

Bunyip State Park

October 1998

Amended September 2007



Management Plan



This Management Plan for Bunyip State Park is approved for implementation. Its purpose is to direct management of the Park until the Plan is reviewed. A Draft Management Plan was published in January 1998. A total of 52 submissions were received.

An amendment to the plan was approved in September 2007. The amendment reflects the key sections of the Recreation Framework for Bunyip Public Land (DSE & PV 2006), which was prepared with extensive community consultation. The Recreation Framework must be read as part of the plan, giving precedence to the terms of the Recreation Framework where they conflict with those of the original plan. The key amendments to the plan are indicated in Chapter 5 and appendix 6.

Copies of the Plan can be obtained from:

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**BUNYIP STATE PARK
MANAGEMENT PLAN**



OCTOBER 1998

AMENDED SEPTEMBER 2007

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Cover: Bunyip River, Bunyip State Park (Photo: Greg Young).

FOREWORD

Bunyip State Park takes in some 16 600 hectares of wet forest and heathland on the foothills of the Great Dividing Range. The exceptional natural condition of the Park so near the Melbourne metropolitan area highlights the need to preserve its rich diversity of flora, fauna and landscape values.

The Park's significant natural values, foothill scenery and cultural history combine to create a sense of remoteness in a bush atmosphere, and its closeness to Melbourne, particularly the eastern suburbs, makes it very attractive for picnicking, walking, camping, nature observation, four wheel driving, trail bike riding and horse riding.

This Management Plan establishes a long-term management framework to protect the Park's special conservation and cultural values and to provide better facilities and services for visitors.

Important strategies include flora and fauna monitoring, pest plant and animal control, rationalisation of the road and track network, and the expansion of special protection areas bordering Diamond Creek suitable for establishing the Helmeted Honeyeater, a species of State significance.

I commend this Plan to you, and look forward to the community's support in managing the Park, which will be increasingly important in nature-based tourism in Melbourne's south-eastern growth corridor.

Marie Tehan MP
Minister for Conservation
and Land Management

APPROVED MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Approved Management Plan, prepared under section 17 of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.), is approved for implementation. It provides the basis and direction for the future management of Bunyip State Park.

During the Plan's preparation there was consultation with key groups and individuals to seek input into resolving management issues. It was finalised following careful consideration of the 52 submissions received in response to the Draft Plan.

Rod Gowans
**Acting Director of
National Parks**

Mark Stone
**Chief Executive
Parks Victoria**

SUMMARY

Bunyip State Park (16 560 ha) protects a representative sample of the wet forests and heathlands on the foothills of the Great Dividing Range. The exceptional natural condition of much of the Park, with its diversity of flora and fauna and high landscape values, creates a distinctive bush atmosphere close to the fast-growing south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

Visitors to the Park will be able to explore and experience its rugged bush setting through recreational activities including walking, camping, nature study, horse riding, four wheel driving and trail bike riding.

It is expected that visits to the Park will increase substantially over the next 15 years with the increasing urban development in the south-eastern growth corridor of Melbourne.

Major management directions for the Park include:

- implementing flora and fauna monitoring programs to assist management in the conservation of native species and communities;
- implementing an appropriate fire protection regime and a pest plant and animal control program;
- improving infrastructure and interpretation to enhance visitor enjoyment;
- rationalising the existing road and track network to provide a well-maintained network that caters for both passive and active recreational users and for fire and other management vehicles;
- encouraging Park neighbours and the wider community to participate actively in maintaining the Park.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and planning area

Bunyip State Park is on the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, 65 km south-east of Melbourne. It is reached via Gembrook, Tynong North and Tonimbuk (figure 1).

The planning area (16 662 ha) covers:

- Bunyip State Park (16 560 ha) including:
 - the former Gembrook Park;
 - the Diamond Creek Reference Area (420 ha);
 - Gembrook Education Area (65 ha) and Tonimbuk Education Area (250 ha);
- three areas of adjoining public land (102 ha) proposed for addition to the Park (figure 3).

1.2 Regional context

Bunyip State Park lies in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, in Melbourne's south-eastern growth corridor.

Its closeness to Melbourne enables easy access by visitors, and visitation levels are expected to increase significantly over the next 15 years. The quiet, remote bush setting of the Park both complements and contrasts with the following other parks and visitor destinations in the region.

- The Yarra State Forest offers opportunities for four wheel driving and extended walks, including the 'Walk into History'.
- Kurth Kiln Regional Park includes Shiprock Falls, and a large picnic and camping area with horse facilities. The Park's history centres around the kiln, which was constructed in World War II to manufacture vehicle fuel from charcoal.
- The Dandenong Ranges, including Dandenong Ranges National Park and the renowned mountain gardens, which combine native forest with exotic, developed and undeveloped settings. They are one of the most popular tourist destinations in Victoria.

- Tarago and Yarra State Forests, adjacent to the Park's northern and eastern boundaries, offer recreational opportunities that complement those of the Park.
- The Seven Acre Rock Special Features Reserve, a short walk from Bunyip Road, offers views over Bunyip State Park and Port Phillip and Western Port.
- Numerous parks in the region with water-based attractions, including Aura Vale Lake Park and Cardinia Reservoir Park.
- Puffing Billy Railway, which is planned to reach Gembrook in 1998.

The Park is bounded to the west and south by private properties that are mostly used for grazing and agriculture.

1.3 Significance of the Park

Parks provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy and appreciate natural and cultural values, and many make important contributions to tourism. Bunyip State Park is a valuable part of Victoria's parks system, which aims to protect viable, representative samples of the State's natural environments occurring on public land.

Bunyip State Park is assigned the IUCN Category II (National Parks) of the United Nations' List of National Parks and Protected Areas. Category II areas are managed primarily for ecosystem conservation and appropriate recreation.

Places within the Park, covering the Park as a whole, have been recommended for listing on the National Estate, in recognition of their outstanding natural values and importance as a part of our heritage (AC & CNR 1994).

The Park contains a wide range of land types and a rich diversity of flora and fauna, including a number of species endemic in the Melbourne Study Area (LCC 1994).

The diversity of natural values, foothill scenery, opportunity for natural bush experiences close to Melbourne and ease of access from the eastern suburbs of Melbourne make the Park attractive for day and over-night

use, touring, picnicking, bushwalking, horse riding, trail bike riding and four wheel driving.

Significant features of the Park are summarised below.

Natural values

- Geomorphic sites of State significance (Hamilton Creek Caves and Bunyip River Soil Pipes) and regional significance (Black Snake Range Granite Slopes and Bunyip River higher level terraces and flood plain).
- Catchments with high conservation value (Bunyip River, and Diamond and Black Snake Creeks).
- Three national and five State significant plant species.
- A high diversity of fauna habitats supporting at least ten threatened species.
- Important freshwater fish habitats.

Cultural values

- Reminders of Aboriginal activity.
- Reminders of earlier timber cutting days including settlement sites, sawdust heaps, tramways, machinery bunkers and dugouts.

Tourism and recreational values

- An opportunity to experience a sense of remoteness in a bush atmosphere relatively close to Melbourne and the south-eastern growth corridor.
- Significant opportunities for both passive and active recreational pursuits.
- Excellent opportunities for interpretation of natural and historical themes to enhance visitor experiences and increase awareness and understanding of the Park.

1.4 Creation of the Park

Bunyip State Park was included on Schedule Two B of the National Parks Act and Gembrook Park on Schedule Three, on 23 September 1992, as a result of the *National Parks (Amendment) Act 1989* (Vic.), following LCC recommendations for the Melbourne Study Area (LCC 1977).

Following the LCC's Melbourne Area District 2 Review Final Recommendations (LCC 1994), Gembrook Park was included in Bunyip State Park on 4 June 1997.

1.5 Legislation and guidelines

Bunyip State Park is reserved and managed under the National Parks Act. The Act requires the Director to preserve and protect the natural condition of the Park and its natural and other features and, subject to this, to provide for the use of the Park by the public for enjoyment, recreation and education. The Act also provides for appropriate research.

The Diamond Creek Reference Area has been proclaimed under the *Reference Area Act 1978* (Vic.) and is managed in accordance with Ministerial directives and the relevant Parks Victoria guidelines. Within this area, which provides a reference for comparative study purposes, natural processes are to be allowed to continue undisturbed.

In the Park there are two existing Education Areas — Tonimbuk and Gembrook — which provide opportunities for environmental education (section 6.3).

The former LCC (1994) recommendations specify that logging, hunting and the use of firearms are not to be permitted. Further recommendations state that horse riding should be permitted at times and sites approved by the land manager, that grazing may continue within the Park but that the grazing licences should not be transferable, that the area occupied by the Bunyip Sambar Project should not be expanded or used for any other purpose and that the licence should not be transferable, and that the licence for the Brighton Grammar School Camp may continue but the site and facilities should be available to the broader community.

The Park is managed in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines, LCC recommendations, and other plans and guidelines including:

- Dandenong Region Fire Protection Plan (CNR 1992);
- Gippsland Region Fire Protection Plan (CNR 1990).

1.6 Park management aims

Sections 4 (Objects) and 17 of the National Parks Act provide the main basis for management of the Park. The following management aims are derived from those sections, and as such broadly govern all aspects of park management.

Resource conservation

- Preserve and protect the natural environment.
- Allow natural environmental processes to continue with the minimum of disturbance.
- 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 or damage 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 visitor behaviour and foster a conservation ethic in visitors and an understanding of minimal impact behaviour.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the 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.

2 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

2.1 Park vision

A future visitor to Bunyip State Park finds an area renowned for its diversity of natural qualities and quiet bush atmosphere. The Park is well known for its variety of vegetation communities, ranging from heathlands to rainforests, supporting a diverse fauna. Visitors appreciate and enjoy a rich variety of flora and fauna communities representative of those found on the south-western slopes of Victoria's Great Dividing Range.

The Park caters for sustainable recreational demands, which are high because of its proximity to the suburban growth corridor of south-eastern Melbourne. Recreation activities range from passive pastimes such as picnicking, walking and camping to more active pursuits of trail bike riding, horse riding, four wheel driving and cycling.

2.2 Management directions

Major management directions for the Park are outlined below.

Resource conservation

- Potential threats to flora and fauna will be identified and monitored, and appropriate protective actions taken.
- The habitat and landscape values of disturbed and degraded areas will be rehabilitated.
- Tracks identified as surplus to future access requirements will be closed and rehabilitated.
- Significant historical and cultural features will be identified and conserved.

Park protection

- Pest plant and animal species within the Park will be monitored and controlled to an acceptable level.
- The quality of the Park's catchments and streams will be maintained.
- The Park and neighbouring assets will be protected against wildfire by a fire protection regime based on strategic fuel

reduction compatible with the conservation of native communities.

The Park visit

- The Park will provide for a range of visitor experiences.
- The Park's bush character will be retained and enhanced through appropriate design of facilities.
- Appropriate opportunities and infrastructure will be provided for passive (walking and camping) and active (four wheel driving, cycling, horse and trail bike riding) recreational activities, where these are in keeping with the Park's bush character.
- Mortimer, Camphora, Dyers and Four Brothers Rocks picnic grounds will be upgraded and the Forest Road Picnic ground will be expanded to cater for the expected increase in visitor numbers over the next 15 years.
- Designated camping areas will be developed at Old Tynong Camp (incorporating facilities for camping with horses), Rysons Creek, Mile Pit, Black Snake and Nash Creek.
- Visitor enjoyment and appreciation will be promoted through improved interpretation and education.
- Sustainable nature-based commercial tourism will be encouraged.
- The Park will be promoted as an important conservation reserve providing ready access to recreation opportunities in a remote bush atmosphere.

Community awareness and involvement

- Park neighbours and volunteers will be encouraged to participate actively and be involved in the maintenance of the Park.

2.3 Zoning

A park management zoning scheme has been developed to:

- provide a geographic framework in which to manage the Park;
- indicate which management directions have priority in different parts of the Park;
- indicate the types and levels of use appropriate throughout the Park;
- assist in minimising existing and potential conflicts between uses and activities, or between those and the protection of park values;

- provide a basis for assessing the suitability of future activities and development proposals.

Three management zones apply to the Park: Reference Area, Conservation and Recreation, and Education.

Overlays of Special Protection Areas and Special Management Areas are used to summarise requirements additional to those of the underlying primary management zones.

Table 1 specifies the management zones and overlays; locations are shown in figure 2.

TABLE 1 MANAGEMENT ZONES AND OVERLAYS

| | ZONES | | |
|------------------------|--|--|--|
| | REFERENCE AREA | CONSERVATION AND RECREATION | EDUCATION |
| AREA / LOCATION | 420 ha, 2.5% of Park. Diamond Creek Reference Area | 15 927 ha, 95.5% of Park. | 315 ha, 2% of Park. Tonimbuk and Gembrook Education Areas. |
| VALUES | Relatively undisturbed land types and associated vegetation. | Important natural values and recreation opportunities. | Readily accessible areas with a range of land units and ecological communities. |
| GENERAL MANAGEMENT AIM | Protect viable samples of one or more land types that are relatively undisturbed for comparative study with similar land types elsewhere, by keeping all human interference to the essential minimum and ensuring as far as practicable that the only long-term change results from natural processes. | Protect relatively sensitive natural environments and provide for sustainable dispersed recreation activities and small scale recreation facilities without significant impact on natural processes. | Provide primarily for environmental education in a relatively undisturbed setting. |

Table 1 (cont.)

| | OVERLAY | | OVERLAYS | |
|------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| | SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA | SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA | | |
| | | PUBLIC UTILITY | GRAZING | EDUCATION |
| AREA/LOCATION | 110 ha, 0.7% of Park. Sections of Diamond Creek, Bunyip River Soil Pipes and Hamilton Creek Caves. | 189 ha, 1.1% of Park. Eastern Energy / PowerNet easements and Melbourne Water Aqueduct. | 115 ha, 0.7% of Park. Seven licences distributed across the southern section of the Park. | 2.5 ha, 0.02% of Park. Junction of Ryson and Bullock Creeks. |
| VALUES | Sites with potential habitat for the Helmeted Honeyeater and geological features of State significance. | Strips of mostly cleared land, carrying transmission lines. | Areas licensed for cattle grazing and a Sambar research project. | Permanent camp site with hall, kitchen, amenities block and tent sites. |
| GENERAL MANAGEMENT AIM | Protect specific natural or cultural values in specific areas and sites where a special management focus is required. | Allow essential public authority works or activities while minimising the effect on the Park. | Minimise the impacts of grazing on the Park. | Manage the site and facilities for schools and the broader community. |

3 RESOURCE CONSERVATION

3.1 Geological and landform features

The Park's main landform features are the Blue, Black Snake and Weatherhead Ranges. The Park consists almost entirely of Tynong Granite, Devonian in age, which overlies Lower to Middle Palaeozoic marine sediments. Quaternary sediments, essentially Pleistocene, are also evident as river terraces and alluvium along the Bunyip River.

Rosengren (1984) identified two State and two Regional sites of geological and geomorphological significance in the Park. The Bunyip River Soil Pipes, of State significance, cover an area of 2 ha and comprise sandy granitic soils with numerous soil pipes. Rosengren (1984) noted that such formations in sandy granitic soils are unusual. Also of State significance are the Hamilton Creek Caves, where a section of the Hamilton Creek flows underground into a large granite chamber.

