt forest (Broad-leaved Peppermint and Mountain Grey Gum) with a low understorey.
-  Shrubby Open Forest: occurring on ridges and exposed slopes, open eucalypt forest (Red Box & Silver Top Ash) with a distinct middle understorey layer and a ground cover of grasses and herbs.
-  Foothill Forest: occurring on lower slopes and in gullies, medium to tall eucalypt forest (Messmate Stringybark and Narrow-leaf Peppermint) with a dense understorey and diverse ground layer.
-  Dry Grassy Forest: low open poor form eucalypt forest (Narrow-leaf Peppermint, Mountain Grey Gum and Long-leaf Box) with a low & sparse understorey.
-  Wet Forest: occurs in sheltered sites in gullies and on southern aspects, tall eucalypt (Mountain Ash) overstorey with a dense shrubby under-storey and moist fern rich ground layer.
-  Contours
-  Reservoirs
-  Rivers/Creeks
-  Significant Ridge / Great Dividing Range  
Approximate divide between the Highlands Northern Fall Bioregion and the Highlands South Fall Bioregion.
-  Electrical EMT
-  Sealed Roads
-  Unsealed Roads

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## 2.4 Visitors and Recreation

Before the 2009 bush fires, Kinglake National Park as a whole received about 200,000 visitors a year. Masons Falls received about 80,000 to 100,000 visitors a year, while Jehosaphat Gully received about 40,000 to 50,000 visitors. Visitation has increased since the 1990s when it was estimated at 120,000 to 150,000 a year. Since then, Park staff have observed a trend away from very high visitor peaks at the main visitor nodes (such as Masons Falls) on public holidays.

The Park has been primarily a day use visitor destination typical of parks on the urban fringes of Melbourne. Surveys indicate most visitors come from Melbourne (especially the northern suburbs), with a smaller number from regional Victoria and a very small percentage of interstate and international visitors (MillwardBrown 2004, 2006, 2008).

In 2008, visitors surveyed at Masons Falls came from the following Parks Victoria visitor segments (see descriptions in Appendix B):

- Nature Admirers (39%)
- Trail Users (26%)
- Urban Socials (18%)
- Access Made Easy (11%)
- Passive and Other Users (4%)
- Activity Centrics (1%)

The most popular activities in the Park were sightseeing, short walks (less than 1 hour), picnicking/BBQ, socialising with family or friends, and nature appreciation and enjoying the Park environment/atmosphere (see Graph 1). The most common group size of people surveyed was 2 or 3-5 people. The most common length of time spent in the Park was 2-3 hours (49% in 2008), with significant numbers staying up to 1 hour (38% in 2008).

Other activities in the Park included half day and day walks, mountain bike touring (which has been observed to be increasing), horse riding and school education excursions. A small camping area with 10 sites, The Gums, is located on Eucalyptus Road in the north east of the Park.

Park visitation has been concentrated at the Masons Falls–Mt Sugarloaf area and the Jehosaphat Gully Picnic Area. Other sites in the Park received lesser use and contained low key facilities.

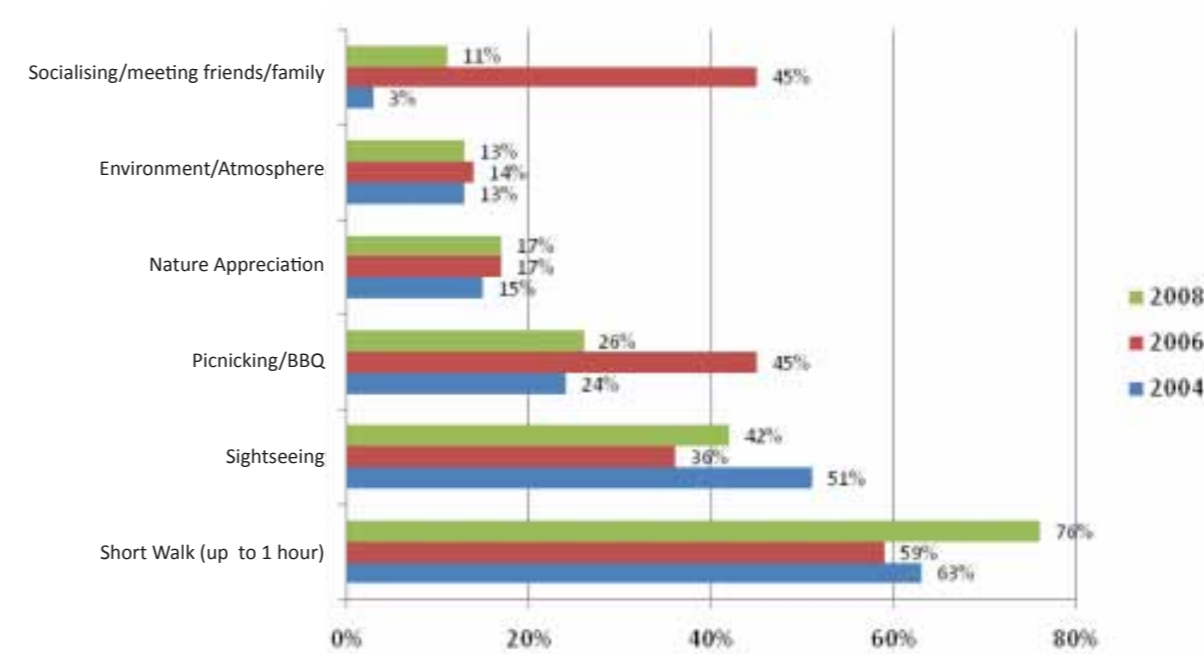
Most of the Wallaby Creek catchment is closed to visitors for the protection of Melbourne’s water supply. However, there are opportunities to reintroduce guided tours or programs into these relatively untouched parts of the national park. A buffer zone in the north east is open to public access and provides opportunities for more remote bushwalking.

As one of the closest bushwalking areas to Melbourne, the Park contains several well-known bushwalking routes. Cycle touring also occurs in the Park. While not formally quantified, Parks Victoria staff indicate growing interest in, and informal use of the Park by, mountain bike groups and horse riders. Road cyclists are also regular visitors to the area, with one informal regional cycle circuit that includes Whittlesea, Kinglake and the road to St Andrews as part of its route.

Appendix B shows the main pre-2009 visitor facilities and uses as well as walking, mountain biking and horse riding trails and routes. The major current visitor attractions within Kinglake National Park and the surrounding region are illustrated in Figure 6.

## Main Visitor Activities - Kinglake National Park

Visitor Surveys - 2004, 2006, 2008



Graph 1. Main Visitor Activities - Kinglake National Park Visitor Surveys - 2004, 2006, 2008



## 2.5 Access and Circulation

From a regional perspective Kinglake National Park is highly accessible by road from north and south, with the Hume Highway and Melba Highway lying to the west and east of the Park respectively. Local roads traverse the landscape of the locality and for the most part access to recreational facilities and attractions with the Park is achievable in conventional vehicles (see Figure 6). However, the National Park is predominantly set back from the major road networks and due to poor signage and the lack of clear park information, orientation into the Park is difficult.

There is little provision for pedestrian and cycle access into the Park from the adjoining towns and villages or between the villages themselves.

Many of the Park's recreational attractions are not currently suited to easy access, often by virtue of gradient or the design of tracks and facilities. Nor is there a great variety of shorter walking circuits within the Park.

Improved signage, access and circulation measures are necessary which link the dispersed Park blocks into coherent visitor experiences and encourage the local and broader community to engage with the Park in meaningful ways.



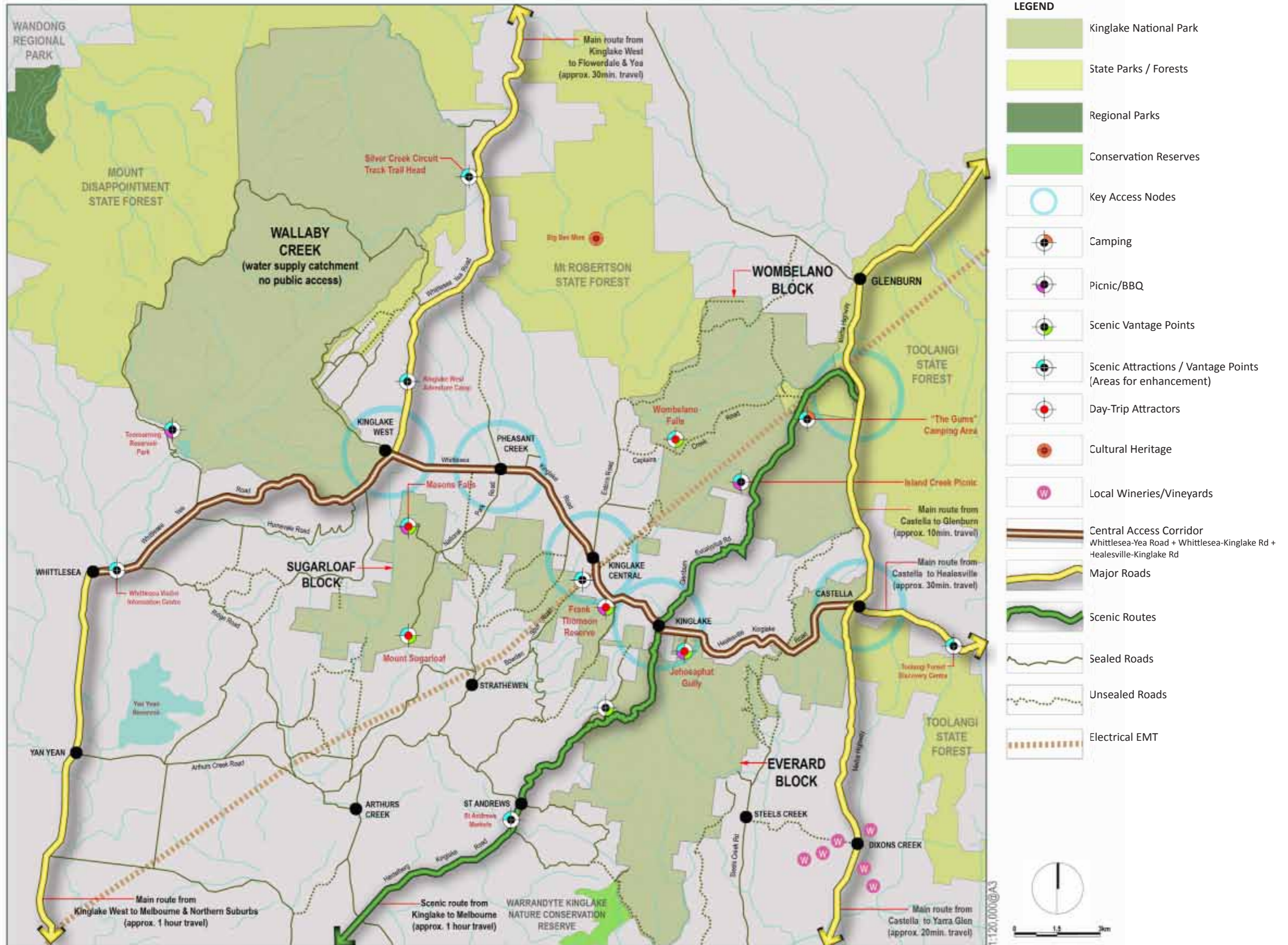
**Photo 3** - Ease of orientation is a critical factor in facilitating visitor appreciation of the National Park, particularly given that the park is comprised of four separate blocks.



**Photo 4** - The Park's many trails offer a broad range of bushwalking experiences. Shorter circuit paths close to the townships and at major visitor attractions will do much to broaden the understanding of the Park's natural values for those not specifically focused on bushwalking.



FIGURE 6. EXISTING ACCESS, CIRCULATION AND VISITOR FACILITIES





## 3. FUTURE PLANNING CONTEXT

### 3.1 Park Planning Policies

Planning for visitor management in Kinglake National Park is undertaken within the context of government policies for sustainable recreation and tourism.

The 2002 Policy for Sustainable Recreation and Tourism on Victoria's Public Land (currently under review) emphasises the provision of equitable access, a diverse range of opportunities and facilities to foster enjoyment, education and safety, while minimising impacts on natural and cultural values.

Victoria's Nature-based Tourism Strategy 2008-2012, aims to develop a range of sustainable, high quality nature based experiences which will provide visitors with memorable experiences and also bring economic benefits to communities. It encourages public private-partnerships in development of visitor opportunities.

Linking People and Spaces 2010 is being prepared to provide a 20 year vision and strategy for the continued growth and improvement of Melbourne's regional open space network and trail linkages. It will update Linking People and Spaces 2002 and is likely to include proposals relevant to recreation use and trail linkages to the south of Kinglake National Park.

### 3.2 Population Changes

The changing size, age structure and cultural diversity of Melbourne's population is likely to result in a range of expectations for activities and use of Kinglake National Park and the surrounding areas.

*Victoria in Future 2008* suggests Melbourne is likely to reach a population of five million before 2030. Overseas migration is currently the main contributor to the city's rapid population growth, with 25 percent of all immigrants to Australia settling in Melbourne. Almost 24 percent of Victorian residents were born overseas, having arrived from 230 different countries. Different cultural groups will have different recreational facility needs, including facilities for extended groups.

While the age profile of overseas migrants is slowing the aging of Melbourne's population, the number of persons aged over 60 is expected to double by 2036. Visitors in older age groups will require a range of facilities and opportunities, including facilities for easy access and bus tours. The 'baby boomer' generation, now entering retirement, may have more discretionary income than previous older visitors and may seek facilities such as comfortable camping options and camper trailer facilities.

Provision for people with disabilities will be important in the future in Kinglake National Park. The City of Whittlesea, the closest suburban area to the Park, has a higher proportion of people with disabilities than the Victorian average. With over 70 supported accommodation dwellings, Whittlesea has a particularly high proportion of residents with a disability or special needs. The Kinglake Ranges have historically been a place where excursions have provided this segment of the community with the opportunity to connect with nature.

Whittlesea also has the highest percentage Macedonian population of anywhere in Victoria and a significant number of residents with English as their second language.

The experiences and perceptions of Generation Y (now entering adulthood) will affect the expectation of young adults and families during the period covered by the Master Plan. Generation Y has grown up with the digital age, the internet and instant communication. They are likely to expect technology based information, interpretation and experiences. Many will expect facilities and interpretation to reflect a greater environmental conscience.

### 3.3 Regional Influences

Kinglake National Park is the largest national park close to Melbourne's northern growth corridor and one of the largest natural areas to the north of the metropolitan area. As Melbourne's population grows and the size of the urban area increases, Kinglake National Park is likely to become increasingly popular for outdoor recreation, social activities, sightseeing and nature based activities. It is within an hour's drive from many parts of Melbourne (the travel time people are typically prepared to spend to reach an outdoor recreation destination) and closer to many residents of northern Melbourne than traditional weekend recreation destinations such as beaches.

Entry into Kinglake National Park from adjoining areas to the south is also likely to increase with developments in recreational uses. This includes proposed multi-use recreational trail developments in the St Andrews-Smiths Gully and Sugarloaf Reservoir-Christmas Hills areas which may link into the Park. Trail links are also proposed in the Toolangi area to the east of Kinglake, including a horse riding trail between Toolangi and the Melba Highway.

Eventually accessibility of Kinglake National Park from the metropolitan trail network is expected to improve as new trail links are created in the area south of the Park under Linking People and Spaces 2010, the new 20 year strategy for improvement of Melbourne's regional open space and trail network.

Kinglake National Park is bordered by the Mt Disappointment, Mt Robertson and Toolangi State Forests, which comprise an area approximately three times the size of the Park for forest recreation (see Figure 2). These State Forests provide a range of recreational opportunities such as horse riding and mountain bike riding (on public roads and tracks), 4WD and trail bike riding, walking and camping. Visitor facilities in these State Parks are being restored following the Black Saturday bush fires.

Kinglake National Park is within the Yarra Valley and Dandenongs Tourism Region, close to the major visitor destination of the Yarra Valley. The region is a major destination for Melbourne residents for day trips and short breaks (the latter becoming an increasingly popular holiday choice in preference to long annual holidays). In 2008, the last year before the 2009 bush fires affected visitation, the Yarra Valley region received 2.6 million domestic day trip visitors and 609,000 domestic overnight visitors, most from Melbourne (Tourism Victoria, 2009).

Regionally, it is understood that the Kinglake Ranges Business Network has expressed interest in aligning the Kinglake area with the recently formed Goulburn River Valley Tourism region which extends into the Shires of Mitchell, Murundindi, Strathbogie and Shepparton to the north.

Whilst continuing to protect the significant natural and cultural values of the Park, visitor opportunities in Kinglake need to be considered in the context of the broader region and open space and recreational needs of the increasing population of metropolitan Melbourne. As well as a visitor destination in its own right, there is potential for the Park to be linked to, or to complement, regional and neighbouring destinations and experiences to enhance the range of regional visitor opportunities and the benefits flowing to regional communities. Potential linkages to be explored or taken into account are summarised in Table 1.



**TABLE 1. REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK**

Northern suburbs of Melbourne	Growth corridor that will result in higher numbers of visitors seeking natural and other settings.
Yarra Valley	Popular tourism destination that could be integrated into touring routes through Kinglake National Park.
Goulburn River Valley Tourism region	Potential nature-based tourism destination, including the 134 kilometre Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail currently under construction between Tallarook and Mansfield (to the north of Kinglake National Park).
Foothill towns & villages	Potential providers of services for Park visitors and potential connections into the Park for visitors and local residents, including through a variety of trails.
Toolangi	Village and State Forest offering opportunities that can be linked to Kinglake NP (eg. arts/crafts, forest drives, cycling).
Mt Disappointment and Mt Robertson State Forests	Opportunities that can be linked to Kinglake NP (forest drives, cycling, mountain bike riding, horse riding). Offers a different range of recreational opportunities to national parks.
Melba Highway	Northern travel route offering promotional opportunities for Kinglake NP.
Other national parks north east of Melbourne	Strategic approach to delivering appropriate recreational opportunities on Parks Victoria's estate.
Toorourrong Reservoir Park	Offers facilities at the more developed end of the open space recreation spectrum.
Rebuilding other Parks and visitor destinations	Opportunities may exist for Kinglake NP linked to or complementing destinations being redeveloped after the 2009 bushfires.



**Photo 5** - The Park's proximity to Melbourne has historically attracted a high percentage of day visitors and it's likely this trend will continue into the future; the Park's recovery plan could aim to encourage more overnight stays.



**Photo 6** - Water scenes are relatively rare in the Park, therefore the design of visitor facilities and measures to enhance access should carefully consider the Park's existing ecological values, particularly in relation to water quality and biodiversity. Preserving these values will be beneficial in enhancing the visitor experience of the natural environment such as at Island Creek (above).



### 3.4 Nature Based Recreation Preferences

Australians have a wide range of expectations and motivations for nature based recreation, especially in a national park close to a large population centre. Motivations for nature-based experiences can include relaxation, socialising, nature appreciation, education, health and fitness and challenge and adventure. Settings ranging from comfortable to remote are sought dependent on personal preference and ability and trip purpose. Nature-based recreation trends are described in Appendix B.

Short walks (less than one hour) are one of the most popular activities in national parks, as are the traditional activities of picnicking, sightseeing and nature appreciation. In addition, a demand is growing for well designed and accessible infrastructure, facilities and opportunities across the spectrum of activities. These include:

- walking and cycling trails;
- participative or interactive interpretation and experiences (such as voluntary conservation activities);
- provision for adventure activities (such as mountain biking);
- soft adventure guided and self guided activities;
- camping facilities suitable for campervans and motor homes;
- packages linking park visits with other tourism experiences.

Kinglake National Park is expected to continue to attract a wide range of visitors. In particular, the demand for walking and cycling trails, including mountain biking, is expected to increase (see Appendix C).

The Park contains some modified landscapes that may be suitable for managed recreation activities, such as mountain biking, that would not be appropriate in parts of the Park with higher conservation values.

### 3.5 Visitor information and interpretation

Pre fire visitor information at Kinglake took the form of:

- tourist signage identifying major visitor nodes;
- standard entry signs at most sites with pictograms indicating key regulations and facilities;
- interpretive signage at visitor nodes and on some tracks;
- the opportunity for visitors to talk with staff at the office at Masons Falls;
- 'ParkNote' Visitor Guides for Kinglake National Park, the Masons Falls area and 'The Gums' Camping Area;
- simple information on the Parks Victoria website;
- information at the Whittlesea Tourist Information Centre.

