

November 2021

Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area

10-year Plan

 Parks
VICTORIA

 VICTORIA
State
Government

Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.



This management plan is approved for implementation. Its purpose is to direct all aspects of management of the Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area for the next 10 years.

A draft management plan was published in August 2018 for public consultation. All submissions received during the consultation were carefully considered in preparing this approved management plan.

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ISBN 978-1-76105-665-9 (Print)

ISBN 978-1-76105-666-6 (pdf/online/MS word)

Copies

For further information Phone: 13 1963

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Parks Victoria Information Centre

Level 10, 535 Bourke Street

Melbourne VIC 3000

Phone: 13 1963

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Acknowledgements

The draft version of this plan released for community consultation in 2018 was developed in partnership with the former Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee (YCACC). YCACC was comprised of community representatives from Yarra Ranges Council and Cardinia Shire Council, and representatives from Yarra Ranges Council, Cardinia Shire Council, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Melbourne Water (MW), Parks Victoria, Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA), Trust for Nature, Wurundjeri Tribe Council, Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Zoos Victoria.

The final version of the plan has been developed by a working group comprising of representatives from DELWP, Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water and is the result of an extensive community engagement process, including workshops and meetings with a range of community groups; online input via surveys; conversations with landholders, land managers and the general community; as well as input from a range of agencies.

We respectfully acknowledge that the Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area is located on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri People. We honour their culture, which has nurtured this land since the Dreamtime.

This document may be cited as:

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria 2021. *Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area 10-year Plan*. DELWP and Parks Victoria, Melbourne.

Disclaimer

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

The plan is also prepared without prejudice to any future negotiated outcomes between the State or Federal Governments and Victorian Aboriginal communities. It is acknowledged that such negotiated outcomes may necessitate amendment of this plan.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this plan is accurate. This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in the publication.

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Front cover: Looking east from Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Area. Credit: DELWP

Next page: Cockatoo Creek. Credit: DELWP

Page 2: Helmeted Honeyeater. Credit: DELWP

Page 8: Dog walker. Credit: DELWP

Page 11: Scented Paperbark (*Melaleuca squarrosa*). Credit: DELWP

Page 20: Bushfire prevention work. Credit: Christian Pearson, Misheye

Page 25: Cinnamon Bells (*Gastrodia sesamoides*). Credit: DELWP

Page 29: Woori Yallock Creek. Credit: DELWP

Page 42: Visitor information sign, Haining Farm. Credit: Parks Victoria

Page 53: Lowland Leadbeater's Possum at Yellingbo NCA. Credit: Zoos Victoria.

Page 56: Revegetation. Credit: DELWP



Approved management plan

This plan has been developed through consultation with a wide range of interested community and stakeholder groups and individuals.

This plan describes the current condition of the Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area (Conservation Area) and addresses the intent of future management. It articulates management directions for the Conservation Area for a 10-year time frame aimed at enhancing the scenic beauty, biodiversity, cultural heritage and community enjoyment of the Conservation Area.

The approved plan will guide the direction and strategic approach applied to managing the Conservation Area. Consequently, the plan does not detail operational work activity but rather will help shape such activity by encouraging compatibility with the vision for the Conservation Area and existing strategies and guidelines established by relevant governing bodies. It will align efforts and increase consistency between the delegated land managers (Parks Victoria, DELWP, Yarra Ranges Council, Cardinia Shire Council and Zoos Victoria) throughout the Conservation Area.

The plan provides an important opportunity for Traditional Owners to express the significance and meaning of their Country. It is also an opportunity to produce a deeper understanding of the natural environment. By identifying the significant values of the area, management strategies and regulations can be established to protect and enhance these values. This includes how the Conservation Area is accessed and used by locals and visitors.

The Conservation Area will provide a place enjoyed by many who value the ability to experience nature, appreciate the scenery, rest and relax, socialise or exercise in a setting removed from the busier developed areas of nearby Melbourne. Passive recreation activities will be permitted, subject to specific provisions and ongoing review. Strong partnerships with Traditional Owners, neighbouring landholders, volunteers and community groups will be vital to the Conservation Area's future management.

Importantly, the plan also reflects the broad policy directions provided in the Victorian Government's Response to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's Yellingbo Investigation Final Report (2014) and the recent amendments to the *National Parks Act 1975* to provide for landscape conservation areas and the initial establishment of the Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area.

For those parts of the planning area that are protected and managed under the National Parks Act, the plan is a plan for the purposes of section 17F of that Act.

Matthew Jackson



Chief Executive Officer
Parks Victoria

Stephen Chapple



Regional Director, Port Philip Region
**Department of Environment, Land,
Water and Planning**

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1. Introduction

1.1. Vision

The Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area will be a stronghold for biodiversity conservation with improved landscapes, healthy rivers, passive recreation opportunities, and an engaged and inspired community.

1.2. Background

In March 2014, the then Victorian Government committed to the establishment of the Yellingbo Conservation Area in accordance with the Victorian Government Response to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Yellingbo Investigation Final Report (2014). The current Government has continued to support its creation, including by introducing legislation to establish the Conservation Area under the National Parks Act (**see 2.1. Creation of the Conservation Area on page 9**).

The Conservation Area will consolidate management of public land areas, including streamside reserves and existing conservation reserves. Consolidated management of these public land areas and targeted restoration projects will improve habitat connectivity, water quality and biodiversity values while also providing improved access and recreation opportunities for the community.

This plan describes the current condition of the Conservation Area and addresses the intent of future management over the next 10 years and outlines the current legislation and legislative changes required to implement the plan.

Key themes considered in the Conservation Area's development, include:

- Fire management
- Cultural heritage
- Healthy conservation landscape
- Community access and recreation.

To enable more site-specific management directions to be developed, six precincts have been developed that cover the Conservation Area. These precincts were based on logical geographic location as well as by grouping similar geomorphology, land use, landscape type and ecological vegetation class. Detailed maps of each precinct are available in chapter 9 of the plan.

1.3. Naming the Conservation Area

The name *Yellingbo Conservation Area* was adopted as part of the *Victorian Government Response to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's*

Yellingbo Investigation Final Report (2014) to refer to the entire Conservation Area. 'Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area' was later adopted in the *Parks and Crown Land Legislation Amendment Act 2020* (which brought nearly two thirds of the area under the National Parks Act) to emphasise the distribution of the discrete areas within a broader landscape, rather than one continuous area. The term 'Yellingbo Conservation Area' is retained in some sections of this plan where it applies to documents developed prior to the 2020 Act. The term 'Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area' is similarly retained for documents developed prior to the decision on the new Indigenous name in June 2021.

In addition, feedback received from the community during the past few years has suggested that the name *Yellingbo Conservation Area* is confusing and does not accurately reflect the true extent of the Conservation Area. In responding to this feedback, DELWP has consulted with Traditional Owners to find a new name for the Conservation Area which better reflects the geographic diversity of the whole area, rather than focusing on a single place (that is, Yellingbo).

Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) are organisations that hold decision-making responsibilities under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* for protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage in a specified geographical area. The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation is the appointed RAP for all of the land included in the Conservation Area.

In June 2021 the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation announced their final decision on a new Indigenous name for the Conservation Area. The name chosen was 'Liwik Barring', meaning 'Ancestors' Trail'. The Conservation Area will therefore be named the Liwik Barring Landscape Conservation Area. The new Indigenous name will now be adopted in future legislation.

1.4. Scope of the plan

The plan will guide the implementation of the Conservation Area in accordance with the Government supported Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) recommendations and relevant legislation, particularly the National Parks

Act. The scope of the plan is limited to the implementation of the Conservation Area within public land but will highlight key areas where adjacent land use has relevance.

The plan will guide the operations of various agencies, groups and individuals with a responsibility for the management of public land including DELWP, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Zoos Victoria, Yarra Ranges Council and Cardinia Shire Council. Furthermore, it will inform the work of the various Friends' and other community groups, not for profit groups (such as Trust for Nature) and adjacent landholders.

1.5. Stakeholder and community input

The plan has been developed through consultation with a wide range of interested community members, stakeholder groups and agencies. Consultation and engagement for this plan has been undertaken through targeted meetings with community groups, coordinated agency meetings, public surveys and informal conversations with community members.

Community feedback was sought on a draft version of this plan between 13 August and 7 October 2018. DELWP worked alongside the former Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee (YCACC) to engage and communicate the opportunity for public feedback to the local and broader community. More than 280 responses were received, including completed online surveys, written submissions as well as templated submissions on specific issues. A working group comprised of representatives from DELWP, Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water then carefully reviewed all submissions. While the working group considered all feedback made by the community, any changes made to the plan needed to be practical and actionable, consistent with the Government accepted VEAC recommendations and existing legislation on uses within parks and reserves in Victoria.

The community identified the following as key opportunities for the Conservation Area:

- providing habitat for threatened species,
- encouraging community access, and
- contributing to tourism opportunities.

The community also identified the most significant issues that the establishment of the Conservation Area should be focused on:

- ensuring appropriate long-term management,
- controlling weed species,

- controlling pest animal species and managing bushfire risk.

In January 2019, the report *Yellingbo Conservation Area – Draft 10 Year Plan summary of submissions*¹ was released to provide an overview of submissions received during the 2018 consultations on the draft plan. A summary report of how feedback was reviewed and an explanation on why it was or was not incorporated into the final plan will be released in conjunction with the release of this plan.

1.6. Guiding principles of the plan

The implementation of the Conservation Area will be guided by the following principles:

- Implementation will be consistent with the *Victorian Government Response to Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's Yellingbo Investigation Final Report* (2014).
- Preservation of the lowland Leadbeater's Possum and the Helmeted Honeyeater, both critically endangered, is a key objective of establishing the Conservation Area.
- Coordinated management with clear accountabilities will result in healthy ecosystems, healthy productive landscapes, and deliver social, economic and environmental benefits.
- Implementation will be informed by the *Yellingbo Conservation Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan* (2018) which incorporates knowledge from independent experts and informs a risk-based approach to revegetation and reserve planning that will not materially increase bushfire risk to the local and broader communities.
- The Conservation Area has a rich living history that is a vital legacy for Aboriginal people, the local community and for all Australians.
- Targeted restoration projects will improve habitat connectivity, water quality and biodiversity values in the Conservation Area.
- The local and broader community value the Conservation Area for its range of passive recreation opportunities that provide access and strong connections to nature.
- Insights gained from monitoring programs will be used to evaluate, adapt, and improve the management of the Conservation Area, inform on-ground management, and enhance user-knowledge to ensure beneficial outcomes for the Conservation Area.

¹ A copy of *Yellingbo Conservation Area – Draft 10 Year Plan summary of submissions* (January 2019) is available on the Engage Victoria website <https://engage.vic.gov.au/yellingboconservationarea>

1.7. Statement of Commitment

The *Government Response to Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's Yellingbo Investigation Area Final Report* (2014) states that the Government supported (in principle) the allocation of additional resources to address current and future public land management needs for the Conservation Area. The Government will consider requests for additional resourcing for biodiversity conservation, pest plant and animal control, and fire management and preparedness, where required, to implement the objectives of the supported recommendations. Land managers will be responsible for identifying priority areas where funding is needed to support implementation. Resources required to implement supported recommendations, that exceed current funding arrangements, will be subject to normal budgetary processes.

As part of the 2020 - 21 State Budget, additional funding was provided to facilitate the ongoing implementation of the Conservation Area in accordance with this plan.

1.8. Legislation

There are a range of relevant state and federal legislative Acts that apply to the Conservation Area.

These include (but are not limited to):

- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*
- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act)
- *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*
- *Environmental Conservation and Biodiversity Protection Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act)
- *Land Act 1958*
- *Local Government Act 1989*
- *Parks and Crown Land Legislation Amendment Act 2020*
- *National Parks Act 1975* – see section 2.1
- *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001*
- *Wildlife Act 1975*
- *Yarra River Protection (Wiliip-gin-Birrarung Murrn) Act 2017*
- *Zoological Parks and Gardens Act 1995*.

1.9. Goals and strategy tables

Throughout the plan, goals and strategies have been identified in a series of tables. The goals and strategies have been developed based on themes. Each strategy has been prioritised as follows:

Immediate: indicates that action is required to start within the first two years.

Medium: indicates that action can commence in 3 to 5 years with resourcing addressed by the second year.

Longer term: both actions and resourcing commence from 3 years onwards.

As required: will be undertaken as needs or opportunities arise.

A range of the goals and strategies are currently being implemented as part of existing programs, both by the land managers as well as community groups. Other goals and strategies will require additional funding.

Land manager(s) refers to:

The public land managers in the Conservation Area include Parks Victoria, DELWP, Zoos Victoria, Yarra Ranges Council and Cardinia Shire Council. When the term 'land managers' is used, this refers to multiple land managers. In all planning, Melbourne Water and the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA)² provide information and evaluation.

² The Victorian Government has decided to integrate the functions of the PPWCMA into Melbourne Water as of 1st January 2022. This will mean that the catchment management and waterway management functions for the Port Phillip and Westernport region will be brought together under one entity (Melbourne Water).

1.10. Geographic area

The Conservation Area is made up of nearly 3,000ha of existing public land reserves and Crown land water frontages (**Table 1**), extending from Healesville in the north to Millgrove and Hoddles Creek in the east, Emerald and Cockatoo in the south, and the southern Dandenong Ranges in the south-west (**Figure 1. Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area Map**).

The total area of each public land unit may be adjusted slightly, depending on the findings of Crown land boundary reestablishment surveys which are ongoing throughout the Conservation Area.

Table 1. Current public land units which will constitute the Conservation Area

| Current Public Land Unit | Area (Ha) |
|--|-------------|
| SF: Stream frontage natural features area; NCA: Nature Conservation Area; NCR: Nature Conservation Reserve | |
| Yellingbo NCA (including some abutting unused roads) | 607 |
| Warramate Hills NCA and adjoining Woori Yallock Creek and Yarra River SF | 499 |
| Hoddles Creek NCA | 283 |
| Yarra River SF upstream from Warramate Hills NCA | 247 |
| Sassafras Creek NCR and Kallista Bushland Reserve (at Beagleys Bridge); Sassafras Creek Bushland Reserve and Sassafras Creek Reserve (consolidation) | 195 |
| Beenak NCA | 125 |
| Wright Forest Bushland Area | 129 |
| Little Yarra River SF | 100 |
| Coranderrk Bushland NCA | 99 |
| McCrae Creek SF | 90 |
| Sheep Station Creek NCA | 87 |
| Cockatoo Creek SF | 73 |
| Lower Hoddles and Wet Lead Creeks SFs and Hoddles Creek Bushland Reserve | 63 |
| Badger Creek and Yarra River SFs downstream of Warramate Hills NCA; Yarra River Streamside Reserve (Everard Park) | 62 |
| Haining Farm | 59 |
| Upper Hoddles Creek and Wet Lead Creek SF | 52 |
| Emerald Creek SF | 33 |
| Woori Yallock Creek SF downstream of Yellingbo NCA | 33 |
| Britannia Creek SF | 27 |
| Woori Yallock Creek SF between Yellingbo NCA and Sassafras Creek NCR | 25 |
| Shepherd Creek SF | 16 |
| Menzies Creek SF | 15 |
| Total | 2919 |