Of Regional significance is the Black Snake Range, which is an east-west divide consisting of Tynong Granite. The range rises to 400 m where there are numerous exposed granite slopes and large boulders. A granite downwash covers the lower slopes, and granite sand wash has partially filled minor valleys, creating swamps and heathland. The Bunyip River Higher Level Terraces and Flood Plain is also of Regional significance as it illustrates a prior stage in the development of the valley of the Bunyip River (Rosengren 1984).

Additional geomorphic features of interest are Four Brothers Rocks and Lawson Falls. Four Brothers Rocks is a group of granitic rocks with views across the Park. This feature attracts a large number of Park visitors, and the site is currently used for abseiling (section 5.2.9). Lawson Falls are in the more remote eastern section of the Park, about 1.5 km from Forest Road picnic ground. There are numerous opportunities for visitor interpretation at both Four Brothers Rocks and Lawson Falls (section 5.3).

Aim

- Minimise human impact on significant geomorphic sites.

Management strategies

- *Prohibit access into Special Protection Areas known to contain significant geomorphic sites sensitive to disturbance, including the Bunyip River Soil Pipes and Hamilton Creek Caves as shown on figure 2.*
- *Investigate the feasibility of allowing visitors to explore Hamilton Creek Caves subject to adequate measures to protect significant features and visitor safety (section 5.5).*
- *Provide on-site interpretative material, where appropriate, to develop topics outlined in section 5.3.*

3.2 Rivers and streams

The Park's rivers and streams support a variety of native flora and fauna, notably two Galaxias fish species and riparian plant species. A number of rivers and streams within the Park have been noted by Seymour (1987) to be of high conservation value where a high degree of naturalness exists. Such streams include the Bunyip River, Black Snake Creek and Diamond Creek.

Part of the Drouin Catchment is in the Park. The major threat to water quality in the Park is sedimentation resulting from roads and other bare surfaces (sections 4.3 and 5.2.1).

Aim

- Protect the quality of waterways and catchment areas within the Park.

Management strategy

- *Plan and control activities to minimise adverse impacts on the Park's rivers, streams and water quality (section 4.3) and to conserve native fish (section 3.4).*

3.3 Vegetation

The Park supports large areas of relatively undisturbed, high quality vegetation that is generally weed free (Opie et al. 1984).

Ten ecological vegetation classes (EVCs) are present in the Park. These include Wet (Mountain Ash) Forest, Damp (Messmate) Forest, Heathy Foothill (Silvertop Ash) Forest, Heathy Woodland, Riparian Forest, Swampy Forest, Riparian Thicket, Wet Heathland, Swamp Heathland (LCC 1994) and Cool Temperate Rainforest (Opie et al. 1984). Over 400 vascular plant species have been recorded within the Park, of which three are of national significance and five are of State significance (appendix I). Further assessment of the Park's vegetation is likely to identify a greater number of significant species, particularly understorey species.

Significant vegetation communities are located throughout the Park. Cool Temperate Rainforest and Wet Sclerophyll Forest gullies are found in northern sections of the Park, and also on Lawson Creek, below Gentle Annie, continuing to Lawson Falls. Species found in these areas include Southern Sassafras, Myrtle Beech (Opie et al. 1984), Gully Grevillea as well as the vulnerable species Brickmaker's Saw-sedge (LCC 1994). Of the above communities the Wet Heathland is of State significance and Swamp Forest and Heathy Woodland (appendix II) are of regional significance.

The heathlands contain the rare Swamp Bush-pea (LCC 1994). The Swamp Bush-pea is restricted to swampy heathlands between Daylesford and the Park (Opie et al. 1984). Bunyip State Park is the easternmost occurrence of this species.

The riparian forest supports some very old stands of large Paperbark and King Fern.

The diversity of these communities will be maximised through the implementation of an appropriate fire regime (section 4.1).

Aims

- Conserve native plant communities in their natural condition, as far as is practicable, and maintain genetic diversity.

- Provide special protection for significant plant communities and species.

Management strategies

- *Encourage investigation and implement appropriate management regimes (including fire management, section 4.1) for significant vegetation communities and species (appendix I and II).*
- *Design and implement a vegetation monitoring program, giving priority to sites of rare or threatened species and communities as well as sites representing the range of vegetation types within the Park.*
- *Manage flora listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic.) (appendix I) according to approved action statements.*

3.4 Fauna

The diverse vegetation communities and landforms in the Park support a wide range of fauna species. Fifty-three species of mammals are known to occur in the Park and four of these are considered to be of at least State significance (appendix III). The near threatened Broad-toothed Rat and near threatened Swamp Antechinus have both been recorded in the Black Snake Creek valley. The endangered Leadbeater's Possum has been recorded on the southern slopes of Mt Beenak just north of the Park boundary.

Twenty-four reptile species are known in the Park, including the White-lipped Snake, a number of skinks and the Blotched Blue-tongued Lizard. Ten amphibian species have been recorded.

A total of 140 bird species has been recorded in the Park. Five species, the Pied Cormorant, Barking Owl, Powerful Owl, Masked Owl and Sooty Owl are considered to be of state significance (appendix III). Sections of the banks along Diamond Creek support riparian vegetation suitable for the re-establishment of the Helmeted Honeyeater, which is of state significance (LCC 1994). The riparian vegetation of Bunyip River and Black Snake Creek is also similar to that of Diamond Creek.

There are also important freshwater fish habitats in the Park. Spotted Galaxias has been recorded in the Bunyip River. Mountain Galaxias and Southern Pigmy Perch have both been recorded from Diamond Creek. The near threatened Dwarf Galaxias, recorded in Diamond and Cannibal creeks, is listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (appendix III). Introduced fish species are not common within the Park and, consequently, its rivers and creeks are important for the conservation of native species (section 5.2.8).

Pressures placed on the Park's fauna include visitor activities, pest animals, weeds, habitat modification and activities adjacent to Park boundaries.

Although deer are introduced species, they are declared wildlife under the *Wildlife Act 1975* (Vic.). Deer are relatively uncommon in the Park. It is unlikely that their numbers will increase to a level that will threaten the habitat of native animals.

Aims

- Protect native fauna communities, and maintain genetic diversity.
- Provide special protection for significant fauna.
- Increase knowledge of the distribution and management of significant species.

Management strategies

- *Manage fauna listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (appendix III) according to approved action statements.*
- *Design and implement a monitoring and recording system for significant species.*
- *Identify suitable Helmeted Honeyeater habitat along the Bunyip River and Black Snake Creek, and develop and implement prescriptions to manage and protect relevant sites, giving priority to those most sensitive to disturbance (section 7.1.4).*
- *Support re-establishing the Helmeted Honeyeater by the Helmeted Honeyeater Recovery Team and NRE if feasible.*

- *Develop and implement management prescriptions for locally significant fauna, giving priority to enhancing Helmeted Honeyeater habitat to encourage their re-establishment.*
- *Ensure that the conditions of the Section 27 consent with GPU PowerNet protect habitat requirements for the population of Broad-toothed Rat located in the Black Snake Creek valley (section 7.1.1).*
- *Encourage research into and surveys of significant fauna to identify their distribution and requirements, and manage accordingly.*
- *Investigate measures to conserve native fish populations in the Park (sections 3.2 and 5.2.8).*
- *Monitor the deer population to determine impacts on natural values as a basis for determining future management.*

3.5 Landscape

The Park's landscape is characterised by its contrasting vegetation communities, including wet eucalypt forest, heathland, swampland and fern gullies, and by its variety of landforms such as Lawson Falls, Four Brothers Rocks, Blue Range, Black Snake Range and Weatherhead Range.

The Park lies within the Foothills Landscape Character Type (Leonard & Hammond 1984), characterised by moderate to steeply sloping hills forming a transition between the true highlands and alps of the Great Dividing Range and the flat Victorian plains. The Park's scenic quality varies from moderate to high.

Existing visual intrusions include a high voltage transmission line easement that transects the Park (section 7.1.1). Logging coupes that have not regenerated successfully are also evident in the Park. Sand pits are visible from Black Snake Creek Road, Triangle Road and Pooley Road (section 4.3).

Views across the Park can be obtained from Four Brothers Rocks, and panoramic views of the Park and Western Port are available from

Seven Acre Rock, off Bunyip Road to the north of the Park. The Park also forms a significant visual backdrop to the north along the Princes Highway corridor.

Aims

- Minimise visual impacts on the natural landscape, including along major visitor routes through the Park and around picnic grounds.
- Rehabilitate, remove or ameliorate undesirable visual intrusions.
- Maintain opportunities for panoramic views within and from the Park.

Management strategies

- *Manage fire protection works, pest control measures and all other management activities to minimise their impact on landscape values.*
- *Ensure that any new development proposals or upgrading of any existing facilities in the Park are appropriately planned and designed.*
- *Continue to liaise with Cardinia and Baw Baw Shire councils to ensure minimal impacts from adjacent developments, especially near Park entrance points on the Gembrook-Tonimbuk Road, Tynong North Road and Labertouche Road (section 7.2).*
- *Maintain the views from Four Brothers Rocks, through active management.*

3.6 Cultural heritage

Information about Aboriginal history in Bunyip State Park is scarce. However, it is understood that the Balluk-Willam clan of the Woiworung (Yarra Yarra) tribe were the first people to visit the area. Local historians have discovered a number of Aboriginal artefacts which are now housed at the Weatherhead Museum, Cornucopia, Tynong North. Aboriginal Affairs Victoria has identified the need for an archaeological survey to be undertaken.

All Aboriginal material and sites are protected under the *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972* (Vic.) and the

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cwlth).

An application for a native title determination has been lodged with the Native Title Tribunal covering, among other areas, part of Bunyip State Park.

The Park area has a history of European impact similar to other foothill areas in Victoria: miners and prospectors (1850s), low intensity pastoral and farming occupation (1860s), agricultural settlement (1870s) and timber cutting (late 1890s onwards) have all influenced the area. The narrow-gauge rail line from Ferntree Gully to Gembrook was completed in 1900. Tramways were then used to take timber from the bush sawmills to the Gembrook yard and south to Tynong (Berwick-Pakenham Historical Society 1982). Timber utilisation in the area continued until 1991.

Relics of former land uses are still evident. Throughout the Park there are remnants of timber tramways, sawmills, sawdust heaps, a sawdust chute, mill footings and a mill dugout. Both Mortimer and Dyers picnic grounds were sawmill sites. Sites suitable for interpretation include Mortimer and Dyers picnic grounds. These remnants and their sensitivity to disturbance require assessment before any visitor promotion is undertaken (section 5.3).

Aims

- Protect archaeological and historic sites of significance.
- Raise visitor awareness and appreciation of the Park's Aboriginal and European history (section 5.3).

Management strategies

- *Encourage a survey of archaeological sites in the Park in consultation with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and the local Aboriginal community to identify Aboriginal sites, and to further public understanding of local Aboriginal history.*
- *Protect, interpret and manage Aboriginal sites in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines and in consultation with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and the local Aboriginal community.*

- *Identify other sites of historical significance, and develop and implement prescriptions to manage and protect relevant sites, giving priority to those most sensitive to disturbance.*
- *Provide access to and interpret selected historical sites, consistent with ensuring site preservation (section 5.3).*
- *Record and secure vulnerable historical artefacts found in the Park.*

4 PARK PROTECTION

4.1 Fire management

The National Parks Act requires the Director of National Parks to ensure that appropriate and sufficient measures are taken to protect parks from damage by fire. Current fire protection measures are in accordance with the Gippsland and Dandenong Regional Fire Protection Plans (CNR 1990, 1992).

Provisions relating to the burning zones in the eastern part of the Park are currently under review.

The fire protection plans emphasise the protection of life, property and other assets from wildfire, the protection from wildfire of areas identified as of natural and cultural value, the restriction of the spread and reduction of the intensity of wildfire, and the reduction of the incidence of wildfire. Within the Park at present, there are three tiers of priority for burning zones.

Records of fire in the Park indicate that most of it was burnt in 1939. In recent decades, there have been significant fires in 1967 (Dyers/Black Snake Range), in the late 1980s (Weatherhead Range) and in 1993 (Mt Towt area).

Fire management is an important component of the prevention and suppression of wildfire. It is also critical to the ecological requirements of native flora and fauna (sections 3.3 and 3.4).

Aims

- Protect human life, property and park values from injury or damage by fire.
- Minimise the adverse effects on park values of fires and fire suppression methods.
- Maintain fire regimes appropriate to the conservation of native flora and fauna.
- Seek public co-operation in fire protection.

Management strategies

- *Continue to implement the Dandenong and Gippsland Regional Fire Protection Plans. Seek to review the regional fire protection plans to ensure effectiveness, and appropriateness in relation to maintaining the conservation values of the Park.*

- *Publicise and enforce fire regulations and restrictions on the use of fire within the Park (section 5.5).*
- *Investigate the response to fuel reduction burning and the fire requirements of rare and threatened flora and fauna, in particular Swamp Bush-pea and Long Pink-bells. Develop and implement appropriate guidelines for the use of fire in these communities.*
- *Protect cultural assets and scenic values during fuel reduction burning (sections 3.5 and 3.6).*
- *Minimise soil disturbance and sedimentation of streams resulting from fire management in the Special Protection Zone and riparian environs (section 4.2).*
- *Rehabilitate fire control lines and other disturbed areas resulting from fires and fire suppression activities as soon as possible after the fire.*

4.2 Pest plants and animals, and diseases

Bunyip State Park has four major problem pest plants: Blackberry, Spanish Heath, Sweet Pittosporum and Ragwort (appendix IV). Although their extent is relatively minor at present (Opie et al. 1984), control is important. The main Blackberry infestations are along the western section of the power line easement, south-east of Gentle Annie, and on the southern boundary of the Park between Bunyip River and Diamond Creek. Spanish Heath occurs on the power line easement near the Bunyip River. Sweet Pittosporum occurs along Hamilton Creek and Ragwort is found along open areas of the Black Snake Creek.

At least 11 locations show symptoms of infection by Cinnamon Fungus and its presence has been confirmed at Weatherhead Range (CNR 1994). These include the north face of the Black Snake Range (between Four Brothers Rocks and Windy Point) and the north face of the Weatherhead Range below Luptons Road. Within the Park, the fungus

has the capacity to permanently alter heathland and dry sclerophyll floristics. The potential for it to spread throughout the Park is great because of the high density of tracks and high level of recreational use.

Agricultural and settlement sites adjacent to the Park contribute to the spread of pest species. Grazing within the Park also contributes to the spread of pest species and diseases.

Domestic and feral cats, domestic and feral dogs, cattle, foxes, House Mice, Black Rats and rabbits have been recorded in the Park. The extent of pest animals in the Park, excluding dogs, is moderate, but potential impacts from these animals include grazing and trampling, preying on native fauna in the Park and on domestic animals in neighbouring properties, competition for food with native fauna, and the introduction of disease to native animal populations. Control of these species is required to ensure protection of native fauna. It should also be noted that although rabbit numbers are currently low, they are likely to increase if their predators are controlled.