The majority of the signage and interpretation associated with the Park has now been destroyed. With a goal of growth in visitors to the area and the Park, and an expectation that many will be new visitors, orientation, direction and on-site information will be essential. Road networks near the Park need to have signage to create an awareness of the Park and identify stopping points and experiences for travellers.

As a Park with a number of separate blocks that are not directly connected to each other or to main roads and townships, joint information with the local community and businesses is critical. A roadside shopfront as part of the Parks Victoria office location would enable easy access for visitor information as would wayfinding points at each of the townships.

### 3.6 New Park Office and Depot

The Kinglake National Park Office in National Park Road, at the Park entrance leading to Masons Falls and Mt Sugarloaf, was lost in the fires of Saturday 7 February 2009. In planning to rebuild a new park office, Parks Victoria has considered the best strategic location in terms of visibility to potential visitors and ways in which the facility could be better integrated into the local community.

During 2009 a series of workshops were held with the local community and with Park staff. The local community workshops indicated a desire for areas within a new building to be available for community activities or for the Park office to be part of a larger community facility.

Parks Victoria staff are keen to see the office and depot together in one location – for efficiency of operations, ease of communication and for camaraderie (especially important given the events of 2009). Staff are keen to see a building designed to respect its natural surroundings and 'climate friendly' in terms of energy and water efficiency.

Park office frontage to the main Whittlesea-Kinglake/Kinglake-Healesville Road was identified as important. Very little of the national park area has main road frontage, the one area being Frank Thomson Reserve. A number of local people have expressed their passion for the openness and long views to the city from Frank Thomson Reserve and their preference for no construction on the reserve.

As at September 2010, Parks Victoria is in advanced discussions with the VBBRA, the Kinglake Ranges Community Recovery Committee and the Shire of Murrindindi to build a new office and depot in conjunction with a Community Cultural Facility (CCF) to be built on land to be purchased adjacent to Frank Thomson Reserve. It is the preference of Parks Victoria that the combined office and CCF are built on the purchased land. However, if this option is unable to proceed, it is anticipated that Parks Victoria will rebuild on the site of the previous office in National Park Road.

### 3.7 Climate Change

Climate change and developing community knowledge and expectations about its impacts is likely to lead to expectations for sustainable facilities and service facilities in the Park and management of bushfire risk.

Future visitor facility and service needs are likely to be affected by hotter summer conditions. This may include the need for more roofed shelters and access to water (both mentioned as desirable improvement in the 2008 Park visitor survey). In light of the 2009 fire and hotter summer conditions, consideration needs to be given to pre-visit and on-Park fire and fire evacuation information and to the fire-resistant design of infrastructure.



**Photo 7** - The opportunity to draw on modified landscapes, as can be seen here at Bowdens Spur, provides for managed recreation activities such as downhill bike riding that would not be appropriate in parts of the park with higher conservation values.



### 3.8 Fire Prevention and Management

Much of Kinglake National Park and its surrounds is identified under the Wildfire Management Overlay (WMO) as areas where the intensity of wildfire is significant and likely to pose a threat to life and property. The WMO (a planning tool for fire risk management):

- ensures that development includes specified fire protection measures and does not significantly increase the threat to life and property from wildfire;
- details the minimum fire protection outcomes that will assist to protect life and property from the threat of wildfire.

Building and planning regulations which are a part of the WMO will be complied with, especially in terms of the Park Office redevelopment. Design and materials selection will be integral considerations in development of new Park facilities and infrastructure.

The Fire Protection Plan produced by the Department of Sustainability and Environment covers aspects such as wildfire prevention, preparedness, education, fuel management and wildfire recovery. This Fire Protection Plan will become increasingly important as vegetation and fuel loads recover.

An emergency management plan for Kinglake National Park has been recently reviewed and outlines fire risk, fire management strategies and response in emergency situations (in particular fire events).

Outcomes and recommendations of the 2009 Victorian Bush fires Royal Commission will inform both implementation of these strategies and those outlined in the Master Plan.



**Photo 8** - The Park provides opportunities for education and interpretation for all ages and backgrounds. A clear thematic structure to interpretation will assist first time visitors in understanding the Parks' core values and its relevance to their day to day lives.



**Photo 9** - Much of the non-indigenous vegetation within and around the Park has not survived and there are places on the periphery of the Park such as at Frank Thomson Reserve (above) where the selective re-planting of non-indigenous species to complement native re-plantings are appropriate to the context and visitor experience.



**Photo 10** - The fires of February 2009 affected 98% of the Park, but a year later the extent of natural recovery is remarkable across many parts of the Park.



# PART B - THE MASTERPLAN

## 4. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

### 4.1 Vision

#### KINGLAKE - MELBOURNE'S MOST ACCESSIBLE NATIONAL PARK

**Kinglake National Park is Melbourne's most accessible national park, recognised, valued and supported by the local community and visitors as a place that offers diverse opportunities to engage with nature and culture.**

**It will:**

- **Be recognised for its inherent values (green, healthy, natural, cultural, immersive experiences);**
- **Offer a range of memorable and engaging opportunities for recreation;**
- **Provide social, environmental and economic benefits to the community;**
- **Serve as a model of sustainability for the community;**
- **Foster opportunities for engagement with partners in management of the natural and cultural values as well as the delivery of tourism, visitor opportunities and education.**

### 4.2 Goals

The Master Plan is guided by the following goals (see Appendix A, Strategic Directions).

#### A. Establish a role in the region

Kinglake National Park is an important setting for nature and culture based recreation that is a driver of visitation in its own right and a contributor to broader regional visitation and economic growth.

#### B. Strengthen the Park identity

Kinglake National Park, its special values and its visitor opportunities and destinations are readily identified by visitors both before the visit and while in the Park.

#### C. Enhance visitor opportunities and expanding markets

Kinglake National Park provides opportunities for a range of visitor markets to experience and appreciate its special values and qualities and gain inspiration and improved well being through connection with nature.

Visitor opportunities (and supporting facilities and services) align with contemporary expectations and trends in sustainable national parks management and are compatible with ongoing protection of park values.

#### D. Manage for visitors

Visitor opportunities in Kinglake National Park are managed to ensure future social, environmental and economic sustainability, the protection of park values and the provision of high quality opportunities for the range of visitors.

### 4.3 Rationale

The following philosophy contributes to the approach taken in the Master Plan:

- There are benefits to long term conservation to be achieved through improved appreciation, understanding and respect for park environmental, cultural, social, recreational and economic values by encouraging more park visitors and a broader range of visitors.
- Broadening the range of memorable and relevant opportunities for people to recreate or otherwise engage in parks while protecting key values has the potential to attract a more diverse range of visitors and encourage longer stay in the region.
- Visitor opportunities need to focus on ways in which visitors can engage with the national park brand of 'naturalness' in a meaningful way whether through fun, self discovery, learning or relationships with the land, the culture or the people.
- The Park is well situated to provide opportunities for new visitors that encourage their enjoyment and appreciation of parks.
- There may be potential for partnerships with the local community, private sector or other land management agencies to offer visitor opportunities within the Park that offer environmental, social or economic benefits.
- Visitor facilities and services need to be planned in a context of a changing post fire natural environment that may result in different settings over the next 5 -15 years.
- Information needs to be made available through a range of media to make visitors aware of the range of opportunities that are available.



**Photo 11** - As the Melbourne suburbs grow progressively in the northeast of the City, the attraction to take day trips to places like Kinglake could also increase. Building strong connections or associations between Kinglake and the Park should direct visitor focus to the town and potentially enhance localised economic opportunities.



#### 4.4 The Accessible Park Concept

Kinglake National Park will be developed and promoted as Melbourne’s most accessible national park to encourage a broader range of visitors to enjoy and appreciate its natural and cultural values. The Park will have a wide appeal, with an emphasis on encouraging and providing opportunities for first time and relatively inexperienced park visitors.

The Park will be easily accessible to all visitors and will provide a wide range of opportunities for safe, well promoted activities, and engagement with the Park’s natural and cultural values.

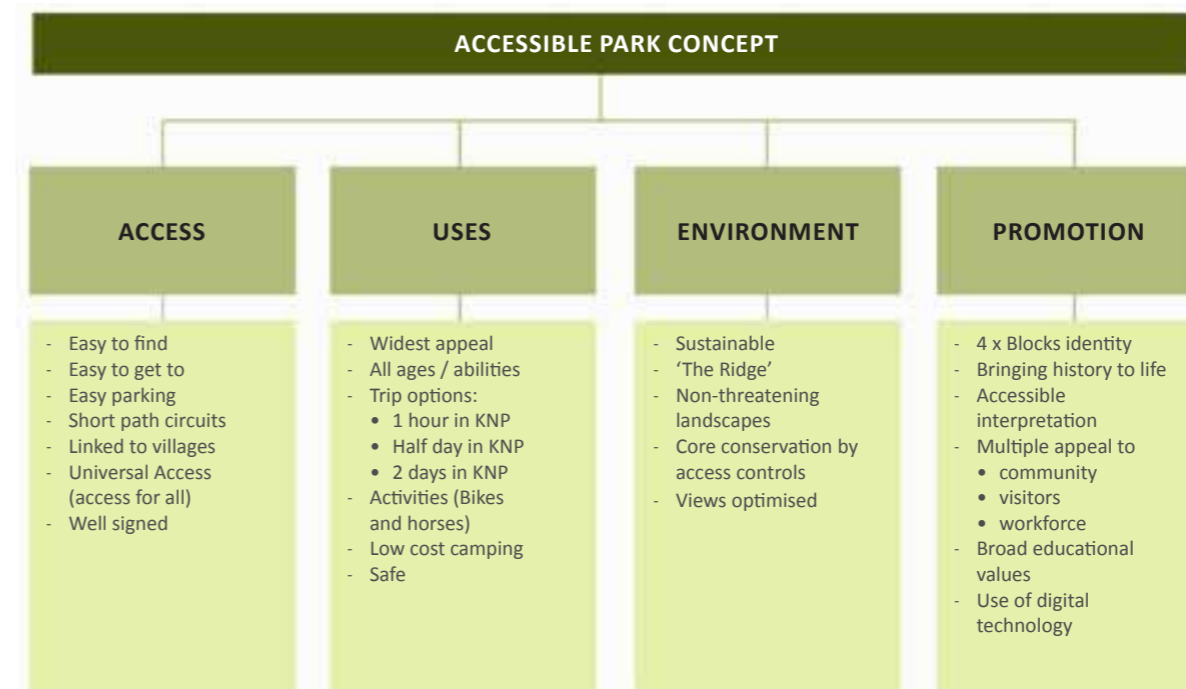
Each of the four separate Park blocks will have a distinctive character and provide a distinct range of visitor opportunities. Signage, wayfinding information and interpretation along the spine of the Whittlesea-Kinglake Road and Healesville-Kinglake Road will be used to establish a coherent Park identity. Trail linkages will be established between the blocks and the Whittlesea-Kinglake Road and Healesville-Kinglake Road and local communities.

The Sugarloaf Block will continue to be the Park’s main visitor site. A ‘signature’ attraction, a viewing platform at Mount Sugarloaf, will be developed as an iconic destination and a focus for presenting the Park to visitors and providing opportunities for new visitors to learn about natural and cultural values. Access to the spectacular Masons Falls will also be enhanced to provide improved accessibility for people of all abilities.

There will be an emphasis on the design and location of Park infrastructure and facilities to facilitate visitor use while protecting Park values and ensuring that use of the Park remains sustainable. This Master Plan recommends the reintroduction of ranger guided programs and other opportunities, particularly for school groups, to aid in the process of recovery and re-engagement with the natural environment.



**Photo 12** - Focusing early works in the areas that were previously popular and where vegetation is making a strong recovery will ensure an early return of Park visitors.



**Photo 13** - The opportunity to integrate themed play within the Park would add another dynamic dimension to the Park’s attractions and be complementary to the Bollygum Adventure Park already in operation.



#### 4.5 Visitor Opportunities

The accessible visitor opportunities proposed by this Master Plan in each of the Park blocks are summarised in Table 2.

**TABLE 2. SUGARLOAF BLOCK - Kinglake signature locality. New national park visitor introduction and day trip**

Location	Primary role	Segments	Opportunities
Masons Falls/ Mt Sugarloaf entrance	Minor visitor node Entry and orientation point.	Urban Socials Access Made Easy	Comfortable open grassy site suitable for development as a highly accessible picnic ground. Important location in directing visitors to Masons Falls or Mt Sugarloaf. Utilities (water, power and phone) available.
Masons Falls	Major visitor node. New national park visitor introduction and day trip recreation	Nature Admirers Urban Socials Trail Users Access Made Easy	Comfortable bushland experience with easy access. Adventure play. Interpretation and learning. Immersion in bushland setting. Indigenous and non-indigenous cultural significance. Popular walk to Masons Falls with excellent views.
Mt Sugarloaf	Major visitor node. Signature Kinglake opportunity with views connecting the Park to Melbourne. Access to trails.	Nature Admirers Urban Socials Trail Users Access Made Easy	Easy access to spectacular views. Minor events. Interpretation and learning.
Frank Thomson Reserve	Major visitor node. Family and group day trip and picnicking facility.	Urban Socials Passive and Other Users Access Made Easy	Comfortable experience in open area with scenic views, a good introduction to the Kinglake Ranges.
Bowden Spur	Downhill mountain bike and other activities where environment is already heavily modified and can tolerate such activities.	Activity Centrics	Adventure mountain biking for experienced riders.

**EVERARD BLOCK - Trail activity focus, with easy access opportunities near Healesville-Kinglake Road.**

Location	Primary role	Segments	Opportunities
Jehosaphat Gully	Major visitor node. Tall Forest and Fern Gully access for day visitors as part of day trip or coach tour. Trailhead for longer walks.	Nature Admirers Urban Socials Access Made Easy	Easy access bushland settings
Marshalls Road	Minor visitor node. Possible mountain bike, bushwalker and horse rider trailhead facilities. (Based on initial analysis of visitor trends and subject to detailed feasibility and environmental assessment).	Activity Centrics	Low key activity focus. Links to trails in adjoining areas. Options for camping and mountain bike circuit to be investigated within existing modified area, taking account of site analysis, environmental assessment and user group reviews.



(Visitor Opportunities - Table 2 continued)

**WOMBELANO BLOCK - Low key activity focus for a range of trail users (including bushwalking, cycling, horse riding), with quieter locations for families and other visitors.**

Location	Primary role	Segments	Opportunities
Island Creek	Minor visitor node. Roadside picnic facility and stop off on longer track routes.	Trail Users Relaxation	Quiet enjoyment of creek-side environments.
The Gums	Minor visitor node. Overnight low key camping opportunity.	Passive and Other Users.	Simple, self supported, accessible bushland camping
Wombelano Falls	Minor visitor node. Picnic area and short walk.	Trail Users Passive and Other Users.	Access for short walk and low key picnic.

**WALLABY CREEK CATCHMENT (LIMITED ACCESS TO BUFFER ZONE) - Bushwalking and nature appreciation in a highly natural, semi-remote setting. Option for limited use for education and research.**

Location	Primary role	Segments	Opportunities
Silver Creek	Trackhead to buffer zone.	Trail Users Passive and Other Users.	Access for low key bushwalking and nature appreciation.



## 5. STRATEGIES

The key proposals for visitor use of Kinglake National Park are outlined in the following strategies and actions, and depicted in the Masterplan Strategies in Figure 8.

To illustrate some of the ways in which the principles in this Master Plan have been demonstrated elsewhere and provide inspiration, a suite of precedent images depicting the typical design language can be found in Section 6 (Key Design Elements).

### 5.1 Protection of Natural and Cultural Values

Strategies:

- Conserve natural values as the prime driver for the Park and all activities.
- Integrally conserve and interpret Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural values.
- Develop Park facilities that are compatible with cultural values and demography.
- Protect and enhance the Park's landscape character.

#### ACTIONS

1. Promote natural and cultural values, particularly to first time visitors, through the design of access to and within the Park to best present those values, especially where recreational opportunity is high (eg. Masons Falls, Jehosaphat Gully and Mount Sugarloaf).
2. Integrate natural and cultural heritage values through integrated interpretation with the ridge along the Whittlesea-Kinglake Road and Healesville-Kinglake Road forming a central theme to the narrative in consultation with the Wurundjeri and Taungurung people.
3. Limit public access into areas of high conservation value and to the Wallaby Creek catchment.
4. Schedule new infrastructure development and promotion of new opportunities so that particularly sensitive regenerating areas are protected.
5. Develop appreciation of the Park and regional landscapes by improved viewing and interpretation facilities at locations such as Mount Sugarloaf, Masons Falls and Frank Thomson Reserve.
6. Liaise with Councils and Vic Roads on improving native plantings on roadsides to enhance the national park context.

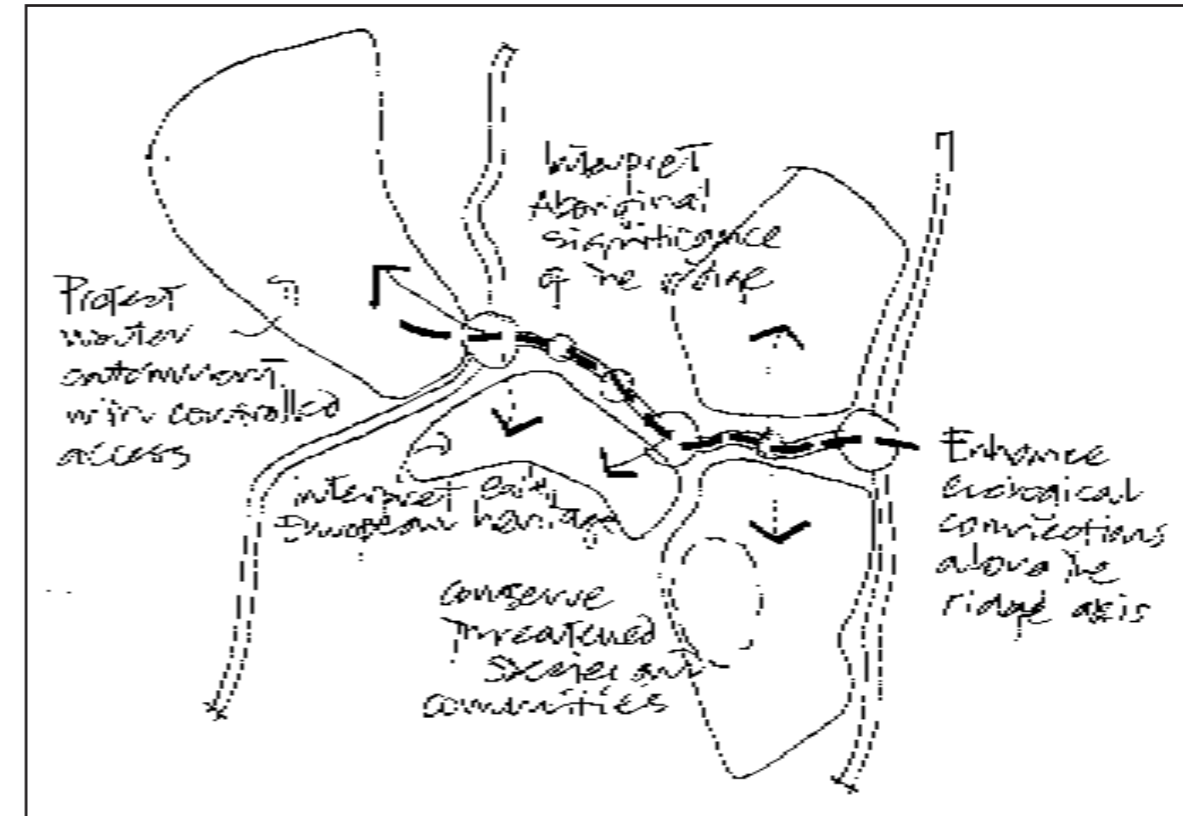


Diagram 1 - Natural and Cultural Values



## 5.2 Recreation and Use

### Strategies:

- Develop the Accessible National Park concept for the Park to appeal to current non-users.
- Restore and enhance previously popular facilities and destinations as a high priority.