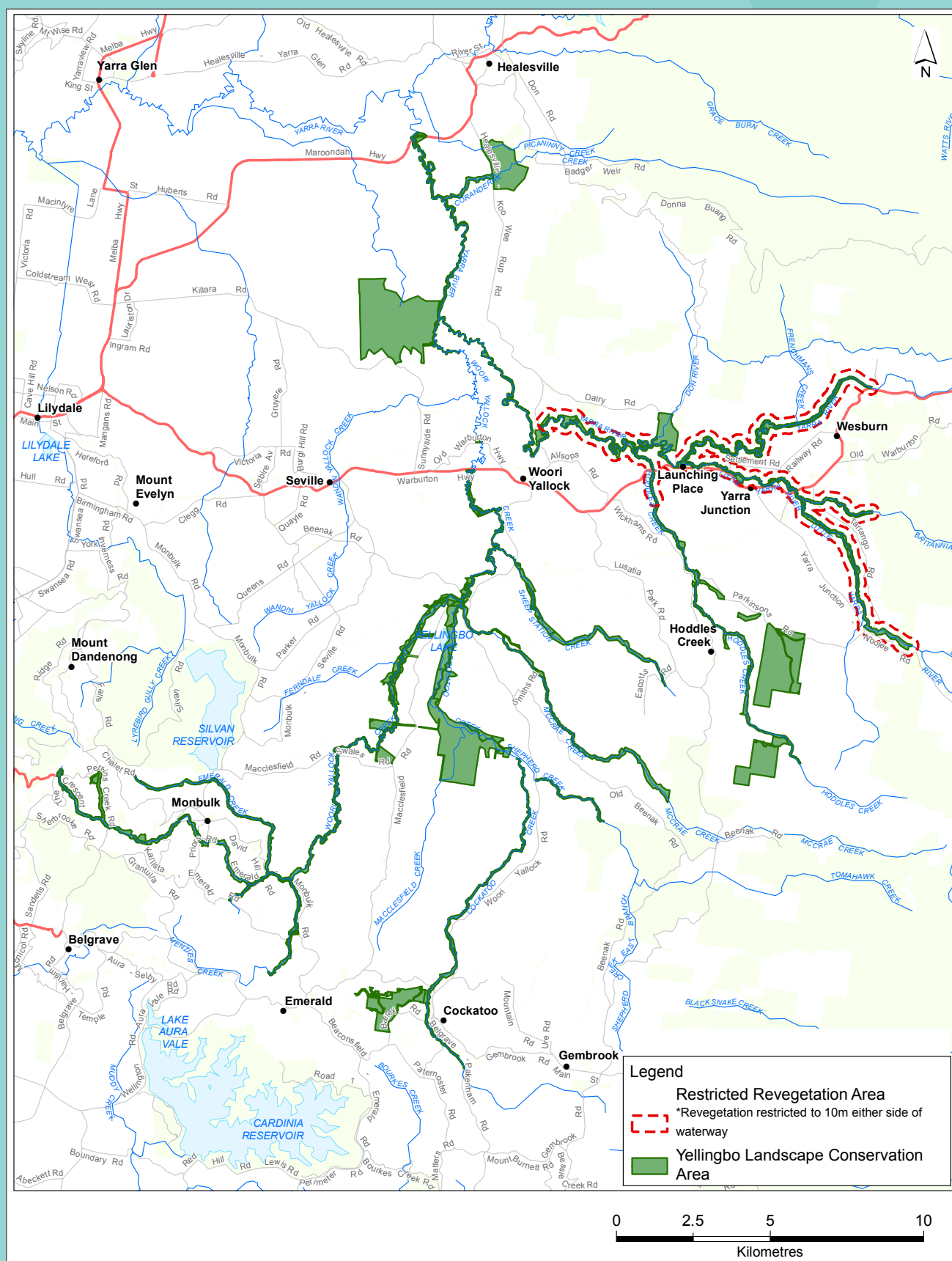


Figure 1. Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area Map

Note: More information on the *Restricted Revegetation Area* is included in **Chapter 4. Fire management on page 20** and **Chapter 9. Precincts and site-specific management directions on page 56, Section 9.2. Precinct 2: Yarra River (Millgrove to Woori Yallock, including Little Yarra River), Britannia Creek and lower Hoddles Creek on page 63**.

A person with blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a blue jacket, black leggings, and a black backpack, is walking away from the camera on a wooden boardwalk in a forest. A black dog is walking ahead of them on a red leash. The forest is lush with green ferns and moss-covered trees. The path is made of wooden planks and is surrounded by dense vegetation. The image has a large orange triangular overlay on the left side.

2. Legislative changes, land status and zoning

Within the Conservation Area, changes to land status have been recommended by VEAC. In addition to land status changes, zones have been developed which explain different planning approaches based on different management priorities. Zoning provides the geographic framework for managing the Conservation Area, indicating which management directions have priority and the types and level of appropriate use. This chapter outlines the changes to land status and the zones proposed.

2.1. Creation of the Conservation Area

The Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area (Conservation Area) is proposed to be progressively created in phases under the National Parks Act.

The process was initiated through the *Parks and Crown Land Legislation Amendment Act 2020* (2020 Act), which included amendments to the National Parks Act on 1 May 2021 to provide for landscape conservation areas as a new category of park under the National Parks Act (they are not national parks). The landscape conservation area framework aims to protect, enhance and manage several discrete natural areas within a fragmented natural landscape for the purposes of nature conservation. It also aims to provide opportunities for appropriate enjoyment, recreation and education.

The 2020 Act inserted into the National Parks Act a new Schedule Nine (landscape conservation areas) along with the description of the first landscape conservation area (Yellingbo). This initially comprises seven discrete areas (see below). It also amended the National Parks Act by including an objective relating to landscape conservation areas as well as provisions setting out the management obligations and different purposes of the different components of a landscape conservation area (for example, nature conservation area and bushland area).

The complete establishment of the Conservation Area under the National Parks Act requires boundary surveys of the remaining land to determine the on-ground boundary and facilitate the development of plans of each area. Given the complexity of the task, it is proposed that this will occur in phases over several years.

The seven discrete areas in the first phase, totalling approximately 1,790ha, most of which were already reserved or recognised for conservation purposes, are as follows:

- Beenak Nature Conservation Area (125ha)
- Haining Farm (59ha)
- Hoddles Creek Nature Conservation Area (283ha)
- Sheep Station Creek Nature Conservation Area (87ha)

- Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Area (499ha)
- Wright Forest Bushland Area (129ha)
- Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area (607 ha).

Additionally, the Zoological Parks and Gardens Act has been amended to require Zoos Victoria to manage the Coranderrk Bushland Nature Conservation Area (99ha) in accordance with the purposes relating to nature conservation areas within the Conservation Area as set out in the National Parks Act.

Additional areas recommended by VEAC – mostly stream frontages – will be considered for inclusion in the Conservation Area once boundary surveys are completed, and issues associated with determining the location of Crown land boundaries are satisfactorily resolved.

2.2. Overview of land status changes

To implement the *Victorian Government Response to VEAC Yellingbo Investigation Final Report* (2014), changes must be made to the reservation status, management arrangements, authorised uses and activities for the land included in the Conservation Area. It is important to clarify what this means for the different parts of the Conservation Area.

A landscape conservation area may comprise of any of the following—

- a. nature conservation areas;
- b. community use and education areas;
- c. natural features areas.

These are the three key types of land status that will be applied across the Conservation Area.

Nature conservation areas

Nature conservation areas are the highest level of protected land in the Conservation Area and recognise the sensitive values within the landscape. In these locations, public access may be regulated or limited at the discretion of the land manager.

Community use and education areas

Community use and education areas are to provide for community use (including recreation), education and scientific study and may include infrastructure such as trails and accommodate a range of recreational pursuits.

Natural features areas

Natural features areas afford a high level of recognition of the natural environment in a landscape context, allow for public access and a wider range of recreational activities, while protecting natural features and values, including water quality. More information on the purposes of the three land use categories within the Conservation Area, as set out in section 17E of the National Parks Act, is outlined in Appendix A.

'Area', rather than 'reserve', is used to describe the discrete components of the Conservation Area. This is to distinguish these components from reserves created under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act. Please refer to Appendix D for further details.

2.3. Allowing for local requirements

As new areas are reserved, they will be managed under the National Parks Act and the *National Parks Regulations 2013* will apply. The regulations enable uses that may otherwise not be allowed to be permitted by 'setting aside' areas for those uses. This enables regulations to be adjusted to suit local requirements where appropriate. The set-asides for the Conservation Area will be based on this plan.

In simple terms, in recognising existing local activities, set-asides can be written for specific areas where it may be appropriate to allow certain activities that would otherwise be prohibited by the standard regulations. For example, dog walking/ exercising may continue to be allowed in certain areas where the standard regulations would not allow for this, meaning that these areas can be set aside from the standard regulations for that purpose. **Chapter 7** of the plan provides details about community access and recreation.

2.4. VEAC Statewide Assessment of Public Land

VEAC's *Statewide Assessment of Public Land Final Report* was released in May 2017. The purpose of the investigation was for VEAC to undertake an assessment of public land in Victoria addressing the categorisation of public land, current reservation status and values on public land. The focus of the investigation was to provide information and recommendations to improve management effectiveness.

The *Victorian Government Response to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's Statewide Assessment of Public Land Final Report (2017)* accepted in full, in principle or in part, all of VEAC's 30 recommendations. Currently permitted land uses were not assessed in the investigation and will not be affected by the implementation of the Government response. The current levels of protection for Victoria's protected areas will also be preserved.

In recommendation R1, VEAC recommended that a rationalised and consolidated system of public land use categories is adopted and that the revised public land categories and their purposes (or objects) be aligned with the various Acts reserving land. Land category names used for discrete components of the Conservation Area may eventually be amended as part of a broader project to comprehensively modernise Crown land legislation as part of the Government response. This would follow the release of a consultation paper which includes the proposed new land categories.

2.5. Zoning

Zoning is an important planning tool which can provide greater detail on management direction for any given area of public land. This plan applies three zones to the individual components of the Conservation Area.

The zones are as follows:

- Conservation zone
- Restoration zone
- Biodiversity and community use zone

The zones can be seen in the precinct maps in **Chapter 9** and full descriptions of each zone are included in **Appendix C – Description of zones on page 96**.



3. Managing in partnership

Coordinated management of the Conservation Area with clear accountabilities will result in healthy ecosystems, healthy productive landscapes, and deliver social, economic and environmental benefits.

Coordinated management is a key objective of the plan, which forms a strategic guide for management across the planning area. Parks Victoria, DELWP and Melbourne Water have worked in partnership to develop this plan and will continue working in partnership to deliver on the strategies it contains. Many private properties also border the Conservation Area and the extensive interface with private property highlights the need for close cooperation between government agencies, community groups and adjacent landholders.

The Conservation Area has great cultural significance for Traditional Owners. It will be critical to ensure that Traditional Owners partner with land managers to ensure cultural values are protected and enhanced during the implementation of the Conservation Area (**Section 3.5** describes this in greater detail).

3.1. Key management outcomes

- Integrated and coordinated management of the Conservation Area, including collaboration with land and agency managers for riparian management to address impacts on natural values.
- Consolidation of management of the Conservation Area under landscape conservation area provisions of the National Parks Act.
- Coordination between Government agencies throughout the implementation of the Conservation Area will be facilitated by a dedicated Conservation Area working group.
- The community will be involved and engaged in the implementation of the Conservation Area via a dedicated community reference group.
- Establish and maintain partnerships with Traditional Owners which advance self-determination in line with Government's commitments in *Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023*.
- Adjacent landholders are engaged in the protection and improvement of biodiversity and ecological values within the Conservation Area initially through riparian management licences and, eventually, conservation agreements where appropriate.

3.2. Collaboration across Government agencies

A range of Victorian Government agencies have responsibilities within the Conservation Area. It is critical that the coordination of their activities occurs to facilitate the effective and efficient implementation of this plan. All land managers in the Conservation Area are supportive of the contents of this plan and have committed to implementing relevant sections of the plan based on a collaborative prioritisation process. This will ensure that agencies are working towards the same objectives at the same time.

3.3. Committees of management

Committees of management are established under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act to 'manage, improve, maintain and control' their reserves on behalf of the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. Committees of management (or similar) currently exist in the Conservation Area. These management groups play an important role in working with the land manager to manage areas of public land.

There are several locations within the Conservation Area where management has been assigned to local government agencies as committees of management.

Yarra Ranges Council has jurisdiction over several land parcels in the Conservation Area where it is a committee of management over Crown land. These sites are:

- Everard Picnic Ground, near Healesville
- Doon Reserve Caravan Park, Yarra Junction³
- Baynes Park, Monbulk.

Cardinia Shire Council has jurisdiction as a committee of management over:

- Alma Treloar Reserve, Cockatoo⁴.

Future management options for these areas will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

³ The Crown land frontage adjacent to Doon Reserve Caravan Park is part of the Conservation Area.

⁴ Part of Alma Treloar Reserve – the streamside reserve – is part of the Conservation Area.

Goal 1

Coordinated management of the Conservation Area enables efficiencies in program delivery and is supported by consistent land status and regulations.

| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
|--|----------------|----------------|--|
| Establish the new Conservation Area under the National Parks Act. | Immediate | DELWP | N/A |
| Undertake boundary surveys to identify the formal boundary of the remainder of the Conservation Area. | Immediate | DELWP | Office of Surveyor-General Victoria |
| Establish set-asides as new areas are reserved in phases under the National Parks Act. | Immediate | Parks Victoria | DELWP |
| A DELWP representative for the Conservation Area is represented on the Yarra4Life Committee. | Immediate | DELWP | Yarra4Life |
| Continue a collaborative working relationship between Parks Victoria, DELWP, Yarra Ranges Council and Cardinia Shire Council through improved and sustained communication, consultation and cooperation. | Immediate | DELWP | Parks Victoria Yarra Ranges Council Cardinia Shire Council |
| Continue to collaborate with Melbourne Water to deliver capital works programs, River Health Incentive Programs, and facilitate landholder Stream Frontage Management Plans, as well as promote funding opportunities on private land where appropriate. | Immediate | DELWP | Melbourne Water |
| Collaborate with local government and landholders to coordinate programs, such as fox control; find realistic solutions on shared issues, such as litter management; and improve cross-tenure management and habitat connectivity. | Medium | Land managers | PPWCMA Adjacent landholders |

3.4. Manage in partnership with community

Former Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee

The Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee (YCACC) was established in October 2015 to improve coordination and collaboration between land managers and other agencies involved in the management of the Conservation Area. In late 2018 an independent review of YCACC was initiated to comply with the Government mandate for Government appointed committees to be reviewed every three years. The review found that YCACC had achieved a number of successes but recommended a change to the governance arrangements in light of the fact that, following the preparation of the draft 10-year plan, the focus of activity was moving from planning to implementation. YCACC's term ended on 31 January 2019. The two key recommendations of the independent review were for YCACC to be replaced with a broader based community reference group and a co-ordinating committee of land managers.

Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area Community Reference Group

The Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area Community Reference Group (CRG) has been established by DELWP to advise and assist DELWP and Parks Victoria with effective community engagement during the establishment of the Conservation Area.

The CRG's main purpose is to provide the community's views to enable DELWP and Parks Victoria to collaborate, at a strategic level, with the community regarding the implementation of the Conservation Area. The CRG provides strategic advice regarding community engagement to DELWP and Parks Victoria that:

- Supports the implementation of the Victorian Government Response to Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's Yellingbo Investigation Final Report (2014)
- Allows for strategic discussions that identify key community issues to advance DELWP's engagement with the community
- Makes recommendations to DELWP and Parks Victoria about how to effectively engage with the community
- Predicts community concerns to troubleshoot and address before they become large issues.

The CRG comprises 12 members, including the chairperson and deputy chairperson appointed by the Regional Director, Port Phillip Region, of DELWP. Two members of the CRG are elected representatives of the Yarra Ranges Council and the Cardinia Shire Council.

Yarra4Life

Coordinated by the PPWCMA, the Yarra4Life program is a collaborative partnership involving representatives from local government, State Government, land managers, Traditional Owners and community groups. Yarra4Life plans, coordinates and delivers cross-tenure land management projects that improve habitat across the Yarra4Life landscape; it provides opportunities to coordinate and connect works; and a forum to share collective knowledge. The program aims to build connections between the community and the environment and works with Traditional Owners to incorporate their goals and aspirations for participation in natural resource management into Yarra4Life activities.

Yarra4Life works to improve water quality in the Yarra River and to save the Helmeted Honeyeater, lowland Leadbeater's Possum, and other native animal species by increasing the quality, extent, and connectivity of habitat across the landscape. In particular, Yarra4Life is working to establish biolink connections from the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area north to the Yarra Ranges National Park, south-east to the Bunyip State Park and south-west to the Dandenong Ranges National Park. Yarra4Life has supported local agricultural businesses and landholders to undertake programs that improve the environmental sustainability of their businesses and property management, while also facilitating community-based education and training opportunities.

All Conservation Area land managers have representatives as appointed members of the Yarra4Life Committee.

Community based organisations

Several volunteer Landcare and friends' groups are active in the area. These community volunteer groups have taken on important conservation roles, including tree planting, species monitoring, the removal of rubbish, pest animals and weeds, soil

conservation, the management of runoff, and community education. While conservation is a key focus, these groups provide a valuable opportunity for people to meet and interact with others who share similar interests. Participation in Landcare and friends' groups also builds a sense of community and connection to the local environment.