The feral dog population is relatively high and spread throughout the Park. It has reached a level where it is threatening the Park's native fauna, as well as stock on neighbouring properties.

Aims

- Control, and where possible eradicate, non-indigenous plants and animals.
- Minimise the potential for introduction and spread of any pest plants and animals, and diseases.
- Minimise the impact of control programs on native flora and fauna.

Management strategies

- *Survey and map the incidence of pest plants, pest animals and diseases in the Park.*
- *Continue to implement weed control and prepare and implement a pest plant control strategy for the Park that details the species and areas to be treated.*

- *Finalise and implement guidelines for the management of Cinnamon Fungus within the Park and prohibit access to affected areas.*
- *Manage soil disturbance during wildfire suppression, road maintenance and facility development works, in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines.*
- *Confine new high-intensity commercial horse riding operations to areas south of the Black Snake Creek (section 5.2.5).*
- *Where possible, co-ordinate pest plant control efforts to complement those on adjacent land (section 6.2).*
- *Monitor the success of control and eradication programs, and natural restoration of native vegetation to treated areas.*
- *Continue to carry out programs aimed at eradicating or controlling introduced species.*
- *Prepare and implement a pest animal control strategy, focusing on feral dogs, and monitor their numbers in the Park.*

4.3 Soil conservation

Soils in the Park are derived largely from granitic parent materials and include red and brown earths on the steeper country and yellow duplex soils on the gentler slopes and alluvial plains of the Bunyip River.

There is significant gully erosion on many roads and tracks in the Park, particularly on steep tracks heavily used for trail bike and four wheel drive recreation. The Park has a high density of roads and tracks resulting from previous logging, minor forest product utilisation and recreation activities. Many of these roads and tracks are not necessary for park management.

There are disused gravel or sand extraction areas near Dyers and at Forest Road picnic grounds and on the Gembrook–Tonimbuk Road. These are a further cause of erosion and stream sedimentation.

Aim

- Prevent and control soil erosion.

Management strategies

- *Manage access as detailed in sections 5.2.1 and 5.2.5.*
- *Revegetate all sand pits and disused gravel extraction areas with indigenous vegetation.*

5 THE PARK VISIT

Chapter 5 is updated by the Bunyip Public Land Recreation Framework (DSE & PV 2006). Refer to the Recreation Framework and Appendix VI of this plan.

5.1 The Park visitor

Bunyip State Park is an important recreational and open space resource offering a range of recreational opportunities.

It is estimated that at present some 33 000 people visit the Park each year. It is assumed that the majority live in the eastern or south-eastern suburbs or the local area. Visitors from further afield are most likely to visit the Park with an organised group or a commercial operator.

The major single-use groups are four wheel drivers (25 per cent), trail bike riders (18 per cent), campers (7 per cent) and private horse riders (6 per cent). Other visitors (including those picnicking, scenic driving, fishing, cycling, studying nature, bird watching, fossicking, orienteering and rock climbing) constitute 28 per cent of total users.

Commercial users, predominantly horse riders, make up the remaining 16 per cent of the total. Group users include Scouts, the Army, the State Emergency Service, the Police, St John's Ambulance and the Country Fire Authority. Visitor estimates indicate heavy use on weekends, particularly Sundays and public holidays, when existing facilities can become overcrowded.

The Park is in the Westernport tourism region. Casey-Cardinia Tourism Inc. is actively promoting tourism in the area, including the Bunyip Byways tourism drive through part of the Park. It is expected that the demand for open-space and outdoor experiences close to Melbourne will increase in response to continuing urban development in the south-eastern growth corridor. The former Department of Planning and Development (1995a & b) forecast that, between 1996 and 2011, the residential populations of Cardinia, Casey and Baw Baw municipalities will increase, on average, by 4.6, 4.7 and 0.97 per cent, respectively, each year.

From this forecast, it can be assumed that the Park will experience a similar average rise in annual visitor numbers (MPW 1995; DPD 1995a, 1995b).

In addition, tourism initiatives now being developed in the region are expected to increase awareness levels of the Park, and consequently visitor numbers. The Emerald Tourist Railway Board is planning to extend the Puffing Billy railway to Gembrook by 1998, and funding has been granted to Cardinia Shire and Casey City councils for a self-guided tourist drive.

Visitor facilities within the Park at present are in need of upgrading and will need expansion. The present extensive track network needs rationalising to a system that is environmentally sustainable and that can be managed within available resources. Information signage is inadequate, and there are many opportunities for interpretation, especially of cultural sites.

Providing for the visitor

The Park will continue to provide a valuable opportunity for visitors to experience a rugged bush environment and participate in active and passive recreational pursuits. Park management will aim to facilitate good-quality visitor experiences and at the same time conserve and protect the Park's natural environment. Visitor facilities will be upgraded in keeping with the Park's character, and expanded where appropriate.

Significant developments will include:

- upgraded facilities at existing picnic grounds, and expansion at Forest Road;
- additional overnight visitor areas and camping facilities;
- a viewing platform to enhance views of Lawson Falls;
- development of the Gembrook–Tonimbuk Road entrance point as the gateway to the Park;
- monitoring visitor needs, to identify trends as a basis for determining future visitor services and facilities;

- developing information, education and interpretation plans;
- rationalising tracks and access to minimise conflicts between passive and non-passive user groups.

There are already many formal recreation settings incorporating picnic grounds and information centres in the south-eastern region, including Dandenong Ranges National Park and Cardinia Reservoir. The isolated bush atmosphere and natural settings of Bunyip State Park contrast with settings in nearby parks. Upgrading and expansion of day and overnight visitor areas within the Park will be kept 'low key', to conserve and enhance this character.

Aims

- Provide for visitors in accordance with the above overview.
- Develop a better understanding of visitor profiles and attitudes.

Management strategies

- *Permit recreational activities in accordance with table 2.*
- *Liaise with regional tourism bodies to increase awareness of the Park (sections 5.3 and 5.4).*
- *Consult with major use groups to ensure that there are sustainable visitor opportunities.*
- *Provide and maintain facilities and services that complement the Park's distinctive character (section 5.2 and tables 3, 4 and 5).*
- *Apply current market survey findings on visitor profiles, patterns of behaviour, expectations and preferences to assist in park management.*
- *Monitor visitor numbers and use to ensure the adequate provision of facilities consistent with appropriate types and levels of use.*
- *Establish a program to determine levels of recreational activity consistent with*

protecting recreational experiences and park values.

- *Encourage all visitors to adopt minimal impact techniques and to adhere to codes of conduct appropriate to their activity.*

5.2 Visitor recreation activities and facilities

5.2.1 Vehicle access

The major point of access to the Park is via Gembrook on the Gembrook–Tonimbuk Road. This entrance to the Park services the south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne and will, in future, also service visitors from Puffing Billy. Developing this access point as a gateway will give visitors a greater sense of entry into the Park. Access to the Park is also available from the Princes Freeway in the south via Labertouche Road, Tonimbuk Road or Tynong North Road, although these entrances are less well known. Less frequently used access points are to the north and north-west of the Park through Basan Corner, Bunyip Gap, and East Beenak Road.

Promotional signage and information on major approach roads to the Park are inadequate at present. Signage is required to highlight the touring experience available within the Park and to create a stronger identity and knowledge of the Park and the location of facilities.

Access roads and tracks (figure 3 and table 3) provide for a range of visitor experiences. Two wheel drive sightseeing, four wheel driving, trail bike riding, cycling, walking and horse riding are all popular activities that use the road and track network in the Park.

Maintaining the entire existing road and track network is neither warranted nor achievable to acceptable management and environmental standards. Rationalisation is required to provide a network that is adequate for management and visitor use, and sustainable. Four wheel drive tracks should provide a rugged four wheel experience with minimum use of improved track construction techniques, but still maintain environmental values.

TABLE 2 SUMMARY OF RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Table 2 has been updated by Table A in Appendix VI.

| ACTIVITY | MANAGEMENT ZONES AND OVERLAYS | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|----|----|----|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Picnicking | N | Y | Y | YC | N |
| Camping—designated sites (limited facilities) | N | YC | N | N | N |
| Camping—dispersed (no facilities) | N | YC | N | N | N |
| School camping | N | N | N | YC | N |
| Walking | N | Y | Y | Y | N |
| Bicycle riding | N | YC | YC | YC | N |
| Horse riding | N | YC | YC | YC | N |
| Orienteering/Rogaining | N | YC | N | N | N |
| Rock climbing/Abseiling | N | YC | N | N | N |
| Fishing | N | Y | Y | Y | N |
| Bait collection | N | N | N | N | N |
| Firewood removal | N | N | N | N | N |
| Firewood collection (for use in Park) | N | Y | Y | Y | N |
| Four wheel driving | N | YC | YC | YC | N |
| Pleasure driving | N | YC | YC | YC | N |
| Trail bike riding | N | YC | YC | YC | N |
| Dogs | N | N | N | N | N |
| Hunting | N | N | N | N | N |

1 Reference Area Zone

2 Conservation and Recreation Zone

3 Education Zone

Y Yes

N Not appropriate

4 Special Management Area

5 Special Protection Area

YC Conditional - refer to relevant section for details

Areas catering specifically for trail bike unloading are required to reduce noise and congestion in picnic grounds. At present some 10 per cent of trail bike riders visiting the Park are riding unregistered vehicles. There are also many unlicensed riders. Park staff work closely with Victoria Police to manage this problem.

Liaison with user associations will continue, assisting in informing users about park values and managing potential impacts such as conflicts with other park users, disturbance to wildlife, erosion and the potential spread of Cinnamon Fungus (section 4.2).

Roads currently managed by the Shire Council are shown in figure 3. The status of roads and tracks, and proposals for their future

management, are given in table 3. Road closures are listed in appendix V.

Aims

- Provide and maintain an appropriate and environmentally sustainable network of management roads and tracks.
- Provide access to the Park's main picnic grounds.
- Provide adequate sustainable opportunities for two wheel drivers, four wheel drivers, trail bike riders, horse riders, cyclists and walkers.
- Minimise adverse impacts upon the Park's natural and cultural values while maximising opportunities for remote experiences.

TABLE 3 MANAGEMENT OF ROADS AND TRACKS

Table 3 has been updated by Table B in Appendix VI.

| ROAD OR TRACK | CURRENT | | PROPOSED | | COMMENTS |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|-------------|-------|--|
| | STATUS | CLASS | STATUS | CLASS | |
| Weatherhead Range | | | | | |
| Antechinus Tk | O | 5 | W | D | Convert to walking track, change name to Buttongrass Tk. |
| Bald Hill Tk | O/FT | 5 | O/X | 5 | Change name to Luptons Track. Seasonal closure. |
| Buttongrass Tk | O | 5 | X/W | D | Walking track between Guide Tk and Camp Rd, revegetate remainder. |
| Camp Rd | O | 4 | O | 4 | |
| Cannibal Creek Tk | O | 5 | HCW | 5 | Restrict access to protect habitat and reduce erosion. |
| Dawsons Tk | O | 5 | HCW | 5 | Restrict access to reduce illegal activities. |
| Dingo Ridge Tk | O | 5 | HCW | 5 | Restrict access to protect habitat and reduce erosion. |
| Guide Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | Seasonal closure. |
| Luptons Tk | O | 5 | O/X/H CW | 5 | Close Camp Rd to Bald Hill, HCW East of Guides Track. |
| Olsen Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | |
| Pharoahs Gully | O | 5 | O | 5 | Seasonal closure. |
| Pooley Rd | O | 3 | O | 3 | Maintained by Council. |
| Sandpit Ridge Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | |
| Sedge Tk | O | 5 | W | D | Convert to walking track, change name to Buttongrass Tk. |
| Single Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | Seasonal closure, change name to Luptons Tk. |
| Tonimbuk Rd | O | 1 | O | 1 | Maintained by Council. |
| Tynong Nth Road | O | 2 | O | 2 | Maintained by Council. |
| Weatherhead Hill Tk 2 | O | 5 | HCW | 5 | Restrict access to protect habitat and reduce erosion, rename to Weatherhead Tk. |
| Yarrabubba Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | |
| Black Snake Range | | | | | |
| Aqueduct Rd S | MVO | 4 | MVO | 4 | Maintained by Melbourne Water. |
| Black Snake Creek Rd | O | 2 | O | 2 | Partially maintained by Council. |
| Bunyip River Rd | O | 3 | O | 3 | Maintained by PowerNet. |
| Burgess Rd | O | 4 | O | 4 | |
| Channel Link Tk | MVO | 5 | MVO | 5 | |
| Channel Rd | MVO | 5 | HCW | 5 | |
| Dog Spike Tk | O | 5 | C | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |

Table 3 (cont.)

| ROAD OR TRACK | CURRENT | | PROPOSED | | COMMENTS |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------|----------|-------|---|
| | STATUS | CLASS | STATUS | CLASS | |
| Black Snake Range (cont.) | | | | | |
| Hackett Tk | O | 5 | W | D | Convert to walking track. |
| Hakea Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | |
| Helmet Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | |
| Jonas Creek Tk | FT | - | O | 5 | Develop section from Burgess Tk to Reids Tk, rename to Reids Tk. Seasonal closure |
| Lawless Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | Seasonal closure. |
| Link Rd | O | 3 | O | 3 | |
| Mortimer Nature Trail | W | B | W | B | |
| Mulberry Tk | O | 5 | HCW | 5 | Restrict access to protect habitat and reduce erosion. |
| Nichols Hut Tk | O | 5 | W | E | |
| Peppermint Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | |
| Pines Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | Seasonal closure. |
| Rankins Tk | O | 5 | W | E | Close north of Tecoma Tk, convert to walking track. |
| Ridge Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | Seasonal closure. |
| Rocky Ridge Tk | O | 5 | HCW | 5 | Restrict access to reduce erosion. |
| Silver Top Ridge Tk | O | 5 | HCW | 5 | Restrict access to protect habitat and reduce erosion. |
| Steege Rd | O | 5 | HCW | 5 | Restrict access to protect habitat and reduce erosion, rename to Windy Point Tk. |
| Steering Wheel Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | Seasonal closure. |
| Tecoma Tk | O | 5 | W | E | Convert to walking track. |
| Towts Rd | O | 3 | O | 3 | Rename to Black Snake Creek Rd. |
| Tree Fern Tk | O | 5 | W | D | Convert to walking track. |
| Triangle Rd | O | 4 | O | 4 | |
| Two Dams Tk | O | 5 | O/X | 5 | Close between Wombat & Black Snake Creek Rd, to protect habitat. |
| Williams Rd | O | 5 | HCW | 5 | Restrict access to protect habitat and reduce erosion. |
| Williams Ridge Tk | O | 5 | HCW | 5 | Close to protect habitat, reduce erosion and contain spread of Cinnamon Fungus. |

Table 3 (cont.)