### ACTIONS

1. Broaden the recreational offer to a wider range of visitors with a focus on first time National Park visitors - including new recreational facilities such as:
  - nature-based play at Masons Falls (complementing rather than duplicating Bollygum Park at Kinglake);
  - enhanced viewing opportunities at Mount Sugarloaf and Masons Falls;
  - an improved all abilities access fern gully walk at Jehosaphat Gully;
  - a small picnic area at Wombelano Falls.
2. Develop a signature Kinglake opportunity at Mount Sugarloaf – incorporating a viewing platform, interpretation and trail linkages.
3. Develop distinctive opportunities in each of the Park blocks with appropriate visitor facilities (refer to table 2).
4. Investigate development of a new visitor node in a modified location near Marshalls Road in the south of the Everard Block, with links to the Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve and potential provision for camping and a mountain bike circuit. Investigations should include detailed site analysis, environmental impact assessment and consultation with relevant agency staff, land managers and user groups.
5. Extend and diversify overnight camping, including restoration of The Gums camping area. Investigate new opportunities at Marshalls Road.

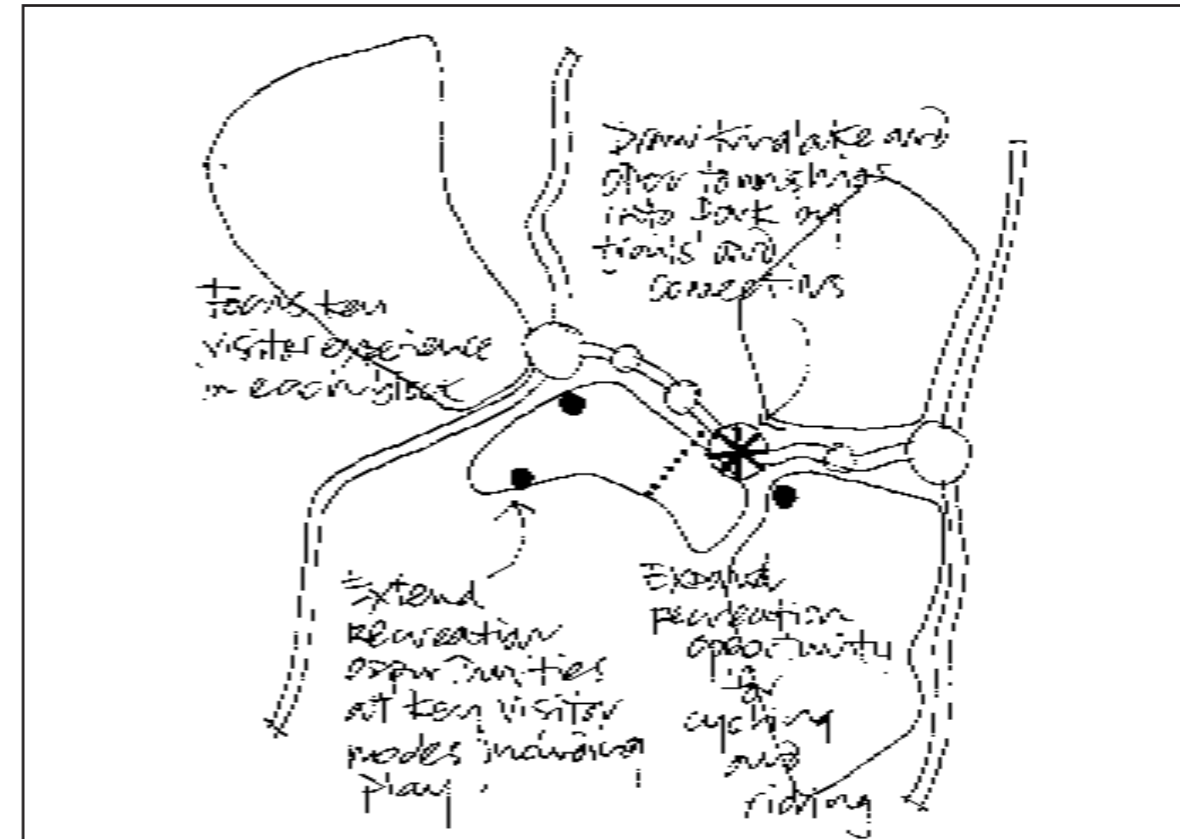


Diagram 2 - Recreation and Use



### 5.3 Access and Circulation

Strategies:

- Enhance the Whittlesea-Kinglake Road and Healesville-Kinglake Road as the major Park spine.
- Improve visitor orientation through directional signage and cross promotion of other Park destinations at each site.
- Improve linkages between Park blocks.
- Enhance and develop accessible trails of varying lengths and grades for a range of visitor abilities and interests, including for walking, cycling and horse riding.
- Improve local resident trail access into the Park and seek to make the Park an equal access leader (suited to all levels of mobility) for bushland settings.

#### ACTIONS - External Access to Park Blocks

1. Develop a Park Information, Wayfinding and Interpretation Plan for the Park.
2. Develop clear Park entry points at major junctions on the Whittlesea-Kinglake Road and Healesville-Kinglake Road.
3. Identify and promote well signed driving routes from the Whittlesea-Kinglake Road and Healesville-Kinglake Road to the main Park Blocks.
4. Promote the town of Kinglake as the visitor information hub for the Park.
5. Utilise the existing walking, cycling and horse riding track along the Whittlesea-Kinglake Road to improve accessibility into the Park and between the Park blocks. Support Murrindindi Council in extending this track from Kinglake Central to Kinglake and Jehosaphat Gully.
6. Investigate shared use trails linking the Whittlesea-Kinglake Road and Healesville-Kinglake Road to Park blocks, including:
  - along National Park Road;
  - between the Cookson Hill Track and Kinglake (with a possible link through Kinglake to Jehosaphat Gully);
  - between Kinglake and Extons Road;
  - along Extons Road to the Park entry at Captain Creek Road.
7. Link the Park trail network into a new shared trail being developed by the Nillumbik Shire Council between the Smiths Gully area and Buttermans Track.
8. In conjunction with Councils and other stakeholders investigate the following trail links:
  - from Running Creek Road to Mount Sugarloaf, potentially linking to a trail from the Hurstbridge and Arthur's Creek area;
  - from the Park to Toorourrong Reservoir Park, possibly utilising the proposed Whittlesea-Humevale-Kinglake Ranges Trail;
  - from in or near the Park to the proposed extended Bicentennial National Trail through the Toolangi area for riders, cyclists and walkers.

#### ACTIONS - Trails within Park Blocks

1. Develop short Australian Standard Class 1 or 2 circuit walks at Masons Falls Picnic Area, Jehosaphat Gully, The Gums Camping Area and Wombelano Falls.
2. Develop, enhance and promote a range of key trails and circuits in the Sugarloaf, Everard and Wombelano Blocks providing short, half day and day opportunities for walkers, shared walking and cycling and, in the Everard and Wombelano Blocks, horse riding (see Appendix E).
3. Investigate provision of up to 3 horse float parking and unloading facilities in the Wombelano Block to facilitate safe horse riding access. The locations (which must not be at camping areas), layout and capacity will be determined following consultations with user groups.
4. Investigate a new walking circuit from Mount Sugarloaf to Running Creek Dam.
5. Investigate a downhill mountain bike area on a modified area on Bowdens Spur to be managed sustainably in conjunction with user groups.
6. Investigate a cross country mountain bike circuit on a modified area near the new Marshalls Road visitor node to be managed sustainably in conjunction with user groups.
7. Investigate a trail for experienced bushwalkers between Island Creek Picnic Area and Wombelano Falls.
8. Apply the relevant standards to suit trail design to intended uses.

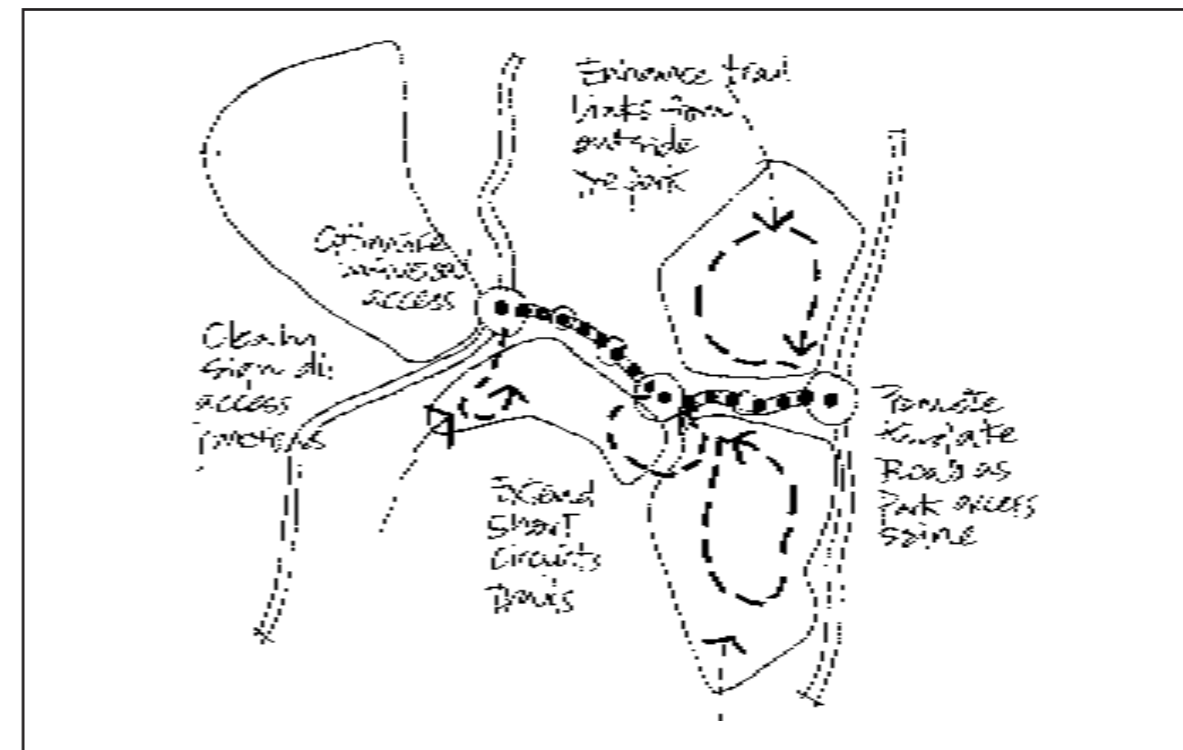


Diagram 3 - Access and Circulation

The proposed Park trail network is depicted in Figure 7 and described in Appendix E.



#### 5.4 Information, Interpretation and Education

Strategies:

Provide Park information and interpretation through a variety of methods (before, during and after the trip) to reach the range of potential visitors.

- Orient information and interpretation to first time park users in key day trip destinations.
- Promote the Park as part of a day trip destination from Melbourne.
- Identify a park office site (with room for later growth) with a strong main road address.
- Work with the local community and businesses to provide Park information.
- Use digital interpretation technology within the Park to attract younger visitors.
- Encourage and make provision for use of the Park by education groups.
- Explore the potential for low-cost accommodation for education/recreation users.
- Promote and encourage local resident use of/involvement with the Park.

#### ACTIONS

1. Develop a detailed Park Information, Wayfinding and Interpretation Plan. The Plan should ensure there is a range of information and interpretation messages and methods used, particularly directed at first time and inexperienced park visitors.
2. Liaise with Councils and other stakeholder agencies to develop multi-purpose information shelters at key junctions on the Whittlesea-Kinglake Road and Healesville-Kinglake Road (at Melba Highway, Kinglake, Extons Road, National Park Road, West Kinglake) to provide Park information, local community information, car parking and, potentially, bus shelters.
3. Develop interpretative themes for the Park. Possible themes could include:
  - the Kinglake Ridge story as a key narrative for the Park's natural and cultural values;
  - post-fire ecological recovery;
  - landscape influences on ecological communities and human settlement and use;
  - catchments as influences of development;
  - long term visitor use;
  - impacts of climate change.
4. Provide introductory national park interpretation (including integrated interpretation of natural and cultural values) at major visitor attractions at Masons Falls, Mount Sugarloaf and Jehosaphat Gully.
5. Investigate use of web based and on-site digital technology for information and interpretation, including on short paths and circuits. Possibilities include downloadable audio guides for MP3 and i-phones.
6. Reintroduce Ranger guided programs, particularly for school groups, to aid in the process of recovery and re-engagement with the natural environment.

7. Investigate the potential for use of the Park by education groups, including through partnerships with educational institutions, the Kinglake Ranges Wilderness Camp and the Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre.
8. Investigate inclusion of education programs based on the Park's natural and cultural values in the school curriculum.
9. Ensure that Park interpretation takes account of the needs of school groups.
10. Plan for the needs of educational groups at camping and picnic areas.
11. Investigate special programs and events to promote and provide for local residents to use the Park and contribute to its management (eg. through Friends group, conservation programs, interpretation of local history).

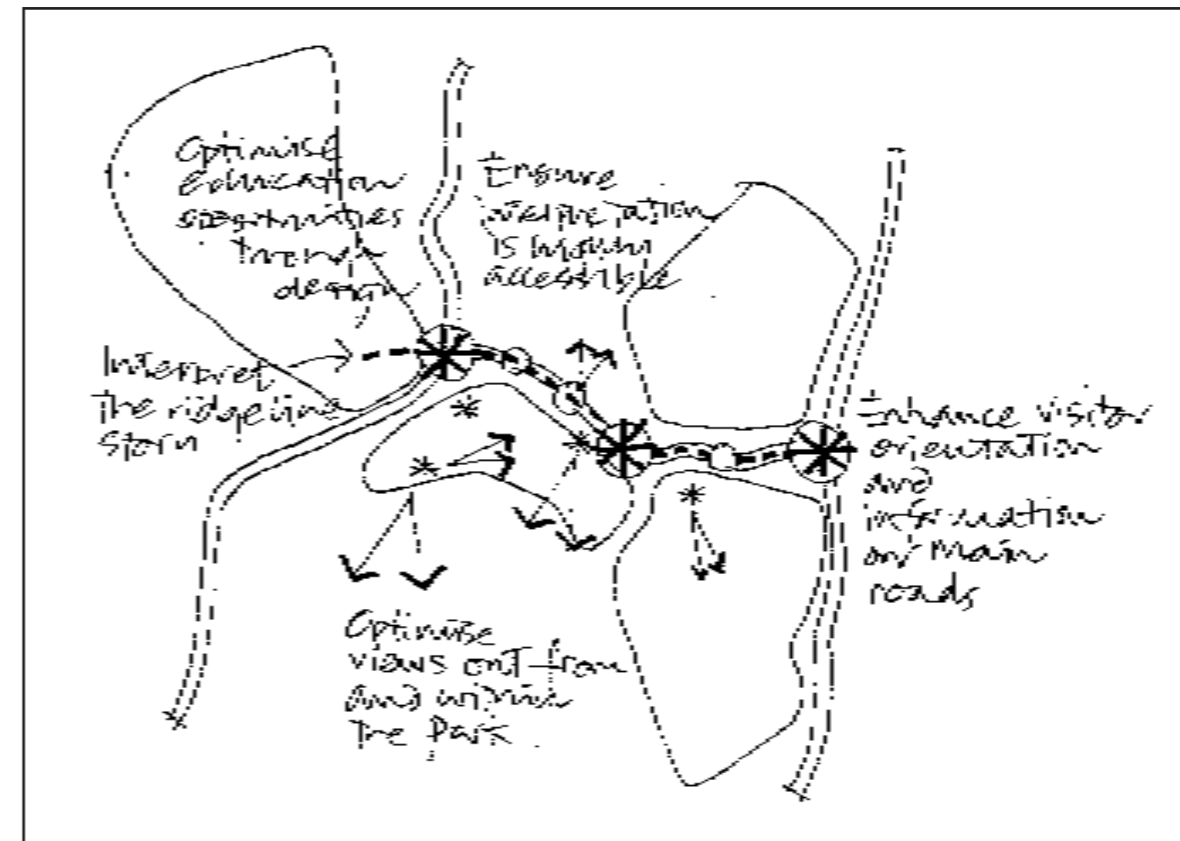
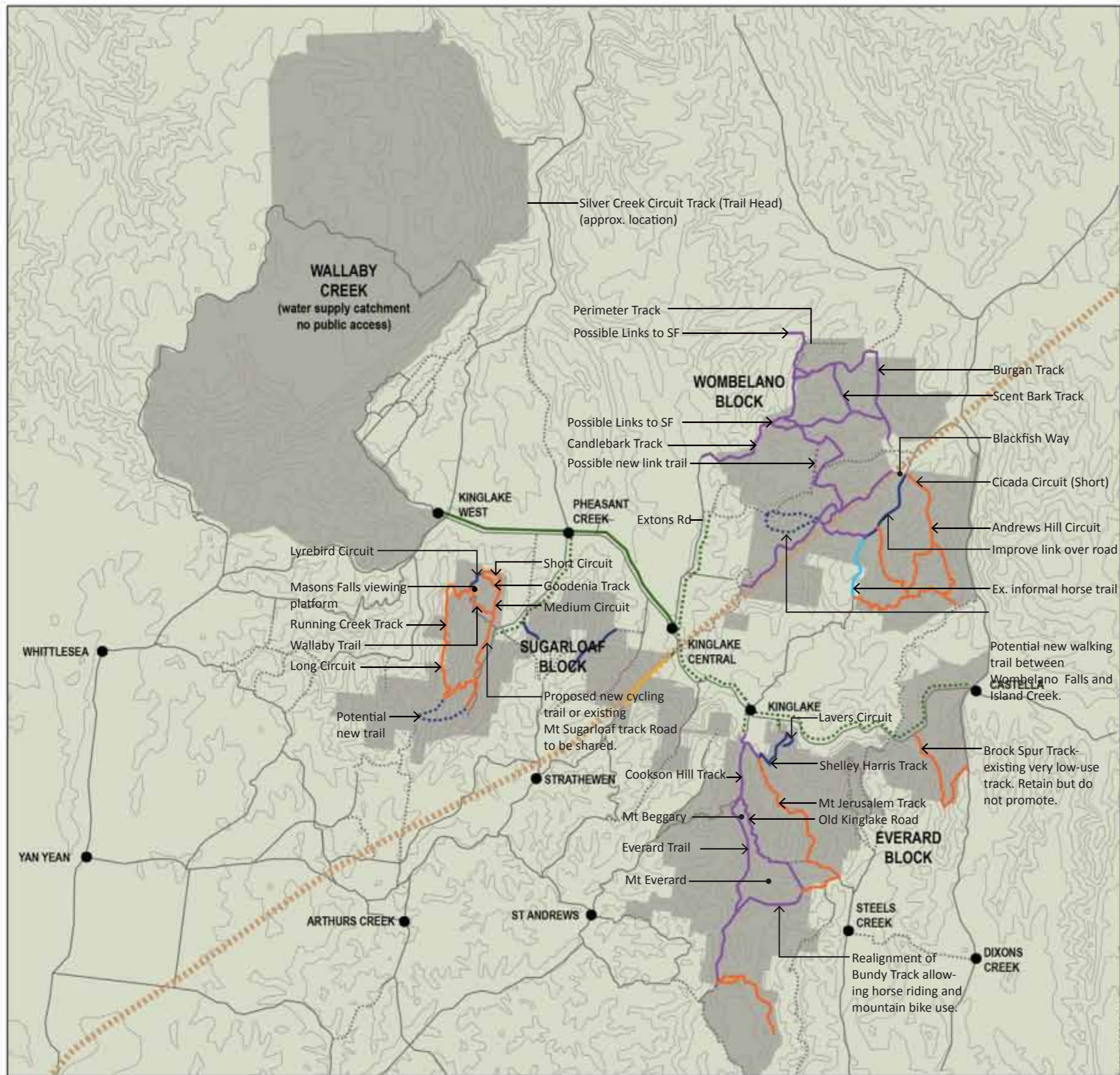




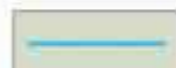
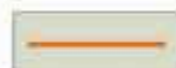



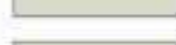





Diagram 4 - Information, Interpretation and Education



FIGURE 7. PARK AND TRAIL NETWORKS



LEGEND

-  Walk Only
  -  Cycle Only
  -  Horse Only
  -  Walk + Cycle
  -  Walk + Cycle + Horse
  -  Electrical EMT
  -  Existing Sealed Roads
  -  Existing Unsealed Roads
  -  Proposed New Walk Link
  -  Proposed New Walk + Cycle Link
  -  Proposed Walk + Cycle + Horse
- Key linkages external to Park  
(To be investigated in consultation with local Council and Vicroads)
-  Existing
  -  Proposed New Link



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## 5.5 Planning and Management

### Strategies:

- Plan and manage the Park to ensure environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability.
- Ensure that visitor opportunities and infrastructure in the Park are integrated with local and regional community and visitor planning and developments where feasible.
- Seek wide community and user group input and support for Park visitor proposals.
- Ensure that visitor use, opportunities and infrastructure are compatible with ongoing protection of Park values and visitor needs and perceptions.