Goal 2

Community skills, knowledge and assistance provide stewardship and help in managing the Conservation Area

| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
|---|----------------|------------------|---|
| Work in partnership with Yarra Ranges Council, Cardinia Shire Council and local community groups to identify and prioritise key projects to improve the biodiversity values of the Conservation Area. | Immediate | Land managers | Yarra Ranges Council Cardinia Shire Council |
| Work with community groups to promote their work, encourage safe work practices and share ecosystem restoration skills. | Medium | Land managers | Community groups |
| Support citizen science programs and increased active use of the Conservation Area by educational institutions. | Medium | Parks Victoria | Community groups Educational institutions |
| Support opportunities to extend and diversify volunteering to increase community connections, and promote health and wellbeing of people and Country. | Medium | Land managers | Community groups Landcare networks PPWCMA |
| Encourage the establishment of Trust for Nature covenants on private land wherever possible. | Longer term | Trust for Nature | Private land holders |
| Promote use of the Conservation Area during community engagement days, cross-cultural training days and volunteer events such as National Tree Day and Clean Up Australia Day. | As required | Land managers | Community groups |

3.5. Manage in partnership with Traditional Owners

The Traditional Owners' connection to the land and their roles as custodians of Aboriginal cultural heritage and places are respected. Management of the Conservation Area will be consistent with the requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act to recognise and protect tangible and intangible Aboriginal heritage.

Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) are organisations that hold decision-making responsibilities under the Aboriginal Heritage Act for protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage in a specified geographical area. The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation is the appointed RAP for all of land included in the Conservation Area.

A map showing Victoria's current Registered Aboriginal Parties is available on the Aboriginal Victoria website here; <https://achris.vic.gov.au/weave/wca.html>

Native title describes the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in land and waters, according to their traditional laws and customs.

There are no current native title claims in the Conservation Area. However, native title rights apply whether or not a claim is pending.

This plan provides an important opportunity for Traditional Owners to express their connection to Country, and the significance and meaning of particular sites, places and events. The plan also enables Traditional Owners to work in partnership with government to protect important cultural and natural assets. This includes gathering and sharing their experience and knowledge of the area to create a richer visitor experience.

Ongoing consultation will help to ensure that Traditional Owners' aspirations for their Country are understood and delivered through partnerships. DELWP and Parks Victoria recognises the mutual benefits of working with Traditional Owners to recognise and integrate their knowledge and advice into managing the Conservation Area. Sharing knowledge and developing approaches to building capacity and resources is a key part of the working relationships Traditional Owners and DELWP and Parks Victoria have established across the state, and continue to strengthen.

The Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023

The *Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023* (VAAF) is the Victorian Government's overarching framework for working with Aboriginal Victorians, organisations and the wider community to drive action and improve outcomes.

The VAAF sets a clear direction for how government will 'plan', 'act', 'measure' and 'evaluate' to progress change across Government, address inequity and deliver stronger outcomes for and with Aboriginal Victorians.

Government's commitment to self-determination

The Victorian Government is committed to self-determination and working closely with the Aboriginal community to drive action and improve outcomes. The government is committed to self-determination as the guiding principle in Aboriginal affairs as set out in the VAAF. Government agencies work closely with the Aboriginal community to drive action and improve outcomes. Following the VAAF, the Victorian Government released the *Self-Determination Reform Framework* (SDRF) in 2019. The SDRF provides a structure and guidance for Victorian Government departments and agencies to enact the VAAF's self-determination priorities.

Pupangarli Marnmarnepu 'Owning Our Future' Aboriginal Self-Determination Reform Strategy 2020-2025

Pupangarli Marnmarnepu is a five-year roadmap that enables self-determination at DELWP by fostering an environment that honours the rights and dignity of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians. The strategy is founded on cultural authority that sets the strategic direction and actions for DELWP to advance Aboriginal self-determination.

The strategy details the outcomes, indicators and measures that will inform yearly priorities, which will be measured in partnership with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians. The strategy also aligns with the whole-of-Victorian-Government commitments set out in the VAAF

Managing Country Together Framework 2019

The *Managing Country Together Framework* has been developed by Parks Victoria in response to important developments in the way the Victorian Government recognises and enables Traditional Owner rights and supports the self-determination of the Aboriginal community more broadly.

The framework is a blueprint that guides how Parks Victoria works in partnership with Traditional Owners to protect Victoria's cultural landscapes. It outlines how Parks Victoria recognises and supports Traditional Owner rights and interests through park management.

The framework comprehensively outlines Parks Victoria's commitment to Aboriginal self-determination, and describes Parks Victoria's systemic process for implementing the principles and directions outlined in the VAAF.

Yarra River Protection (Willip-gin Birrarung Murrn) Act 2017

The Yarra River is one of Victoria's most iconic waterways, integral to Melbourne's identity and the liveability of the city. The river traverses more than 200km of urban and rural landscapes across many thousands of hectares of private and public land. The Yarra River system in its entirety is the major source of Melbourne's drinking water and a biodiversity corridor supporting diverse life forms. It

has particular spiritual and cultural significance for Aboriginal communities. To the Wurundjeri People, the river, known as Birrarung, was a life source and an important meeting place.

In 2017, legislation passed through the Victorian Parliament to protect the Yarra River for future generations. In an Australian first, the Yarra River Protection (Willip-gin Birrarung Murrn) Act enables the identification of the Yarra River and the many hundreds of parcels of public land it flows through as one living, integrated natural entity for protection and improvement. Additionally, to underline the importance of the public parklands and open spaces along the Yarra River within metropolitan Melbourne, the Act allows these to be collectively declared as the Greater Yarra Urban Parklands. The Act is the first in Victoria to use the language of Traditional Owners in its title, and one of the first in Australia to include Traditional Owner language in the Act's body. Woi Wurrung language is used in recognition of Traditional Owners' custodianship of the river and connection to the lands through which the river flows.

| Goal 3 | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|---|
| Traditional Owners caring for their Country is an integral part of the Conservation Area's management. | | | |
| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
| Provide opportunities for Traditional Owners and land managers to share knowledge and work collaboratively. | Immediate | Land managers | Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation |
| Government agencies form partnerships with Traditional Owners in accordance the VAAF's self-determination priorities. | Immediate | Land managers | Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation |
| Identify and apply traditional ecological and cultural knowledge to support sustainable management practices, e.g., to enhance environmental management, education about natural values and associated cultural benefits. | Medium | Land managers | Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation |
| Partner with Traditional Owners to enrich the cultural experience and support the growth of local businesses, such as NRM contract services, tourism operations and community enterprises. | Medium | Land managers | Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation |

3.6. Manage in partnership with adjacent landholders

Within the Conservation Area, large amounts of public (Crown) land that forms streamside reserves has been historically occupied and managed by adjacent landholders. These occupations have been both authorised, with a licence issued by DELWP, and unauthorised, that is, without a licence.

A key priority will be addressing encroachments and boundary alignment issues adjacent to the Conservation Area. These issues will be identified in more detail by formal surveys to be undertaken by the Office of Surveyor-General Victoria, as the boundaries of the Conservation Area are confirmed. All use and occupation of Crown land will be assessed as part of the boundary survey. In some cases, use or occupation of Crown land may be formalised with a licence, in other cases the use or occupation will be discontinued. To ensure public land is protected, encroachments, unlicensed grazing, cropping or other unauthorised uses will be addressed in accordance with relevant government regulations.

The Government supported VEAC recommendations include the provision of conservation agreements with adjacent landholders⁵. This is to acknowledge that continuing to partner with adjacent landholders will help enhance the biodiversity and ecological values of these areas.

The Conservation Area will be progressively created in phases over several years, by placing areas of Crown land under the National Parks Act. Prior to any legislative changes to reserve areas of Crown land as part of the new Conservation Area, DELWP will remain the licensing agency. DELWP will issue riparian management licences to adjacent landowners for five years, and if necessary, for a further five years if the land has not been included in the Conservation Area by the end of the first five-year term. Once Parks Victoria assumes management responsibility for a new area of the Conservation Area, licences will remain in place until they expire, at which time adjacent landholders can apply to Parks Victoria for a conservation agreement to maintain and improve the riparian environment.

In some areas riparian management licences may also include a special condition to allow the use of grazing as a management tool where this is consistent with the document *Licensing Principles*

for *Fencing and Grazing within Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area* (Appendix B). The purpose of this document is to define the licensing principles within the Conservation Area and to provide clear guidance about licensing conditions. This includes defining the minimum stock exclusion areas to be achieved and any associated special conditions to be included on licences.

For areas managed by Parks Victoria, grazing will be discontinued, except where Parks Victoria determines that grazing is the preferred management tool.

Financial support for adjacent landholders

Livestock must be contained within the livestock owner's property and be excluded from the Crown land and waterway. A stock exclusion fence is the most effective way to achieve this. The cost of installing a fence is the landowner's responsibility, however, adjacent landowners may be eligible for financial assistance from Melbourne Water through the Stream Frontage Management Program. Funding is available to assist adjacent landholders to install fencing to exclude stock, as well as for off-stream watering infrastructure⁶, revegetation and weed works. For more details, please contact Melbourne Water on 131 722 or refer to the Melbourne Water website; <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/apply-funding/stream-frontage-management-program>

Approved water pump infrastructure may remain (for example, infrastructure associated with a stock and domestic water right or take and use licence). In all cases a licence issued under the *Water Act 1989* is required to divert water for commercial or irrigation purposes. A licence may also be required to divert water for domestic and stock use from a waterway. Adjacent landholders are advised to contact Melbourne Water by calling 131 722 to determine if a water licence is needed for their particular circumstances. Existing water pump infrastructure located on Crown land may be permitted to remain where an adjacent landholder has a current Melbourne Water diversion licence. Landholders eligible for off stream watering through Melbourne Water's Stream Frontage Management Program may also locate off stream watering infrastructure on Crown land with the land manager's permission.

⁵ Recommendation R5(e) stated that: *the National Parks Act 1975 be amended to allow for: (ii) conservation agreements with adjacent landholders, for land on Schedule Four A [now Schedule Nine] within 100 m of both a permanent waterway and the private land boundary.*

⁶ Subject in licensing.

| Goal 4 Adjacent landholders support and enjoy the ecological, economic, and social values of riparian areas. | | | |
|--|----------------|------------------------|--|
| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
| Adjacent landholders can contact DELWP to discuss their eligibility for a riparian management licence. | Immediate | DELWP | Melbourne Water |
| Design planting to maintain reasonable access for adjacent landholders to the stream frontage areas. | Immediate | DELWP | Melbourne Water |
| Access to riparian areas is maintained for adjacent landholders for the purpose of passive recreation. | Immediate | DELWP, Parks Victoria | Melbourne Water |
| Off stream watering infrastructure that is located on Crown land will generally be allowed to remain, subject to licensing. (However, there may be a requirement to re-locate pump sheds and other built structures at the end of their useful life. This will be negotiated with individual landholders). | Immediate | DELWP, Parks Victoria | Melbourne Water |
| Adjacent landholders enter into riparian management licences as appropriate. | Immediate | DELWP | Land managers |
| Facilitate landholder access to advice and information to support biodiversity conservation and improve water quality on freehold property. | Immediate | DELWP | Melbourne Water |
| Adjacent landholders continue riparian works where a riparian management licence is in place, e.g., habitat restoration and revegetation, weed management, fencing etc. | Medium | DELWP, Melbourne Water | Adjacent landholders Community groups |
| Support adjacent landholders in maintaining biodiversity through weed management and pest animal control projects. | Medium | DELWP | Parks Victoria |
| Transition from riparian licences to conservation agreements as Parks Victoria assumes management of new areas. Phase out riparian management licences as land is reserved under the National Parks Act. | Longer term | Parks Victoria | DELWP |

A firefighter in a yellow jacket and white helmet is working in a forest. The firefighter is wearing a white helmet with a yellow stripe and a black communication device. They are holding a large, mossy log. In the background, another firefighter is visible. The image is overlaid with a large orange triangle on the left side and a smaller orange triangle at the bottom right.

4. Fire management

The implementation of the Conservation Area will be based on the Yellingbo Conservation Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan which incorporates knowledge of leading independent experts and informs a risk-based approach to revegetation and reserve planning that will not materially increase bushfire risk to the local and broader communities.

4.1. Key management outcomes

- The Conservation Area will be established based on the planning principles within the *Yellingbo Conservation Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan* (August 2018)⁷
- There will be no material increase in bushfire risk as a result of revegetating public land to implement the *Victorian Government response to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's Yellingbo Investigation Final Report* (March 2014).
- Maintain or improve the resilience of natural ecosystems and their ability to deliver ecosystem services such as biodiversity, water, carbon storage and forest products.

4.2. Yellingbo Conservation Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan

Bushfire management on public land is the responsibility of DELWP. For bushfire management and planning, DELWP and partner agencies, such as Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water, work under the name of Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV).

In response to community concerns relating to bushfire risk, the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change committed to prioritising the development of the *Yellingbo Conservation Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan* (2018), which incorporates knowledge from leading independent experts and informs a risk-based approach to revegetation and reserve planning that will not increase bushfire risk to the local and broader communities.

The following planning principles were prepared which provide the basis for plan.

Planning principles of the Yellingbo Conservation Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan

- Human life will be afforded priority over all other considerations
- Establishment of the Conservation Area will not materially increase the bushfire risk to the local or broader community
- Establishment of the Conservation Area will maintain or improve the resilience of natural ecosystems and their ability to deliver ecosystem services such as biodiversity, water, carbon storage and forest products
- A scientific approach using the most up-to-date information and advice from independent experts will be used to develop the plan
- Staff from Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and CFA will be involved in the preparation of the plan to ensure that local knowledge is considered
- DELWP will be transparent about how decisions have been made and how stakeholder input has been considered
- DELWP will be transparent about what assumptions have been made in terms of risk assessment and mitigation
- The plan will not conflict with DELWP or Parks Victoria's legislated obligations
- The plan will not conflict with other land management policies relevant to the Conservation Area

⁷ A copy of the *Yellingbo Conservation Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan* (2018) is available at the Engage Victoria website; <https://engage.vic.gov.au/yellingboconservationarea>

No material increase in bushfire risk

| Goal 5 Ensure there is no material increase in bushfire risk as a result of revegetating public land to implement the <i>Victorian Government response to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's Yellingbo Investigation Final Report (2014)</i> . | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|--|
| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
| Strategically plan revegetation on public land. Programs for revegetation will consider what is appropriate for a specific site and be informed by CFA feedback of waterpoints and access tracks. | Immediate | DELWP | Parks Victoria Melbourne Water CFA |
| Limit extent of revegetation near dwellings; ensure a minimum setback distance of 100m and combine with lower bark hazard vegetation buffers. | Immediate | Land managers | DELWP |
| Restrict revegetation to a maximum of 10m from top of bank on either side of the waterway in the restricted revegetation area only (Ref. Figure 1. Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area Map). | Immediate | Land managers | DELWP |
| Allow grazing under a riparian management license where appropriate to reduce fuel loads. | Immediate | DELWP | Melbourne Water |
| Maintain appropriate emergency management plans and access to the Conservation Area. | Immediate | Land managers | FFMV CFA |
| Implement bushfire mitigation measures as part of the initial redevelopment of Haining Farm. | Immediate | Parks Victoria | FFMV CFA |
| Continue to work closely with local CFA brigades to share and integrate local knowledge. | Medium | Land managers | FFMV, CFA |
| Provide new access tracks and water points in consultation with local government, CFA brigades and FFMV. | Medium | Land managers | FFMV, CFA |

Increased resilience of natural ecosystems

| Goal 6 Maintain or improve the resilience of natural ecosystems to bushfire and their ability to deliver ecosystem services such as biodiversity, water, carbon storage and forest products. | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|--|
| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
| Manage the ecological burn regime. | Immediate | FFMV | Parks Victoria |
| Utilise fire prevention and non-burning fuel treatments to reduce risk. | Immediate | Land managers | DELWP CFA Parks Victoria FFMV |
| Use fire management techniques that prioritise the protection of environmental and cultural values (such as slashing and minimising wetland exposure to fire retardants) and tolerable fire intervals of fire sensitive vegetation to inform the frequency of planned burns. | Medium | Land managers | DELWP CFA Parks Victoria FFMV |
| Work with Traditional Owners to investigate integrating traditional burning in accordance with <i>The Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Fire Strategy</i> . | Medium | Land managers | FFMV Traditional Owners |
| Future prescribed burns should exclude the rainforest gullies. Autumn burns recommended. Ecologically desirable not to burn the narrow corridors of Riparian Wet Forest along the creek channels, as vegetation is not as well adapted to fire as the surrounding vegetation. | Medium | FFMV | FFMV, CFA |

Information regarding planned burning is available on the Forest Fire Management Victoria website;
<https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/bushfire-fuel-and-risk-management/planned-burning-in-victoria>

North-East Corner – Special conditions for revegetation in streambanks

In January 2017, the State Government responded to community concern regarding bushfire risk in the north-east corner of the Conservation Area, including the townships of Yarra Junction, Launching Place, Don Valley, Millgrove and Wesburn. The Government's response included a decision that, for some parts of Precinct 2, revegetation⁸ on public land is to be restricted to a maximum of 10m from the top of bank on either side of waterways in this area only.