| ROAD OR TRACK | CURRENT | | PROPOSED | | COMMENTS |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------|----------|-------|---|
| | STATUS | CLASS | STATUS | CLASS | |
| Black Snake Range (cont.) | | | | | |
| Windy Point Rd | O | 5 | HCW/X | 5 | Close south of Steege Road to protect habitat and reduce erosion. Rename to Windy Point Tk. |
| Wombat No. 1 Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | Rename to Two Dams Tk. |
| Blue Range | | | | | |
| Anderson Rd | O | 4 | O | 4 | Maintained by PowerNet. |
| Anderson Tk | O | 5 | O/X | 5 | Seasonal closure and close north of Reubens Tk. |
| Andersons Loop Tk | O | 5 | C | - | Close and revegetate to reduce the number of tracks and consequent erosion. |
| Aqueduct Rd N | MVO | 4 | MVO | 4 | Maintained by Melbourne Water. |
| Ash Landing Rd | O | 2&4 | O | 2&4 | 1.7 km maintained by PowerNet, class 4 north of transmission line. |
| Ashford Tk | O | 4 | O | 4 | Gazetted road, maintained by Council. |
| Blue Range Rd | O/MVO | 4 | O/MVO | 4 | Seasonal closure. MVO east of Bunyip Ridge Tk renamed Aqueduct Rd Nth. |
| Bunyip Ridge Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | Seasonal closure. |
| Dyers Creek Tk | FT | - | W | D | Develop walking track, rename to Little Bunyip Tk. |
| East Beenak Rd | O | 2 | O | 2 | Maintained by Council. |
| Groom Tk | O | 4 | O | 4 | Gazetted Road, private access. |
| Jacks Tk | O | 5 | W | D | Convert to walking track. |
| Leech No2 Rd | O | 4 | O | 4 | Maintained by Powernet. |
| Leech Rd | O | 4 | O | 4 | Maintained by Powernet. |
| Little Bunyip Tk | FT | - | W | D | Develop walking track. |
| Log Dump Tk | O | 5 | W | B | Convert to walking track. |
| Old SECV Rd | O | 4 | O | 4 | Maintained by Powernet. |
| Reubens Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | Seasonal closure. Rename to Anderson Tk. |
| Russells No. 1 Mill Tk | O | 5 | W | D | Convert to walking track. |
| Saplings SECV Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | Maintained by Powernet. |
| SECV Rd | O | 5 | O | 5 | Maintained by Powernet. |
| The Pack Track | O | 1 | O | 1 | Maintained by Council. |
| Tin Hut Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | Access to Nash Creek camping area. |

Table 3 (cont.)

| ROAD OR TRACK | CURRENT | | PROPOSED | | COMMENTS |
|----------------------|---------|-------|----------|-------|--|
| | STATUS | CLASS | STATUS | CLASS | |
| Labertouche | | | | | |
| BGS Tk | O | 5 | W | D | Convert to walking track rename Lawson Falls Circuit. |
| Birrell Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | |
| Bullock Link Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | |
| Discovery Tk | O | 5 | W | E | Convert to walking track rename Lawson Falls Circuit. |
| Forest Rd | O | 2 | O | 2 | |
| Gentle Annie Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | Rename to Western Track rename Lawson Falls Circuit. |
| Labertouche Nth Rd | O | 4 | O | 4 | Partially maintained by Council. |
| Lawson Falls Circuit | W | B | W | B | Includes renamed BGS and Discovery Tks. |
| Quartz Creek Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | |
| Robertson Creek Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | |
| Sardine Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | Rename to Sunset Tk. |
| Sunset Tk | O | 5 | O/X | 5 | Seasonal Closure. Close south of Sardine Tk, due to erosion. |
| Tea Tree Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | Rename to Gentle Annie Tk. |
| Tea Tree Rd | O/MVO | 4 & 5 | O/MVO | 3&5 | MVO from Western Tk to Aqueduct. |
| Tin Mine Tk | O | 5 | HCW | 5 | Restrict access to protect habitat and reduce erosion. |
| Western Tk | O | 5 | O | 5 | Seasonal Closure. |

CLASS

- 1 : All weather surfaced two lane
 2 : All weather surfaced single lane
 3 : Substantially all weather single lane
 4 : Unsurfaced vehicular track
 5 : Vehicular track 4WD
 6 : Surfaced horse trail
 A : Constructed walking track, access for persons with disabilities
 B : Physically well-defined walking track
 C : Well-defined walking track
 D : Walking track defined through use
 E : Walking track defined through use, no basic construction

STATUS

- MVO : Management vehicles only
 HCW : Horseriders, cyclists & walkers
 O : Open to public vehicles
 W : Walkers only
 FT : Former track
 X : Track to be closed and revegetated

- Minimise existing and potential conflicts between user groups, such as picnickers and trail bike riders.

Management strategies

- *Permit and manage use of roads and tracks including a network of four wheel drive tracks in accordance with figure 3 and table 3.*
- *Close all tracks not required for management or visitors and allow to regenerate (appendix V).*
- *Maintain and develop the entrance to the Park via Gembrook as the major entry point to picnic grounds.*
- *Develop the Tynong North Road entry as a secondary entrance point into the Park from the Princes Freeway.*
- *Improve the standard of Tea Tree Road to all weather all vehicle access and promote a tourist drive.*
- *Develop a brochure for four wheel driving and trail bike activities in the Park, which promotes the road and track network and encourages a responsible code of conduct.*
- *Establish separate roadside bays for the unloading of trail bikes and trailer parking near Dyers, Tonimbuk Road and Forest Road picnic grounds and at Bunyip River Road and 100 m north of Mortimer picnic ground (table 4 and figure 4).*
- *Prohibit parking of bike trailers in picnic grounds following development of roadside bays for this purpose.*
- *Liaise with user associations to assist in minimising impacts on park values.*
- *Continue to liaise with the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs on track issues prior to implementing necessary seasonal road closures and closing any other roads or tracks as required to ensure visitor safety.*
- *Prepare a sign plan, and upgrade and standardise road and track signposting*

throughout the Park to orientate visitors (section 5.3).

- *Liaise with VicRoads and local councils to install signs on main access routes to indicate Park entry points and promote use of the Park (section 5.3).*
- *Continue to liaise with Cardinia and Baw Baw Shires to ensure a co-operative approach to maintenance of Park access roads. Seek maintenance by councils of all roads within the Park that provide legal access to private property.*
- *Ensure that the spread of Cinnamon Fungus is minimised by closing inappropriate roads or temporarily closing roads when required e.g. when maintenance work is undertaken (section 4.2).*
- *Liaise with map publishers to remove former roads and road names from published maps (appendix V).*

5.2.2 Day visits

It is estimated that about 34 000 people visit the Park each year, and that about 92 per cent of these are day visitors. With population growth and increased awareness of the Park, visitation is expected to increase by about 4 per cent each year over the next 15 years. The existing and proposed visitor facilities are listed in table 4.

Increased visitation will place considerable pressure on existing facilities, especially during weekend peak periods.

Upgrading of the picnic grounds, and some expansion, is required to service the Park's attractions and accommodate expected increases in visitor numbers over the next 15 years.

Facilities will be located near Park entry points to cater for continued visitation, mainly from Gembrook and the Princes Highway.

TABLE 4 EXISTING AND PROPOSED RECREATION FACILITIES

Table 4 has been updated by Table C in Appendix VI.

| | TOILETS | PICNIC TABLES | FIRE PLACES | WATER SUPPLY | PARK INFO* | WALK TRACK | CAPACITY | TETHER RAIL |
|---|---------|---------------|-------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Picnic grounds | | | | | | | | |
| Four Brothers Rocks | P | E | P | N | P | E | 1-3 cars | P |
| Camphora | E | P | 1E+P | E+P | P | P | | P |
| Forest Road | E | 1E+P | P | E+P | P | P | 4-9 cars | P |
| Mortimer | E | 5E+P | 6E+P | E+P | P | E | 10-20 cars | E |
| Dyers | E | 1E+P | 1E+P | E+P | P | P | | P |
| Boronia Car Park | N | N | N | N | P | N | | N |
| Designated camping areas | | | | | | | | |
| Rysons Creek | E | E+P | P | E+P | P | P | 5-15 sites | N |
| Mile Pit | P | N | P | E+P | P | N | | N |
| Black Snake | P | N | P | E+P | P | N | | N |
| Nash Creek | P | N | P | E+P | P | N | | N |
| Old Tynong Camp | E+P | E+P | E+P | E+P | P | P | 35 sites | N |
| Trail bike unloading areas (No trail bike unloading in picnic grounds) | | | | | | | | |
| Mortimer (100 m N of picnic ground) | N | N | N | N | P | N | | N |
| Dyers | N | N | N | N | P | N | | N |
| Tonimbuk Road | N | N | N | N | P | N | | N |
| Forest Road | N | N | N | N | P | N | | N |
| Bunyip River Road | N | N | N | N | P | N | | N |
| Horse unloading area | | | | | | | | |
| Old Tynong Camp | E+P | E+P | E+P | E+P | P | P | 15 horses | P |

E = Existing (number existing given)

N = No facility

P = Proposed

*Information is currently provided on a single brochure for all facilities in the Park

Facilities for the majority of visitors will be concentrated in the Conservation and Recreation Zone (figures 2 and 4). Site development plans will be prepared for upgrading of picnic grounds.

Mortimer and Dyers picnic grounds are the most popular picnicking locations in the Park. However, the capacity for expansion of both sites is limited. Capacity will be increased slightly through sensitive re-design.

Camphora picnic ground (previously Camp Road visitor area) currently receives less use than Mortimer and Dyers but has greater capacity for expansion. Upgrading and minor expansion will assist in accommodating the day visitor overflow from Mortimer picnic ground.

Although the number of visitors entering the Park from the east is considered to be lower than from the west, upgrading and expanding

Forest Road picnic ground (previously Ryson visitor area) will cater for Gippsland visitors and will better service attractions such as Lawson Falls, Seven Acre Rock and the Forest Boronia area. It will also assist in spreading day visitors across the Park.

Forest Road picnic ground currently has limited picnic facilities and is degraded and overgrown. This location has sufficient available space for expansion into a major picnicking area, in conjunction with the rehabilitation of a large sand pit (section 4.3).

To capitalise on the attraction of Lawson Falls, construction of a viewing platform and upgrading of the Lawson Falls nature walk are proposed. Trails are required to link the Falls and other attractions to the Forest Road picnic ground.

Four Brothers Rocks is a popular lookout point. Picnicking facilities at Four Brothers Rocks picnic ground will be upgraded but not expanded. Gentle Annie picnic ground receives little use and does not service visitor attractions. It is also costly to maintain. This facility should be closed.

To minimise visitor conflicts and cater better for horse riders and trail bike riders, horse access will be permitted in picnic grounds only at tether rails provided (section 5.2.5). A horse unloading area will be near Old Tynong Camp (5.2.5). Trail bike unloading will be permitted in designated bays only and not in picnic grounds (section 5.2.1 and table 4). Picnic ground entries will be re-designed to discourage entry of vehicles towing trailers.

Water is currently available from streams at most sites. To minimise streamside erosion and to guarantee water supply, small tanks will be installed at picnic sites, trialled, and if successful, expanded.

Aims

- Establish and maintain day visitor facilities which enhance visitor enjoyment of the Park and are consistent with protecting park values.
- Improve visitor facilities and raise the profile of the Park as a day visitor destination.

Management strategies

- *Provide good quality basic facilities in accordance with table 4 and figure 4.*
- *Maintain the Park's natural bush character by ensuring that future facility development is low key and blends in with the Park's environment.*
- *Prepare site development plans for each picnic ground.*
- *Upgrade existing visitor facilities at Mortimer, Camphora, Dyers and Four Brothers Rocks, giving priority to Mortimer and Dyers (table 4 and figure 4).*
- *Upgrade and expand Forest Road picnic ground, as required, to provide extra visitor capacity and to disperse visitors from both sides of the Park.*
- *Close Gentle Annie picnic ground.*
- *Improve the standard of the access track to Lawson Falls and provide a viewing platform near the falls.*
- *Continue to allow collection of firewood for use by day visitors in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines, and monitor to ensure that there are no adverse impacts on natural values.*
- *Allow fires only in fireplaces provided in picnic and camping areas, and in properly constructed fireplaces elsewhere in the Park.*
- *Maintain the existing 'take your rubbish away' policy for all visitor sites.*
- *Design and erect appropriate information boards and signage in line with interpretation plans (section 5.3), to direct visitors to day areas and other features of interest.*

5.2.3 Camping

The Park provides the opportunity for a range of camping experiences in natural settings. Camping is a popular activity in the Park and demand is expected to increase. Campers use

a number of small sites throughout the Park or picnic grounds.

Issues affecting the Park at present include use by group sizes in excess of capacity (section 7.1.6), camp sites too close to rivers and streams, and conflict with day visitors.

Development of designated camp sites and school camping areas (section 7.1.7) and introducing a booking system would help reduce management problems.

Aim

- Provide opportunities for a range of camping experiences while minimising impacts on park values.

Management strategies

- *Develop designated camp sites with basic facilities (table 4) at Rysons Creek, Mile Pit, Black Snake, Nash Creek and Old Tynong Camp. Mark sites at Old Tynong Camp and use vegetation to define the other camp sites (figure 4).*
- *Allow large groups (10 or more) only at designated sites within the site capacity as listed in table 4, and encourage them to supply their own stove and fuel supplies for cooking purposes.*
- *Introduce a booking system, particularly for large groups, and implement a fee collection system, including an honesty system for dispersed and designated camping.*
- *Minimise potential visitor conflict by prohibiting camping at picnic grounds.*
- *Permit dispersed camping in the remainder of the Park, excluding the Reference Area, Special Protection Areas and Education Zones, in accordance with Park Regulations, Parks Victoria guidelines, and require that:*
 - *it is at least 1 km from designated camp sites;*
 - *it is at least 50 m from Black Snake Creek Road, Tonimbuk Road and picnic grounds;*
 - *tents are pitched in natural clearings.*

5.2.4 Bushwalking

The Park offers an extensive network of tracks for bushwalking, from short walks to longer and more difficult day walks. Circuit walks are provided from Mortimer, Dyers, Four Brothers Rocks and Forest Road picnic grounds. These walks are based primarily on vehicle tracks. Access from Gembrook to the Park has not been established and the existing road network does not provide safe walking routes.

A network of ‘walkers only’ tracks linking major features from Seven Acre Rock to the Puffing Billy line would improve experiences for walkers and reduce visitor conflicts.

These tracks would be suitable for inclusion in the proposed Federation Track from Sydney to Melbourne, and form part of a long-distance link to the popular ‘Walk into History’ in the Yarra State Forest.

Heavily used tracks in some areas of the Park (for example, near Lawson Falls) are degraded and require substantial upgrading.

Tracks available for walkers are shown in table 3 and figure 3.

Aim

- Provide a range of bushwalking opportunities in the Park, while minimising impacts on park values.

Management strategies

- *Develop, maintain and manage tracks for walkers in accordance with table 3 and figure 3, giving priority to circuit walks around picnic grounds and ‘walkers only’ tracks between major features.*
- *Provide information on walks in the Park, including features of interest.*
- *Enforce Park Regulations and provide signage and barriers to prevent horses, trail bike riders and cyclists from using walking tracks.*
- *Encourage the involvement of walking groups and clubs in the maintenance of walking tracks.*

- *Seek the establishment of a safe walking track between Gembrook and the Park, in consultation with Cardinia Shire Council and walking track groups. Once a route has been established, ensure that walking tracks in the Park are integrated with this track.*
- *Continue to liaise with Federation Track Walkers (Australia) regarding the management of tracks under consideration for inclusion on the proposed Federation Track.*

5.2.5 Horse riding

Horse riding, both commercial and private, is a popular activity in the Park. It is estimated that some 5500 people visit the Park each year with commercial horse tour operators.