### ACTIONS

1. Continue to liaise with Councils, Tourism Victoria other government agencies, Park users and the local community to achieve integrated and widely supported outcomes.
2. Liaise with VBBRA and (following transition of responsibilities) the Department of Planning and Community Development on integrated implementation of the Kinglake National Park Master Plan and the Kinglake Flowerdale Toolangi Townships Comprehensive Design Framework.
3. Seek partnerships with agencies, tourism operators and the local community for development of Park visitor opportunities.
4. Involve user groups in planning for visitor opportunities and infrastructure.
5. Investigate enhanced opportunities for user group and local community involvement in Park rehabilitation and visitor opportunity development and presentation.
6. Monitor and evaluate visitor numbers, visitor satisfaction and impacts.



**Photo 14** - The dramatic views of the Melbourne CBD from locations within the Park such as Frank Thomson Reserve and Mount Sugarloaf are major visitor attractions and do much to enhance the vision of “Victoria’s most accessible National Park”.



**Photo 15** - The view south to Melbourne CBD from Mount Sugarloaf assists visitor orientation, but it is the views east and northeast through the trees to the Kinglake Road ridgeline that provide the best opportunity to enhance visitor understanding of the Park’s character and geography.

## 5.6 Design

- Ensure that Park infrastructure is sustainable in terms of environmental impacts, energy and water use.
- Develop contemporary/lightweight designs for the Park's structures/furniture.
- Develop a distinctive design language and graphic style for the Park, compatible with Parks Victoria guidelines.
- Ensure that the design of Park infrastructure and facilities is compatible with and sympathetic to the Park's values and landscape character.
- Seek to ensure compatibility between Park designs and the character of post-fire development of the Kinglake Ranges.

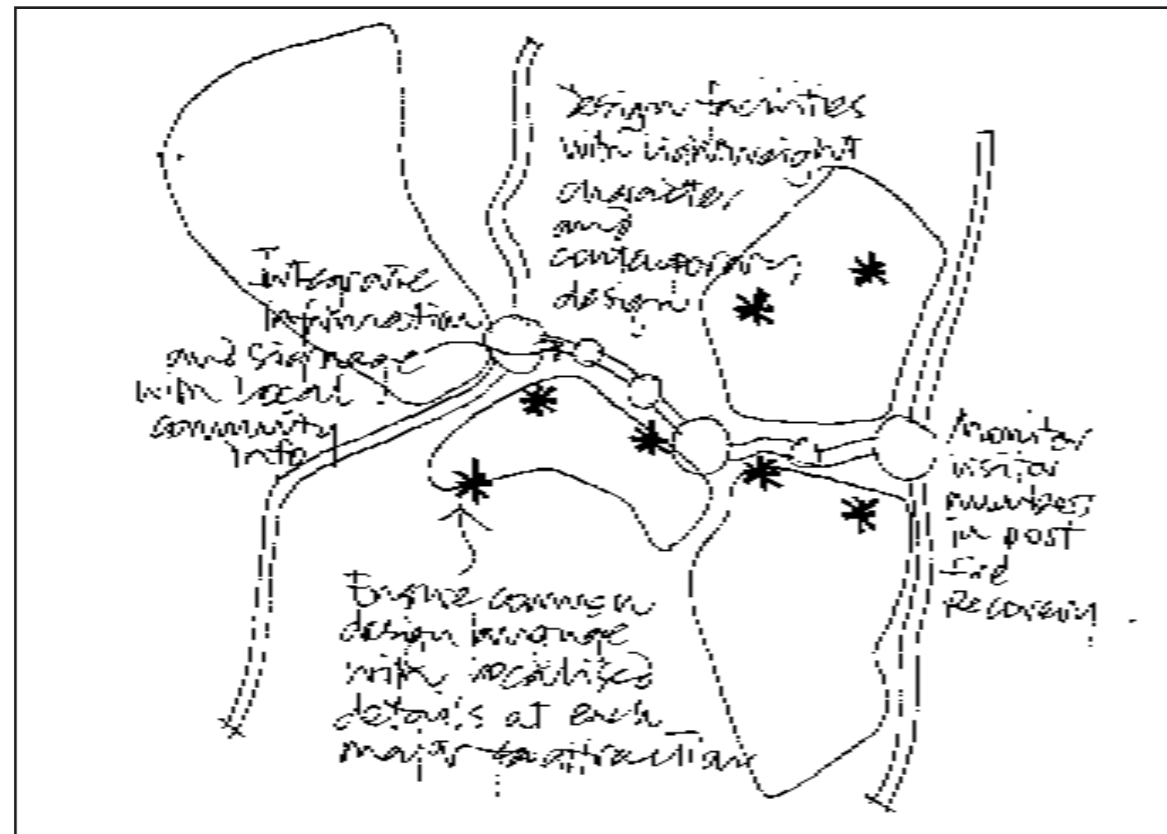


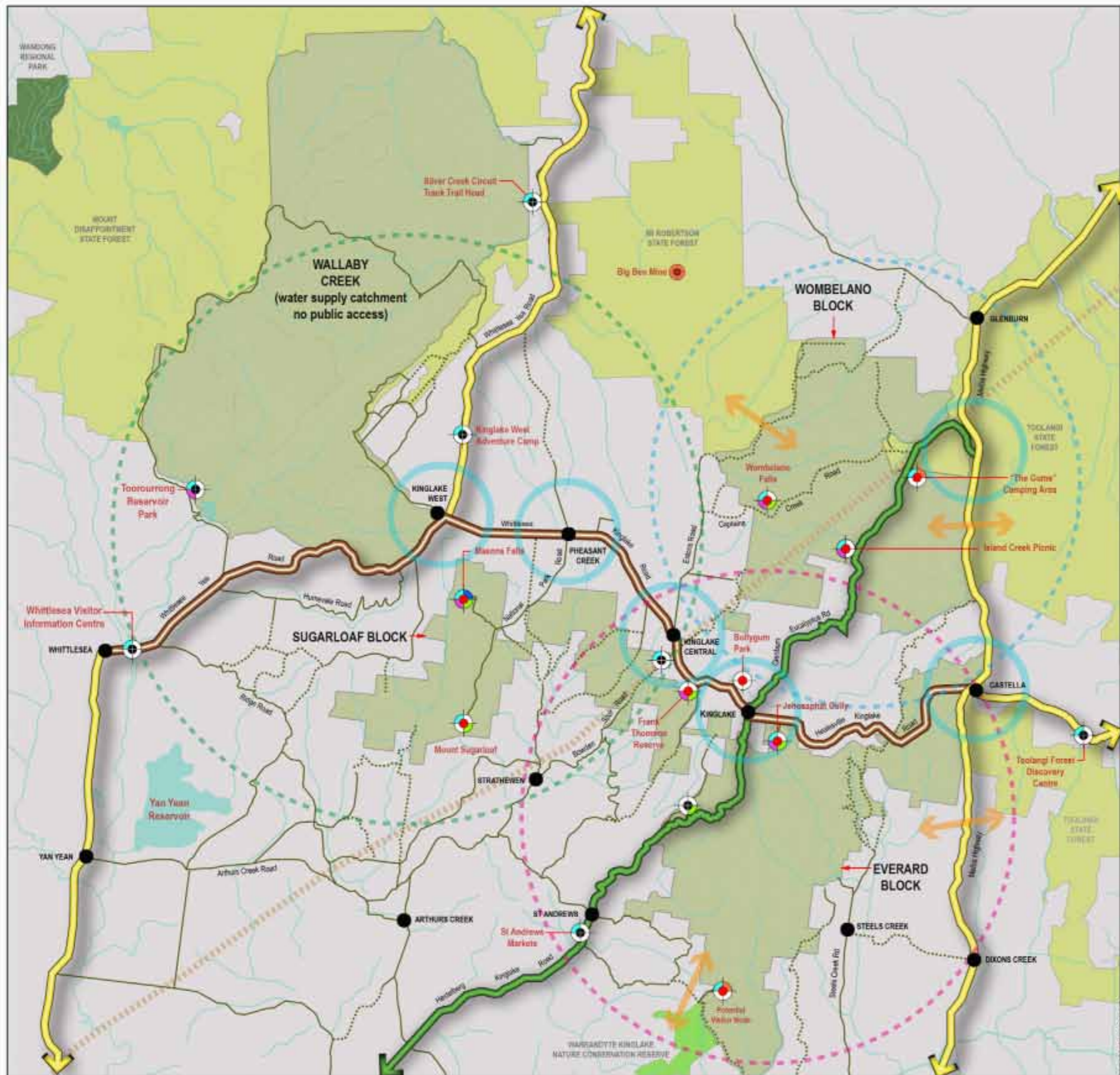
Diagram 5 - Design

### ACTIONS
























1. Develop an integrated Park Information, Wayfinding and Interpretation Plan for Park signage and related structures, utilising the advice of qualified consultants and landscape architects. The strategy should include:
  - consistency of design language and graphic style;
  - high level legibility and ease of orientation;
  - consistent inclusion of the name of the Park;
  - use of fire proof materials and finishes.
2. Design Park infrastructure and facilities to meet the highest contemporary sustainable design standards. Key design features should include:
  - a light touch - robust but lightweight, touching the earth lightly with as small a footprint as is practical while minimising negative impacts on the Park environment;
  - low embodied energy - utilising commonly available materials, including recycled, with long life cycle and ease of replicability;
  - a high level of fire resistance - while timber must necessarily be a common material, crucial access and safety features such as bridges may preferably be constructed in steel. (Signs that used vitreous enamel in the park survived the 2009 fire entirely intact.);
  - use of locally available materials wherever possible to ensure contextual character. This includes construction materials as well as planting;
  - sustainability – use of energy and water efficient designs and features where practicable and consistent application of best practice Ecologically Sustainable Development principles for the development of all Park infrastructure;
  - accessibility - paths and tracks in areas where a high level of access and use is proposed should be constructed of smooth surfaced materials and carefully graded;
  - colours - muted tones are appropriate to sensitive bush settings but stronger colours are entirely appropriate at major recreational destinations (eg. town centre wayfinding points and Masons Falls).
3. Liaise with Councils, Vic Roads and other relevant agencies on design of Park infrastructure and facilities.
4. Test design elements with the Park users and the community.



FIGURE 8. MASTERPLAN STRATEGIES



**LEGEND**

-  **Visitor Opportunities - Type 1:**  
Introduction to National Park; Interpreted bushwalking; bush themed play; BBQ and picnic potential; Camping; Major Lookout; Minor Events - Day trip focus - Masons Falls.
-  **Visitor Opportunities - Type 2:**  
Serious Activity Focus; managed bushwalking, cycling & horse riding, minor play, BBQ and picnic, Lookout, day trip focus - Jehosaphat.
-  **Visitor Opportunities - Type 3:**  
Camping; Horse Riding; Orienteering and Rogaining; Mountain Biking; BBQ and Picnic; Minor Lookout
-  Local Centres / Settlement / Commercial Centres adjacent to Kinglake National Park
-  Recreational connections to surrounding parks / forests.
-  Gateway / Orientation Points (wayfinding & interpretive signage locations)
-  Day-Trip Attractor
-  Camping
-  Picnic/BBQ
-  Scenic vantage points
-  Activity, Recreation, or Visitor Facility
-  Potential Playgrounds
-  Cultural Heritage
-  Central Access Spine
-  Major Roads
-  Scenic Routes
-  Kinglake National Park
-  State Parks / Forests
-  Regional Parks
-  Conservation Reserves
-  Sealed Roads
-  Unsealed Roads
-  Transmission EMT

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## 6. KEY DESIGN ELEMENTS

### 6.1 Key Design Elements - Overview

A range of conceptual key design elements are illustrated in Figure 9 - Typical Signage Hierarchy and Content, Figure 10 - Typical Road Junction Treatments and Figure 11 - Roadside Orientation Shelter Concept. The purpose of these concepts is to demonstrate a common design style or design framework for the Park. Both the design and hierarchy of signage will follow the *Parks Victoria Signage Manual*.

Figures 10 and 11 identify the typical landscape and signage treatment suggested for a major road such as the Whittlesea-Kinglake Road or Healesville-Kinglake Road. While any works in this area will require liaison and co-ordination with other agencies and authorities, there would be increased reciprocal benefits for a number of parties by way of increased tourism, improved roadside landscape character and benefits for the community such as shared bus and information shelters.

Key considerations in this area would include the:

- location of signage, shelters and planting within the road corridor rather than on private property;
- location of information shelters close to popular local facilities such as schools, cafés and businesses;
- inclusion of a strong indigenous planting theme in the roadside to improve both visual amenity and ecological benefit;
- treatment of infrastructure and landscaping to be compatible with and sympathetic to the inherent character of the national park.

The proposed structure and function of signage at different visitor nodes is described in Table 3.

Figures 12 - 19 contain precedent images intended to visually reflect the typical design language for a range of landscape elements such as picnic shelters; seating and pedestrian footbridges. The common characteristics suggested by these elements are robustness, simplicity and lightweight appearance.

TABLE 3. SIGNAGE NEEDS AT VISITOR SITES

Node	Physical Structure	Function
<b>Major Outdoor Visitor Node</b>	Gateway with view, if possible	To orient visitors to the site and the opportunities. To help visitors find their way, and be orientated to the local area. To explain overall significance of the park and introduce interpretation themes.
<b>Trackhead or Minor Visitor Node</b>	Purpose-built shelter structure	Trackhead Track information - distance, time, grade, sketch map & what to see. Minor Node Information, directions orientation, motivation. To explain a place or area, its context and its link to themes and sub-theme/s.
<b>Site Specific</b>	Multi-panel information and interpretation	To explain a feature, its link to the sub-themes.
<b>Major Indoor Visitor Node</b>	Purpose built panels	Engaging and highly visual 3 minute video loop providing information about all visitor nodes, directions. Marketing.



**FIGURE 9. INDICATIVE DESIGN ELEMENTS - TYPICAL SIGNAGE HIERARCHY AND CONTENT**



FIGURE 10. INDICATIVE DESIGN ELEMENTS - TYPICAL ROAD JUNCTION TREATMENTS



SCALE: NTS



**FIGURE 11. INDICATIVE DESIGN ELEMENTS - ROADSIDE ORIENTATION SHELTER CONCEPT**

Roof Design of Shelter adapts Kinglake National Park Ridge Story.

New Native Roadside Tree Planting

Relevant Council Logos on Upper Structure.

Option to combine shelter with bus shelter including seat and table.

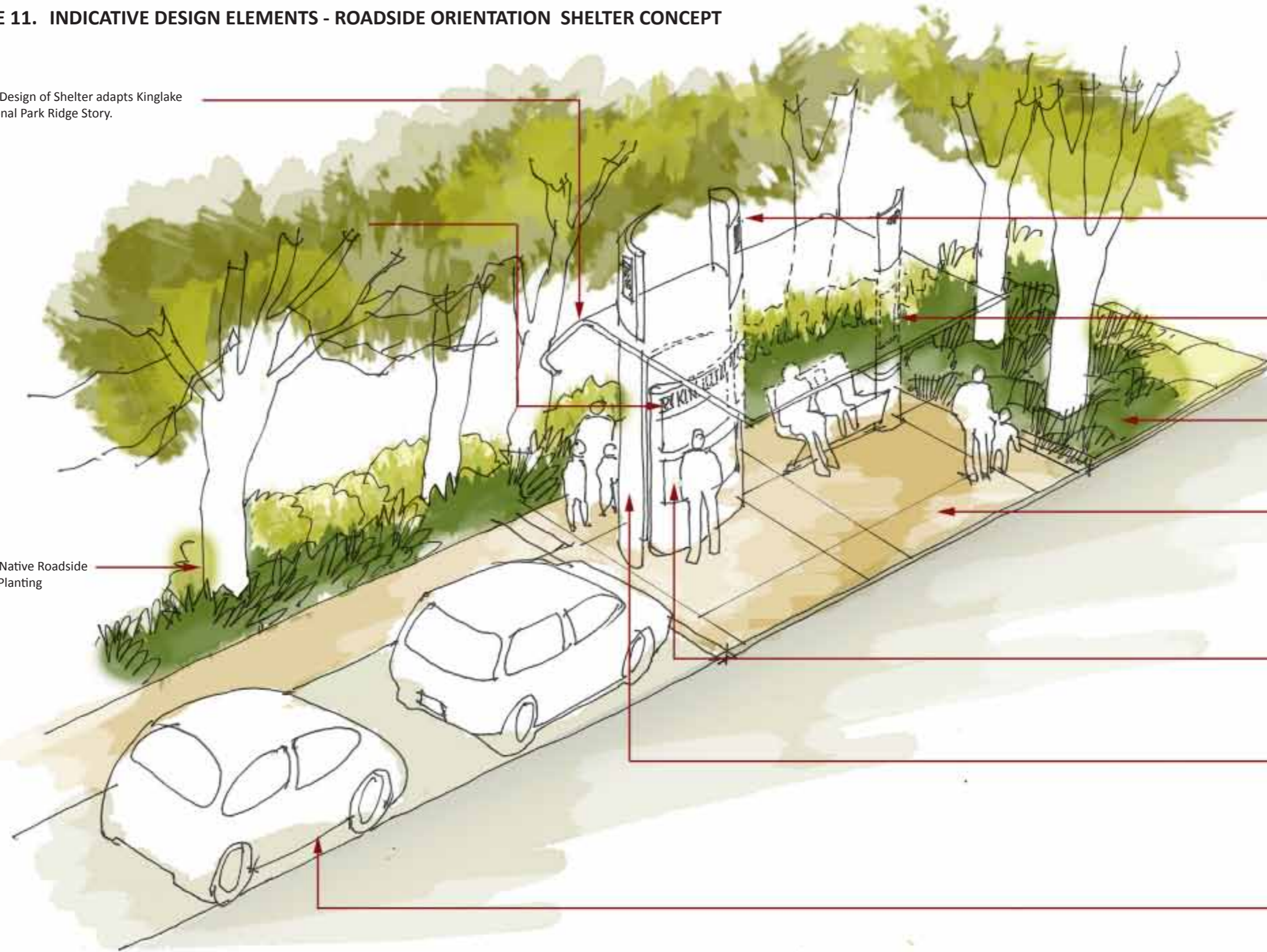
Locally native planting adjoining structure.

Local stone paving for platform with art stencilling.

Kinglake National Park Information, Map and Visitor Options

Kinglake National Park Information Structure doubles as a Community Notice Board

Space for two cars to pull into.



## 6.2 General Landscape Guidelines

Kinglake National Park would benefit from an adherence to both global and contextually appropriate principles of Sustainable Landscape Design. Whilst encouraging economic opportunities and improving connections between the Park, local townships and surrounding regions is an important factor in the development of the area, all proposed landscape treatments should take into careful consideration the existing cultural, economic and ecological landscape.

Landscape treatments should have minimal or rather complementary environmental impact whilst still providing a high level of public accessibility, safety and visual amenity for Park users and visitors. It is equally important that the existing physical, historical and cultural landscape character of the Park and surrounding areas be considered as an integral part of more detailed landscape design solutions and that a set of detailed, site specific landscape and design guidelines be developed to ensure quality control and consistency across the board.

The use of existing site footprints where appropriate will minimise the impact of proposed future developments aimed at improving the accessibility and/or functionality of the Park. Essential to this is drawing inspiration from both the natural and cultural environment to assist the Park in preserving its unique character and identity; this is an important factor in ensuring that the Park becomes a meaningful experience and desirable destination for both the local community and potential visitors for many years to come.

### 6.3 Principles for the Selection of Materials

- *Sustainability* - Materials selected are chosen on the basis of their energy intensive life-cycle, particularly in terms of whether they have been locally sourced or produced and whether or not their use may have potentially harmful impacts on the environmental ecology of the site.
- *Durability and longevity* - Materials selected are suited to their intended use; frequency of use; micro-climate, natural hazards such as flooding or bushfire and/or other extremes of weathering.
- *Appearance* - Materials selected are visually appropriate to the existing character of the area and enhance the experience of the place.
- *Functionality and Maintenance* - Materials are selected (and constructed) in a manner that minimises the necessity for frequent or complex maintenance regimes, cleaning or replacements whilst still providing high visual and functional benefit. Where required, reference to Australian Standards (AS1428.1-4) for Access and Mobility may be appropriate.
- *Safety* - Materials selected do not pose a health or safety risk for users or to native flora and fauna species in the area.
- *Plant and Organic Materials* - Species selection should be primarily taken from locally endemic vegetation types and the avoidance of exotic or introduced weed species is strongly advised. Plant species selected should also provide functional amenity from extremes of weather and visual amenity consistent with the local character of the area. Species selected may also have ecologically regenerative capabilities conducive to supporting healthier eco-systems or rehabilitating damaged ones.