The restricted revegetation area includes the Yarra River, only for areas east of the Yarra Bridge Streamside Reserve (excluding Haining Farm), Little Yarra River and Britannia Creek. The restricted revegetation area also extends south from the confluence of the Yarra River and Hoddles Creek only as far as the public land adjacent to the intersection of Gembrook Launching Place Road and Grieve Street, Launching Place. (Refer **Figure 1. Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area Map**).

It will give greater surety to local landholders that bushfire risk and environmental values will be managed effectively.

The restricted revegetation area applies only to public (Crown) land and includes the following conditions:

- **Revegetation** is defined as; *the establishment of native vegetation to a minimum standard in a formerly cleared area outside a remnant patch*⁹
- Revegetation on public land will only occur to a maximum of 10m from the top of bank on each side of a waterway, in the streamside areas¹⁰
- Revegetation may still be required beyond 10m in some circumstances, for example for the suppression of weeds or to prevent erosion
- Revegetation works will be managed by either DELWP, Parks Victoria or Melbourne Water, depending on land management arrangements for a particular area.
- At the request of adjacent landholders, narrow bands of revegetation along fence lines are permitted beyond 10m to maintain privacy for adjacent landholders
- Revegetation of riparian wetlands, which serve to mitigate bushfire risk, may also occur beyond 10m from top of bank
- All revegetation work will be conducted in accordance with the Yellingbo Conservation Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan (2018)
- Prioritising on-ground works to support bushfire prevention and pest management..

⁸ Definition of revegetation from DEWLP Output Data Standard (March 2021).

⁹ Definition of revegetation from DEWLP Output Data Standard (March 2021).

¹⁰ Definition of revegetation from DEWLP Output Data Standard (March 2021).



**5. Cultural
Heritage**

The Conservation Area has a rich living history that is a vital legacy for Aboriginal people, the local community and for all Australians.

The Traditional Owners' connection to the land and their roles as custodians of Aboriginal cultural heritage and places are respected. Management of the Conservation Area will be consistent with the requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act to recognise and protect tangible and intangible Aboriginal heritage. In addition, legislation such as the FFG Act and the Commonwealth EPBC Act provide for protection of a range of values. This legislation is taken into account in this plan.

5.1. Key management outcomes

- Establish and maintain partnerships with Traditional Owners which advance self-determination¹¹ in line with government's commitments in *Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023*
- Be guided by Traditional Owners in the management and interpretation of Aboriginal cultural heritage in the Conservation Area
- Establish and strengthen partnerships with the community, historical societies, local government and other key organisations, to promote sites of significance for European heritage.

5.2. Aboriginal land use and history

The Conservation Area is situated on land of Wurundjeri People and includes a number of language groups or clans.

The Aboriginal Heritage Act identifies land within 200m of waterways as areas of cultural heritage sensitivity. There are many places and sites across the Conservation Area that are of cultural heritage significance to Aboriginal people. The Yarra River and other waterways, swamps and lakes are of particular importance to Aboriginal people and contain archaeological sites, although the entire region was part of a broader cultural landscape. Documented pre-contact archaeological sites occur throughout the Yarra Valley including scarred trees and artefact scatters. Some particularly good examples of scarred trees are located in Coranderrk Bushland Nature Conservation Area. Several well-known Aboriginal community leaders are associated with the historic Coranderrk Aboriginal Mission Station established near Healesville, part of which is included in the Conservation Area (VEAC, 2012).

The landscape contains evidence of thousands of years of continuous occupation and the Conservation Area endures as an important place for Traditional Owners.

There are no current Native Title claims in the Conservation Area. However, Native Title rights apply whether or not a claim is pending. In order to comply with the *Native Title Act 1993*, once a management plan for the Conservation Area is drafted, the land manager is required to issue a notice to the Traditional Owners requesting a review of the draft management plan. This review was conducted when preparing the draft version of this plan in 2018.

¹¹ Self-determination is all about choice. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples describes self-determination as the ability for Indigenous people to freely determine their political status and pursue their economic, social and cultural equity, based on their own values and way of life.

Goal 7

Partnerships with Traditional Owners protects and conserves Aboriginal features, places, and objects of cultural significance.

| Strategy | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
|---|----------------|---|--|
| In partnership with Traditional Owners, investigate renaming the Conservation Area and its key features and locations to reflect Traditional Owners' connections in accordance with Geographic Names Victoria guidelines. | Immediate | DELWP | Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation |
| In consultation with Traditional Owners, encourage the appreciation of Aboriginal cultural heritage and country, and educate users of the cultural significance and value of the Conservation Area. | Medium | Land managers | Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation |
| Encourage a collaborative approach between land managers, Traditional Owners, Heritage Victoria, and Aboriginal Victoria (with other partners as appropriate) to research and understand the cultural landscape of the Conservation Area. | Medium | Community heritage or historical groups | Land managers Heritage Victoria Aboriginal Victoria |
| Be guided by Traditional Owners in interpreting the Conservation Area's cultural heritage, encourage participation as tour guides, and record the community's knowledge of heritage values, stories and connections. | Medium | Local residents Community groups Traditional Owners | Land managers Local councils Regional Tourism |
| In partnership with Traditional Owners, define how cultural traditions and practices relevant to the cultural heritage of the Conservation Area will be revived or continued, and facilitate cultural renewal. | Medium | Land managers | Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation |
| Explore opportunities to incorporate Indigenous land management techniques. | Medium | Land managers | Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation Community groups |
| Build capacity for the conservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage, site protection and restoration. | Medium | Land managers | Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation Aboriginal Victoria |
| Progressively identify, document, map and record all known cultural features to contemporary standards and add newly identified sites to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register. | Medium | Land managers | Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation Aboriginal Victoria |
| Work with adjacent landholders to support their participation in the recording and management of cultural heritage places and values. Share resources and provide advice and practical skills to landholders to help them manage significant cultural features. | Longer-term | Land managers | Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation Aboriginal Victoria |
| Facilitate knowledge-sharing and cooperation between Traditional Owner communities. | Longer-term | Land managers | Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation |
| Prepare any required cultural heritage management plans to address the relevant management and authorised activities. | As required | Land managers | Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation Aboriginal Victoria |

5.3. European heritage

The Dandenong Ranges and Yarra Valley have provided timber, agricultural produce, drinking water, recreation and tourism since the mid-1800s. In the earliest years of European settlement, the region was part of an expanding pastoral industry (VEAC, 2012).

Evidence remains today of a range of tourism and use-related activities in the area. As an example, a tourist track between Sassafras and Emerald was constructed in the very early 1900s and is still in use today. Gold mining was prevalent along the creeks in the 1860s and again in the early 1900s. Various maps show the indicative location of digging areas and mineshafts remain today. Sawmills were located throughout the area, situated on private land as well as in on-stream reserves.

Evidence of historic water distribution remain also. As an example, the water pipeline from Beagleys

Bridge to Monbulk Jams was constructed to divert water from the Sassafras Creek to supply the jam factory which was a major feature of the local economy. The Avard water turbine on the frontage of Menzies Creek is of local interest as it provided electricity – prior to the State Government-generated supply becoming available – and utilised part of the 1920s goldmining water race to divert the creek through the turbine.

Establishment of conservation and passive recreation areas in this region in the late 1880s illustrates a changing community emphasis towards the protection of public land for non-economic purposes; mainly for recreation in a natural environment. For example, Fern Tree Gully Forest – reserved as a place of public recreation – was popular for picnicking, nature study and walking from the 1880s. In 1927, Fern Tree Gully Forest was gazetted as a national park and in 1987 was merged with other areas to form Dandenong Ranges National Park.

| Goal 8 | | | |
|--|----------------|---|---|
| European history is interpreted and protected in the Conservation Area. | | | |
| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
| In partnership with local historical societies and community groups, define how heritage sites can be interpreted and protected <i>in situ</i> to enhance knowledge of the area's history. | Medium | Land managers | Community groups Local residents Local councils |
| Enhance historic heritage visitor and tourism experiences with visitor information and the interpretation of key stories and themes. | Medium | Community heritage Historical groups | Land managers |

The background is a photograph of a lush forest with tall trees and dense ferns. An orange triangle is overlaid on the left side, and a smaller orange triangle is in the bottom right corner. The text is white and positioned within the orange triangle on the left.

6. Healthy Conservation Landscape

Targeted restoration projects will improve habitat connectivity, biodiversity, and water quality in the Conservation Area.

6.1. Key management outcomes

- Conservation zones are established to clearly identify areas of high conservation significance to prioritise for protection and restoration
- The Conservation Area contributes to the recovery of endangered and vulnerable species of flora and fauna such as Helmeted Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus melanops cassidix*) and lowland Leadbeater's Possum (*Gymnobelideus leadbeateri*)
- Overall pest plant coverage is reduced over time through a collaborative and landscape scale management approach
- Populations of pest animals are reduced in strategic locations based on ecological significance
- Waterway health is improved through maintaining and improving values in the wetlands and river systems, including in-stream habitat.

6.2. Recovery of significant species

Threatened EVCs

Two endangered Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) are sited on public land in the Conservation Area: Cool Temperate Rainforest and Swampy Riparian Complex. Each of these EVCs is listed as threatened on the Victorian FFG Act and is briefly described below (VEAC, 2012).

Cool Temperate Rainforest vegetation community is typically dominated by combinations of Mountain Ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*), Myrtle Beech (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*), Southern Sassafras (*Atherosperma moschatum*), Black Olive-berry (*Elaeocarpus holopetalus*) and Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*). The understorey contains Musk Daisy-bush (*Olearia argophylla*), Austral Mulberry (*Hedycarya angustifolia*) and Tree ferns (*Cyathea Australis*), with a ground layer dominated by ferns (VEAC, 2012). Pockets of Cool Temperate Rainforest persist in the Hoddles Creek Nature Conservation Area, Sassafras Creek headwaters and Sassafras Creek Nature Conservation Reserve.

Swampy Riparian Complex is a structurally variable vegetation complex of swampy to waterlogged areas along low gradient drainage lines. Component EVCs can include **Creekline Herb-rich Woodland** and

Swampy Riparian Woodland (VEAC, 2012).

Approximately 70 per cent of endangered Swampy Riparian Complex EVC on public land is within the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area, with small stands also in the Coranderrk Bushland Nature Conservation Area and Little Yarra River (between Coles Road and Blacksands Road).

The Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area supports the extremely rare and threatened **Sedge-rich Eucalyptus camphora Swamp** vegetation community. This threatened vegetation community comprises an overstorey of Mountain Swamp Gum (*Eucalyptus camphora*) with structural variation from open forest to woodland. The understorey consists of sparse Woolly Tea-tree (*Leptospermum lanigerum*) and localised stands of Swamp Paperbark (*Melaleuca ericifolia*), except along permanent stream beds where it can form a closed shrub layer. Scented Paperbark (*Melaleuca squarrosa*) can also occur with Woolly Tea-tree in ephemeral waterways. The ground layer consists of a range of sedges, rushes, grasses and forbs. This vegetation community provides critical habitat for the two iconic, critically endangered, animals – the Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum at Cockatoo Swamp, although these species were formerly more widespread. The Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area also supports rare floral species such as Wiry Bossiaea (*Bossiaea cordigera*). Large areas of swamp habitat have been in decline, with dieback spreading upstream along Cockatoo Creek. Recent works by Melbourne Water have been completed to help reduce dieback through removal of a levee bank to restore a more natural hydrological regime in the area.

Significant fauna

The Conservation Area is well known for containing the last remaining wild population of the critically endangered **Helmeted Honeyeater** (*Lichenostomus melanops cassidix*), which was chosen as Victoria's bird emblem in 1971. This species has been the subject of a conservation program extending for more than half a century and focused near the township of Yellingbo. The Helmeted Honeyeater is listed on the Victorian FFG Act and Commonwealth EPBC Act.

The area also supports the only lowland population of the critically endangered **Leadbeater's Possum** (*Gymnobelideus leadbeateri*), which is Victoria's faunal emblem, endemic to the state and listed in both the Victorian and federal threatened species

legislation. Research has found genetic differences between the lowland and montane populations, with the small outlying population at the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area being managed as an 'evolutionarily significant unit'. In addition, the Yellingbo population inhabits the same swamp forest

as the Helmeted Honeyeater – a very different habitat to the tall wet eucalypt forests where montane populations of the possum exist. The Yellingbo population was discovered in 1985 and has been the subject of intensive monitoring since the mid-1990s.

Goal 9

Maintain and, where required, increase the size of threatened fauna populations. Increase extent of occurrence of key threatened fauna species across the Conservation Area through provision of suitable habitat.

| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
|--|----------------|-----------------|--|
| Support the continued implementation of Leadbeater's Possum and Helmeted Honeyeater recovery plans. | Immediate | DELWP | Land managers Recovery teams Zoos Victoria |
| Continue targeted fauna monitoring to understand population size and distribution of key species, and the range of specific threats at sites. Use monitoring results to inform/adapt management of visitor activity, weeds and pest animal control programs. | Immediate | Land managers | Community groups |
| Provide for environmental flows that maintain suitable River Blackfish and Mountain Galaxia habitat over low flow periods. | Immediate | Melbourne Water | Parks Victoria |
| Actively enforce dog on leash regulations. | Immediate | DELWP | Parks Victoria Yarra Ranges Council Cardinia Shire Council |
| Report the use of opera house yabby nets and other closed freshwater crayfish traps to Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA). | Immediate | DELWP | VFA Parks Victoria Melbourne Water |
| Identify key habitat requirements and habitat restoration goals for threatened fauna. | Medium | DELWP | Parks Victoria Zoos Victoria |
| Continue to restrict public access to Yellingbo NCA and Sheep Station Creek NCA for the protection of threatened species | Immediate | Parks Victoria | N/A |
| Continue to implement the final plan at Haining Farm to provide habitat for Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeaters Possum. | Medium | Parks Victoria | DELWP Melbourne Water Greening Australia Zoos Victoria CFA |
| Continue to support the work of community volunteer groups focused on threatened species conservation. | Medium | Parks Victoria | Friends' groups |

Significant flora

The Conservation Area is home to several threatened orchid species such as the **Wine-lipped Spider-orchid** (*Caladenia oenochila*), **Mountain Bird-orchid** (*Chiloglottis valida*) and **Spurred Helmet-orchid** (*Corybas aconitiflorus*), as well as shrubs and herbs such as **Wiry Bossiaea** (*Bossiaea*

cordigera), **Slender Bitter-cress** (*Cardamine tenifolia*) and **Swamp Everlasting** (*Xerochrysum palustre*). Also of note is the vulnerable¹² **Slender Tree-fern** (*Cyathea cunninghamii*), a tall (10-20m) fern with a fibrous trunk of 8-10cm diameter. It is uncommon in the region but can be found in moist shaded gullies, particularly near Sassafras Creek.

| Goal 10 | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|---|
| Maintain and increase the extent and richness of threatened flora and vegetation communities. | | | |
| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
| Facilitate the active rehabilitation of Swampy Riparian Complex and Sedge-rich <i>Eucalyptus camphora</i> Swamp communities in accordance with the intended management action of the Action Statement No.130 (Sedge-rich <i>Eucalyptus camphora</i> Swamp). | Immediate | Land managers | Community groups Melbourne Water |
| Facilitate the active rehabilitation of Cool Temperate Rainforest via supplementary planting of indigenous species. | Immediate | Land managers | Community groups Melbourne Water Local councils |
| Reduce the impacts of fragmentation by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing illegal vehicle access points Closing and rehabilitating informal tracks Ensuring the management of existing assets and planning for asset and access upgrades considers potential fragmentation and erosion impacts. Installation of fencing or re-alignment of access to protect high-quality remnant vegetation. | Immediate | Land managers | Community groups Adjacent landholders |
| Continue targeted plant species monitoring to understand population size and distribution of key species, and the range of specific threats at sites. Use monitoring results to inform/adapt management of visitor activity, weeds and pest animal control programs. | Immediate | Land managers | Community groups |

¹² Listed as vulnerable in *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*

| Goal 10 | | | |
|---|----------------|--|---|
| Maintain and increase the extent and richness of threatened flora and vegetation communities. | | | |
| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
| Maintain remnant riparian vegetation quality and extent, ensuring risks to natural, cultural, social and economic values are appropriately mitigated. | Immediate | Land managers | Adjacent landholders Licence holders Melbourne Water |
| Prioritise revegetation where 10m buffer is not present; supplementary planting to improve quality of understory vegetation within 10m. | Immediate | Land managers | Melbourne Water |
| Improve habitat structure with supplementary planting in areas with depleted understory or poor habitat structure. | Medium | DELWP | Parks Victoria |
| Survey vegetation quality and extent to inform best practice management based on values and presence of priority weed species, threatened species and species habitat, using the historic Melbourne Water vegetation mapping as a baseline. | Medium | Parks Victoria and other land managers | Melbourne Water Community groups |
| Improve connectivity of the Conservation Area with other high-quality habitat in the area, enabling native animals to move through the landscape. | Longer-term | Land managers | Yarra4Life Councils Trust for Nature Community groups Melbourne Water |

6.3. Pest plant management

Pest plants, or weeds, are the most significant threat to biodiversity within the Conservation Area. Weeds can outcompete native plants, alter the structure and composition of the vegetation of the hosting environment, alter stream flow of waterways, degrade water quality and pose a health risk to humans, domestic animals and wildlife.