Commercial activities are mainly restricted to the south of the Black Snake Creek and the Forest Road area as designated on permits (section 5.4). Private riders are currently allowed to use any public vehicle track in the Park (figure 3).

Conflicts between horse riders and other users, including trail bike riders and four wheel drivers, have been reported, especially by commercial operators.

There is a need to limit use where damage to tracks and streams is likely, particularly in wet weather. Horse riding should also be excluded from those areas of the Park affected by Cinnamon Fungus (section 4.2).

Parking areas within the Park for horse floats are limited. A designated horse unloading area would help reduce management problems. Camping with horses occurs at a small number of sites or picnic grounds. Sharing camp sites can conflict with other Park users. Development of a horse rider camping site would reduce problems.

Aims

- Provide opportunities for both commercial and other horse riders without compromising park management objectives.
- Minimise conflict between horse riders and other park users.

Management strategies

- *Permit horse riding on all public vehicle roads and other tracks in accordance with table 3 and figure 4, subject to seasonal and other closures as necessary. Allow camping with horses at the proposed horse rider camping site in the vicinity of old Tynong Camp.*
- *Permit sustainable commercial horse riding on tracks as specified on the operator's permit. These may be existing tracks that have been upgraded or realigned, or purpose-built tracks (section 5.4).*
- *Continue to monitor the impacts of horse riding on other Park visitors, track conditions, weed distribution, stream quality and occurrence of Cinnamon Fungus, as a basis for determining appropriate levels of use on tracks where horse riding is permitted.*
- *Develop a designated horse unloading and camping area in the vicinity of Old Tynong Camp camping area.*
- *Permit horses at tether rails provided at picnic grounds (table 4) on a trial basis for two years.*
- *Encourage use of a code of conduct, and provide information on roads and tracks available and suitable for horse riding in the Park.*
- *Liaise with user groups to assist in minimising impacts on park values, and encourage active involvement on management of trails.*
- *Investigate development of a permit system for recreational riders as a monitoring and educational tool.*

5.2.6 Cycling

The need to cater for cyclists within the Park is increasing along with the popularity of the activity. This can cause conflict with other users. Park users need to be made aware that they may be sharing tracks with cyclists.

Aim

- Provide access for cycling but minimise environmental damage and conflicts with other recreation activities.

Management strategies

- *Permit cycling on all public vehicle roads and tracks in the Park as shown in table 3 and figure 3.*
- *Prohibit cycling within the Special Protection Areas and on management vehicles only and walkers only tracks.*
- *Provide for competitive cycling subject to permit.*
- *Liaise with user groups to assist in minimising impacts on park values.*
- *Provide information specifically for cyclists and promote a responsible code of conduct.*

5.2.7 Hunting

Hunting and shooting are prohibited in this Park under the provisions of the National Parks Act. Some visitors are not aware that hunting and shooting are prohibited.

Aim

- Prevent hunting in the Park through signage, education and enforcement.

Management strategies

- *Enforce the National Parks Act, which prohibits hunting and shooting in the Park.*
- *Inform Park visitors through signage at main entrance points that hunting and shooting are prohibited.*

5.2.8 Fishing

Rivers and streams in the Park are relatively undisturbed (section 3.2) and support a quality recreational fishing resource (section 3.4). Fishing is unlikely to have any detrimental effect on non-target species. Collecting fauna for bait is prohibited in the Park.

Aim

- Provide fishing opportunities but minimise conflict with park conservation values.

Management strategies

- *Permit recreational fishing in all areas of the Park, except Special Protection Areas and the Reference Area Zone.*
- *Monitor soil disturbance in the vicinity of all streams, and restrict access to streams if necessary to protect stream environs.*
- *Prevent the collection of fauna for bait through signage, education and enforcement.*

5.2.9 Rock climbing and abseiling

Opportunities for rock climbing and abseiling are limited to Four Brothers Rocks. This is also one of the Park's major attractions and is heavily visited. This has potential to affect the Rock's natural appearance and cause conflict with other day visitors.

Aim

- Provide for rock climbing and abseiling where consistent with maintaining park values and minimising visitor conflicts.

Management strategies

- *Establish a permit system for rock climbing and abseiling in consultation with relevant rock climbing groups, that allows a maximum group size of 20 and climbing on week days only.*
- *Allow rock climbing and abseiling at Four Brothers Rocks subject to permit.*
- *Ensure the use of clean climbing techniques and promote the use of the code of conduct.*

5.2.10 Orienteering

Orienteering is not a common activity in the Park. Orienteering is not permitted in the Reference Area Zone. Maps have been produced for Mortimer and Kurth Kiln (outside the Park).

Aim

- Provide orienteering opportunities in the Park, while minimising impacts on park values.

Management strategy

- *Permit organised orienteering in the Park subject to permit in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines.*

5.2.11 Dogs

Domestic dogs pose a threat to native wildlife and can be a nuisance to Park visitors. Dogs were permitted in the area before the Park was established. Currently there is little use by visitors walking dogs but there are problems with horse riders accompanied by dogs off lead. Dogs are permitted in nearby State forest and Kurth Kiln Regional Park.

Aim

- Protect visitor experiences and the Park's natural values from the effects of dogs.

Management strategies

- *Prohibit dogs from the Park.*
- *Provide information on alternative locations available for dogs.*

5.3 Visitor information and interpretation

Current information and interpretation services in the Park are inadequate. Visitor information for the Park comprises two local leaflets and on-site interpretation at Mortimer picnic ground and Lawson Falls. Information is available from the Park office in Gembrook.

The Park has opportunities for both natural and cultural interpretation. Historically, the Park and its surrounds were used for timber production.

Locations suitable for interpretation of the Park's timber history include Mortimer and Dyers picnic grounds, which were once timber mill sites. There are also opportunities to link the Park to other sites of historical interest such as nearby Kurth Kiln. Although there are other remnants of the timber extraction period in the Park, interpretation may not be appropriate because of their location and sensitivity (table 5 and section 3.6). There are also sites suitable for interpretation of Aboriginal history, and of natural features.

There are opportunities to interpret the features of the Park in conjunction with other attractions, including the Puffing Billy Railway extension to Gembrook, the proposed Shire of Cardinia 'Puffing Billy to Western Port Tourist Trail' (section 5.1) and the proposed Federation Track (section 5.2.4).

Consideration also needs to be given to increasing awareness of the Park within the wider region, e.g. by promoting the Park at neighbouring sites such as the popular Dandenong Ranges National Park, Emerald Lake Park Visitor Centre and Toolangi Forest Education Centre.

Significant improvement in visitor enjoyment and appreciation will be achieved through improved signage in and around the Park.

Aims

- Orientate visitors to the Park and its features through the provision of quality signage and information.
- Enhance visitors' enjoyment and understanding of the Park's natural and cultural values through the provision of quality interpretative services.

Management strategies

- *Prepare an interpretation and information plan for the Park.*
- *Keep signage and use of displays throughout the Park to a minimum, confining it to major roads, picnic grounds and selected interpretation sites. Where possible, use personal interpretation*

TABLE 5 INTERPRETATION TOPICS

| TOPICS | SUGGESTED LOCATIONS |
|---|--|
| Aboriginal culture, forest utilisation and recent history. | Throughout the Park. |
| Landscape formation and geological history. | Four Brothers Rocks. |
| Catchment issues. | Lawson Falls. |
| Timber milling history. | Mortimer picnic ground, Dyers picnic ground. |
| Flora and fauna and the importance of the Park in their protection. | Lawson Falls and Mortimer Nature Walks. |

mechanisms such as the popular historical tours.

- *Liaise with VicRoads and local councils to provide directional signage on major approach routes such as the Princess Freeway and Gembrook–Tonimbuk Road (section 5.2.1).*
- *Improve information at Park arrival points and provide signage which directs visitors to, and identifies, key attractions and facilities within the Park (section 5.2.2).*
- *Provide adequate information for visitor orientation, and safety messages, at key visitor areas.*
- *Make park information available at regional tourist information centres.*
- *Liaise with Cardinia and Baw Baw Shire councils and the Emerald Tourist Railway Board on local tourism initiatives and supply park information to these bodies. Undertake regular evaluation of information and interpretation programs related to the Park.*

5.4 Commercial tourism operations

The Park's diverse natural, cultural and recreational values provide good opportunities for nature-based tourism. Activities currently offered by commercial operators include bushwalking, bicycle riding, horse riding and four wheel driving.

Numerous privately-run commercial establishments cater for tourists in areas surrounding the Park. These feature in tourism promotion campaigns and present opportunities for attracting visitors to the Park. The Tourist Trail currently being developed by Cardinia Shire Council will also create considerable potential for the expansion of nature-based tourism in the Park (section 5.1).

Commercial accommodation for those wishing to stay overnight in the area is available in nearby townships, including Gembrook, Belgrave, Emerald, Tonimbuk and Nar Nar Goon. There is a great potential to expand commercial tours within the Park. Close liaison with local and regional tourism operators will be required to achieve high quality services and ensure that park values are protected.

Possible commercial tourism opportunities include guided minibus tours running from the future Gembrook Puffing Billy Railway Station to the Park, guided walking tours, and interpretation of natural and historic features. Commercial horse riding should not be expanded until further capacity can be demonstrated (section 5.2.5).

Aim

- Provide opportunities for sustainable commercial tourism services, consistent with park management objectives.

Management strategies

- *Identify the Park's carrying capacity for various commercial operations.*

- *Permit and manage operators in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines and identified carrying capacity, and monitor impacts of activities on park values.*
- *Liaise with local and regional tourism bodies, including Baw Baw and Cardinia Shire Councils, the Emerald Tourist Railway Board and Tourism Victoria, to ensure that sustainable visitor opportunities in the Park are incorporated into tourism programs for the region.*
- *Participate in the development of local tourism strategies.*
- *Encourage commercial operators to assist in the protection of park values and management of the Park's facilities and infrastructure.*
- *Supply information on the Park to commercial operators to ensure the integrity and accuracy of information given to clients.*

5.5 Public safety

The climate, topography and densely vegetated landscape of the Park present inherent dangers and risks to Park visitors.

Wildfire is a potential hazard during dry times of the year.

The Victoria Police is responsible for search and rescue operations within the Park. Such operations would usually involve Parks Victoria, the State Emergency Service and other groups, under Police supervision.

Aim

- Promote and encourage safe practices among staff and visitors to the Park.

Management strategies

- *Ensure that Park staff are sufficiently trained and have the ability to assist in emergency situations and co-operate with emergency service organisations.*
- *Encourage visitors to seek information on any activities they intend to undertake in the Park.*
- *Contribute to emergency management planning for search and rescue and other emergency situations within the Park.*
- *Permit access to the Hamilton Creek Caves (section 3.1) subject to implementation of the results of a safety audit and only when visitor safety can be assured.*
- *Encourage visiting groups to have adequate communication, trained first-aiders and evacuation plans.*

6 COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

6.1 Friends and volunteers

Friends and volunteers are important assets as they foster community support for the Park and can assist with park management activities. The Friends of Bunyip State Park, Cannibal Creek Landcare Group, field naturalist clubs, local bird observers and other interested groups and individuals make valuable contributions to park management projects.

Aim

- Encourage and assist volunteer involvement in management of the Park.

Management strategies

- *Encourage and support the Friends of Bunyip State Park and Cannibal Creek Landcare Group.*
- *Develop and implement a long-term volunteer strategy which incorporates the skills and interests of volunteer groups in park management activities (for example, in a volunteer guides program).*
- *Encourage volunteer groups to assist in park maintenance, revegetation, interpretation and weed control programs.*

6.2 Community awareness and Park neighbours

The Park is still perceived by many people in the local community to be State forest (its status until 1992). Active promotion of the Park and its values, status and management objectives could assist in overcoming this perception and encourage appropriate use of the Park and management of surrounding land.

Park neighbours need to understand the implications of their own land management, especially in relation to weed control, and the visual impacts of developments. Landowners adjacent to the Park could be further encouraged to protect native vegetation.

Aims

- Promote a positive image of the Park within the local community.
- Minimise detrimental visual changes to private property visible from the Park.
- Encourage retention and enhancement of native vegetation on properties adjoining the Park.

Management strategies

- *Liaise with local community groups and landowners and, as appropriate, involve them in relevant aspects of planning and managing the Park.*
- *Apply, and encourage the application of, the Good Neighbour Policy to management issues on or near the boundary of the Park.*
- *Actively promote the Park, its values and management objectives in the local area, through staff contact, signage, brochures and other media.*
- *Continue to liaise with adjacent landholders to address issues that affect both the Park and private properties.*
- *Encourage adjoining landowners to become involved with Friends and other community groups.*

6.3 Schools education

Purpose-built Education Centres specialising in park issues and forest management, indoor and outdoor curriculum-based activity areas and teacher guides are located nearby in Dandenong Ranges National Park and at the Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre.

In Dandenong Ranges National Park, opportunities for outdoor education studies involving manipulation of the environment (for example, vegetation or soil sampling) are limited.

The two Education Areas within the Park complement these existing education services and offer opportunities for on-site nature-based education and research. Current uses include

botanical, zoological and soil surveys by Deakin University. In addition, the Park provides significant opportunities for educational studies because of the number of vegetation communities present and its proximity to the metropolitan area.

Aim

- Encourage research and provide opportunities for education within the Park, while minimising the environmental impact of these activities.

Management strategies

- *Seek proclamation in the Government Gazette by the Governor in Council of Tonimbuk and Gembrook Education Areas as Education Zones.*
- *Ensure that any activities undertaken in the Tonimbuk Education Area are consistent with protecting its significant floristic values (appendix II).*
- *Encourage provision of education services that include on-site nature-based education and research.*
- *Encourage use of the resources of other nearby Education Centres to cater for local education demand.*

7 OTHER ISSUES

7.1 Authorised uses

7.1.1 Transmission lines

A 500 kV high voltage transmission line and easement managed by GPU PowerNet transects the Park from the south-east to the north-west (figure 2). The line originates at Hazelwood terminal station, and connects with South Morang terminal station, where the supply is distributed to smaller stations around Melbourne. The transmission line and easement create a significant visual impact on the Park's landscape values. In addition, extensive vegetation clearance is necessary to meet power authority fire safety concerns, which in turn leads to erosion of steep slopes and siltation of streams. Illegal trail bike riding along the easement is contributing to erosion and noise pollution.

Two 12.7 kV Eastern Energy transmission lines are located in the Park, one running through the Reference Area. These lines service private properties in the south-east of the Park.

Aims

- Provide for appropriate use and maintenance of public utilities.
- Minimise the impact of transmission lines maintenance on the Park.