## 6.4 Indicative Materials Selection

The following materials list and their suggested uses is purely indicative. Proper research into the sourcing, selection, development and implementation of landscape materials throughout the Park will require a more detailed design approach. Figures 12 through to 19 offer some idea as to the functional application of materials; however these images are only suggestive precedents and not specifically prescribed design outcomes. It is strongly suggested that materials selected are environmentally sustainable and at the very least, compliant with Australian Standards and regulations in terms of quality, safety and durability.

MATERIAL	POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS/BENEFITS
Timber	Roadside orientation shelters; Park furniture; Picnic areas; Viewing platforms; public art. Note: timber should be appropriately finished to provide protection from weathering and termite damage. Native hardwoods from sustainable sources should be used for structures requiring increased strength and durability
Steel	Roadside orientation shelters, Park furniture and fixtures; Picnic areas; Viewing platforms; public art; handrails; balustrades; activity trails.
Natural Stone	Paving to footpaths, Roadside orientation shelters; Park furniture; Picnic and BBQ areas; Viewing platforms; public artwork.
Vitreous Enamel	Signage, i.e. to roadside orientation shelters, information boards; directional or way-finding signage along trail networks. Has a high resistance to extreme weathering and abrasion.
Indigenous Plant Species	Key roadside planting, roadside information shelters, as prominent landmarks to major gateways or entry points or trails.
Permeable paving	Predominantly around dense/developed areas to capture surface run-off and improve water table quality.



FIGURE 12. SIGNAGE



FIGURE 13. STRUCTURES AND FURNITURE





FIGURE 14. BOARDWALKS & BUSHWALKING



The overarching design principles should focus on minimum visual impact and robustness, lightweight appearance using timber or steel and fire resistance (particularly for bridges). Track materials will depend on the volume of users and context.

FIGURE 15. MOUNTAIN BIKING



Designated locations and routes should be based on localities where impacts on conservation values will be minimal (e.g. easements where vegetation has already been removed are appropriate). Trails should be designed to minimise erosion. User groups should be involved in design and management to ensure best outcomes for the Park.

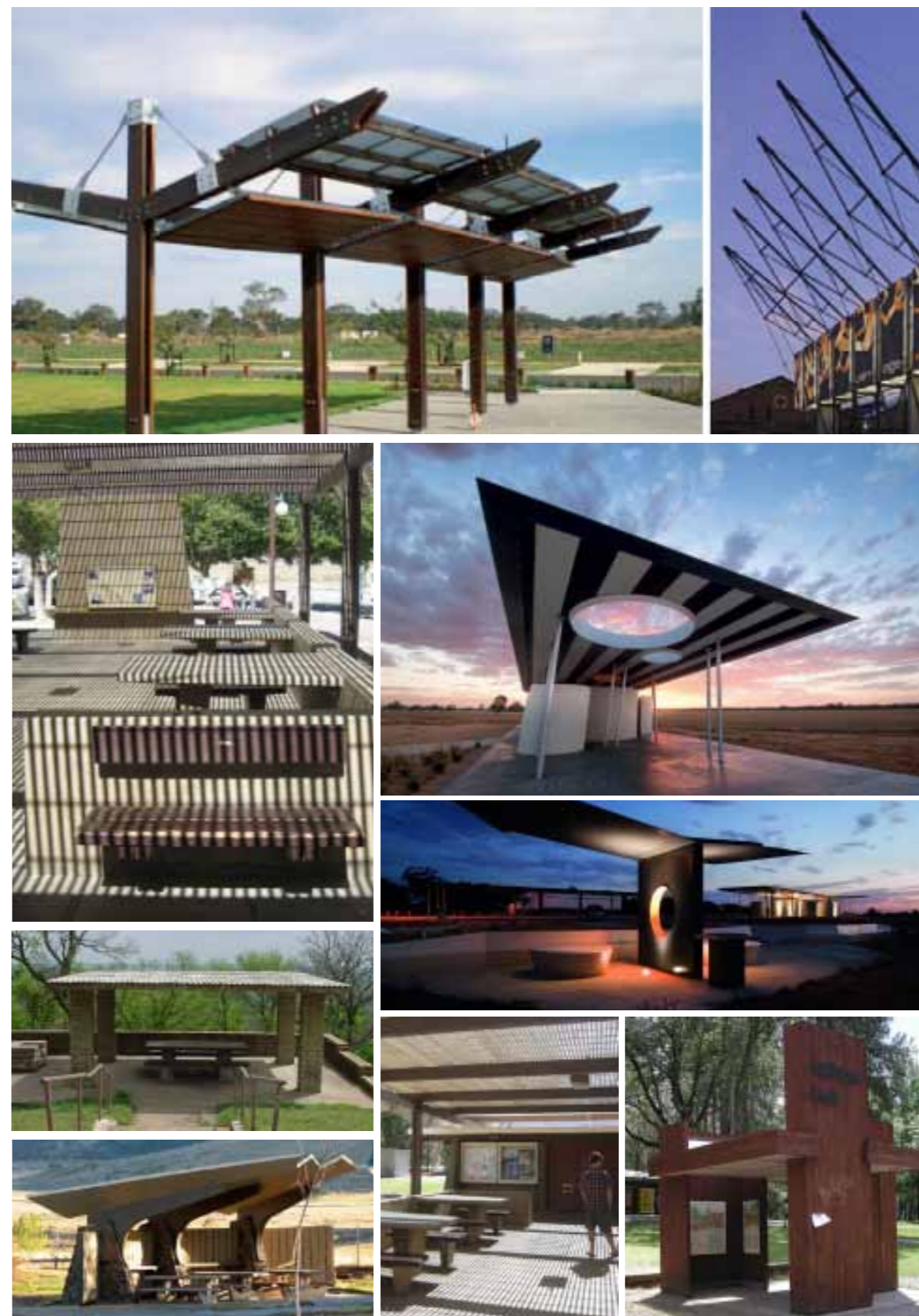


FIGURE 16. ADVENTURE PLAY



Play should focus on significant aspects of the locality's natural environment and heritage, and where possible be constructed of locally sourced natural materials designed to test or develop motor skills whilst also achieving the level of risk appropriate to reduce the need for supervised play.

FIGURE 17. ROADSIDE ORIENTATION SHELTERS



These shelters should be multi-functional, with the principal focus being visitor information and orientation. They could also accommodate community notices and bus shelters, as well as being a place for walkers to rest. The Parks Victoria logo and branding should be clearly visible; designs should be complementary to the locality, contemporary in character and clearly visible on approach from the road. There is also ample opportunity to integrate local community art projects into the design.



FIGURE 18. VIEWING PLATFORMS



For major viewing platforms such as at Mount Sugarloaf the platform should be an exciting and dramatic feature in its own right, be preferably of lightweight appearance and appear to suggestively “float” in the landscape. Cantilevered structures can also be effective and an interpretation of the view and context is essential.

FIGURE 19. PUBLIC ART



Opportunities to incorporate public art throughout the park are considerable and would potentially enhance both social and cultural values, especially where local community and artists are involved. Ephemeral elements are also as important as permanent installations in contributing to a dynamic park experience (particularly if using natural or recovered materials)



## 7. PRECINCT DESIGN CONCEPTS

To demonstrate the means by which the proposals identified in the Master Plan may be realised, design concepts for three of the major visitor nodes within Kinglake National Park are illustrated in Figures 20, 21 and 22. Key features of these demonstration projects are summarised below. For all sites, the aim will be to:

- achieve site safety and accessibility;
- improve bus and vehicle parking and circulation;
- provide clear signage and interpretation for first time park visitors;
- provide clear wayfinding from key points on the Whittlesea-Kinglake Road and Healesville-Kinglake Road.

### 7.1 Masons Falls Picnic Area

- Revised vehicle access, circulation and parking to relocate these facilities away from the BBQ, picnic, play and creek areas.
- Provision of a new amenities block and picnic shelters centred on a major new nature-based play facility designed around the unique values of the Park. Play may also be extended with an educational theme around water at a reconstructed weir on the creek.
- Improved accessibility to an enhanced lookout at Masons Falls.
- Revised track layout using existing tracks and roads where possible to suit short walk circuits and enhanced links to Masons Falls.

### 7.2 Mount Sugarloaf

- Realignment of the vehicle access road and extended parking for buses and cars to provide a pedestrian based experience at the end of the ridge view to the city.
- Design of a major cantilevered, DDA compliant viewing platform on the eastern side of the ridge from where the Park can be identified and interpreted, especially for first time visitors.
- Creation of terraces on the southern end of the ridge suitable for minor staged events, hire for wedding ceremonies or educational groups and the like.
- Establishment of an amenities building, with opportunity to extend to a minor visitor facility/kiosk and storage for minor event/ceremony equipment for use in the stage area.
- Establishment of a small bush garden walk with information and interpretive signage to introduce visitors to the Park's natural values.
- Path links to a proposed new track to Running Creek and the Running Creek Dam.

### 7.3 Jehosaphat Gully

- Re-arrangement of the parking for buses and cars to improve the pedestrian environment at the track head and to accommodate more cars overall.
- Creation of a short easy access circuit path, including a raised platform above the fern gully. This is proposed as an alternative to the previous Lavers Circuit which will be closed due to risk from fire-affected Mountain Ash trees. The Shelley Harris Track, which commences at Jehosaphat Gully will be re-routed to avoid risk areas.
- Restored picnic and BBQ terraces within a grassland setting incorporating interpretive signage.
- Establishment of a small amenities block adjoining the lower car park.



**FIGURE 20. INDICATIVE CONCEPT PLAN - MASONS FALLS**



SCALE: NTS



**FIGURE 21. INDICATIVE CONCEPT PLAN - MOUNT SUGARLOAF**



SCALE: NTS



**FIGURE 22. INDICATIVE CONCEPT PLAN - JEHOSAPHAT GULLY**



Parkland Road and access to/from House of Bottles  
Shelter for Bus Drivers

Screen Carpark from houses  
Screen Carpark from houses

2 No. 12m Bus parking spaces

2 No. 8m Bus parking spaces  
2 No. 12m Bus parking spaces

Total 18 No. Car spaces in upper parking area

Entry sign and path

Shallow grade paths between platforms for wheel-chair/pram access where possible  
Open grass slopes

Access path and stairs from upper parking area

Small picnic shelters on each platform

Total 25 No. Parking spaces in lower parking area (incl. 3 No. Disabled spaces)

Amenities Block

Short all abilities access path follows contours

Disabled parking spaces

Bus turning capability to be reviewed.

Stair access to lower path

Viewing platform overlooking Fern Gully Location TBC

Bus drop off and gathering/view platform

Return path from lookout at shallow grades

Link path to Shelley Harris Track



SCALE: NTS



# 8. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN





## Parks Victoria
































Region **PV.reg**  
 Capital Infrastructure Branch **PV.CIB**  
 Communications and Marketing **PV.Comms**  
 Planning (VE&L - Urban Parks) **PV.P**

## External agencies

City of Whittlesea **Whit**  
 Nillumbik Shire council **Nil**  
 Murrindindi Shire Council **Mur**  
 Shire of Yarra Ranges **YR**  
 Mitchell Shire Council **Mit**  
 VicRoads **VR**  
 Department of Planning and Community Development (including VBRR) **DPCD**  
 Department of Sustainability and Environment **DSE**  
 Department of Premiers Cabinet **DPC**

Plan actions are rated according to the following priorities

	<b>High + funded</b> (Immediate to short term)
	<b>High + unfunded</b> (short term)
	<b>Medium</b> (Medium term)
	<b>Long term</b>

Action	Priority	Responsible agency (lead)	Status (2010) (high priority only)	Potential funding sources (high priority + unfunded only)
<b>1</b> <b>Masons Falls</b>			Planning in progress	
1.1 Masons Falls access track and viewing platform		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		
1.2 Realignment of entry road and new carpark		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		
1.3 Establish picnic area (tables, toilets etc) and localised track network		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		
1.4 Design and install information board/ shelter and welcome / directional / interpretative signage		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		
1.5 Nature-based playscape at Masons Falls (complementing rather than duplicating Bollygum Park at Kinglake);		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		Fire recovery funds
<b>2</b> <b>Mount Sugarloaf</b>			Planning in progress	
2.1 Design and construct of new iconic lookout structure		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		Corporate sponsorship
2.2 Realignment of entry road and new carpark		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		Funding bid
2.3 Design and construct of revised site layout		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		Funding bid
2.4 Design and install information board/ shelter and welcome / directional / interpretative signage		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		Funding bid
<b>3</b> <b>Jehosaphat Gully</b>			Planning in progress	
3.1 Establish picnic area (tables, toilets etc) and localised track network		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		
3.2 Design and install information board/ shelter and welcome / directional / interpretative signage		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		
3.3 An improved all abilities access fern gully walk including a viewing platform overlooking fern gully		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		Fire recovery funds
3.4 Reconfiguration of carpark		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		Fire recovery funds
<b>4</b> <b>Island Creek</b>			Construction in progress, due for completion 2010	
4.1 Re-establish picnic area		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		
4.2 Design and install information board/ shelter and welcome / directional / interpretative signage		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		
<b>5</b> <b>The Gums</b>			Construction in progress, due for completion 2010	
5.1 Re-establish picnic and camping area		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		
5.2 Design and install information board/ shelter and welcome / directional / interpretative signage		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		
<b>6</b> <b>Masons Falls / Mount Sugarloaf entrance</b>				
6.1 Design and construct new picnic area, including BBQs, tables and toilets		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		
6.2 Design and install information board/ shelter and welcome / directional / interpretative signage		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		
<b>7</b> <b>Wombelano Falls</b>				
7.1 Design and construct low key picnic area near existing carpark		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		
7.2 Design and install directional / interpretative signage		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		
<b>8</b> <b>Frank Thomson Reserve</b>				
8.1 General improvements, basic infrastructure to support visitation (likely to be done in conjunction with development of neighbouring community facility/Park Office development)		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		
8.2 Design and install directional / interpretative signage		<b>PV.CIB</b> , PV.reg, PV.P		



<b>9</b>	<b>New visitor node (Marshalls Road)</b>				
9.1	Investigate development of a new visitor node in the Marshalls Road area in the south of the Everard Block with links to the Warrandyte/Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve.		PV.CIB, PV.reg, PV.P		
9.2	Investigate opportunity for camping facilities at Marshalls Road.		PV.CIB, PV.reg, PV.P		

<b>10</b>	<b>Information, interpretation and education</b>				
10.1	Develop an integrated, detailed Park Information, Wayfinding and Interpretation Plan. The Plan should ensure there is a range of information and interpretation messages and methods used, particularly directed at first time and inexperienced park visitors. Implemented in consultation with qualified consultants and Landscape Architects and in conjunction with similar strategies developed for the Kinglake Ranges communities.		PV.P, PV.reg, PV.Comms	Preliminary discussions in progress	Fire Recovery + Regional recurrent
10.2	Develop multi-purpose information shelters at key junctions on Kinglake Road (at Melba Highway, Kinglake, Extons Road, National Park Road, West Kinglake) to provide Park information, local community information, car parking and potentially bus shelters.		Mur,DP, DPC, PV.reg, PV.P, PV.Comms, VR		
10.3	Develop a suite of detailed promotional material aimed at highlighting the key, trails and circuits, providing short, half day and day opportunities for various user groups.		PV.reg, PV.Comms		Fire Recovery + Regional recurrent
10.4	Employ 1 full time Education Ranger enabling reintroduction of Ranger guided programs, particularly for school groups, to aid in the process of recovery and re-engagement with the natural environment.		PV.reg		
10.5	Investigate use of web based and on-site digital technology for information and interpretation, including on short paths and circuits. Possibilities include downloadable audio guides for MP3 and i-phones.		PV.CIB, PV.reg, PV.Comms		
10.6	Investigate the potential for use of the Park by education groups, including through partnerships with educational institutions, the Kinglake Ranges Wilderness Camp and the Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre.		PV.reg, DSE		
10.7	Investigate special programs and events to promote and provide for local residents to use the Park and contribute to its management (eg. through Friends group, conservation programs, interpretation of local history).		PV.reg		

<b>11</b>	<b>Access and circulation - Trails within park</b>				
11.1	Establish a downhill mountain bike facility on a modified area on Bowden Spur to be managed sustainably in conjunction with user groups.		PV.reg, PV.CIB, user groups	Planning in progress	Rural Towns Development Fund
11.2	Conduct a feasibility study into provision of horse trailer parking and unloading facilities at three locations in the Wombelano Block to facilitate safe horse riding access.		PV.reg, PV.CIB, VR, Mur, user groups		
11.3	Investigate a cross country mountain bike circuit on a modified area near the new Marshalls Road visitor node to be managed sustainably in conjunction with user groups.		PV.CIB, PV.reg, PV.P, user groups		
11.4	Conduct a feasibility study for a new walking circuit from Mount Sugarloaf to Running Creek Dam.		PV.reg, user groups		
11.5	Conduct a feasibility study for a trail for experienced bushwalkers between Island Creek Picnic Area and Wombelano Falls.		PV.reg, user groups		
	<b>Access and circulation - External access to park</b>				
11.6	Re-establish key park entry points at major junctions on Whittlesea-Kinglake Road and Healsville – Kinglake Road, providing well signed driving routes into the park.		PV.CIB, PV.reg, VR	Installation in progress	Fire Recovery funds
11.7	Conduct feasibility studies for shared use trails linking Whittlesea - Kinglake Road and Healsville – Kinglake Road to Park blocks, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ along National Park Road;</li> <li>▪ between the Cookson Hill Track and Kinglake (with a possible link through Kinglake to Jehosaphat Gully);</li> <li>▪ between Kinglake and Extons Road;</li> <li>▪ along Extons Road to the Park entry at Captains Creek Road;</li> <li>▪ Between Kinglake and the Melba Highway along Healsville – Kinglake Road</li> </ul>		Nil, Mur, PV.reg		
11.8	Link the Park trail network into a new shared trail being developed by the Nillumbik Shire Council between the Smiths Gully area and Buttermans Track.		Nil, PV.reg		
11.9	Conduct a feasibility study for a shared use trail from in or near the Park to the proposed extended Bicentennial National Trail through Toolangi.		Mur, YR, DSE, PV.reg		
11.10	Conduct a feasibility study for a walking trail from Running Creek Road to Mount Sugarloaf, potentially linking to a trail from the Hurstbridge and Arthur's Creek area		PV.reg, Nil		
11.11	Conduct a feasibility study for a shared use trail from the Park to Toorourrong Reservoir Park, possibly utilising the proposed Whittlesea-Humevale-Kinglake Ranges Trail		PV.reg, Whit		



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# APPENDIX A

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK

### Establishing a role in the region

*GOAL: Kinglake National Park is an important setting for nature and culture based recreation that is a driver of visitation in its own right and a contributor to broader regional visitation and economic growth.*

- Develop a range of sustainable visitor opportunities in the Park which are based upon the Park's special natural and cultural values and experiences of 'naturalness' which complement, but do not overly duplicate, opportunities in the wider region.
- Recognise the role and setting of other Parks Victoria estate and public lands in determining the range of opportunities to be provided at Kinglake.
- Work with regional tourism partners, local government and communities to explore the creation of linked experiences (and supporting services and facilities) which incorporate the Park, such as travel routes, cycle routes and trails, events, tourism packages.
- Work with regional tourism partners, local government and the community to explore opportunities that enhance the attraction of Kinglake and the park as destinations including opportunities for extending the length of stay in the region (eg through appropriate accommodation).
- Work with regional tourism partners, local government and communities to develop and promote the Park and the region through consistent promotional campaigns, messages and visitor information.