The *Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Act 1994* is the main piece of legislation governing the management of both pest plant and animal species in Victoria. Under the CaLP Act, all landowners (including land managers) are legally required to manage declared noxious weeds and pest animals on their land. Management of pest plants within the Conservation Area will be consistent with the CaLP Act.

Pest plants and animals on public land in Victoria are managed using the biosecurity approach. The biosecurity approach aims to prevent the introduction and spread of pest plants and animals, and the diseases they carry, that threaten the environment and economy. The biosecurity approach aims to prevent the establishment of high-risk invasive species, eradicate those that are at an early stage of establishment, contain species that are beyond eradication (where possible) and adopt asset-based protection to manage widespread invasive species (Victorian Government 2010). This approach focuses on early intervention, where return for investment is greatest. The biosecurity approach will be adopted in the management of pest plants within the Conservation Area.

Weed management within the Conservation Area will be supported by the Victorian Government's Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WESI) Project. The WESI Project focuses on managing high-risk invasive weeds that threaten biodiversity when they are in the early stage of invasion (DELWP 2020a). The WESI Project has developed a six-step decision-making framework to guide public land managers through the process of managing early invader weeds (WESI 2020a).

To assist in the prioritisation of species for treatment, the DELWP advisory list of environmental weeds in Victoria will be applied. The advisory list was developed to assist land managers prioritise

management of environmental weeds. Each weed species is assigned a risk rating which provides an indication of the level of threat posed by a weed and the relative urgency of managing them across Victoria's natural ecosystems (DELWP 2020c).

Management of pest plants within the Conservation Area will be further guided by the *Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area Weed Management Strategy*. A weed management working group, comprising the various land managers with site-specific knowledge, will be responsible for the decision-making and implementation of on-ground actions, as directed by the weed management strategy.

Goal 11

Monitor and manage key invasive weeds, prioritising to enhance ecosystem values, support threatened species recovery and reduce impacts to adjacent land.

| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
|--|----------------|-----------------|---|
| Prepare a weed management strategy, prioritising areas around known threatened species populations that implement values-based weed control projects, target new and emerging species, protect key natural value asset areas from degradation. | Immediate | Land managers | N/A |
| While the weed management strategy is being developed, undertake immediate need invasive weed management through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritising treatment of new and emerging weed species infestations, e.g. Wachendorfia Staged control of priority invasive weeds; e.g. aerial Ivy, Honeysuckle, Blackberry, Yellow Flag Iris and Willows Maintenance of previously treated areas Encouraging weed management on adjacent private properties. | Immediate | Land managers | Melbourne Water DJPR PPWCMA Local councils Adjacent landholders Community groups |
| Inform adjacent landholders of their legal obligations under the CaLP Act, to manage declared noxious weeds on their land. | Immediate | DELWP | Agriculture Victoria Land managers Adjacent landholders |
| Maintain targeted weed control programs within the Conservation Area and cross-tenure programs to minimise the spread of weeds and impact on vulnerable species. | Immediate | Land managers | Community groups |
| Mitigate impact of shading and leaf drop to waterways from deciduous weed species such as willows through progressive removal and replacement with indigenous species. | Immediate | Melbourne Water | Land managers |

6.4. Invasive animal management

Deer

Four species of deer have established populations in the wild in Victoria: Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*), Hog Deer (*Axis porcinus*), Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*), and Sambar Deer (*Cervus unicolor*). The precise numbers of wild deer in Victoria is unknown. Estimates of the total population of the four species combined to be between several hundred thousand up to one million wild animals or more. A wide range of environmental, economic, and social impacts have been attributed to wild deer in Victoria. These impacts have not yet been quantified, however they are believed to be significant and increasing in their extent and severity. Examples of environmental impacts by deer include destruction of native vegetation and consequently destroying habitat; threatening biodiversity by competing with native herbivores for food sources; reducing recruitment and regeneration of critical vegetation communities; causing degradation of waterways; assisting the spread of weeds; and causing soil erosion, compaction and land degradation (DELWP 2020b).

All four species are defined as protected wildlife under the Wildlife Act. These four species are further defined as game, which means they can be legally hunted in designated areas by licensed game hunters. All deer species, except Hog Deer, are unprotected on private property and can be controlled by the property owner where they are causing injury or damage. This means deer (except for Hog Deer) on private property can be controlled without a licence or permit from DELWP. Deer control on public land requires authorisation from DELWP under the Wildlife Act. Hunting laws like the Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2012 and the *Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals in Hunting* set out minimum standards and practices to prevent cruelty and ensure hunting is undertaken humanely.

There has been a significant increase in deer populations throughout the Conservation Area and surrounding areas in recent years. This increase has resulted in increased impact on a range of values. Deer impact natural and agricultural systems through browsing on a wide range of vegetation, antler rubbing, trampling, trail creation and wallowing.

Deer control on public land is primarily managed using professional shooters or accredited volunteer hunters under the instruction and guidance of the land manager, as part of a strategic control program. In some of the larger reserves of the Conservation Area, Parks Victoria is conducting a deer control program in partnership with the Australian Deer Association and the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia. Skilled and accredited volunteers are used for the culling and on-ground delivery component of the program.

Deer exclusion fencing is also being installed in certain locations to protect key areas of habitat and revegetation sites. While deer fencing provides a long-term solution, it is only applicable to relatively small areas.

The Victorian Deer Control Strategy

The *Victorian Deer Control Strategy*¹³ has been prepared by DELWP and the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR). Assistance was provided by an advisory group comprised of representatives from DJPR, DELWP, Parks Victoria and the Game Management Authority (GMA). It is a key action under the Victorian Government's *Sustainable Hunting Action Plan 2016 – 2020* and is recognised in the *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037 Implementation Framework*. The strategy was developed in response to the rapid increase in wild deer numbers across the state. The strategy recognises that deer pose a significant risk to biodiversity, water quality, public safety, agricultural assets and Aboriginal cultural heritage values. The Victorian Government will work with land managers and the community to develop regional deer control plans. These plans will set priority locations for deer control or other management measures to address current and potential impacts on values.

¹³ A copy of the Victorian Deer Control Strategy is available here; <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/invasive-plants-and-animals/deer-control-strategy>

Foxes and feral cats

Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*) present significant threats towards native species, particularly Australian small mammals, reptiles and birds. Since their introduction within Australia following European settlement, it is estimated foxes and feral cats are responsible for much of the widespread decline or extinction of native species. Foxes and feral cats are recognised threats to native wildlife under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and are declared pests under the CaLP Act. The linear riparian corridors found within the Conservation Area are particularly sensitive to these invasive predators.

Land managers undertake pest animal control programs to manage their impact on biodiversity. Some of the most effective methods for fox management include lethal control through the use of 1080 or para-aminopropiophenone (PAPP) baiting and fox exclusion fencing, as used within the Coranderrk Bushland Nature Conservation Area. These methods will be used in the management of foxes throughout the Conservation Area.

Feral cats will not dig up baits as foxes do, rather they require baits to be laid on the ground. Alternative effective and humane methods of control include the use of trapping and shooting programs.

European wild rabbits

In Victoria, European wild rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) are declared as established pest animals under the CaLP Act. After the release of the European wild rabbit in Geelong in 1860, they have dispersed and are now found commonly throughout Victoria. These prolific breeders cause significant destruction to natural environments and agriculture. Typical impacts include soil erosion, sedimentation in waterways, competition with native species for habitat and food, alongside impacts to agricultural businesses through destruction of pastures and crops. Within the Conservation Area, Parks Victoria and DELWP will be responsible to ensure appropriate control methods are implemented.

Two forms of biological control have been introduced in Victoria to assist in the management of introduced European rabbits; myxoma virus (myxomatosis) in 1950 and Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD) in 1996. These diseases have been moderately effective with the control of rabbits, however through time, there has been decreased effectiveness as wild rabbits form natural immunity.

To further assist the control and eradication of these animals, other methods of management can be employed. Poison baiting can be an effective management tool, with use of 1080 or PAPP. In pasture areas where native animals and vegetation would not be affected, the destruction of warrens through 'ripping' can be an effective method of control. Fumigation of warrens, rabbit exclusion fences and trapping are also techniques that can be utilised. The chosen method will be selected based on what is the most effective and appropriate to use, while protecting surrounding native vegetation, cultural heritage sites and native species.

Wild dogs

Wild dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) are one of the major invasive animals threatening private land assets in and, in some situations, on environmental values in provincial Victoria. Wild dogs are declared established pest animals under the CaLP Act.

All landowners (including state and local government and private landowners) have a responsibility under the CaLP Act to take all reasonable steps to prevent the spread of, and as far as possible eradicate, wild dogs. The control of wild dogs on public land is largely undertaken by DELWP. In addition, Parks Victoria undertakes some wild dog control on public land in defined areas, to protect threatened biodiversity. DELWP works proactively with owners of land bordering public land and with the community to reduce wild dog attacks on livestock.

Goal 12

Monitor and manage invasive animals, prioritising to enhance ecosystem values, support threatened species recovery and reduce impacts to adjacent land.

| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
|--|----------------|----------------|--|
| Inform adjacent landholders of their legal obligations under the CaLP Act, to manage declared pest animals on their land. | Immediate | DELWP | Agriculture Victoria Land managers Adjacent landholders |
| Work with land managers and the community to develop regional deer control plans, in accordance with the <i>Victorian Deer Control Strategy</i> . | Immediate | DELWP | Melbourne Water DJPR PPWCMA GMA Local councils Adjacent landholders Community groups |
| Continue Parks Victoria's deer control program in Warramate Hills and Yellingbo Nature Conservation Areas and additional reserves according to requirements. | Immediate | Parks Victoria | DELWP |
| Install deer exclusion fencing in certain locations to protect key areas of habitat and revegetation sites. | Immediate | Parks Victoria | DELWP |
| DELWP Wild Dog Program officers respond to adjacent landholder reports of wild dogs and work with them to determine an appropriate course of action. | As required | DELWP | DELWP Wild Dog Program Agriculture Victoria Adjacent landholders. |

6.5. Waterway health

Waterway frontages form an important part of the Conservation Area. The Conservation Area will support and improve waterway health, with projects delivered in partnership with Melbourne Water and, in some cases, adjacent landholders. Healthy riparian land is a key objective of the Conservation Area.

Healthy riparian land provides:

- Cultural values, especially sites of significance to Traditional Owners who have a strong connection to waterways as the lifeblood for Country. Of the thousands of Aboriginal places and significant sites recorded on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register, approximately 95 per cent occur within 1km of a waterway or waterbody. These can include sites such as middens, scar trees and fish traps, as well as places with spiritual and ceremonial significance
- Habitat for native flora and fauna, including rare and threatened species
- Habitat for a range of species which perform ecosystem services for the surrounding agricultural land. Native birds, bats and insects play a vital role in pollination and pest control
- A connection to other remnant vegetation, providing for movement of native animals and plants (known as a biolink)
- Stability for river bed and banks, minimising erosion
- A filter for nutrients and sediment from catchment runoff, which improves water quality, especially upstream of drinking water supplies
- Shade, which is important in maintaining water temperature
- A supply of food for platypus, fish and aquatic macroinvertebrates from organic matter entering the water
- A supply of large wood, which forms important in-stream habitat for many native fish and invertebrates. This is also important from a geomorphic perspective, as large wood influences the formation of pools and reduces erosion of the stream bed and banks
- Recreational opportunities, such as walking, picnicking, swimming and fishing; and tourism opportunities, especially for regional areas
- Opportunities to manage climate change and its impacts by 'soaking up' (sequestering) carbon through revegetation, mitigating the impacts of climate change by the vegetation regulating in-stream temperatures through the shading of waterways and by providing habitat

and enhanced connectivity for plants and animals seeking more suitable environments due to climate change impacts.

Threats to riparian land

The major threats to riparian land are those that affect one or more of these key attributes.

The presence of livestock (particularly juvenile stock) in waterways creates a risk to human and stock health. Stock manure contains disease-causing microorganisms known as pathogens. Juvenile stock, particularly calves, contain many times more of these human-infectious pathogens than adult stock. This is because juvenile stock take a while to develop resistance to the pathogens.

Stock defecate more when standing in waterways to drink or when crossing waterways. They also stir up sediments and any pathogens that may already be in the water. If stock manure contaminates drinking water sources, and the required level of water treatment is not applied, pathogens can cause serious outbreaks of human disease. Stock are also a cause of point erosion and degradation of stream banks, increasing instability in the channel.

Managing stock access to waterways upstream of drinking water off-takes is a priority for riparian management programs in Victoria. Managing juvenile stock is the most cost-effective first action for the protection of drinking water catchments.

Recreational pressure can also impact on riparian values, as well as weeds (especially willows) and pest animals. Other impacts such as unmanaged vehicle access and stream crossings, rubbish dumping, inappropriate urban development, and other agricultural practices (such as cropping too close to riparian land), can impact on riparian values.

Benefits of undertaking riparian management

The environmental and waterway health benefits of undertaking riparian management are well established. The benefits to landholders of undertaking the works include:

- Reduced costs through increased ease of mustering
- Access to high-quality off-stream water for stock, which leads to increased water and forage intake leading, in turn, to increased weight gain or milk production
- The presence of on-farm native vegetation, which increases the land value of the farm
- The presence of healthy riparian land, which can contribute to a sense of farmer wellbeing and contribute to nature conservation.

Grazing of stream frontages will cease as part of the establishment of the Conservation Area. Adjacent landholders who own land that fronts onto a river or creek may be eligible for funding to assist manage the land. Melbourne Water's Stream Frontage Management Program supports work that protects or enhances river banks, such as weed control, fencing and planting native vegetation.

Melbourne Water helps fund a range of materials and works, including:

- Streamside fencing
- Weed control

- Setting up watering points for livestock away from rivers
- New planting or revegetation
- Some ongoing maintenance.

To find out more about the program and to make an application, you can visit Melbourne Water's website at <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/apply-funding/stream-frontage-management-program> or by calling 131 722.