Management strategies

- *Continue to liaise with GPU PowerNet on managing the high voltage transmission line and easement, in particular to restrict illegal trail bike access.*
- *Develop a consent under Section 27 of the National Parks Act that sets out works to be carried out and acceptable standards (sections 3.4, 3.5 and 4.3) and alternative methods of clearing vegetation along the easement, such as revegetation with trees and shrubs of an acceptable height.*
- *Liaise with Eastern Energy on the future management of the powerline in the Diamond Creek Reference Area.*

- *Develop management agreements under section 27 of the National Parks Act in relation to the two 12.7 kV transmission lines.*

7.1.2 Melbourne Water aqueduct

Part of the Drouin Catchment is in the Park. The Bunyip River Catchment (mostly immediately north of the Park) is a special water supply catchment area under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (Vic.) feeding into Bunyip Weir and an aqueduct which runs south through the Park (figure 2). Currently, non-management access along the aqueduct is prohibited, although trail bike riders enter the area illegally. Vegetation dieback is occurring near the aqueduct. Water discharge along the aqueduct may be causing this.

The aqueduct access track provides a link from the Black Snake Valley to the weir. The possibility of opening up the aqueduct to walkers should be investigated.

A Melbourne Water Bunyip River siphon traverses 750 m of the south-east corner of the Park. The siphon access track is closed by a gate at the western boundary of the Park in the Bunyip State Forest.

Aims

- Provide for appropriate use and maintenance of public utilities.
- Minimise the impact of the aqueduct on the Park.

Management strategies

- *Continue to liaise with Melbourne Water on management of the weir and aqueduct. Develop a Section 27 consent that sets out works to be carried out, and acceptable standards.*
- *In conjunction with Melbourne Water, restrict illegal trail bike access.*
- *Determine the cause and extent of dieback associated with the weir and aqueduct, and take appropriate action.*

- *Investigate access for walkers along the aqueduct and implement if feasible.*

7.1.3 Defence Force and emergency services training

The Defence Force and a number of emergency services, including the Police, the State Emergency Service, the Country Fire Authority and St. Johns Ambulance, use the Park for training. Training exercises generally include four wheel driving on public roads and ‘search and rescue’.

A former sand pit off Pooley Road at the Park’s south-west is used for vehicle training. It is not considered appropriate that the Park should provide this site, which will be revegetated (section 4.3), as a training area.

Aim

- Continue to accommodate sustainable Defence Force and emergency services training within the Park, and minimise environmental effects.

Management strategies

- *Require Defence Force and emergency services groups to liaise with Parks Victoria about when and where training exercises are permitted within the Park, and to seek appropriate permission.*
- *Encourage small group exercises only in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines.*

7.1.4 Grazing

Following a rationalisation of grazing licence areas, approximately 66 ha of the Park is currently occupied by six grazing licences with a total grazing capacity of about 25 head of cattle. Licences are renewed on an annual basis. The LCC (1994) recommended that grazing continue within the Park on those parts of existing grazing licences that are currently used to provide grazing and shelter for domestic stock and protection for adjoining freehold, but that the grazing licences should not be transferable. Four of the grazing leases adjoin the Special Protection Area for the Helmeted Honeyeater.

Aim

- Manage grazing to minimise its impacts on the Park, in accordance with LCC recommendations.

Management strategies

- *Continue to allow grazing within the Park in accordance with existing grazing licences, but prohibit transfer of grazing licences and the issue of new licences.*
- *Liaise with the holders of the current grazing licences to facilitate the management of the licensed areas to protect Helmeted Honeyeater habitat values.*
- *Re-assess licence conditions and compliance prior to renewal.*
- *Rehabilitate grazing areas following cessation of licences.*

7.1.5 Deer enclosure

The Australian Deer Association occupies a 13 ha site in the south of the Park for research into the ecology of Sambar (Bunyip Sambar Project). The former LCC (1994) recommended that the area occupied by the Project should not be expanded beyond that currently fenced, that the land should not be used for any other purpose, and that the licence should not be transferable.

Aim

- Manage the Bunyip Sambar Project so as to minimise effects of the deer enclosure on the Park, and in accordance with LCC recommendations.

Management strategies

- *Assess the environmental implications of the Bunyip Sambar Project site on the Park.*

- *Manage the licences for use of the existing site under provisions of the National Parks Act, in accordance with LCC recommendations and incorporating appropriate conditions to minimise adverse impacts on the Park.*

7.1.6 Scouts

Scout and Venturer groups use the Park for camping and a variety of adventure activities. Previous use by these groups for events such as the Armstrong 500 (a scout hike) has involved up to 700 people. Groups of this size place unsustainable pressures on the Park's resources.

There are facilities and sites for Scouts outside the Park.

Aim

- Continue to provide the Scout Association with the opportunity for sustainable camping and adventure activities within the capacity of the Park (section 5.2.3).

Management strategies

- *Permit use of the Park by Scouts in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines.*
- *Refer large groups to Gilwell Park Scout Camp or other sites outside the Park.*
- *Continue to liaise with the Scout Association and their environment officer on the management of activities within the Park.*
- *Allow camping only at designated camping areas and only to sustainable levels.*

7.1.7 Brighton Grammar School

Brighton Grammar School is licensed to occupy 2.5 ha at the junction of Ryson and Bullock creeks as a school camp (figure 2, Special Management Area - Education). The former LCC (1994) recommended that the licence continue; however, the site and facilities are to be made available to the broader community.

Possible users include commercial tourism providers, other schools and environmental education providers.

Aim

- Maximise the use of the Brighton Grammar School camp site facilities.

Management strategy

- *Investigate options, in conjunction with Brighton Grammar School, for making facilities available to other users, as outlined in the LCC recommendations (LCC 1994).*

7.2 Boundaries and adjacent uses

Three areas of adjacent Crown land (figure 3), managed as part of the Park, are proposed for addition to the Park. The largest of these areas, on the western boundary of the Park, was recommended by the former LCC to be State forest.

Agriculture and grazing are the predominant land uses along the Park's western and southern boundaries. There are also three areas of freehold land surrounded by the Park. Impacts on the Park include weed encroachment, agricultural runoff, wandering pets and livestock, informal tracks in the Park and visual intrusion.

The Park is bordered by the Tarago and Yarra State Forests to the north and east respectively.

Continuing population growth in the south-eastern growth corridor is likely to increase the density and change the nature of development on private land adjacent to the Park. Smaller lot size associated with rural-residential development is expected to increase. Developments and activities adjacent to the Park have the potential to impact adversely on the Park's natural and landscape values.

There are several unused road reserves in the Park, including road reserves for part of the former Tynong North–Tinkham Road, most of Black Snake Creek, William, Link and the former Steering Wheel roads.

Aims

- Increase the awareness of responsible authorities and neighbours of potential impacts on the Park.
- Minimise conflict between park values and surrounding land use.

Management strategies

- *Seek to incorporate the proposed additions into the Park (figure 3).*
- *In conjunction with the Forests Service, seek to amend the LCC recommendation relating to the larger area of Crown land on the southern boundary of the Park, for inclusion in the Park.*
- *Continue liaison with the local planning authorities (Baw Baw and Cardinia Shire Councils) and landowners in the use and operation of planning schemes, guidelines, covenants and legal agreements, particularly along the southern boundary of the Park, to minimise adverse effects of private land developments on park values (section 3.5).*
- *Encourage protection of native vegetation on private land adjoining the Park boundaries (sections 3.3 and 6.2).*
- *Identify unused road reserves in the Park and seek closure and incorporation into the Park.*

8 IMPLEMENTATION

A three-year rolling implementation program will be prepared for the Park to ensure efficient implementation of this Plan. Priorities for management are identified in table 6, as an initial step in this process.

TABLE 6 PRIORITY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

| MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES | SECTION IN PLAN |
|---|--------------------------|
| Resource conservation | |
| Protect sites of significance. | 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 |
| Implement appropriate management regimes for significant vegetation. | 3.3, 4.1 |
| Investigate measures to conserve native fish populations. | 3.2, 3.4 |
| Plan activities to avoid negative impacts on the Park's rivers and streams. | 3.2, 5.2.2, 5.2.3, 5.2.8 |
| Minimise visual intrusions in the Park. | 3.5 |
| Encourage an archaeological survey, involving Aboriginal groups. | 3.6 |
| Park protection | |
| Seek to review the Dandenong Region and Gippsland Region Fire Protection Plans. | 4.1 |
| Develop and implement pest control strategies. | 4.2 |
| Control and minimise the spread of Cinnamon Fungus. | 4.2, 5.2.1, 5.2.5 |
| Close and revegetate tracks unnecessary for management or inappropriate for visitor use. | 4.2, 5.2.1 |
| Prohibit dogs in the Park. | 5.2.11 |
| Develop consents with GPU PowerNet and Melbourne Water. | 7.1.1, 7.1.2 |
| The Park visit | |
| Develop the entrance via Gembrook as the Park's main gateway. | 5.2.1 |
| Develop Tynong North Road as a secondary entrance point. | 5.2.1 |
| Prepare an education, interpretation and information plan. | 5.2.2, 5.3 |
| Improve signage on key approach roads. | 5.2.1 |
| Manage a sustainable road network. | 5.2.1 |
| Provide trail bike unloading areas. | 5.2.1 |
| Upgrade existing picnic grounds, expand Forest Road picnic ground and close Gentle Annie picnic ground. | 5.2.2 |
| Promote the Park's identity and tourism values. | 5.2.1, 5.3 |
| Encourage sustainable commercial tourism. | 5.4 |
| Provide a horse unloading area and trial use of tether rails in picnic grounds. | 5.2.2, 5.2.5 |
| Develop a network of 'walkers only' walking tracks. | 5.2.4 |
| Promote public safety. | 5.5 |
| Community awareness and involvement | |
| Co-ordinate pest plant and animal control measures with those of adjoining landowners. | 4.2, 6.2 |
| Promote community involvement. | 6.1, 6.2, 7.2 |

Table 6 (cont.)

| MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES | SECTION IN PLAN |
|---|-----------------|
| Monitoring and research | |
| Monitor visitor numbers and use. | 5.1 |
| Design and implement monitoring programs for significant species and communities. | 3.3, 3.4 |
| Encourage research on the effect of fuel-reduction burning on vegetation communities. | 3.3, 4.1 |
| Monitor impacts on streams particularly from fishing. | 3.2, 5.2.8 |

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APPENDIX I SIGNIFICANT FLORA

| SCIENTIFIC SPECIES | COMMON NAME | STATUS | HABITAT |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Carex alsophila</i> | Forest Sedge | r | |
| <i>Epilobium pallidiflorum</i> | Showy Willow-herb | d | |
| <i>Gahnia grandis</i> | Brickmaker's Saw-sedge | v | Wet Schlerophyll Forest |
| <i>Grevillea barklyana</i> | Gully Grevillea | R, r, L | Wet and Damp Sclerophyll Forest |
| <i>Lindsaea microphylla</i> | Lacy Wedge-fern | r | |
| <i>Persoonia arborea</i> | Tree Geebung | r | |
| <i>Pultenaea weindorferi</i> | Swamp Bush-pea | R, r | Wet Heathland |
| <i>Tetratheca stenocarpa</i> | Long Pink-bells | R, r | Damp Sclerophyll Forest |

Source: NRE database 1998b; Opie et al. (1984); LCC (1994).

Status (categories taken from Gullan, Cheal & Walsh 1990):

- d Depleted: not considered rare or threatened in Victoria, but significantly depleted and/or in decline.
- R Rare in Australia: rare but overall not currently considered Endangered or Vulnerable.
- r Rare in Victoria, but not considered otherwise threatened.
- v Vulnerable in Victoria, rare, not presently endangered but likely to become so soon due to continued depletion.

- L Listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

APPENDIX II SITES OF BOTANICAL SIGNIFICANCE

| SITE | SIGNIFICANCE | FEATURES |
|--|--------------------|--|
| Upper Bunyip River (northern Park boundary) and Lawson Creek | National | Cool Temperate Rainforest and Wet Sclerophyll Forest. Steepness and wetness of terrain have meant that past logging activities have been minimal, and many of the gullies have remained unburnt for decades. This area supports the nationally rare Gully Grevillea. |
| Black Snake Range | State | Wet and Damp Sclerophyll Forest, rich in ferns and other forest species. Supports the nationally rare Long Pink-bells. |
| South of Diamond Creek, and north and south of the GPU PowerNet transmission line easement where it runs parallel with the Bunyip River. | State | Wet Heathland, rare vegetation community in Victoria and contains the rare Swamp Bush-pea. |
| Environs adjacent to Diamond and Black Snake creeks and the Bunyip River. | State and Regional | Riparian Forest, supports the vulnerable Brickmaker's Saw-sedge. Swamp Forest supports Mountain Swamp Gum. |
| Tonimbuk Education Area | Regional | High quality representatives of Wet Heathland and Heathy Woodland. Floristically rich and excellent representation of the lowland vegetation of the area. |

Source: Opie et al. (1984).

APPENDIX III THREATENED FAUNA

| SCIENTIFIC NAME | COMMON NAME | STATUS |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Mammals | | |
| <i>Antechinus minimus</i> | Swamp Antechinus | nt |
| <i>Mastacomys fuscus</i> | Broad-toothed Rat | nt |
| <i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i> | Common Bent-wing Bat | vul, L |
| <i>Rhinolophus megaphyllus</i> | Eastern Horseshoe Bat | vul, L |
| Birds | | |
| <i>Ninox connivens</i> | Barking Owl | end, N |
| <i>Ninox strenua</i> | Powerful Owl | end |
| <i>Phalacrocorax varius</i> | Pied Cormorant | nt |
| <i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i> | Masked Owl | end, L |
| <i>Tyto tenebricosa</i> | Sooty Owl | vul, L |
| Fish | | |
| <i>Galaxiella pusilla</i> | Dwarf Galaxias | V, nt, L |

Source: NRE database (1998a).

Status (categories taken from NRE 1998):

| | |
|-----|---|
| E | endangered in Australia under the <i>Endangered Species Protection Act 1992</i> (Cwlth) |
| end | endangered in Victoria |
| nt | near threatened in Victoria |
| V | vulnerable in Australia under the Endangered Species Protection Act |
| vul | vulnerable in Victoria |
| L | Listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act |
| N | Nominated for listing under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. |

APPENDIX IV COMMON PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS

| SCIENTIFIC NAME | COMMON NAME |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Pest plants | |
| <i>Erica lusitanica</i> | Spanish Heath |
| <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> | Sweet Pittosporum |
| <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> | Blackberry |
| <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> | Ragwort |
| Pest animals | |
| <i>Bos taurus</i> | Cattle |
| <i>Canis familiaris</i> | Dog |
| <i>Felis catus</i> | Cat |
| <i>Mus musculus</i> | House Mouse |
| <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> | European Rabbit |
| <i>Rattus rattus</i> | Black Rat |
| <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> | Red Fox |

Source: LCC (1991).