### Strengthening the Park identity

*GOAL: Kinglake National Park, its special values and its visitor opportunities and destinations are readily identified by visitors both before the visit and while in the Park.*

- Through master planning and new opportunities, further develop the view of Kinglake National Park as a place that is well recognised, welcoming, offers a suite of meaningful, relevant and engaging park experiences and is central to attracting tourists to the Kinglake Ranges region.
- Create a sense of place for the Park through:
  - Recognising community hubs, their relationship to the park and its visitor settings, and providing relevant information and or linkages to the park from them;
  - establishment of Park gateways at or near key Park entry points;
  - signature directional and information signage to assist with wayfinding in and between different Park blocks and to identify destinations, experiences and trails;
  - development of key Park messages and themes to form the basis of on and off Park information and interpretation.
- Provide community leadership in modelling energy efficient infrastructure, services and events and investigate the viability of alternative energy generating options such as solar panels on built infrastructure.

- Develop high quality Park information and interpretation available on the internet and in local and regional tourism and visitor venues, including investigating the use of interactive technologies.
- Lead visitors through the Park and link Park blocks through car touring routes and walking and cycle routes.
- Work with local communities, local government and tourism partners to develop linkages (such as trails) from neighbouring communities into the Park.

### Enhancing visitor experiences and expanding markets

*GOAL: Kinglake National Park provides opportunities for a range of visitor markets to experience and appreciate its special values and qualities and gain inspiration and improved well being through connection with nature. Visitor opportunities (and supporting facilities and services) align with contemporary expectations and trends in sustainable national parks experiences and are compatible with ongoing protection of park values.*

- Recognise and provide for the role of Kinglake National Park as:
  - A local community asset;
  - A natural visitor destination within a 1.5 hour drive of much of Melbourne's population;
  - An 'Entry Level' national park where first time national park visitors may appreciate the difference from other park settings and enjoy a feeling of relative safety in their activities and move on to more adventurous activities;
  - A park people want to come back to time and again.
- Extend the range of visitor markets by working with regional tourism partners and the community to encourage increased length of stay in the Kinglake and other neighbouring areas through provision of visitor infrastructure, facilities and services and through marketing, promotion and visitor information.
- Engage with the community and community groups to investigate new experiences in relevant Experience Zones (such as adventure, kids playscape) attractive to different demographics and groups and encourage community engagement with the Park.
- Liaise with local and regional tourism operators, educational institutions and similar providers to identify potential Park facilities and experiences which could enhance their current activities, including nature based educational and learning experiences (some of which may focus on fire research, fire recovery, safety etc).
- Liaise with local and regional tourism operators on potential opportunities for walking and cycling trips in and through the Park using off-Park local accommodation.
- Investigate developing a signature experience based on one of the Park's outstanding attributes (such as its extensive scenic views), which would be attractive to a range of markets and able to be incorporated into other Park experiences.



## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK (continued)

- Provide a range of accessible visitor opportunities and facilities suitable for people with disabilities.
- Identify, manage and promote a mix of walking trails of different lengths in different visitor settings throughout the Park to suit a range of market segments, and with an emphasis on:
  - short, high quality tracks (less than 500 metres) at visitor nodes;
  - a range of longer walks (less than 2 hours, 2-4 hours, up to a day) with trailheads at visitor nodes.
- Identify, manage and promote mountain bike opportunities, with an emphasis on:
  - signposted touring routes utilising gravel roads and management trails in the Wombelano and Everard Blocks;
  - creating linkages between the Park, State Forest, neighbouring communities and potentially with future rail trails in the region;
  - one or more well managed suite of opportunities for downhill mountain biking and technical riding in areas where impacts on park values, the environment and other park visitors are minimised.
- Identify, manage and promote horse riding trails centred on the western Wombelano Block and investigate links into State Forest.
- Investigate improved access for horse riders along designated roads and management trails and the provision of facilities such as parking and horse unloading areas and safety signage.
- Investigate volunteer activities (including bushfire related recovery activities, monitoring and research) that:
  - engage the local community and other community groups in experiencing and caring for the Park;
  - provide opportunities for volunteer conservation tourism experiences (possibly run by volunteer conservation organisations or commercial operators).
- Continue to provide basic camping facilities for families and small groups at one Park location, and investigate the need for additional camping area or alternative accommodation.
- Provide engaging and contemporary Park interpretation utilising written, web based, digital technology, interpretative signs and interactive experiences suitable for the range of Park visitors.

## Managing for visitors

*GOAL: Visitor opportunities in Kinglake National Park are managed to ensure future social, environmental and economic sustainability, the protection of park values and the provision of high quality experiences for the range of visitors.*

- Locate and manage visitor infrastructure, facilities and activities to ensure the Park's natural and cultural values are protected and to avoid adverse impacts on areas of special sensitivity or environmental risk.
- Establish visitor experience zones to provide a range of settings and types of experience, group compatible activities and reduce conflicts between different activities.
- Introduce new initiatives and experiences in a staged manner taking account of bushfire recovery and the need to establish supporting infrastructure and facilities in the Park and surrounding areas.
- Regularly monitor Park visitor numbers at major visitor nodes and on major trails, Park visitor demographics and satisfaction, and the environmental and social impacts of visitor activities.
- Wherever possible, engage the local community, tourism, business, recreational user groups and visitors in planning for Park experiences.



# APPENDIX B

## NATURE BASED RECREATION TRENDS

Many Australians participate in nature-based activities of some type. As an indication a survey of 801 people by Colmar Brunton Social Research in 2004 found that 90% of respondents had participated in at least one nature-based activity in the 5 years to 2004 (see table below).

Some recent work undertaken in relation to national park visitors in NSW (Ipsos-Eureka, 2009) provides some insight into the preferences, motivations and barriers in relation to participation in nature-based outdoor recreation.

### Australian’s experience of nature-based activities (Colmar Brunton, 2004)

NATURE-BASED ACTIVITY	% OF RESPONDENTS PARTICIPATING 1999-2004
Visiting animal sanctuaries	54%
Bushwalking	50%
Viewing animals or birds in the wild	47%
Fishing	46%
Self-guided tours of natural locations	45%
Camping	44%
Visiting native plant or wildflower reserves	35%
Accommodation in natural/bush areas	35%
Farm activities	32%
Whale or dolphin watching	32%
Guided tours of natural locations	23%
Diving or snorkelling	22%
Caving/Rock Climbing	17%
Canoeing	15%
Horse Riding	13%
Participating in activities that contribute to the environment	11%
Going somewhere to learn about bush food.	5%

It was found that respondents to the survey engaged in two broad categories of outdoor recreation - regular fitness activities (eg. walking, cycling, swimming) conducted close to home or work; and occasional ‘experiences’ (eg. day trips, longer bushwalks, fishing, camping, social outings, adventure sports) conducted on weekends or holidays.

Major motivations for the occasional experiences were:

- seeking time out from the stresses and obligations of ordinary life (including relaxation, rejuvenation, fresh air, isolation and solitude);
- socialising with family and friends;
- appreciation of nature and associated educational experiences;
- health and fitness (often seen as a secondary benefit of outdoor recreation);
- challenge and adventure.

Participants’ perceptions of ‘naturalness’ in recreational settings were related to:

- the extent of human impact on the environment,
- state of mind (such as being able to experience nature at first hand, absence of everyday distractions) and the activity to be pursued.

Less natural settings were acceptable if convenient and for fitness and social activities.

Barriers to visitation and participation in outdoor and national park recreational experiences were considered to include:

- crowding in some locations;
- accessibility – lack of parking, long distances to venues, lack of public transport, few nearby accommodation options;
- cost – petrol, equipment, park entry fees (which were generally opposed, despite participants’ acknowledgement of the need for revenue for park maintenance);
- lack of facilities and opportunities for children and older people;
- lack of time due to family and work commitments;
- a perceived preference for indoor recreation among younger people.

As well as the traditional ways of experiencing parks through picnicking, walking, sightseeing and nature appreciating, a demand is growing for well designed and accessible infrastructure such as camping facilities suitable for campervans and motor homes and walking and cycling trails. The demand for trails is also being fostered through Victoria’s 2005-2010 Trails Strategy, which aims to provide a sustainable and coordinated trail network throughout the State. the development of trails in and near Melbourne was also a major part of Linking People and Spaces 2002 (Parks Victoria 2002) and will be included in Linking People and Spaces 2010, the revised version of that strategy.

### Walking Trails

As is typical of high visitation parks and parks near population centres, walking (especially short walks) has been one of the major activities in Kinglake National Park. This is expected to continue. walking has the highest participation rate of physical activities in Australia (39.2% of people over 15 years in 2008), while bushwalking has the eight highest participation rate (6.4%) (Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport, 2009). Participation rates for both activities have increased since 2001 (49% for walking and 34% for bushwalking) and participation is high in middle to older age groups.



## **NATURE BASED RECREATION TRENDS (continued)**

### **Cycling Trails**

Cycling is increasingly seen as an appropriate way to experience national parks and other nature based and cultural experiences. Cycling has the fourth highest participation rate of physical activities in Australia (11.6% of Australians and 13.8% of Victorians in 2008) (Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport, 2009). Bicycle sales exceeded motor vehicles in Australia since 2001 and reached 1.2 million bicycles in 2008 (Cycling Promotion Fund, 2009). Mountain bike sales exceed road bike sales.

A range of cycling trail experiences is being provided – for example, the easy cycling of the Warburton to Lilydale Rail Trail and Murray to Mountains Rail Trail in Victoria and the Riesling Trail in South Australia; more challenging cycling on the Mawson Trail in South Australia and the Munda Biddi Trail in Western Australia. The development of short and long distance cycle trails has been increasing across Australia as well as overseas including packaged cycle experiences with links to local tourism attractions and camping or roofed accommodation.

Cycle touring (at various levels of difficulty) in bushland areas near Kinglake National Park and in the Park has been increasing. The increasing incidence of informal downhill mountain biking in the vicinity of the powerline trails in the Park also reflects the demand for downhill facilities in natural areas close to Melbourne.

Roads in the Kinglake area are also becoming popular for road cycle touring. Day or multi-day journeys on bicycles (either on roads or trails) are becoming increasingly popular, including as organised events (eg. Great Victorian Bike Ride which is scheduled in 2010 to go through Kinglake and other fire affected areas). Anecdotal evidence suggests increasing numbers of road cyclists taking day trips from Melbourne across the Kinglake Range. Globally, cycle tourists are recognised as high value tourists, due to expenditure resulting from longer lengths of stay.

### **Information, interpretation and other experiences**

A demand is also growing for more accessible park information, high quality interpretation and more interactive ways to engage with and learn about national parks. These include:

- more participatory or interactive interpretation, tours and wildlife viewing;
- accommodation or camping in unique settings (eg. ecolodges, safari camps);
- soft adventures (such as guided or self guided multi-day walk or cycling packages);
- adventure sports;
- packages linking park visits with other tourism experiences (such as accommodation, food and wine, heritage and culture destinations);
- voluntary conservation activities (eg. participating in park research or works).

# APPENDIX C

## **PARKS VICTORIA VISITOR SEGMENTS**

### **Nature Admirers** (26.1% of all park visitors)

Tend to make short visits (less than an hour) for a novel visual experience of nature, especially scenery, plants or animals that are spectacular or unique. Motivated to visit by park scenery and may be sightseeing or on a tour. Likely to be first time visitors to a particular park. Many are interstate or international visitors.

### **Urban Socials** (25.9% of all park visitors)

Typically visit parks in groups (which may be large) for family socialising or a social gathering. The park is a venue and natural backdrop for the occasion and access to and the condition of recreational facilities are important to this group. Likely to come from metropolitan Melbourne.

### **Trail Users** (14.4% of all park visitors)

Comprised of people seeking to undertake a variety of trail activities, including walks of various lengths and cycling. Typically on a day trip in a small group (one or two people). Likely to be repeat visitors.

### **Passive and Other Users** (9.4% of all park visitors)

A variable segment. Seek to relax and unwind in a natural setting, undertake a low energy activity (eg. reading, painting, photography) or visit facilities (eg. toilets)

### **Activity Centrics** (8.5% of all park visitors)

Visit a park to undertake a specific activity, which is typically high energy or water based. Often young singles. Often concerned about park accessibility, signage, car parking and access to facilities.

### **Access Made Easy** (8.1% of all park visitors)

Visit parks for a range of activities, but especially sightseeing. Have high expectations for ease of access. Many are mature singles. More interstate visitors than other segments.

### **Country Vacationers** (7.5% of all park visitors)

Typically spend a weekend or longer staying in a national park in country Victoria, typically camping. May undertake sightseeing, touring and a range of other activities in parks. Tend to be concerned about track maintenance and availability and cleanliness of facilities.



# APPENDIX D

## PRE 2009 VISITOR FACILITIES AND TRAILS

### Main Pre-2009 visitor facilities in Kinglake National Park

#### SUGARLOAF

Visitor Facility	Main Features	Access	Use Level*
Masons Falls Picnic Area	Forest location, previously near Park office and information centre Carpark (limited bus parking) Picnic tables, BBQ facilities, shelters, toilets, water supply Limited mobility access Trailhead for short walks and full day walk, including short walk to spectacular Masons Falls	National Park Road from Whittlesea Kinglake Road	H
Mt Sugarloaf Lookout	Forest location, small site at end of steep, narrow ridge Lookout - spectacular views Carpark, walking track	National Park Road from Whittlesea Kinglake Road	H
Frank Thomson Reserve	Open, grassy site, not connected to other Park areas, spectacular views to Melbourne Carpark, bus parking, picnic tables, BBQ facilities, shelters, water supply	Whittlesea Kinglake Road	M

#### EVERARD

Visitor Facility	Main Features	Access	Use Level*
Jehosaphat Gully Picnic Area	Forest location, close to local visitor information centre and tea shop Carpark, limited bus parking, picnic tables, BBQ facilities, toilets, water supply, limited mobility access Trailhead for short, half day and day walks	Kinglake Healesville Road	H

#### WOMBELANO

Visitor Facility	Main Features	Access	Use Level*
Wombelano Falls	Small carpark Walking track (short, steep) to lookout at waterfall	Kinglake Healesville Road	L
Island Creek Picnic Area	Small carpark, picnic tables, fireplaces, toilets, water supply Walking track to The Gums Camping Area Entry to Island Creek Track (management trail) providing access into western part of Wombelano Block	Eucalyptus Road	L
The Gums Camping Area	Forest location 10 camping sites, 4 suitable for caravans, carparking, fireplaces, toilets, water supply Limited mobility access Short walking tracks, near access to management trails in Andrews Hill area	Eucalyptus Road Close to Melba Hwy	M

\* H=High, M=Moderate, L=Low

**PRE 2009 TRAILS AND ROUTES IN KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK**

**Main Pre-2009 Trails and Routes in Kinglake National Park**

**SUGARLOAF BLOCK**

Trail or route	Description/Type/Length/Difficulty	Use type	Use level*
Lyrebird Circuit	At Masons Falls Picnic Area Walking track 500 metres, wheelchair accessible, easy	Walking	H
Masons Falls Walk	From Masons Falls Picnic Area Walking track 500 metres (one way), easy	Walking	H
Boundary Track	From Park Entry to Masons Falls Picnic Area Management trail 2.4 km, easy to moderate	Walking Cycling	M L
Goodenia Track	Between park entry and Masons Falls Picnic Area 750 metres, easy to moderate	Walking Cycling	M L
Wallaby Trail	From Park entry to Running Creek Track 1.5 km, easy to moderate	Walking Cycling	M L
Sugarloaf Ridge Track	Between Park entry and Mt Sugarloaf lookout 3 km (one way), easy to moderate	Walking	M
Running Creek Track	From near Masons Falls to Mt Sugarloaf along Running Creek Management trail About 8 km, moderate	Walking Cycling	M L
Sugarloaf Circuit Walk	11.5 or 13 km circuit incorporating various tracks with Running Creek and Mt Sugarloaf Tracks. Moderate to strenuous. Popular with bushwalking clubs and bushwalkers.	Walking (some parts of circuit open to Cycling)	M

\* H=High, M=Moderate, L=Low



**PRE 2009 TRAILS AND ROUTES IN KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK**  
**Main Pre-2009 Trails and Routes in Kinglake National Park (CONTINUED)**

**EVERARD BLOCK**

Trail or route	Description/Type/Length/Difficulty	Use type	Use level*
Lavers Circuit	At Jehosaphat Gully Picnic Area - 800 metres, easy	Walking	H
Shelley Harris Track	Between Jehosaphat Gully Picnic Area and Mt Jerusalem Track - 3.2 km, moderate	Walking	M
Cookson Hill Track	Parallel to Heidelberg Kinglake Road linking Mt Jerusalem and Mt Everard Tracks Management trail About 2.5 km, easy to moderate	Walking Cycling Horse Riding	L-M L L
Mt Jerusalem Track	Between Heidleberg-Kinglake Road and southern end of Old Kinglake Road near Steeles Creek Road Management trail About 5 km, moderate to strenuous	Walking Cycling	M L - M
Mt Everard Track	Between Heidelberg Kinglake Road and Marshall Road off Buttermans Track in the south. Management trail About 7 km, moderate to strenuous	Walking Cycling Horse Riding	L - M L L
Bundy Track	Between locked gate at southern end of Old Kinglake Road and Mt Everard Track 3 km, moderate to strenuous, unconstructed with very steep section	Walking	L - M
Everard Circuit Walk	Jehosaphat Gully-Shelley Harris Track-Mt Jerusalem Track-Cooksons Hill Track- Everard Track-Bundy Track-Old Kinglake Road-Mt Jerusalem Track-Shelley Harris Track-return to Jehosaphat Gully About 22 km (if commenced at Jehosaphat Gully), 6-7 hours, moderate to strenuous Mix of walking tracks and management trails. Popular with bushwalking clubs and bushwalkers	Walking (Some sections shared with cyclists and horse riders)	L - M
Old Kinglake Road	Closed road between Heidelberg Kinglake Road and eastern Park boundary About 5 km, moderate	Walking Cycling Horse Riding	L - M L L - M
Brocks Spur Track	In east of Block, between Healesville Kinglake Road and Melba Hwy Management trail About 5 km, moderate to strenuous. Low use, no destination.	Walking Cycling	Very L Very L
Banksia Ridge Track	Section of unconstructed walking track parallel to Brock Spur Track 1.2 km, moderate to strenuous	Walking	Very L

\* H=High, M=Moderate, L=Low

**PRE 2009 TRAILS AND ROUTES IN KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK**  
**Main Pre-2009 Trails and Routes in Kinglake National Park (CONTINUED)**

**WOMBELANO BLOCK**

Trail or route	Description/Type/Length/Difficulty	Use type	Use level*
Andrews Hill area	Network of management trails accessible from Eucalyptus Road and Gordons Bridge Road (Andrew Hill Track, Stringybark Track, Dusty Miller Track, Mountain Creek Track) used for experiences of various lengths Moderate (some steep sections) Fairly popular for bushwalking and cycling Horse riding not permitted in this area	Walking Cycling	L - M L - M
Andrews Hill Circuit Walk	'The Gums' Camping Area-Andrews Hill Track-Mountain Creek Track-Stringybark Track-Island Creek Picnic Area - Blackfish Way - 'The Gums' About 12 km, 4-5 hours, moderate	Walking (Trails shared with cyclists)	L - M
Cicada Circuit	At 'The Gums' Camping Area Walking track 500m, wheelchair accessible, easy	Walking	M
Blackfish Way	Between 'The Gums' Camping Area and Island Creek Picnic Area, parallel to Eucalyptus Road Walking track 2 km, easy	Walking	M
Island Creek Track	From Island Creek Picnic Area to Powerline Track and network of trails in west Wombelano Block Management trail	Walking Cycling Horse Riding	L L L - M
Wombelano Falls Walk	From carpark on Captain Creek Road to falls lookout Walking track 500 metres, moderate	Walking	L - M
West Wombelano	Network of management trails off Captain Creek Road and Boggy Creek Road – Easement Track, Burgan Track, Candlebark Track, Powerline Track	Walking Mountain Bike Horse Riding	L L L - M

**WALLABY CREEK BLOCK**

Trail or route	Description/Type/Length/Difficulty	Use type	Use level*
Buffer Area	Unpromoted walking routes on tracks and some management trails.	Walking	Very L