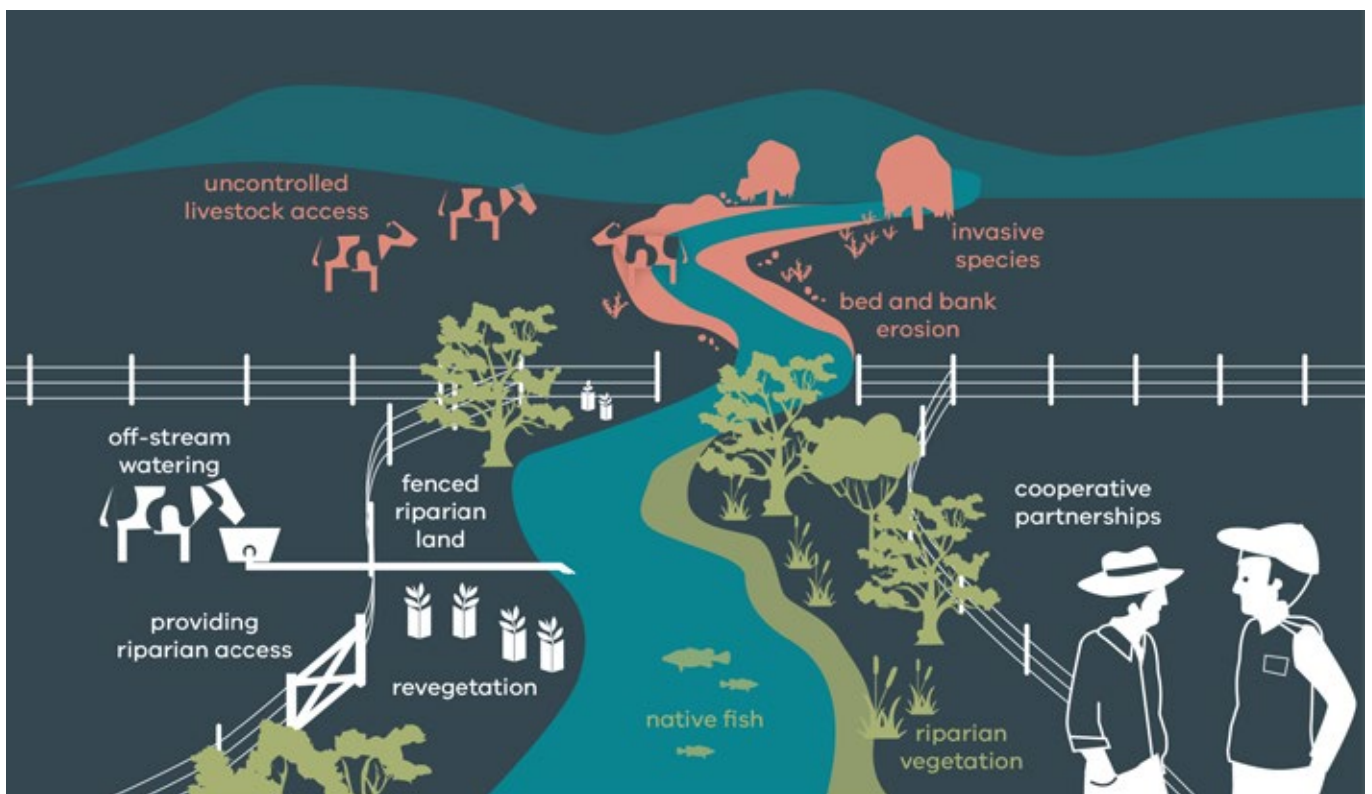


Figure 2. Healthy riparian land supports healthy primary production (Source: DELWP)

Current projects addressing waterway health

Under the *Water Act 1989*, Melbourne Water develops Stream Flow Management Plans (SFMP) for certain waterways that are considered ecologically important and stressed over summer months. SFMP are developed to manage the diversion of water from waterways to ensure there is an equitable sharing of water between commercial interests and the environment. Seven waterways in Melbourne Water's management district are classified as such,

including the Woori Yallock Creek catchment. The Woori Yallock Creek Stream Flow Management Plan recommends how water will be managed in the Woori Yallock Creek catchment. To assist with improving the health of the Woori Yallock Creek catchment, Melbourne Water undertakes a wide range of works programs including a variety of incentive programs – Stream Frontage Management Program, Community Grants, Corridors of Green, and Water Sensitive Farm Design.

Yarra Strategic Plan

The final Yarra Strategic Plan will be an overarching policy and planning framework to guide collaborative management of the river and bring the vision to life with local and state government agencies, Traditional Owners and the community. The draft Yarra Strategic Plan is a regional strategy that guides local planning and decision making and outlines the first 10 years of work to deliver the 50-year community vision for the Yarra.

The draft Yarra Strategic Plan is the first integrated corridor plan developed collaboratively by the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and all 15 state and local government agencies involved in managing the river.

The *Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area 10-year Plan* has been reviewed as part of developing the draft Yarra Strategic Plan.

| Goal 13 | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| Water quality improvements; maintain and improve values in the wetlands and river systems, including in-stream habitat. | | | |
| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
| Remove stock access to areas 15m or less from the waterway; in-stream stock watering to be phased out with support for off-stream watering ¹⁴ infrastructure within nominated guidelines. | Immediate | Land managers | Melbourne Water |
| Encourage adjacent landholders to access financial assistance with fencing, off-stream watering, revegetation and weed management through the Stream Frontage Management Program. (See chapter 9. Precincts and site-specific management directions on page 56 and Appendix B – Licensing principles for fencing and grazing within Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area on page 90 for more information about licensing arrangements). | Immediate | Melbourne Water DELWP | Adjacent landholders |
| Support complementary projects (Stream Frontage Management Program and capital projects). | Immediate | Melbourne Water | Land managers |
| Restore the hydrological regime in priority areas, where identified, to provide ecological benefits. | Immediate | Parks Victoria | Melbourne Water |
| Undertake coarse woody debris evaluation and management; community education about benefits. | Immediate | Melbourne Water | Land managers |
| Improve the quality and extent of riparian vegetation. | Immediate | Land managers | Landholders Licence holders Melbourne Water |

¹⁴ Off-stream stock watering is only available to those landholders who currently hold or have previously held a riparian licence over Crown land directly adjacent their property.

Goal 13

Water quality improvements; maintain and improve values in the wetlands and river systems, including in-stream habitat.

| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Mitigate storm water impacts in and around township areas. | Medium | Local councils Melbourne Water | Land managers |
| Investigate site suitability for restoration works and monitor and evaluate works to restore natural hydrological regime conditions. | Medium | Land managers | Melbourne Water |
| Natural channel form is maintained and enhanced by native vegetation. | Medium | Melbourne Water | Land managers |
| Environmental water reserve is increased to meet ecological watering objectives. | Medium | Melbourne Water | Parks Victoria DELWP |
| Provide continuity of fish passage along waterways. | Medium | Melbourne Water | Parks Victoria DELWP |
| Improve recreational water quality to support existing recreational activities. | Medium | Melbourne Water | Parks Victoria DELWP Melbourne Water |
| Reduce threats to water quality from nutrients, turbidity and pesticides in 10 per cent of rural and urban land. | Medium | Melbourne Water | Parks Victoria DELWP Melbourne Water |
| Ensure that project implementation is consistent with the goals of the Yarra Strategic Plan. | Medium | Land managers | Melbourne Water |

6.6. Climate change

Recent climate change projections indicate a general trend towards higher temperatures and reduced rainfall in south-eastern Australia. This poses many challenges for land management and protection of threatened species. Where localised climatic conditions are changing, enhancing the ability of species to move through the landscape is increasingly important, as this enables animals to migrate and find more suitable habitat. Climate change will also alter the distribution and growth of many weed and pest species that may be constrained by current conditions. Changes in climate will impact waterways through reduced flows and higher water temperatures.

Maintaining or improving the condition of riparian land will help mitigate some of these impacts – for example, regulating instream temperatures by shading waterways. Improved riparian land also provides habitat and enhanced connectivity for plants and animals seeking more suitable environments due to climate change impacts. Riparian areas and waterways are generally cooler than the surrounding landscape and play a vital role as refuges during extreme weather events such as heat waves. Efforts focused on improving the condition of riparian land are therefore a practical response to climate change. (Reference: *DELWP Regional Riparian Action Plan*).

Strategies listed in the previous sections will all help reduce the impact of climate change.

Conserving our emblems



Eastern Grey Kangaroo
The Eastern Grey Kangaroo is one of the most common kangaroos in the Pines. It is a large, powerful animal that can jump up to 10 metres in a single leap. It is found in a variety of habitats, including grasslands, woodlands, and mountains. It is a herbivore and feeds on grass and other vegetation.

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Small Emu

The Small Emu is a small, flightless bird that is found in the Pines. It is a herbivore and feeds on grass and other vegetation. It is a very common bird in the Pines and is often seen in the company of other emus.



Recovering the River

The River is a beautiful, scenic area that is home to a variety of wildlife. It is a popular destination for visitors who want to enjoy the natural beauty of the Pines. The River is a great place to go for a picnic or a walk.



Reintroducing the Kangaroo

The Kangaroo is a large, powerful animal that is found in the Pines. It is a herbivore and feeds on grass and other vegetation. It is a very common animal in the Pines and is often seen in the company of other kangaroos.



Reintroducing the Kangaroo

The Kangaroo is a large, powerful animal that is found in the Pines. It is a herbivore and feeds on grass and other vegetation. It is a very common animal in the Pines and is often seen in the company of other kangaroos.



Photo by [Name]

7. Community access and recreation

The local and broader community will continue to use the Conservation Area for a range of passive recreation opportunities that provide access and strong connections to nature.

7.1. Key management outcomes

- Recreation opportunities are provided within the Conservation Area where consistent with natural values
- Community access to the Conservation Area is supported and encouraged, where consistent with natural values, through the provision of appropriate assets and infrastructure
- On-site information and interpretation for the Conservation Area on values and risks is developed to enhance the visitor experience.

7.2. Recreational opportunities

The Conservation Area will continue to be accessible by the local and broader community for a range of recreational activities. There are some areas within the Conservation Area where additional access and recreation opportunities will be provided, and other areas where access and use will be limited due to high conservation values. The precinct maps in **Chapter 9** provide further details on the precise locations of various recreational activities.

Goal 14

Provide opportunities for a range of recreational visitor activities to minimise impacts on natural values, cultural values, and other users.

| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
|--|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <p>Minimise the impacts of dog walking/exercising by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing on-leash dog access only in designated areas. • identifying dog friendly zones on walking trail maps to specify suitable on-leash and nearby off-leash areas for exercising of dogs. | Immediate | Land managers | N/A |
| <p>Minimise the impacts of recreational horse riding by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing access for horse riding in accordance with section 7.3. Recreation activities by location on page 44 and as shown on relevant precinct maps in chapter 9. Precincts and site-specific management directions on page 56. • monitoring and reviewing horse riding impacts and compliance and considering further restrictions if required. • providing information to identify horse riding opportunities, including signage, to communicate horse regulations. | Immediate | Land managers | Community groups |
| Provide clear signage at key access points and visitor nodes to ensure recreational opportunities and regulations are clearly stated and visible. | Immediate | Land managers | DELWP |
| Recreational hunting will not be permitted. Hunting and the use of firearms may be authorised and supervised by the land manager as part of a pest animal control program. | Immediate | Parks Victoria | DELWP |

Goal 14

Provide opportunities for a range of recreational visitor activities to minimise impacts on natural values, cultural values, and other users.

| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
|---|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Develop park visitor facilities and recreation, education and tourism opportunities at high visitation sites including Haining Farm. Develop a plan to identify suitable opportunities. | Immediate | Parks Victoria | DELWP |
| Provide facilities to support kayaking, e.g. new kayak launch at Launching Place. (Refer to Figure 4. Precinct 2 Map in Chapter 9 for details) | Medium | Melbourne Water | DELWP, Yarra Ranges Council |
| Investigate opportunities to upgrade or improve facilities for fishing through a recreational fishing grant. | Longer term | Yarra Ranges Council | VFA, Melbourne Water |

7.3. Recreation activities by location

The table below identifies various recreational uses and whether they are permitted across the Conservation Area.

Table 2. Recreation activities by location

| Public Land Unit SF: Stream frontage natural features area. NCA: Nature Conservation Area. NCR: Nature Conservation Reserve. | Activity | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|----------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | On-leash dog walking | Horse riding | Bushwalking/trail running | Camping and campfires | Birdwatching | Cycling | Recreational fishing | Orienteering | Prospecting | Picnicking | Swimming | Vehicle Access | Kayaking and canoeing | Recreational hunting |
| Yellingbo NCA* | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Warramate Hills NCA | x | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ ^{2,3} | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | x |
| Hoddles Creek NCA | x | ✓ ¹ | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ ² | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | x |
| Yarra River SF upstream from Warramate Hills NCA | x | ✓ ¹ | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ ² | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | x |
| Sassafras Creek NCR and Kallista Bushland Reserve (at Beagleys Bridge); Sassafras Creek Bushland Reserve and Sassafras Creek Reserve (consolidation) | ✓ ⁴ | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ ² | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | x |
| Beenak NCA | x | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | x |
| Wright Forest Bushland Area | ✓ ⁴ | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ ² | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | x |
| Little Yarra River SF | ✓ ⁴ | ✓ ¹ | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ ² | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | x |
| Coranderrk Bushland NCA** | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| McCrae Creek SF | x | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | x |
| Sheep Station Creek NCA | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |

| Public Land Unit | Activity | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|----------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | On-leash dog walking | Horse riding | Bushwalking/trail running | Camping and campfires | Birdwatching | Cycling | Recreational fishing | Orienteering | Prospecting | Picnicking | Swimming | Vehicle Access | Kayaking and canoeing | Recreational hunting |
| SF: Stream frontage natural features area. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NCA: Nature Conservation Area. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NCR: Nature Conservation Reserve. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cockatoo Creek SF | x | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | x |
| Lower Hoddles and Wet Lead Creeks SFs and Hoddles Creek Bushland Reserve | x | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | x |
| Badger Creek and Yarra River SFs downstream of Warramate Hills NCA; Yarra River Streamside Reserve (Everard Park) | x | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | x |
| Haining Farm | x | ✓ ¹ | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ ² | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | x |
| Upper Hoddles Creek and Wet Lead Creek SF | x | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | x |
| Emerald Creek SF | x | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | x |
| Woori Yallock Creek SF downstream of Yellingbo NCA | x | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | x |
| Britannia Creek SF | x | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | x |
| Shepherd Creek SF | x | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | x |
| Menzies Creek SF | ✓ ⁴ | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | x | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | x | ✓ | x |

Notes:

*Access by the public is prohibited. Volunteer and educational groups undertaking environmental and threatened species protection works approved and supervised by Parks Victoria are permitted with written authorisation.

** Access by the public is prohibited. Coranderrk Bushland NCA is managed by Zoos Victoria.

- Horse riding on designated tracks, in designated areas only.
- Cycling on designated tracks only; along public access roads and designated authorised Management Vehicle Only (MVO) roads, walking tracks and shared trails.
- The former unauthorised mountain bike trail network at Warramate Hills NCA has been decommissioned. The use of mountain bikes is restricted to public access roads and designated authorised MVO roads, walking tracks and shared trails.
- Dog walking on-leash on designated MVO roads, walking tracks and shared trails only.