APPENDIX V ROAD OR TRACK CLOSURES

Appendix V has been updated by Table B in Appendix VI.

| ROAD OR TRACK | CURRENT | | PROPOSED | | COMMENTS |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|----------|-------|--|
| | STATUS | CLASS | STATUS | CLASS | |
| Weatherhead Range | | | | | |
| 4 Mile Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Avards Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Blackboy Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate. |
| Bushmans Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate unless track to be upgraded to a minimum standard for commercial horse use. |
| Cannibal Loop | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Ferres Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Flat Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Golf Link No. 1 Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Golf Link No. 2 Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Lupton Link Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Allow to revegetate. |
| Mile Pit Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate unless track to be upgraded to a minimum standard for commercial horse use. |
| Otta Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Tree Goanna Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Black Snake Range | | | | | |
| 67 Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close due to high erosion risk and to contain spread of Cinnamon Fungus. |
| Bench Rest Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close due to high erosion risk. |
| Big Dipper Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate unless track to be upgraded to a minimum standard for commercial horse use. |
| Burgess Ridge Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Crabhole Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Easyway Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate unless track to be upgraded to a minimum standard for commercial horse use. |
| Four Brothers Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Glenfern Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Gt. Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion, and contain spread of Cinnamon Fungus. |

Appendix V (cont.)

| ROAD OR TRACK | CURRENT | | PROPOSED | | COMMENTS |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------|----------|-------|--|
| | STATUS | CLASS | STATUS | CLASS | |
| Black Snake Range (cont.) | | | | | |
| Horseshoe Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate unless track to be upgraded to a minimum standard for commercial horse use. |
| Old Man Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate unless track to be upgraded to a minimum standard for commercial horse use. |
| Parker Link Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Reids Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close to south-west of Jonas Creek Tk, to reduce erosion. Seasonal Closure. |
| Reids Tk Extension | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Staircase Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate unless track to be upgraded to a minimum standard for commercial horse use. |
| Tecoma Link Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Tonimbuk Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate unless track to be upgraded to a minimum standard for commercial horse use. |
| Tramway Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Wades Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close due to high erosion risk and to contain spread of Cinnamon Fungus. |
| Watsons Tk | O | 5 | X | - | |
| William Wallace Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Wombat No. 2 Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Blue Range | | | | | |
| Currawong Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Grey Gum Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Old Blue Range Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Walnut Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Wedge Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Labertouche | | | | | |
| Rocky Tk | O | 5 | X | - | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |

Class:
5: Vehicular track 4WD.

Status:
O : Open to public vehicles
X : Track to be closed and revegetated.

APPENDIX VI BUNYIP STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 1998

AMENDMENT SEPTEMBER 2007

The Bunyip State Park Management Plan 1998 amendment dated October 2007 reflects the guidelines and strategies of the Recreation Framework for Bunyip Public Land (DSE & PV 2006). The plan will be implemented with the terms of the Recreation Framework given precedence over those of the original plan where there is apparent conflict between them.

The key provisions of the amendment are summarised in tables A, B and C, below. The tables supersede most of the contents of tables 2, 3 and 4 of the original management plan.

In addition, Chapter 5 Recreation Activities has been updated by the Recreation Framework, and the various sections of the Chapter 5 need to be read in conjunction with the relevant sections of the Recreation Framework.

TABLE A SUMMARY OF RECREATION ACTIVITIES

| ACTIVITY | MANAGEMENT ZONES AND OVERLAYS | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|----|----|----|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Picnicking (5.2.2) | N | Y | Y | N | N |
| Camping—designated sites (limited facilities) (5.2.3) | N | YC | N | N | N |
| Camping—dispersed (no facilities) (5.2.3) | N | N | N | N | N |
| School camping (7.1) | N | N | N | YC | N |
| Walking (5.2.4) | N | Y | Y | YC | N |
| Cycling (5.2.6) | N | YC | YC | YC | N |
| Horse riding (5.2.5) | N | YC | YC | YC | N |
| Orienteering/rogaining (5.2.10) | N | YC | N | N | N |
| Rock climbing/abseiling (5.2.9) | N | YC | N | N | N |
| Fishing (5.2.8) | N | Y | Y | Y | N |
| Bait collection (5.2.8) | N | N | N | N | N |
| Firewood removal | N | N | N | N | N |
| Firewood collection (for use in Park) (5.2.2, 5.2.3) | N | Y | Y | Y | N |
| Four wheel driving (5.2.1) | N | YC | N | YC | N |
| Pleasure driving (5.2.1) | N | YC | N | YC | N |
| Trail bike riding (5.2.1) | N | YC | N | YC | N |
| Dogs (5.2.11) | N | N | N | N | N |
| Car rallying (7.1) | N | N | N | N | N |
| Prospecting / fossicking | N | N | N | N | N |
| Hunting or shooting (5.2.7) | N | N | N | N | N |

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|----|---|
| 1 | Reference Area Zone | 4 | Special Management Area |
| 2 | Conservation and Recreation Zone | 5 | Special Protection Area |
| 3 | Education Zone | | |
| Y | Yes | YC | Conditional - refer to relevant section for details |
| N | Not appropriate | | |

TABLE B CURRENT AND PLANNED MANAGEMENT OF ROADS AND TRACKS

| ROAD / TRACK | CURRENT CLASS'N AND USE | PLANNED CLASS'N AND USE | ROAD FUNCTION/ACTIONS/ COMMENTS |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Andersons Rd | 5C, All | 5E, 4WD | No change. |
| Andersons Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5E, 4WD | No change. |
| Ash Landing Rd | 5C, All | 5C, All | No change. |
| Awards Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5D, HWB | Abuts residential areas. |
| Benchrest Fireline | NA | 5D, HWB | Part of proposed alignment to follow old footprint. Change name to Windy Point Road. |
| BGS Firebreak | 5E, HWB | 5D, HWB | Change name to Discovery Track. |
| Black Snake Creek Rd | 5C, All | 5C, All | No change. |
| Blue Range Rd | 5E, 4WD | 5E, 4WD | No change. |
| Bullock Link Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5E, 4WD | No change. |
| Bunyip Ridge Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5E, 4WD | No change. |
| Bunyip River Rd | 5C, All | 5C, All | No change. |
| Burgess Road | 5E, 4WD | 5D, HWB | Section west of Four Brothers Rock class 5C, All. Section east of Hakea MVO. |
| Buttongrass Tk | W | W | No change. |
| Camp Rd | 5C, All | 5C, All | No change. |
| Cannibal Creek Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5D, HWB | Abuts residential areas. |
| Dawsons Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5D, HWB | Abuts residential areas. |
| Discovery Tk | W | W | No change. |
| Ferres Tk | W | W | No change. |
| Forest Rd | 5C, All | 5C, All | No change. |
| Four Mile Track | 5E, 4WD | – | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Gembrook–Tonimbuk Rd | 5B, All | 5B, All | Part managed by Council. Footpaths to be formalised on sections of road verge to complete HWB loops. |
| Gentle Annie Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5E, 4WD | No change. |
| Goanna Track | 5E, 4WD | – | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Guide Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5D, HWB | Abuts residential areas. |
| Hakea Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5D, HWB | Abuts residential areas. |
| Helmet Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5D, HWB | Section between Pines and Two Dams available for use by 4WD clubs by permit. |
| Horseshoe Tk | 5E, 4WD | F&F/ HWB | Top section F&F, bottom section HWB. |
| Jonas Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5D, MVOP | Abuts residential areas. |
| Kurth Kiln Link Track | – | HWB | To follow Adams Track (from Black Snake Creek Rd) and new alignment connecting to Kurth Kiln RP. |
| Lawless Track | 5E, 4WD | – | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Leech Rd | 5E, All | 5C, MVO | SP Ausnet service track. |
| Link Rd | 5C, All | 5C, All | Section from Mortimer to Triangle (former Traingle) to be HWB and MVO. Rename Triangle Rd. |
| Little Bunyip Tk | W | W | No change. |
| Log Dump Tk | 5E, 4WD | W | Part of walking circuit. |

continued...

Table B (continued)

| ROAD / TRACK | CURRENT CLASS'N AND USE | PROPOSED CLASS'N AND USE | ROAD FUNCTION/ACTIONS/ COMMENTS |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Lupton Trk | 5E, 4WD | 5D, HWB | Abuts residential areas. |
| Lyrebird Tk | 5E, 4WD | – | Abuts residential areas. Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Lyrebird Tk | 5E, 4WD | – | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Messmate Fireline | 5E,HWB | 5E,HWB | To become part of Kurth Kiln Link Track. |
| Mt Towt Extension | NA | HWB | New alignment to follow park boundary. |
| Mt Towt to Gembrook – Tonimbuk Rd | NA | HWB | New alignment to follow existing footprint along Dingo Ridge Track for half the length. |
| Mulberry Tk | 5E, HWB | 5E, HWB | No change. |
| Nash Creek Loop Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5E, 4WD | No change. |
| Nichols Hut Tk | W | HWB | Horse access to Burgess Road. |
| Olsens Tk | 5E, HWB | 5E, HWB | No change. |
| Parker Link Tk | W | W | No change. |
| Peppermint Tk | 5E, 4WD | – | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Pharaohs Gully Tk | 5E, 4WD | – | Abuts residential areas. Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Pines Track | 5E, 4WD | 5D, MVOP | Abuts residential areas. |
| Pooley Rd | 5C, All | 5C, All | No change. |
| Quartz Creek Rd | 5E, 4WD | 5E, 4WD | No change. |
| Rankins Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5D, MVOP | Abuts residential areas. |
| Reids Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5D, MVOP | Abuts residential areas. |
| Ridge Tk | 5E, 4WD | – | Abuts residential areas. Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Ridge Tk | 5E, 4WD | – | Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Rocky Ridge Tk | 5D, HWB | – | Change name to Windy Point Track. Close once Bench Rest Track is opened. |
| Robbos Tk | HWB | HWB | No change. |
| Robertson Creek Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5E, 4WD | Extend Track to link up with Forest Rd Trail Bike Unloading Area. |
| Rocky Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5E, 4WD | No change. |
| Sardine/Sunset Firebreak | 5E, 4WD | – | Very Steep and highly erodable soils. Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Russells Tk | W | W | No change. |
| Sand Pit Ridge Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5D, HWB | Abuts residential areas. |
| SEC Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5E, MVO | SP Ausnet service track. Section from Anderson Tk to Little Bunyip Tk to remain 5E, 4WD. |
| Silvertop Ridge Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5D, HWB | Abuts residential areas. |
| Steege Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5D, HWB | Abuts residential areas. |
| Steering Wheel Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5D, HWB | Abuts residential areas. |
| Tea Tree Rd | 5C, All | 5C, All | Section of Tea Tree Track west of Western Track MVO. |
| Tecoma Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5D, MVOP | Abuts residential areas. |
| Tin Mine Tk | 5D, HWB | 5D, MVO | Access to abutting private property. |

continued...

Table B (continued)

| ROAD / TRACK | CURRENT CLASS'N AND USE | PROPOSED CLASS'N AND USE | ROAD FUNCTION/ACTIONS/ COMMENTS |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Towts Rd | 5C, All | 5C, All | Rename Black Snake Creek Road. |
| Tree Fern Tk | W | W | No change. |
| Triangle Tk | 5C, All | 5C, All | Rename Link Rd. |
| Two Dams Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5D, MVOP | Abuts residential areas. |
| Two Scouts Tk | 5E, 4WD | – | Abuts residential areas. Close and revegetate to reduce erosion. |
| Watsons Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5D, MVOP | Abuts residential areas. |
| Western Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5E, 4WD | No change. |
| William Wallace Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5D, HWB | Abuts residential areas. |
| Williams Ridge Tk | 5E, 4WD | 5E. MVO | Abuts residential areas. Close section west of Bench rest once Bench Rest Track is opened. |
| Williams Rd | 5E, 4WD | 5D, HWB | Abuts residential areas. To become part of Windy Point Road. |
| Windy Point Track | 5E, 4WD | 5D, HWB | Abuts residential areas. |
| Yarrabubba Track | 5E, 4WD | 5D, HWB | Abuts residential areas. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Road Classification: | Use: |
| 5A Primary road — all weather, two-laned, mainly sealed road. | All Motor vehicles, trail bikes, horses, bicycles and walkers |
| 5B Secondary road — all weather, two-laned formed and gravelled, or single lane sealed with gravel shoulders. | 4WD 4WDs, trail bikes, horses, bicycles and walkers |
| 5C Minor road — Single lane unsealed, formed road usually lightly gravelled. | HWB Management vehicles, bicycles and walkers |
| 5D Access track — Single lane, dry weather, formed from natural materials. | W Walking |
| 5E Rough track — Single lane, unformed earth track at or near the natural surface. | MVO Management vehicles only |
| | MVOP Management vehicles only; 4WD clubs by permit |

TABLE C EXISTING AND PLANNED RECREATION FACILITIES

| | TOILETS | PICNIC TABLES | FIRE PLACES | WATER SUPPLY | PARK INFO* | WALK TRACK | CAPACITY | TETHER RAIL |
|---|---------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|------------|----------------|
| Picnic grounds* | | | | | | | | |
| Dyers | E | E | E | E | P | E | | P |
| Four Brothers Rocks | P | E | N | N | P | E | 1–3 cars | P |
| Lawson Falls | E | E | N | E | P | P | 4–9 cars | P |
| Mortimer | E | E | E | E | P | E | 10–20 cars | E |
| Designated camping areas | | | | | | | | |
| Blue Range | N | N | N | N | N | N | | N |
| Forest Road | N | N | N | N | P | N | | N |
| Gentle Annie | N | N | N | N | N | N | | N |
| Nash Creek | P | N | P | E | P | N | | N |
| Trail bike unloading areas | | | | | | | | |
| Forest Road | N | N | N | N | P | N | | N |
| Helmet Track (Helipad) | E | N | E | N | P | N | | N |
| Horse unloading area | | | | | | | | |
| Tynong North Road at Cannibal Creek Tk | P | N | N | P | P | P | 15 horses | P |

E = Existing
 N = No facility
 P = Proposed

* Camphora Picnic Ground will be closed and the site rehabilitated.