\* H=High, M=Moderate, L=Low



# APPENDIX E

## PROPOSED TRAIL NETWORK

### SUGARLOAF BLOCK

Trail or route	Description/Type/Length/Difficulty	Use type	Classification <sup>#</sup>
Lyrebird Circuit (or similar)	Establish short (c.500 metre) Class 1 interpretative trail at new Masons Falls Picnic Area. Possibly on different alignment than previously.	Walking	1
Masons Falls Walk	Re-establish, with any necessary alignment changes for environmental management.	Walking	2
Boundary Track	Re-establish	Walking Cycling	2
Goodenia Track	Re-establish	Walking Cycling	2
Wallaby Trail	Re-establish	Walking Cycling	2
Sugarloaf Ridge Track	Re-establish and construct short link to Wallaby Track. Consider allowing cycling to form cycling link with Running Creek Track or promote use of road for cycling.	Walking	2
Running Creek Track	Re-establish Management trail	Walking Cycling	3
New track	Construct about 3 kms of new track to form a circuit to follow ridge from tip of Mount Sugarloaf to Running Creek Dam and link to Running Creek Track. Consultation with Melbourne Water required on access to dam area.	Walking	3
<b>CIRCUITS</b>			
Short	Lyrebird Circuit Goodenia Track - part Boundary Track	Walking Walking Cycling	1 2
Medium	Boundary Track – Wallaby Trail – Masons Falls Track	Walking	2
Challenging	New circuit to Running Creek Dam – return to Mount Sugarloaf via Running Creek Track and Sugarloaf Ridge Track.	Walking	3
Day	Current Sugarloaf Circuit Walk, with variations, including new circuit to Running Creek Dam and cycling variation (either on road or Sugarloaf Ridge Track).	Walking Cycling variation	2 to 3

<sup>#</sup> Australian Standard Classification (AS 2156)

**PROPOSED TRAIL NETWORK**

**EVERARD BLOCK**

Trail or route	Description/Type/Length/Difficulty	Use type	Classification <sup>#</sup>
Jehosaphat Gully	Short (maximum 500 metres) Class 1 wheelchair accessible interpretative track/boardwalk from carpark to fern gully. Preferably a circuit. Siting may depend on tree risk assessment.	Walking	1
Shelly Harris Track	Re-establish Route subject to tree risk assessment.	Walking	2
Cookson Hill Track	Retain	Walking Cycling Horse Riding	2
Mt Jerusalem Track	Retain	Walking Cycling	3
Mt Everard Track	Retain	Walking Cycling Horse Riding	3
Bundy Track	Retain Realign to allow horse riding and mountain bike use.	Walking Cycling Horse Riding	4
Old Kinglake Road	Retain	Walking Cycling Horse Riding	2
Brocks Spur Track	Retain as a management trail available for walking and cycling, but do not promote as a major trail.	Walking Cycling	3
<b>CIRCUITS</b>			
Short	Proposed new Class 1 fern gully track at Jehosaphat Gully	Walking	1
Medium	Consider Jehosaphat Gully-Shelley Harris Track-Kinglake township circuit. Consultation with Council required.	Walking (Some parts shared use)	2
Day	Retain existing Everard Circuit. (Jehosaphat Gully-Shelley Harris Track-Mt Jerusalem Track-Cooksons Hill Track- Everard Track-Bundy Track-Old Kinglake Road-Mt Jerusalem Track-Shelley Harris Track-return to Jehosaphat Gully). Horse riding and mountain bike circuit (Everard Track-Bundy Track-Old Kinglake Road-Everard Track)	Walking Cycling Horse Riding	2, 3, and 4
<b>MOUNTAIN BIKING</b>			
Marshalls Road area	Investigate cross country mountain bike circuit on existing disturbed area, including detailed site analysis, environmental impact assessment and consultation with relevant agency staff, land managers and user groups	Cycling	Appropriate rating

<sup>#</sup> Australian Standard Classification (AS 2156)



## PROPOSED TRAIL NETWORK

### WOMBELANO BLOCK

Trail or route	Description/Type/Length/Difficulty	Use type	Classification <sup>#</sup>
<b>EAST</b>			
Andrews Hill area	Retain current network of management trails for walking and cycling for families, people camping at 'The Gums' and people seeking a low key, natural experience.	Walking Cycling	3
Cicada Circuit	Re-establish, possibly with route changes to cater for changes to camping area and for environmental reasons.	Walking	1
Blackfish Way	Retain as an easy family level walk from The Gums.	Walking	2
Island Creek Track	Retain as a major access into the west of Wombelano from the Island Creek Picnic Area. Liaise with horse riding groups and Council on possible upgrading of informal horse riding route on Eucalyptus Road reserve to Island Creek.	Walking Cycling Horse Riding	2
<b>CENTRE AND WEST</b>			
Wombelano Falls Walk	Retain	Walking	2
Longer trail to Wombelano Falls	Consider new Class 4 walking trail from Island Creek Trail west to the Falls, aimed at more experienced walkers. Environmental assessment and consultation with user groups required.	Walking	4
West Wombelano trails	Retain as opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding.	Walking Cycling Horse Riding	3
<b>CIRCUITS</b>			
Short	Cicada Circuit at The Gums Wombelano Falls Walk	Walking Walking	1 2
Half day	Retain current Andrews Hill circuit for walkers and cyclists. Improve connection for walkers between Stringybark Track and Blackfish Way at road crossing. Create a cycle trail alongside the road to link Island Creek and The Gums.	Walking Cycling	2 and 3
Half day	Establish a circuit in west Wombelano aimed at horse riders and cyclists, possibly utilising Burgan, Candlebark and old Burgan Tracks. Consult with user group on route and trailhead facility needs (eg. horse facilities).	Horse Riding Cycling	3

### WALLABY CREEK CATCHMENT (BUFFER ZONE)

Trail or route	Description/Type/Length/Difficulty	Use type	Classification <sup>#</sup>
Buffer Area	Retain existing bushwalking tracks retained for low key opportunities for more experienced bushwalkers and for educational use from Silver Creek Road.	Walking	3 to 4

<sup>#</sup> Australian Standard Classification (AS 2156)

# APPENDIX F

## PRINCIPLES FOR INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION

### Visitor Information Needs

The needs of visitors in terms of information and interpretation can be described in relation to the trip cycle. The trip cycle includes: before leaving for area (pre-trip); while in the general area (orientation); during (while visiting); and after completing the trip (post trip).

Examples of sources of visitor information or interpretation related to different stages of the trip cycle are shown below.

Stage	Sources
Pre trip	Website; Travel guide; brochures; Media; advertisements
Orientation	Signs; Visitor/information centre or display; Accommodation; Visitor guide/map; Travel guide
On Site	Trackhead signs; Interpretive shelters and signs; Park walk or site guides/activities; Commercial guides
Post Trip	Souvenir books, posters, photos, DVD, video

The target audiences for Kinglake National Park information and interpretation are likely to consist of three main groups as follows:

#### Local and Melbourne community

- People seeking relaxation/campsite/social gathering experiences (Park Victoria visitor segments – Urban Socials, Access Made Easy, Passive and Other Users).
- People seeking walking/running/cycling/horse riding opportunities (Trail Users, Activity Centrics).
- Schools and other educational institutions and groups seeking environmental education (Nature Admirers).

#### Travelling Visitors

- Travellers seeking a short walk, spectacular view, lunch spot, campsite, or a diversion from the journey (Access Made Easy, Passive and Other Users).
- Visitors who have an interest in national parks and are likely to have visited a number of parks or be regular visitors (Nature Admirers, Trail Users).

#### Niche groups

- Niche market visitors such as naturalists and bird watchers (Nature Admirers), downhill mountain bike riders, cross country mountain bike riders (Activity Centrics).

The likely on-site information and interpretation needs of these different visitor audiences are outlined below.

### Park on-site visitor information and interpretation needs

Audience	Information and Interpretation Requirements	Planning considerations
Local community	Directional and orientation information Safety and compliance messages Some natural and cultural interpretive information related to local area/history.	Issues of potential vandalism and inappropriate activities will need to be addressed
Melbourne community	Direction and orientation information Safety and compliance messages Range of natural and cultural interpretation including first time visitors, youth, school groups.	Some visitors may only visit one site while others may explore a number of sites Consider interactive, digital technology and audio guides for some experiences
Travelling Visitors	Directional and orientation information Trackhead and visitor node interpretation Natural and cultural interpretation including Aboriginal and European cultural history of the area	Some visitors may only visit one site while others may explore a number of sites
Niche groups – naturalists	Detailed material on a range of themes.	May be delivered via audio guides or written material
Niche groups – mountain biking	Safety, compliance and minimal impact messages at visitor nodes and trailheads Some interpretation on facilities and nearby park areas	Short messages geared to adventure activity



### **Principles for Interpretation**

Effective interpretation is aimed at:

- encouraging and enticing visitors to follow paths or stop at exhibits;
- informing them about what they are seeing (answering their questions), while encouraging genuine opportunities for personal discovery and delight; and
- provoking them to ask themselves important questions such as ‘How does this relate to me?’ ‘How do I feel about this now?’ or ‘What could I do to change this?’ without encouraging guilt or sadness.

The amount of interpretation material and its content will be influenced by:

- the potential number and interest of visitors at a site;
- the special interest value of each site;
- the interpretation messages to be conveyed;
- a strategic approach to delivering these messages across the park;
- the standard and classification of walking tracks (with more interpretation of classes 1-2 than 5-6);
- creative ideas for interpretation.

The following principles should be applied when planning interpretation and trackhead signage.

- Interpretation panels should have approximately one-third text, one-third graphics or pictures and one-third as background space.
- Where possible use a variety of graphics such as maps and illustrations to add some visual complexity to attract attention.
- Interpretation signs which vary in shape and form from the traditional rectangular sign should be encouraged;
- Interpretation signage should be multi-layered (using text, pictures, graphics and interactive elements) to suit a range of visitor learning styles including visual and literal.

Themes link topics relevant to a site and express the idea you want people to take away with them.

A theme helps:

- structure the interpretation and select stops/features. Without a theme, a walk, for example, may become a collection of random stops with no link.
- give the audience a ‘thread’ which links facts. This makes it easier to remember information.
- focus the interpretation. From the mass of facts that you could give to an audience, it concentrates on those which support your theme.

# APPENDIX G

## Community Consultation Process and Feedback Summary

Community consultation for the Kinglake National Park Master Plan started with an open day in the sugarloaf Block in October 2009. This presented an opportunity for the local community to communicate what they love about Kinglake National Park and their ideas for rejuvenation and improvement. Parks Victoria and the consultant team then built on those discussions with analysis and further discussions with key stakeholders. A Strategic Directions Statement was developed and presented to the community and stakeholders throughout March 2010. Feedback on those strategic directions was generally positive.



**Figure 1. Consultation events** (left to right) Open Day (initial thoughts) October 2009, Kinglake Farmers Market (Strategic Directions Statement) March 2010, CRC meeting (Draft Master Plan) June 2010.

### Consultation process

Given the issues faced by local communities, Parks Victoria chose to work through existing community structures and networks, in particular the Kinglake Ranges Community Recovery Committee. The KRCRC has an extensive email network which was also able to reach residents who have been living off the range while rebuilding. Parks Victoria is grateful to the many people who gave generously of their time and thoughts.

The Kinglake National Park Draft Master Plan and a summary flyer (refer to figure 4) was released for review and comment on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2010. Over a six week period (ending 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010) the community and stakeholders were invited to give feedback via:

- Have your say feedback form, electronically or in hard copy
- Written submissions
- A series of consultation events including :
  - + Section 86 meeting ( Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> June)
  - + Drop in information night at Kinglake Neighbourhood House (Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> June 3pm – 8pm)
  - + Listening post at Kinglake West Primary School (Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> June 3pm-6pm)
  - + Discussion at Community Recovery Committee meeting (Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> June 7pm)
  - + Staffed display at Kinglake Central football match (Sat 26<sup>th</sup> June)
  - + Staffed display at Kinglake Farmers Market (Sun 27<sup>th</sup> June)

Display material and information about the Draft Master Plan and opportunities to give feedback were provided at these locations:

- Whittlesea supermarket
- Whittlesea information Centre
- Kinglake West information board + post office
- Pheasant Creek ( Flying Tarts + general store)
- National Park Hotel, Kinglake
- Kinglake cafes (x3) + supermarket
- Kinglake Neighbourhood House
- Kinglake Community Hub, Kinglake
- Parks Victoria Bourke St office, Melbourne

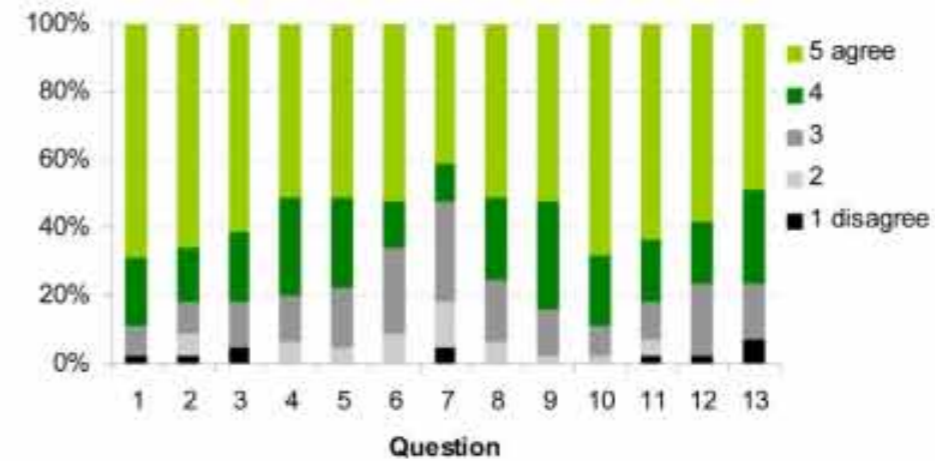
Parks Victoria received a total of 64 submissions (have your say forms and written submissions) and had some healthy discussions with numerous groups and individuals at the consultation events and at separate meetings where required or asked for. While the focus of consultation was on the communities of the Kinglake Ranges, the Farmers Market also yielded

feedback from visitors and tourists. Feedback and assistance in promotion was actively sought from the Victorian National Parks Association, in an attempt to reach park visitors living off the ridge. There was brief mention of the Master Plan in the July/August edition of their newsletter *Natures Voice*.

### Feedback

The 'Have Your Say' form contained the option to provide comment and/ or rate the major actions outlined in the Draft Master Plan (refer to figure 5). The ratings feedback showed that the majority of the proposed actions in the Draft Master Plan were supported with around 80% of respondents rating most proposals 4 or 5 (refer to figure 2). The proposal for a new cross country mountain bike circuit in southern Everard Block was not supported as convincingly with 54% of respondents rating 4 and 5. Formalisation of the downhill mountain bike (MTB) track also received less support with 65% supportive.

**Kinglake Draft Master Plan feedback**



Broad master planning goals	
Q1	Encourage greater integration between townships and the national park, through for example improved signage and shared path links between the towns and the park
Q2	Develop Kinglake National Park as 'Melbourne's most accessible national park'. Kinglake National Park will be easily accessible to a range of visitors, with a variety of recreational activities catering for first timers to the more experienced
Key proposals	
Q3	New iconic viewing platforms at Mt Sugarloaf, taking in views of both Melbourne city and the Kinglake Ranges
Q4	Revised layout of Masons Falls picnic area incorporating a 'natural playscape' based on engaging children and adults with the surrounding bush landscape
Q5	Improve accessibility to Masons Falls and a new lookout structure
Q6	Formalise existing downhill mountain bike track at Bowden Spur (including provision of car parking and amenities)
Q7	New cross country mountain bike circuit in southern Everard Block
Q8	New bush camping area in southern Everard Block
Q9	New low key picnic area at Wombelano Falls
Q10	Well designed, integrated Parks Victoria / Kinglake Ranges information shelters within townships providing directional signage to key tourist destinations in and around the park
Q11	Creation of a new all-abilities short circuit walk at Jehosaphat gully picnic area incorporating a viewing platform over the fern gully
Other elements	
Q12	Apply 'best practice' environmentally sustainable design (ESD) principles in the implementation of the master plan
Q13	Include web-based and on-site digital technology for education and interpretation

**Figure 2. Ratings feedback.** See figure 5 for the Have Your Say form format.



The majority of respondents were commenting from a horse riding perspective (refer to figure 3). Some horse riders were concerned that the closures due to the fires would be used as an opportunity to decrease horse access and had advised other riders to submit comments in the process. Only a few submissions were received which appeared to come from a conservation mindset. The general comments feedback received varied from positive thoughts on specific proposals to suggestions for potential improvements, these comments and their status in terms of influence on the final master plan are summarised in table 1.

### Total submissions

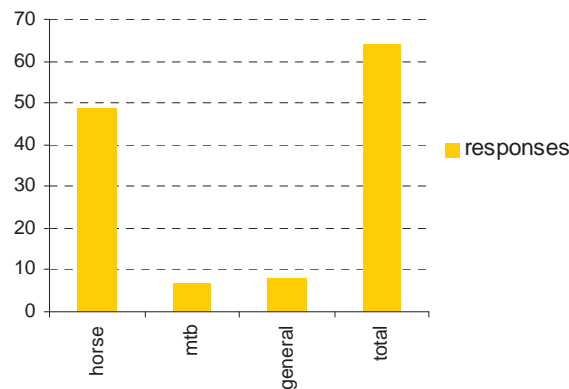


Figure 3. Submissions detail

Table 1. Summary of comments received and status in the final Master Plan

Feedback / comment		Status in final Master Plan	Status rational
<b>Horse riding user group</b>			
1.1	Circuit tracks of around 2-4 hours for horse riders	Included	There is provision for circuits in the Wombelano Block. Scentbark Track and Perimeter Track in the Wombelano Block will also be made available for horse riding. Investigation into realignment of Bundy Track (Everard Block) will be made this will link Old Kinglake Road and Mt Everard Track, forming a loop. Note that there are plenty of opportunities for horse riding in the surrounding State forests which have less significant natural values than the National Park.
1.2	Open Mt Jerusalem Track to Horse riders	To be considered in upcoming review of management plan.	This track was closed based on recommendations documented in the current 1996 Management Plan. The issue being the area is affected by Phytophthora and the soil type and topography along Mt Jerusalem Track is conducive to its spread. Future use will be considered in the upcoming review of the management plan.
1.3	Provide for horse float parking and unload areas at suitable locations throughout the park, with adequate space for float turning circles and other facilities such as water, 'manure pits' and map boards	Included	The Master Plan suggests that up to three horse float parking facilities be investigated in the Wombelano Block; note that in many cases it will be out of Parks Victoria control as the road reserve is council or VicRoads land. Actual location and layout/capacity of float parking areas to be determined after consultation between Kinglake NP Ranger staff and Kinglake Riders Club.
1.4	Support from Parks Vic is required for establishment of a link to the proposed extension of the Bicentennial National Trail through Toolangi.	Noted	This proposal has Parks Victoria support and is a consideration in the Master Plan; further resolution of detail including location of trail link is dependant on resolution of the Melba Highway crossing.
1.5	Need to provide facilities for horse riders at camp grounds	Not considered appropriate	No specific infrastructure (tie up rails for example) will be provided at camp grounds, however horse riders will be allowed to use camp grounds.
1.6	Explore horse access in the Sugarloaf Block with a shared use track down to Arthurs Creek via Running Creek Road.	To be considered in upcoming review of management plan	Horse access is allowed on Bowden Spur Road and Bald Spur Road in the Sugarloaf Block. The majority of horse access is restricted to Wombelano and Everard Blocks due to landscape conditions including generally more friable soils, lower slopes and these areas have been more extensively disturbed by past land use. The Master Plan does however recommend that a linking trail be investigated from Running Creek Road through to Arthurs Creek and Hurstbridge.
1.7	Retain access through Powers Track and along the powerlines for horses	Noted	Linking tracks within and surrounding the park are suggested in the master plan; note that in many cases it will be out of Parks Vic control except to recommend as the road reserve is council or VicRoads land.
1.8	Horses should be allowed on all roads open to visitors and management vehicles	Not considered appropriate	There is a complex array of factors which limit access within a National Park, ranging from conservation management to user group conflict.
<b>MTB user group</b>			
2.1	Additional down hill mountain bike track, or other designated MTB tracks. Having multiple tracks/areas will increase visitor numbers, provide choice and alleviate heavy traffic leading to track degradation	Not considered appropriate	There is provision for MTB use in the park, suggested in the Master Plan. Need to consider other user groups and conservation of natural values. There is also opportunity in surrounding region for example, within state parks and the MTB park at Buxton.
2.2	Realignment of Bundy Track, allowing formation of circuit options for horse and MTB user groups	Included	Realignment of Bundy Track has been included as a proposal for investigation in the Master Plan; this would allow both horse and MTB users to use Bundy Track, providing a link between Old Kinglake Road and Mt Everard Track and the option of circuits.