7.4. Management Vehicle Only (MVO) roads, walking tracks and shared trails

Table 3. Management Vehicle Only (MVO) roads, walking tracks and shared trails

| Park or Reserve: NCA: Nature Conservation Area. NCR: Nature Conservation Reserve. | Road - Management Vehicle Only (MVO); Walking Track; Shared Trail | | Activity permitted: Yes / No | | | | |
|---|---|------------------|------------------------------|---------|--------------------|--------|---|
| | Name | Type | Walking | Cycling | Dogs (on leash) | Horses | Notes |
| Yellingbo NCA # | All Roads and Tracks within the Yellingbo NCA | MVO | No | No | No | No | # refer note |
| Yellingbo NCA | Shaw Rd ## | MVO | No | No | No | No | ## public access to community nursery |
| Sheep Station Creek NCA# | All Roads and Tracks within the Sheep Station Creek NCA | MVO | No | No | No | No | |
| Warramate Hills NCA | Yarrloch Way Track | MVO | Yes | Yes | No | No | may be re-aligned away from Woori Yallock Creek |
| Warramate Hills NCA | Steel Hill Track | | Yes | Yes | No | No | |
| Warramate Hills NCA | Briarty Hill Track | | Yes | Yes | No | No | |
| Warramate Hills NCA | South Track | | Yes | Yes | No | No | |
| Warramate Hills NCA | Ridge Track | | Yes | Yes | No | No | |
| Warramate Hills NCA | Bulga Track | | Yes | Yes | No | No | |
| Warramate Hills NCA | North East Track | | Yes | Yes | No | No | |
| Hoddles Creek NCA | Pioneer Rd | MVO | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Yarra River Stream Frontage upstream from Warramate Hills NCA | Yarra River Loop Trail | Shared trail | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Proposed trail |
| Sassafras Creek NCR | Sassafras Creek Walking Track | Walking track | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| Wright Forest Bushland Area | Bridge Track | MVO | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | |
| Wright Forest Bushland Area | Red Track | MVO | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | |
| Wright Forest Bushland Area | Orange Track | MVO | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | |
| Wright Forest Bushland Area | Bauera Track | MVO | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | |
| Wright Forest Bushland Area | Boundary Track | MVO | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | |

| Park or Reserve: NCA: Nature Conservation Area. NCR: Nature Conservation Reserve. | Road - Management Vehicle Only (MVO); Walking Track; Shared Trail | | Activity permitted: Yes / No | | | | |
|---|---|------------------|------------------------------|---------|--------------------|--------|---|
| | Name | Type | Walking | Cycling | Dogs (on leash) | Horses | Notes |
| Wright Forest Bushland Area | Hakea Track | MVO | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | |
| Wright Forest Bushland Area | Olearia Track | MVO | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | |
| Wright Forest Bushland Area | Hailebury Track | MVO | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | |
| Wright Forest Bushland Area | Moola Track | MVO | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | |
| Wright Forest Bushland Area | Grass Tree Track | MVO | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | |
| Wright Forest Bushland Area | Tetradlea Track | MVO | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | |
| Wright Forest Bushland Area | Wright Track | MVO | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | |
| Wright Forest Bushland Area | Banksia Track | MVO | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | |
| Wright Forest Bushland Area | Blue Track | MVO | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | |
| Little Yarra River Stream Frontage | Little Yarra Trail | Shared trail | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Proposed trail |
| Haining Farm | Track A | MVO | Yes | Yes | No | No | |
| Haining Farm | Track B | MVO | Yes | Yes | No | No | |
| Haining Farm | Track C | MVO | Yes | Yes | No | No | |
| Haining Farm | Track D | MVO | Yes | Yes | No | No | |
| Haining Farm | Track E | MVO | Yes | Yes | No | No | |
| Haining Farm | Track F | MVO | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | trail within the Woodland Buffer and around the old dairy buildings |
| Haining Farm | Track G | MVO | Yes | Yes | No | No | |
| Menzies Creek Stream Frontage | Menzies Creek Walking Track | Walking track | Yes | No | Yes | No | |

Notes:

Access by the public is prohibited. Volunteer and educational groups undertaking environmental and threatened species protection works approved and supervised by Parks Victoria are permitted with written authorisation.

Public access is permitted to the community nursery on Shaw Rd.

Activities of prospecting and fossicking are prohibited.

7.5. Access, facilities and safety

Roads and tracks are maintained for public and management access, including emergency response to incidents such as fire and other emergencies, visitor illness or injury. Tracks are maintained to minimise their impact on natural and cultural values and may be closed to protect Conservation Area values or for visitor safety, either temporarily or permanently.

A range of infrastructure is provided and maintained to support access to the Conservation Area for passive recreation. Public access to the Conservation Area will be provided through both existing and newly established access tracks and roads on existing Crown land reserves.

A road is land that has been set aside for public access now or in the future. An unused road is a government road that was officially set aside for public traffic but never constructed or used. New access points will be established along some currently unused government road reserves, which will be upgraded with infrastructure such as gates, fences and signs.

Public access to any part of the Conservation Area through freehold land is prohibited unless permission is granted by the landholder.

7.6. Camping

The Victorian Government is committed to helping Victorians spend time together in the outdoors. The VFA is working with DELWP to deliver the Victorian Government's 2018 'Fishing and Boating' election commitment to allow camping on river frontages with grazing licences.

Public access to licensed Crown land water frontages is permitted for recreational activities such as hiking, fishing and bird-watching, however camping is not currently permitted. At the time of drafting this plan, regulations that will allow camping on licensed Crown land water frontages are being developed. Until the new regulations come into effect, camping is prohibited on all Crown land water frontages.

A public consultation process on regulations was held during March and April 2021. More details are available here <https://engage.vic.gov.au/regulated-watercourse-land-regulations>

In the long term, the Conservation Area will not be impacted by these changes, as all land will eventually be reserved under the National Parks Act so will exclude camping. In the interim, there may be some areas within the Conservation Area where camping

may legally occur, although at the time of drafting this plan this is yet to be determined. In accordance with current regulations, this plan stipulates that camping will be prohibited throughout the Conservation Area.

7.7. Community events and commercial tours

Events, commercial tours and commercial filming and photography require a permit issued by the land manager. Community events involving small numbers of people engaged in activities which are consistent with permitted recreation activities by location (please refer to **Table 2**). Activities will be permitted at the discretion of the land manager. Those organising community events must contact the land manager to seek official permission prior to holding a community event.

7.8. Cycling

Cycling is permitted in some parts of the Conservation Area along public access roads and designated authorised roads and tracks. Cycling will also be permitted on proposed shared trails along the Little Yarra and Yarra Rivers only. Please refer to **Table 2** and **Table 3** for further details.

7.9. On-leash dog walking/exercising

Walking is good for the wellbeing of both the dog and its owner. However, the interests of dog owners must be balanced with the potential risks posed by dogs. Dogs present a significant risk to vulnerable wildlife and the experience and safety of other visitors, particularly when off-leash.

Dog on-leash restrictions will provide a high degree of protection for native wildlife, and will minimise negative interactions with other visitors. To mitigate the risks posed by dogs, dog walking/exercising is permitted on-leash only in the following locations:

- Hoddles Creek NCA – Pioneer Road only
- Menzies Creek Walking Track
- On proposed shared trails in designated areas of the Yarra River
- On proposed shared trails in designated areas of the Little Yarra River
- Sassafras Creek Walking Track
- Wright Forest Bushland Area – all formed roads and trails.

Provisions applying to dog walking/exercising:

- Dog walking is only permitted on designated Management Vehicle Only (MVO) roads, walking tracks and shared trails
- Dog swimming is considered an off-leash activity and is therefore not permitted
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times when not inside a vehicle
- Dog walking compliance will be monitored and will be reviewed periodically. Dog walking provisions may be subject to changes
- Dogs are not permitted in any other part of the Conservation Area, with the exception of those reserves to which local government agencies have been assigned as committees of management.

There are a several reserves within the Conservation Area where management has been assigned to local government agencies as committees of management. Council regulations governing dog walking/exercising apply in all these reserves. The reserves are as follows:

Yarra Ranges Council:

- Everard Picnic Ground, near Healesville
- Doon Reserve, Yarra Junction
- Baynes Park, Monbulk.

Cardinia Shire Council:

- Alma Treloar Reserve, Cockatoo.

Many existing on-leash and off-leash dog walking areas exist in areas adjacent to the Conservation Area, within both the Yarra Ranges and Cardinia municipalities. For more information please contact the relevant council.

Additionally, all state forests in Victoria (except Murrindindi Scenic Reserve) are open to dogs. Visitors can bring their dog into state forests, provided they are under control at all times. Please refer to the Forest Fire Management Victoria website for further information: <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/visiting-state-forests/bring-your-dog>

7.10. Firewood collection

Firewood can be collected in state forests for home use in designated places at specific times. DELWP guidelines regarding firewood collection are available at: <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region> Firewood collection is not permitted within 20m of any rivers, creeks, lakes or dams. Additionally, firewood collection is not permitted on public land under the National Parks Act and will therefore will not be permitted within the Conservation Area.

7.11. Horse riding

Horse riding is an excluded activity in nature conservation areas in keeping with the primary purpose of conservation of native flora and fauna, these provisions generally apply across Victoria for nature conservation areas. A set aside has been established in Hoddles Creek Nature Conservation Area to permit horse riding along Pioneer Road.

Horse riding will also be permitted in several other designated areas, these are:

- Yarra River Stream Frontage upstream from Warramate Hills NCA, pending the approval of a shared trail
- Little Yarra River Stream Frontage – only on the proposed shared trail
- Haining Farm – only on the trail within the Woodland Buffer and around the old dairy buildings.

Please refer to **Table 2** and **Table 3** above for further details.

Horse riding opportunities in adjacent areas

There are also extensive opportunities for horse riding in areas directly adjacent to the Conservation Area. For example. horse riding is permitted along Evans Road, running alongside the southern boundary of the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area. This road is outside of the boundary of the Conservation Area and forms part of the Macclesfield Equestrian Trail administered by Yarra Ranges Council.

In addition to the Macclesfield Equestrian Trail, areas where horse riding can occur include the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail and the Wellington Road Equestrian Trail. Further information on these trails is available on the Yarra Ranges Council website <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/>

Horse riding is also permitted in Kurth-Kiln Regional Park and Bunyip State Park. Further information on these two parks can be found on the Parks Victoria website <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/>

7.12. Kayaking and canoeing

A kayak launch has recently been constructed on the Yarra River at Launching Place to provide a safe and convenient starting point for visitors to explore the Yarra River by kayak or canoe. The launch is located near the corner of Don Road and the Warburton Highway. Opportunities for kayaking and canoeing also exist at Everard Park, near Healesville.

7.13. Prospecting

Prospecting is permitted in accordance with the conditions of a miner's right or tourist fossicking authority and, where relevant, subject to any conditions determined under section 32D of the National Parks Act. Please refer to **Table 2** and **Table 3** above for further details.

7.14. Recreational fishing

Recreational fishing is governed by the *Fisheries Act 1995*, the *Fisheries Regulations 2008* or other Acts and subordinate legislation applying to or affecting recreational fishing. The VFA is an independent statutory authority established to effectively manage Victoria's fisheries resources. The VFA has published a *Recreational Fishing Guide* which provides more detail regarding laws governing recreational fishing.

A Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) covers all forms of recreational fishing in all of Victoria's marine, estuarine and inland waters. Unless you are exempt, it is your responsibility to hold a current RFL when fishing in Victoria – penalties apply for fishing without a licence.

Details on applying for a RFL and the *Recreational Fishing Guide* are available from the VFA website <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/> or by calling 136 186.

Recreational fishing is permitted in all parts of the Conservation Area, except in areas in which public access is prohibited to maintain environmental values. Please refer to **Table 2** for details.

Bait collection is prohibited throughout the Conservation Area.

Opera house nets

In 2019 the Victorian Government announced a ban on opera house yabby nets and other closed freshwater crayfish traps in all Victorian public and private waters. These style of nets were banned because their use has led to a significant decline of air breathing wildlife, such as native water rats (rakali), platypus and turtles.

7.15. Shared use trails

A shared use trail is being proposed along the Little Yarra River at Yarra Junction. The project is being led by Melbourne Water, in partnership with Yarra Ranges Council and DELWP. The project provides an opportunity of improving recreational activities, amenity, community access and connection to the waterway by constructing a new shared use trail along the river which connects with the existing Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail. Community feedback on the trail was sought in late 2020. With the feedback received the functional design is being developed, which will involve investigating the feasibility and constructability of the key concepts. Construction is currently scheduled to commence in mid-2022. The location of the proposed trail is indicated on the Precinct 2 map in **section 9.2 on page 63**.

At the time of drafting this plan, a process underway in relation to the Launching Place Yarra Track project, which is being developed by the Yarra Ranges Council. The proposed track consists of trail located on Crown land water frontage to the Yarra River at Launching Place to the south of Haining Farm, linking to the Warburton Rail Trail. The location of the proposed trail is indicated on the Precinct 2 map in **section 9.2 on page 63**.

The proposed Yarra Valley Trail is a project being led by Yarra Ranges Council. The project is being planned in three stages, with the third stage from Healesville to the Lilydale to Warburton Trail intersecting with the Conservation Area. The planning and design of both the Conservation Area and the Yarra Valley Trail will need to be considered together so that the two processes are integrated.

The Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail is an existing 13km walking and cycling trail that links Emerald, Cockatoo and Gembrook. The Emerald to Cockatoo section passes through Emerald Lake Park¹⁵ and Wright Forest Bushland Area.

7.16. Swimming

Swimming is permitted within the Conservation Area, however waterway swimming suitability and conditions are not monitored. Waterways may in some areas and at certain times be unsafe for swimming, with strong currents, underwater obstructions and varying water quality.

¹⁵ Emerald Lake Park is adjacent to the Conservation Area, west of Wright Forest.

Goal 15

A range of access and infrastructure is provided and maintained to support passive recreation, emergency response and management of the Conservation Area while minimising the environmental and cultural impacts of visitation. Tracks are closed or access modified where they do not support this goal.

| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
|--|----------------|----------------------|---|
| Maintain access tracks and water points for emergency response. | Immediate | DELWP | Parks Victoria FFMV CFA |
| Protect key species from trampling and other visitor impacts through sensitive site access designs, mapping and monitoring of key sites across the Conservation Area. Close and rehabilitate tracks where appropriate. | Immediate | Land managers | Parks Victoria |
| Maintain walking tracks to be distinct but without major modification to the ground, unless required for visitor safety or to protect values; e.g., boardwalk. | Medium | Land managers | Parks Victoria |
| Prioritise maintenance and renewal of facilities through detailed site planning that considers visitor use patterns, and the management of environmental and cultural impacts. | Medium | Land managers | Parks Victoria |
| Provide vehicle and walking access to visitor sites and Conservation Areas. Monitor the condition of the access network and, where possible, mitigate damage to values or to the asset. | Medium | Land managers | Parks Victoria |
| Ensure a strategic and integrated approach to safety signage to provide visitors clear and consistent messages on safety risks so they may enjoy a safe visit. | Medium | Land managers | Parks Victoria |
| Support Cardinia Shire Council in the implementation of the master plan for Alma Treloar Reserve. | Medium | DELWP | Cardinia Shire Council |
| Investigate trail linkages with Lilydale Warburton Rail Trail. | Medium | Yarra Ranges Council | Parks Victoria |
| Consult with community and Traditional Owners to assign names to unnamed roads and tracks in the Conservation Area and update maps accordingly. | Longer term | Parks Victoria | Traditional Owners Local communities |
| Investigate unique emergency location codes at major access areas to the Conservation Area or that site/location naming is formalised and site names are incorporated in VicMap data. | As required | DELWP | Parks Victoria |

7.17. Education and interpretation

Education and interpretation are important tools for connecting people with the value of public land. Fostering an appreciation for, and understanding of, nature and culture can enhance the visitor experience. Effective communication can promote appropriate behaviours to protect inherent values and to ensure all visitors enjoy their time in the Conservation Area.

| Goal 16 The Conservation Area provides formal and informal opportunities to educate the community about a range of factors including conservation. | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|--|
| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
| Promote and educate visitors on biosecurity issues and the benefits of using designated pathways and the impacts of forming undefined tracks, trampling vegetation. | Medium | Land managers | Community groups Melbourne Water |
| Inform Conservation Area users of the presence of important flora species and communities through permanent signage at key access points. | Medium | Parks Victoria | DELWP |
| Educational experiences can continue in the riparian land to enable educational institutions such as the schools that adjoin the Conservation Area to engage students in the local environment. | Medium | Land managers | Educational providers |
| Review existing signage at key visitor sites and access points to improve visitor orientation and interpretation. | Medium | Land managers | DELWP/Parks Victoria |
| Increase appreciation and understanding of the Conservation Area through increased community awareness of the roles of agencies and volunteer groups in managing the Conservation Area. | Medium | Land managers | Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area Community Reference Group |
| Educate the community about the benefits of wider riparian vegetation; e.g., for reducing wind throw and mitigating wind impact on mature trees. | Longer term | Land managers | Melbourne Water |



8. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Insights gained from monitoring programs will be used to evaluate, adapt and improve the management of the Conservation Area, which is vital for its future. The monitoring and evaluation will inform on-ground management and enhance user-knowledge to ensure beneficial outcomes for the Conservation Area.

8.1. Key management outcomes

- Establishment of a monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework which is an integral part of Conservation Area management.

Research and monitoring activities will be undertaken in collaboration with agencies and the broader community to support effective management of the Conservation Area's ecological, cultural and visitor values as well as baseline assessments of the condition of each precinct, including the mapping of weed infestation and evidence of threatened flora and fauna species.