Approved /
~~Not Approved~~


 Peter Harris
 SECRETARY TO THE
 DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY
 AND ENVIRONMENT

Date: 27 / 9 / 2007

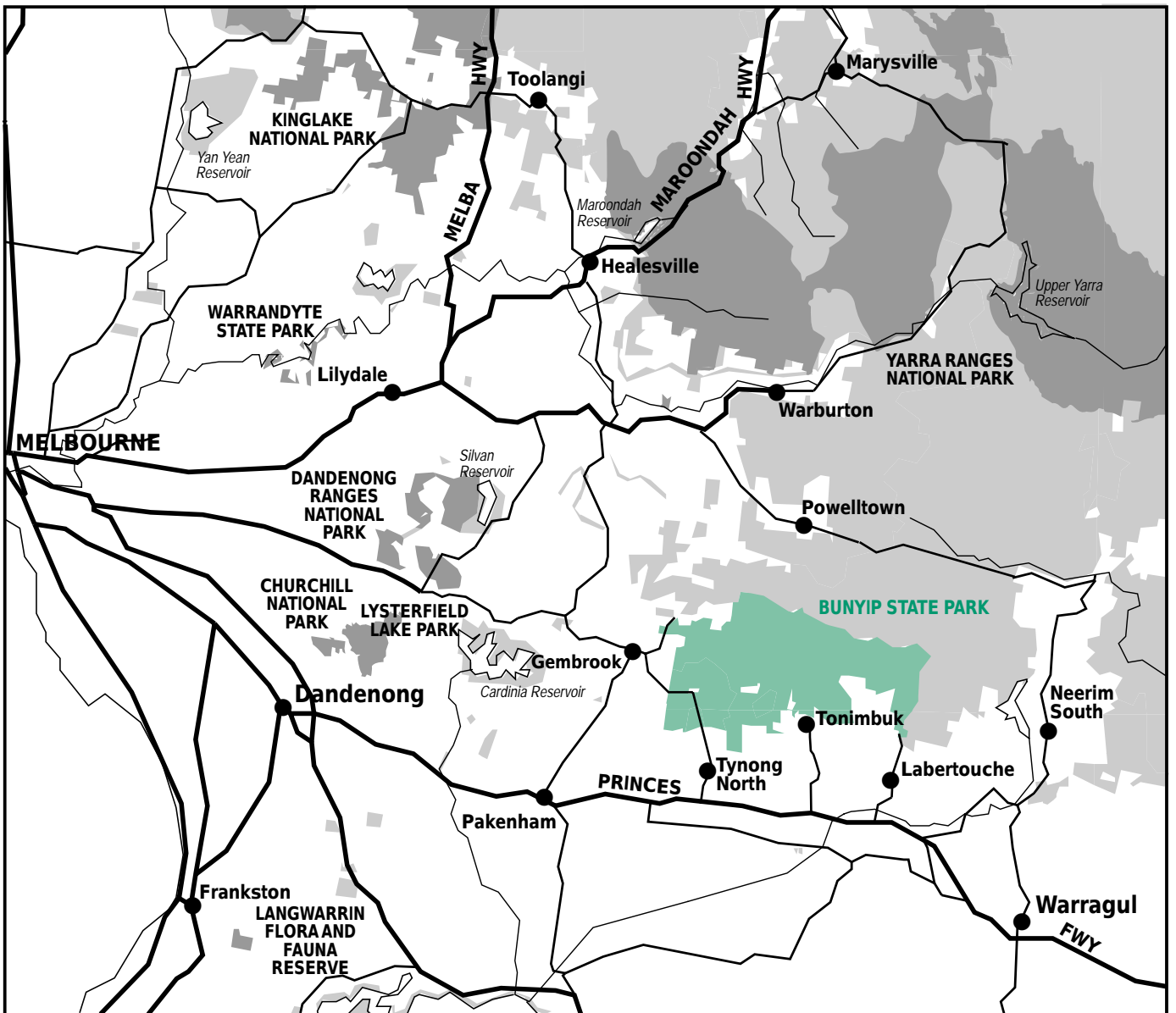


FIGURE 1
BUNYIP STATE PARK
REGIONAL LOCALITY PLAN




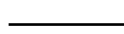
-  Bunyip State Park
-  Other Parks and Reserves
-  Other Public Land
-  Highway
-  Main road



Figure 2
BUNYIP STATE PARK
MANAGEMENT ZONES

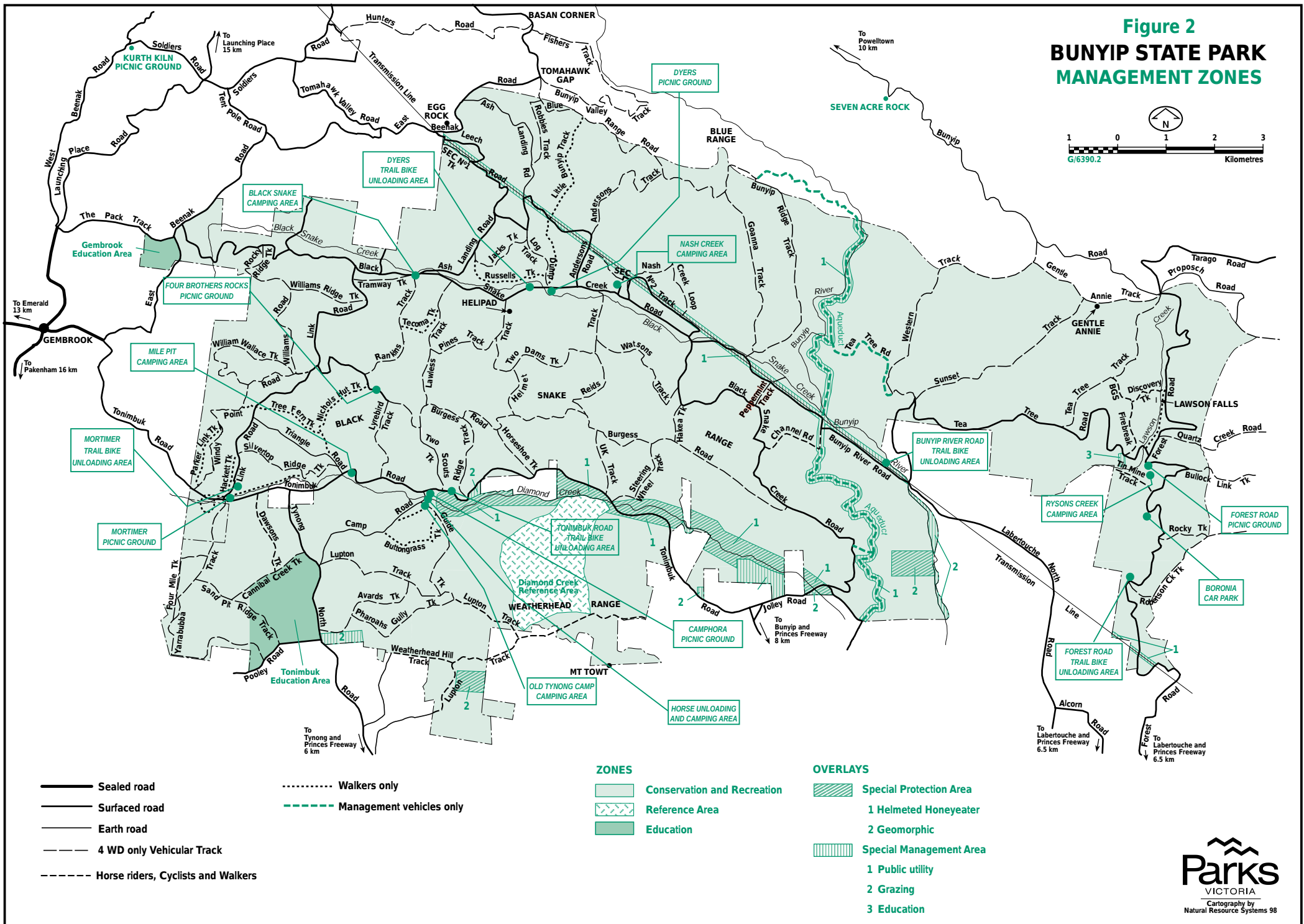
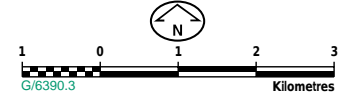
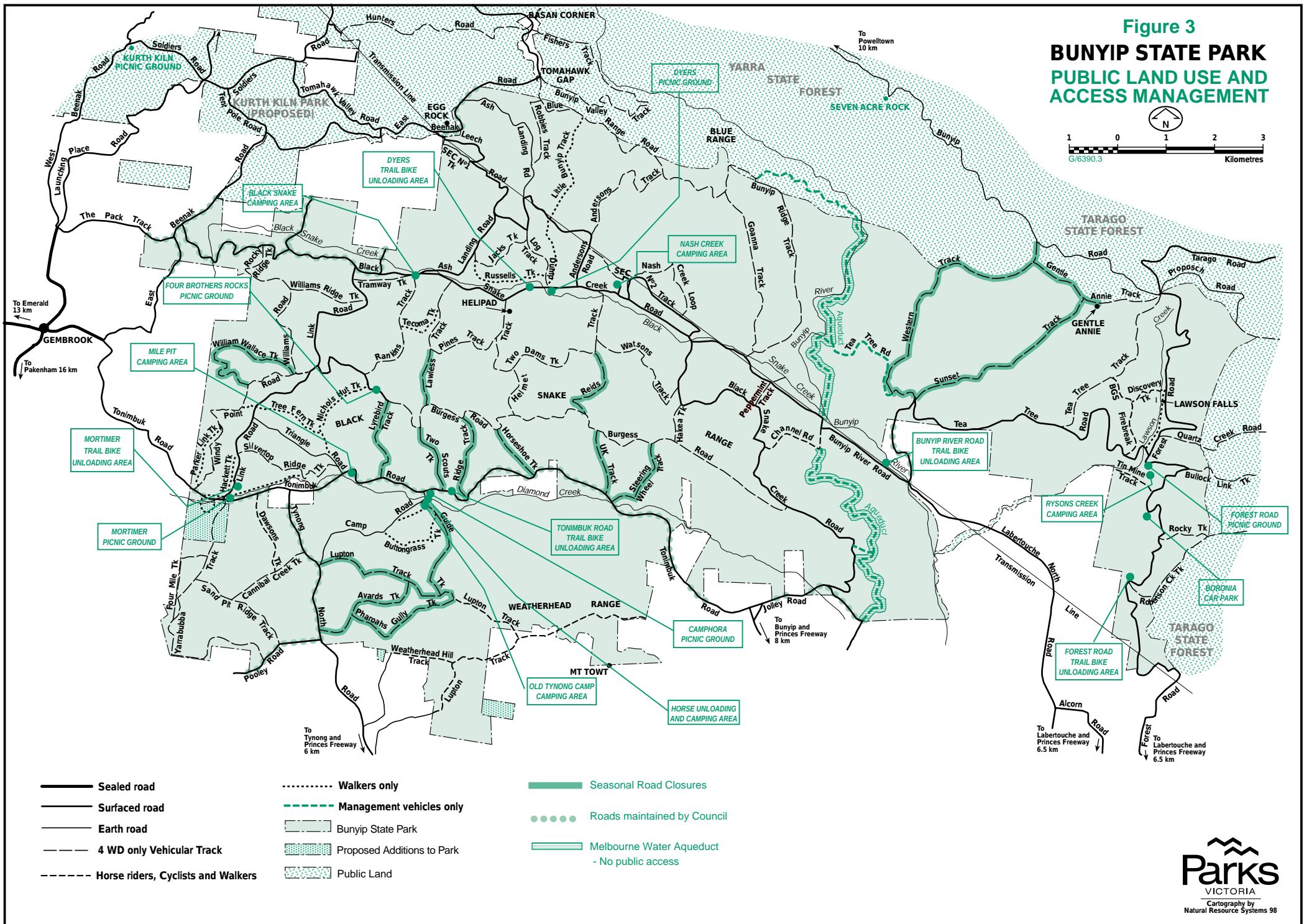
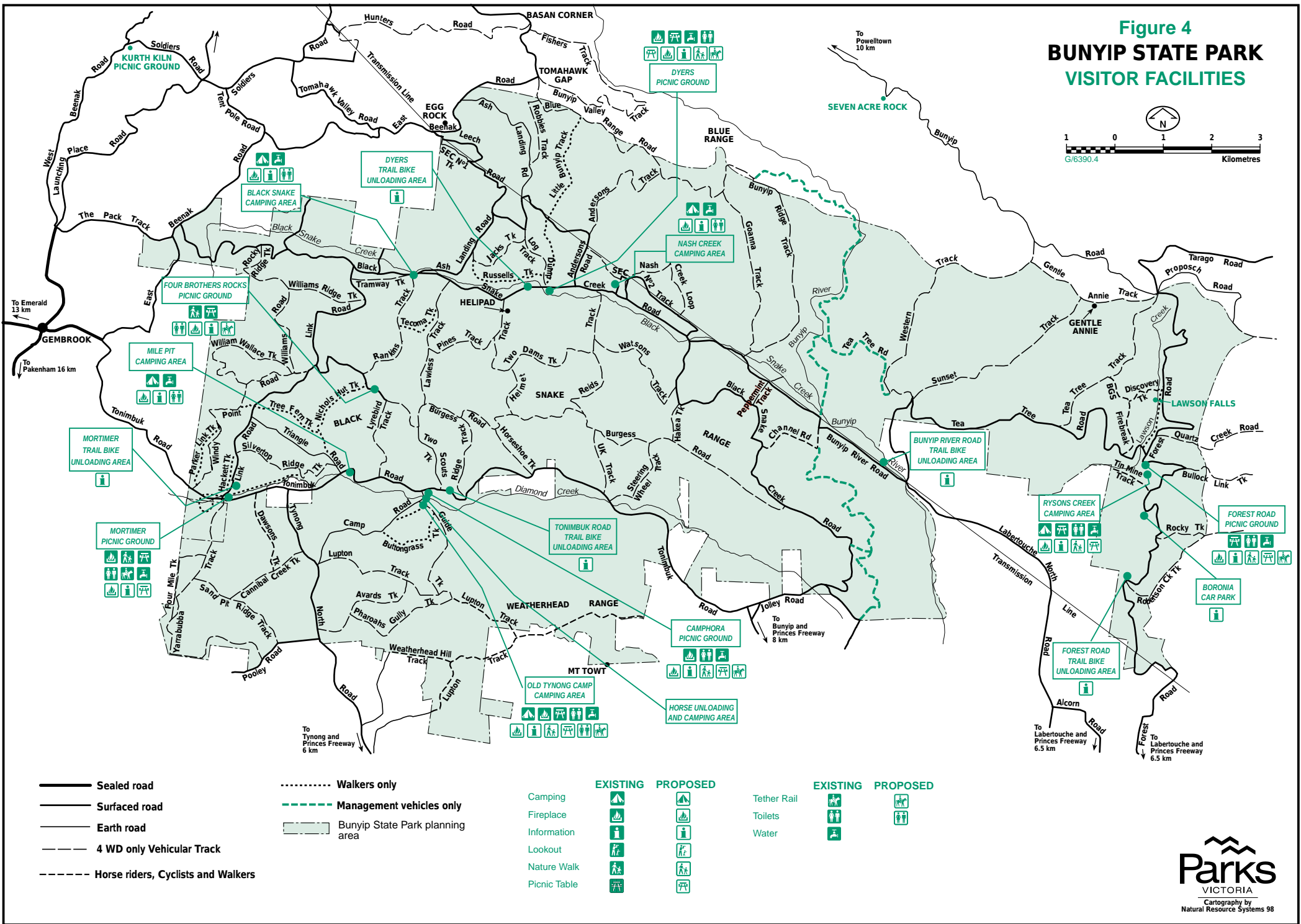


Figure 3
BUNYIP STATE PARK
PUBLIC LAND USE AND
ACCESS MANAGEMENT



- Sealed road
- Surfaced road
- Earth road
- - - 4 WD only Vehicular Track
- - - - Horse riders, Cyclists and Walkers
- Walkers only
- - - - Management vehicles only
- Bunyip State Park
- Proposed Additions to Park
- Public Land
- Seasonal Road Closures
- Roads maintained by Council
- Melbourne Water Aqueeduct - No public access

Figure 4
BUNYIP STATE PARK
VISITOR FACILITIES



- Sealed road
- Surfaced road
- Earth road
- - - 4 WD only Vehicular Track
- - - - Horse riders, Cyclists and Walkers
- Walkers only
- - - - Management vehicles only
- Bunyip State Park planning area

- EXISTING** **PROPOSED**
- Camping
 - Fireplace
 - Information
 - Lookout
 - Nature Walk
 - Picnic Table

- EXISTING** **PROPOSED**
- Tether Rail
 - Toilets
 - Water