### Additional Comments

In addition to submissions received some of the key things coming out of discussions at consultation events included:

- Looked at in isolation from the Management Plan, the draft could give the impression that Parks Victoria is seeking to change the emphasis of the park to recreation.
- The relationship between the Master Plan and the Management Plan is not clearly articulated.
- Concern that the opportunities at Frank Thomson Reserve have been overlooked. There is potential to connect with the Bollygum story, provide trail links etc. Parks Victoria received strong feedback early in the consultation process that built structures which obstructed the views from Frank Thomson Reserve to the city would not be supported.

These comments have been addressed in finalisation of the Master Plan.

### Allied consultation

During 2009 Parks Victoria engaged consultants Kismet Forward to carry out community consultation regarding the replacement of the Parks Victoria office which was destroyed by the fires. The office was previously located on National Park Road on the entry to the sugarloaf Block. Briefly, feedback included the need for a more visible location with frontage to the main road along the ridge and opportunity to combine the office with some sort of community facility.

Feedback / comment		Status in final Master Plan	Status rational
2.3	Formalisation of existing informal MVO/walking tracks in Everard Block to form 3 loop ride options (note these tracks could also be opened for walkers and horse riders)	Not considered appropriate	There is a complex array of factors which limit access within a National Park, ranging from conservation management to user group conflict. This proposal would require and lead to vegetation disturbance, compromising National Park values.
<b>General</b>			
3.1	Lookout structure at Mt Sugarloaf is supported, will need to be mindful of the likely tension between maintaining views in the long term and protecting vegetation	Noted	This consideration will be addressed in the detailed design of the form and placement of the lookout structure and long term management of vegetation will be addressed in the management plan.
3.2	Shared use trails (horse, cycle, walk) are a viable option, no need to segregate	Noted	While we are aware that shared use is a good option and most tracks in the park are shared use, it is important that we provide opportunity for a variety of experiences.
3.3	Need to extend the shared trail along Whittlesea Kinglake Road through to Castella on the Melba HWY to join up with the CJ Dennis Centennial Trail being developed east of Melba HWY around Toolangi	Included	This idea is supported and is included as a recommendation in the final Master Plan, the proposal has Parks Victoria support, will be a valuable linking track between towns and park blocks. Need to work closely with the VBRRRA townships plan and local councils as much of the links required are not on Parks Victoria land.
3.4	Provide a shared use track along National Park Road	Included	This is a recommendation in the Master Plan
3.5	Off road links from Whittlesea and trail links into surrounding state forest	Noted	The link to Whittlesea is currently being investigated in the Whittlesea - Humevale –Kinglake Trail. Tracks linking into surrounding State Forest already exist, the Master Plan suggests these links be promoted and further links be developed.
3.6	Reference should be made in the Master Plan to the fact that some sections of the Kinglake National Park fall within the Nillumbik Green Wedge Zone and that a Management Plan for this area is currently under development.	Outside the scope of the Master Plan but noted	Consideration of the Nillumbik Green Wedge Zone is outside of the scope of this Master Plan. Parks Victoria will however be working closely with all surrounding local councils and VBRRRA in the implementation of the Master Plan.
3.7	Kinglake NP lies between the Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT) and the Metro Trail network, Master Plan should recommend that longer term a link should be made through Kinglake NP	Outside the scope of the Master Plan but noted	The current start/end point of the AAWT is geographically removed from Kinglake NP and caters for a specialist user group, given this it is considered outside the scope of this Master Plan
3.8	Appears to be a lack of off road trail links between towns and park blocks	Noted	The Master Plan does suggest that this is a real need, actual locations of such tracks requires further detailed investigation. Note that in many cases it will be out of Parks Vic control except to recommend, as the road reserve is Council or VicRoads land.
3.9	Upgrade Captains Creek Road to encourage visitors from Melba Highway to Wombelano Falls	Not considered appropriate	There are other ways to promote Wombelano Falls and this is currently the only major visitor node accessed via unsealed road, therefore important to maintain this experience.
3.10	Greater emphasis on interpretation of the forestry/logging history especially the mill at Masons Falls	Included	The Master Plan makes broad suggestions for interpretation themes; forestry/logging history will be added to those.
3.11	Provide more focus on increased signage to raise the profile of the Park within the ranges	Included	This is an integral recommendation coming out of the Master Plan. Parks Victoria will be working closely with VBRRRA, local councils and VicRoads to achieve integrated, high quality outcomes
3.12	Toilet facilities and better signage at Frank Thomson Reserve	Noted	The new park office will likely be located on land next to the reserve; the Master Plan recommends that the detailed design of that precinct be fully integrated with Frank Thomson Reserve.
3.13	Would be great to provide walking access into Kinglake West Bushland Reserve	Included	Access into Kinglake West bushland reserve will be investigated.
3.14	More/easily accessible online resources (maps, current access information etc)	Noted	This is a recommendation in the Master Plan as is further development, with provision of on-site digital technology.
3.15	Re-establish the Pioneers Trail (from Sugarloaf/Masons entry to Running Creek Track adjacent to National Park Road) as an easy circuit trail which has significant heritage value	Not considered appropriate	Rather than creating /formalising another trail, the heritage value of the Pioneers Trail will be addressed in interpretation strategies, particularly along the adjacent Sugarloaf Track.
3.16	Provide more opportunities for limited overnight camping at key visitor nodes for example Masons Falls and Jehosaphat Gully	Not considered appropriate	Provision of camping at major visitor nodes was considered during early development of the draft master plan. It was decided that it is not feasible due to conflict between day visitors and campers. Other potential camping sites will be investigated in the Management Plan review.



Figure 4. Consultation Plan

**VISION**

**'Kinglake - Our most accessible National Park'**

Kinglake National Park will be recognised and valued by the local community and visitors as a place that offers a range of opportunities to readily and easily connect with nature and culture within a short distance of metropolitan Melbourne.

**PRINCIPLES**

**NATURAL AND CULTURAL VALUES.** Conserve the park's natural values - flora, fauna and landforms - as the prime driver for all park activities. Conserve and interpret Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural values as part of the overall park experience.

**RECREATION AND USE.** Provide for a range of nature-based experiences, with a focus on introducing people to the beauty of the natural environment. Provide for a range of interests, abilities and levels of adventure reflective of the broader community, ranging from the popular and spectacular sites at Masons Falls and Mt Sugarloaf to quieter, more peaceful areas such as Island Creek.

**ACCESS AND CIRCULATION.** Enhance the Whittlesea-Kinglake Rd experience along the Kinglake Ranges ridge as the major "spine" linking the four blocks which make up the National Park. Develop clear park entry points at major road junctions and provide clear maps within the local townships. Improve local resident access trails into the park. Seek to make the park an access for all abilities leader for bushland settings.

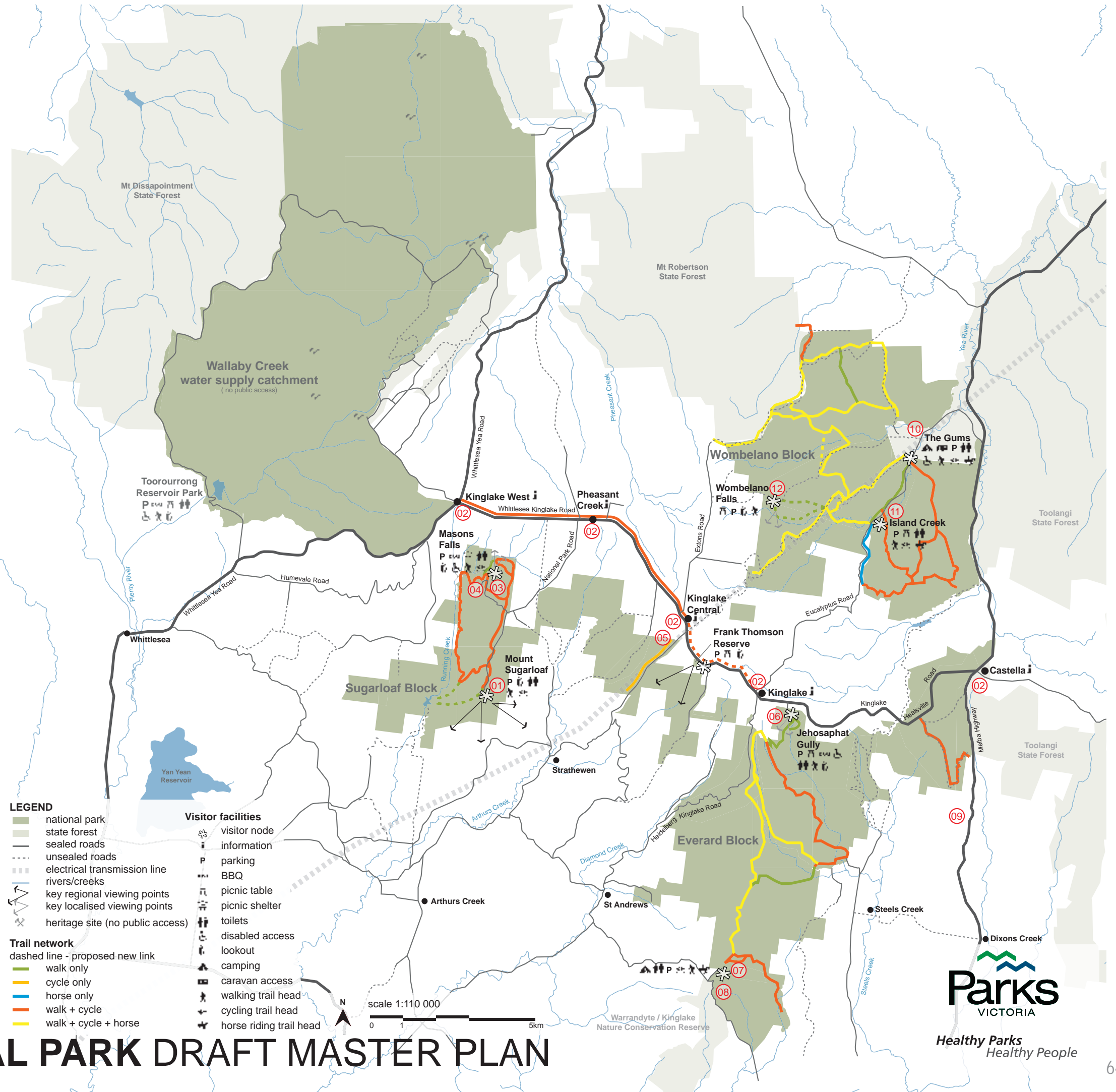
**INTERPRETATION, EDUCATION AND USE.** Interpret and promote the 'ridge' story as a key narrative for the park's cultural and natural values. The ridge along the Kinglake Ranges forms a natural boundary between bioregions and is the traditional boundary between indigenous communities. Explore digital interpretation within the park, linking to i-phones and other popular technologies.

**DESIGN, PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT.** Develop contemporary designs for the park's furniture, structures and interpretative signs and continue liaison with other government and community agencies to ensure an integrated approach.



**KEY ACTIONS PROPOSED**

- 01 **MOUNT SUGARLOAF.** New viewing platform
- 02 **INFORMATION SHELTERS.** Provision of directions and information within townships.
- 03 **MASONS FALLS.** Improved picnic ground including a natural playscape and expanded walking opportunities
- 04 **MASONS FALLS.** Upgraded track and viewing platform
- 05 **DOWNHILL MOUNTAIN BIKE COURSE.** Formalised existing course at Bowdens Spur
- 06 **JEHOSAPHAT GULLY.** New all abilities walking loop and improved circulation throughout picnic ground and car park
- 07 **CROSS COUNTRY MOUNTAIN BIKE CIRCUIT**
- 08 **NEW BUSH CAMPING AREA.** Investigation in southern Everard block near Marshalls Road
- 09 **INVESTIGATE LINKS TO THE ANNIVERSARY TRAIL.** East of Melba Highway into Everard block
- 10 **THE GUMS CAMPING AREA.** Number and size of camp sites increased.
- 11 **ISLAND CREEK.** New toilet block and picnic facilities
- 12 **WOMBELANO FALLS.** Creation of small picnic area and new trail link from Wombelano Falls to Island Creek



**KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK DRAFT MASTER PLAN**



Figure 4a. Consultation Plan revised following feedback

**VISION**

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Kinglake National Park will be recognised and valued by the local community and visitors as a place that offers a range of opportunities to readily and easily connect with nature and culture within a short distance of metropolitan Melbourne.

**PRINCIPLES**

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**RECREATION AND USE.** Provide for a range of nature-based experiences, with a focus on introducing people to the beauty of the natural environment. Provide for a range of interests, abilities and levels of adventure reflective of the broader community, ranging from the popular and spectacular sites at Masons Falls and Mt Sugarloaf to quieter, more peaceful areas such as Island Creek.

**ACCESS AND CIRCULATION.** Enhance the Whittlesea-Kinglake Rd experience along the Kinglake Ranges ridge as the major "spine" linking the four blocks which make up the National Park. Develop clear park entry points at major road junctions and provide clear maps within the local townships. Improve local resident access trails into the park. Seek to make the park an access for all abilities leader for bushland settings.

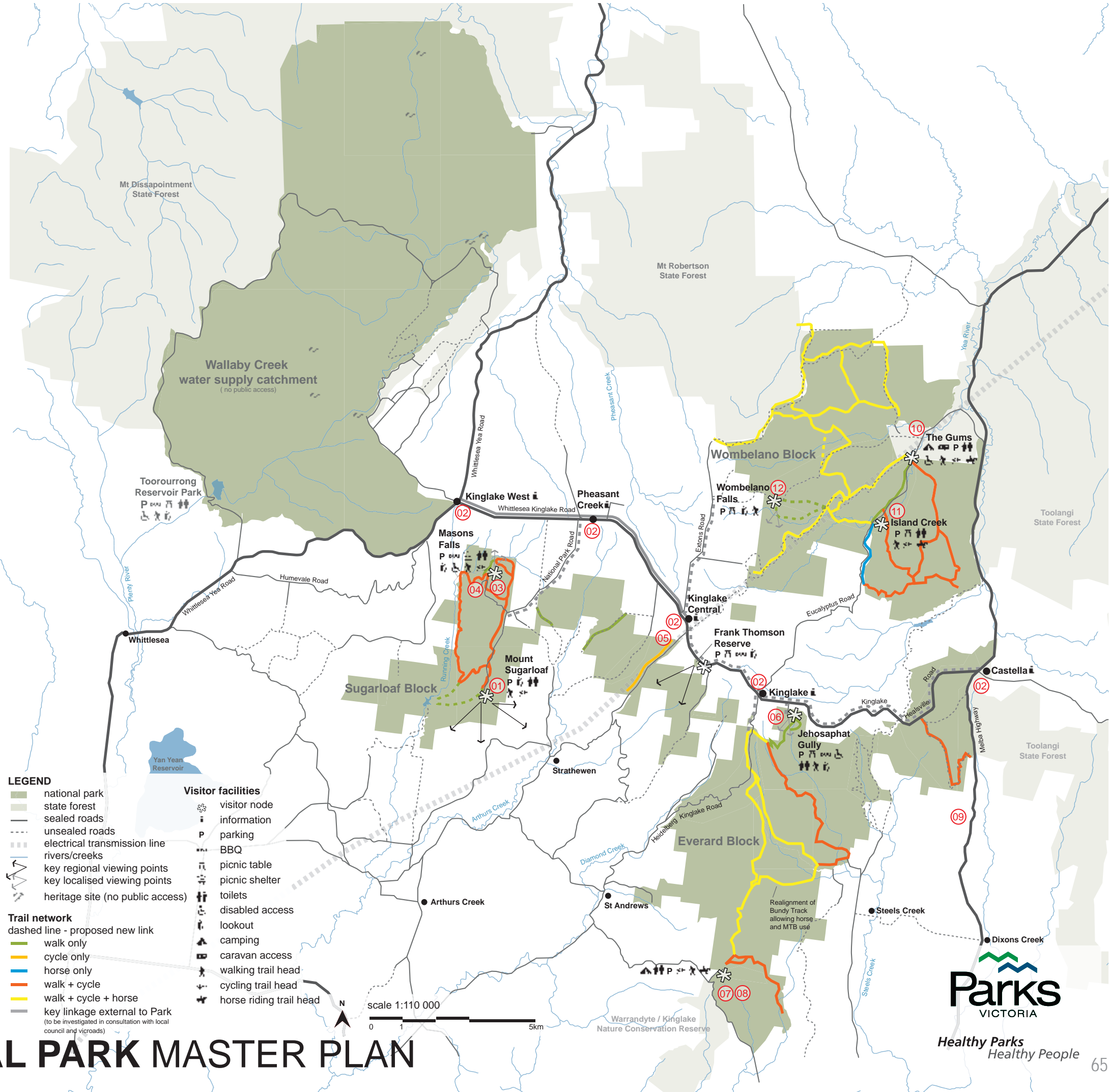
**INTERPRETATION, EDUCATION AND USE.** Interpret and promote the 'ridge' story as a key narrative for the park's cultural and natural values. The ridge along the Kinglake Ranges forms a natural boundary between bioregions and is the traditional boundary between indigenous communities. Explore digital interpretation within the park, linking to i-phones and other popular technologies.

**DESIGN, PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT.** Develop contemporary designs for the park's furniture, structures and interpretative signs and continue liaison with other government and community agencies to ensure an integrated approach.



**KEY ACTIONS PROPOSED**

- 01 **MOUNT SUGARLOAF.** New viewing platform
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- 07 **CROSS COUNTRY MOUNTAIN BIKE CIRCUIT.** Investigation in southern Everard block near Marshalls Road
- 08 **NEW BUSH CAMPING AREA.** Investigation in southern Everard block near Marshalls Road
- 09 **INVESTIGATE LINKS TO THE BICENTENNIAL NATIONAL TRAIL.** East of Melba Highway into Everard block
- 10 **THE GUMS CAMPING AREA.** Number and size of camp sites increased.
- 11 **ISLAND CREEK.** New toilet block and picnic facilities
- 12 **WOMBELANO FALLS.** Creation of small picnic area and new trail link from Wombelano Falls to Island Creek



**KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN**



Figure 5. Have Your Say Form

**Kinglake National Park Draft Master Plan June 2010**  
**Have Your Say**



You are welcome to provide comments below and/or see reverse for specific actions

Comments on the draft master plan:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Is there anything you think should be included that isn't already in the plan:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

If you have any additional comments Parks Victoria would be happy to receive them via email or post.

Keep informed : (OPTIONAL)

If you would like to be kept informed about the planning for the park, please provide us with your contact details:

Name: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....

Thank you for your time and your comments. You can submit your comments, by Wed 21 July, via:

Email to [mwatson@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:mwatson@parks.vic.gov.au)  
 Post to Kinglake National Park Master Plan, Parks Victoria, 535 Bourke Street, Melbourne, Vic, 3000.  
 Drop into the "Kinglake National Park - Have Your Say" box at the Kinglake Community Hub  
 Call 13 19 63

Rating: 1 = Disagree 5 = Strongly Supportive

Broad master planning goals						
Q1.	Encourage greater integration between townships and the national park, through for example, improved signage and shared path links between the towns and the park.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Q2.	Develop Kinglake National Park as 'Melbourne's most accessible national park'. Kinglake National Park will be easily accessible to a range of visitors, with a variety of recreational activities catering for first timers to the more experienced.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Key proposals						
Q3.	New iconic viewing platforms at Mount Sugarloaf, taking in views of both Melbourne city and the Kinglake Ranges.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Q4.	Revised layout of Masons Falls picnic area incorporating a 'natural playscape' based on engaging children and adults with the surrounding bush landscape.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Q5.	Improve accessibility to Masons Falls lookout and a new lookout structure.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Q6.	Formalise the existing downhill mountain bike track at Bowdens Spur (including provision of car parking and amenities.)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Q7.	New cross country mountain bike circuit in Southern Everard Block.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Q8.	New bush camping area in Southern Everard Block.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Q9.	New low key picnic area at Wombelano Falls.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Q10.	Well designed, integrated Parks Victoria/ Kinglake Ranges information shelters within townships providing directional signage to key tourist destinations in and around national park.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Q11.	Creation of a new all-abilities short circuit walk at Jehosaphat Gully picnic area incorporating a viewing platform over the fern gully.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Other elements						
Q12.	Apply 'best practice' environmentally sustainable design (ESD) principles in the implementation of the master plan	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Q13	Include Web-based and on-site digital technology for education and interpretation	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>