Research and long-term monitoring will be required to determine the effectiveness of management actions. This will take many forms, focusing on areas such as ecology, cultural heritage, outdoor recreation and social science. The ongoing collection of information and evidence will not only assist reporting, it will help test assumptions and fill gaps in knowledge. This adaptive management approach will enable continuous improvement by providing timely information to support management decisions; for example, whether additional intervention or a change in approach is required to improve outcomes. It also helps build understanding about the connection between on-ground actions and long-term objectives for the Conservation Area.

Long-term monitoring of values can be costly and labour-intensive. Therefore, wherever possible, priority ecological assets (values) or threats should be selected for monitoring. These can potentially provide an indication of trends across a suite of similar elements; for example, monitoring of threatened species populations and breeding success can help to demonstrate whether management actions are likely to be achieving improved outcomes for habitat and for other broader ecological values. Community-based volunteer science programs frequently play an important role in helping to deliver such monitoring.

The following measures relate to the desired outcomes for Conservation Area, rather than for specific strategies listed throughout this plan. In the future, they will generally be reported through Parks Victoria's State of the Parks program and in land manager annual reports. These measures are expected to be refined and, subject to available

funding, further measures may be identified as more information becomes available and techniques improve. Specific targets will also be developed.

Ecological measures

The goals for the natural environment are to maintain and improve the diversity and condition of ecosystems, habitats, populations of communities and species, including:

- Extent and condition of vegetation
- Extent and condition of target endangered vegetation communities
- Population monitoring of known threatened flora species
- Population monitoring for Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum
- Distribution and status of key threats to target ecosystems, including fox and deer activity, weed invasion and human use
- Monitoring results of hydrology restoration interventions
- Monitoring dieback sites.

Cultural heritage

The goals relating to cultural heritage aim to recognise and respect peoples' heritage connections and protect heritage places. Measures could potentially focus on the:

- Involvement of Traditional Owners
- Involvement of community groups
- Condition of significant heritage places.

Visitors and tourism

The goals for visitors and tourism include maintaining a range of engaging visitor experiences, while protecting the environment. Measures could potentially focus on the:

- Condition of visitor facilities
- Extent and condition of the road and track network
- Level of participation in education and interpretation programs
- Level of participation in licensed tours.

Community partnerships

The goals for community partnerships is to strengthen people's connections and increase community stewardship. Measures could potentially

focus on the:

- Level of Traditional Owners' involvement in management of the Conservation Area
- Level of volunteers and community group participation.

Goal 17

Monitoring and evaluation to improve management decisions and techniques through enhanced ecological, cultural and visitor-use knowledge.

| Strategies | Priority Level | Responsibility | Delivery Partners |
|---|----------------|----------------|--|
| Undertake a 5-year review of implementation of the plan, with reporting against high priority strategies provided by responsible agencies. | Medium | Land managers | Melbourne Water |
| Undertake a 10-year review of implementation of the plan, with reporting against all strategies provided by responsible and partner agencies. | Longer term | Land managers | Melbourne Water |
| Develop monitoring criteria for key ecological measures, informed by conservation planning and State of the Parks. | Immediate | Parks Victoria | DELWP Community groups Research partners |
| Facilitate research to increase knowledge and understanding of visitor use, satisfaction and impact. | Medium | Land managers | Community groups and volunteers Research partners |
| Collaborate on monitoring of priority ecological assets and threats to these assets. | Medium | Land managers | Research partners |
| Use knowledge gained from research to refine management practices; e.g., investigations into the effectiveness of invasive species control programs and techniques. | Medium | Land managers | Community groups and volunteers Research partners DJPR |



9. Precincts and site-specific management directions

To enable more site-specific management directions to be developed, six precincts have been developed that cover the Conservation Area. These precincts were based on logical geographic location as well as by grouping similar geomorphology, land use, landscape type and ecological vegetation class.

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Precinct 1: | Yarra River (Woori Yallock to Healesville, including Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Area), Coranderrk Bushland Nature Conservation Area and Badger Creek (Coranderrk Creek), and confluence of the Woori Yallock Creek and the Yarra River |
| Precinct 2: | Yarra River (Millgrove to Woori Yallock, including Little Yarra River), Britannia Creek and Lower Hoddles Creek |
| Precinct 3: | Hoddles Creek, including Hoddles Creek Nature Conservation Area, Beenak Nature Conservation Area and Wet Lead Creek |
| Precinct 4: | Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area, Woori Yallock Creek, Sheep Station Creek Nature Conservation Area, McCrae Creek and Cockatoo Creek |
| Precinct 5: | Wright Forest Bushland Area and Cockatoo Creek in Cockatoo township |
| Precinct 6: | Sassafras Creek, Perrins Creek, Emerald Creek and Menzies Creek. |

9.1. Precinct 1: Yarra River (Woori Yallock to Healesville, including Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Area), Coranderrk Bushland Nature Conservation Area, Badger Creek (Coranderrk Creek), and confluence of the Woori Yallock Creek and the Yarra River

This precinct includes the Yarra River from Woori Yallock to the Maroondah Highway near Healesville, Coranderrk Bushland Nature Conservation Area, Coranderrk Creek between the Coranderrk Bushland Nature Conservation Area and the Yarra River, the Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Area, and a small section of Woori Yallock Creek to the south of the Warramate Nature Conservation Area. Between Woori Yallock and Healesville.

The landscape broadens into wide floodplains which include numerous billabongs that are culturally, geomorphologically and ecologically significant.

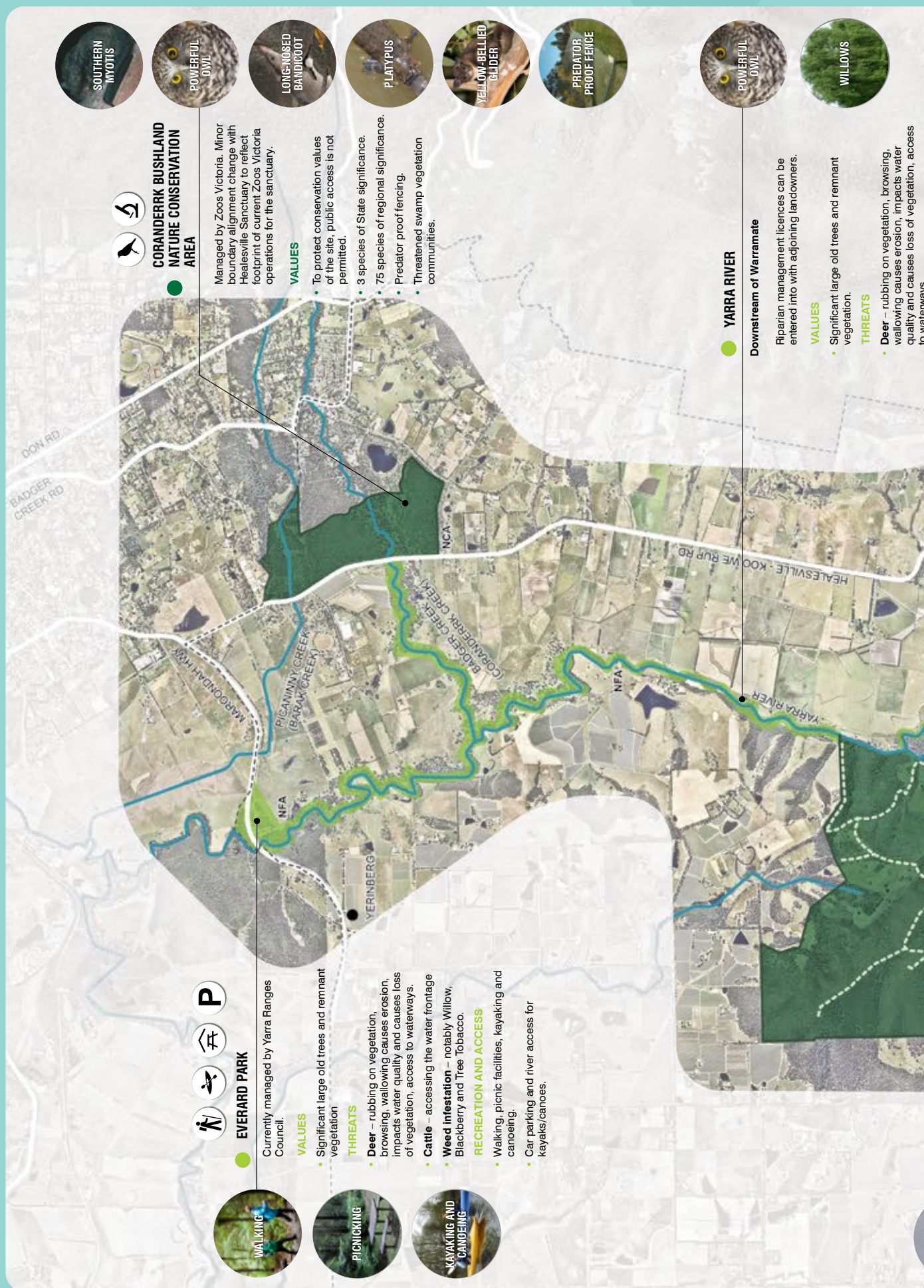
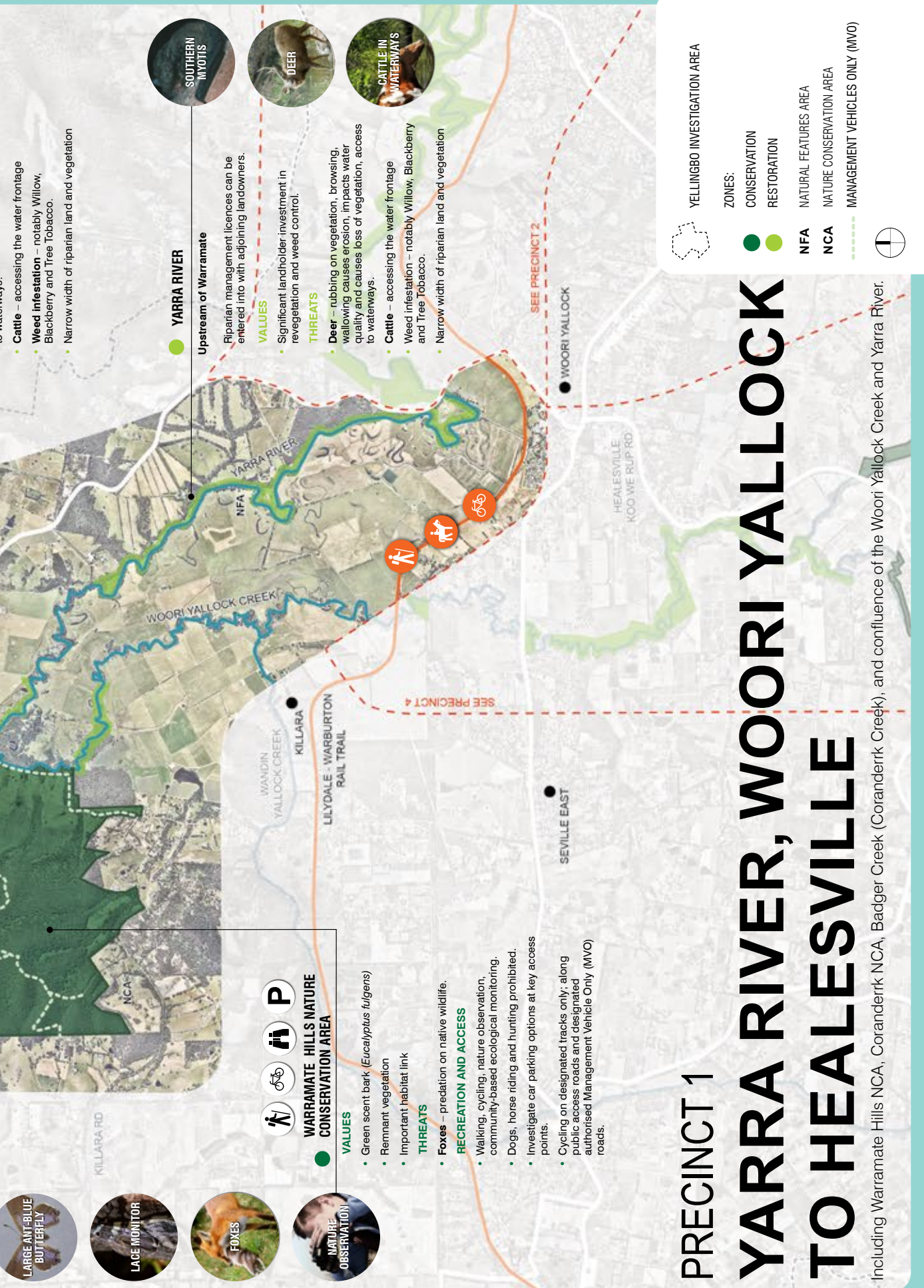


Figure 3. Precinct 1 Map



Rare and threatened species in this area include:

- Fauna: nationally listed Macquarie Perch (*Macquaria australasica*) and Australian Grayling (*Protroctes maraena*), and state-listed White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) and Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*)
- Flora: EPBC and FFG listed green-striped leafy greenhood orchid (*Pterostylis chlorogramma*), nationally listed Matted Flax-lily (*Dianella amoena*) and Yering Silver Gum (*Eucalyptus crenulata*).

Ecological vegetation communities occurring in the area include Riparian Forest, Damp Forest, Wet Forest, Floodplain Riparian Woodland, Riparian Thicket, Swamp Scrub, Swampy Riparian Woodland and Creekline Herb-rich Woodland.

Yarra Valley Trail proposal

The proposed Yarra Valley Trail is a project being led by Yarra Ranges Council. The Yarra Valley Trail is being delivered in stages over multiple years:

Stage 1: Lilydale to Yarra Glen

Stage 2: Yarra Glen to Healesville

Stage 3: Healesville to Seville East or Woori Yallock.

The third stage from Healesville to the Lilydale to Warburton Trail intersects with the Conservation Area. The planning and design of both the Conservation Area and the Yarra Valley Trail will need to be considered together so that the two processes are integrated, particularly as there are limited opportunities for recreational infrastructure in narrow riparian zones and decisions will have to be made about how the trail could be accommodated in balance with conservation values. Because the Yarra Valley Trail is in the planning stages, the proposed trail alignment and trail design is in a position to respond to conservation objectives.

Riparian frontage along the Yarra River and Badger Creek (Coranderrk Creek)

Between Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Area and Woori Yallock, the public land forming the Yarra River frontage is discontinuous, with an average width of 20m and some larger pockets of Crown frontage as the river meanders. This section is in the restoration zone. The aim for this section is to achieve a minimum continuous 20m width of riparian

vegetation on the frontage where possible and practical. There has been significant landholder investment, working in partnership with Melbourne Water, along the frontages adjacent to several properties in this area. These projects have successfully excluded stock and restored native vegetation along the waterway.

Between the northern tip of the Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Area and Badger Creek, the Yarra River frontage is variable, with Crown frontage on both sides of the river for about 1km, after which Crown frontage only exists on the eastern side. The width of the land is variable from 20-30m and exceeding 50m south of the confluence with Badger Creek. These sections are in the restoration zone.

From Badger Creek to Everard Park, the Yarra River frontage covers the eastern bank only to a width of approximately 50m, with freehold land to the edge of the river on the western bank. This section of the Yarra constitutes a relatively continuous tract of vegetation and is in the restoration zone.

Badger (Coranderrk) Creek flows from the Coranderrk Bushland Nature Conservation Area to the Yarra River over approximately 2km. The Badger Creek streamside in the Conservation Area is up to 100m wide and covers both sides of the creek. There has been significant investment in revegetation works from Zoos Victoria within Coranderrk Bushland Nature Conservation Area and from Yarra4Life and Melbourne Water on the adjacent properties, which are in the restoration zone.

The Yarra and Badger (Coranderrk) Creek frontages are predominantly permanently reserved for public purposes under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act and will be included in the Conservation Area under the National Parks Act, to be managed by Parks Victoria. These stream frontages are to be managed as natural features areas, acknowledging the natural values and landscape features of the area while allowing for continued access and some recreation.

Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Area

Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Area forms a prominent area of steep hills rising on the west side of the Yarra River floodplain, at the confluence of the Yarra River and the Woori Yallock Creek. Given the confluence of two major waterways in the area, it is likely to also be an area of high cultural heritage value. The vegetation is largely Grassy Dry Forest and Herb-rich Foothill Forest. On the southern aspects of the hills, Lowland Forest, Damp Forest and Riparian Forest are found in the valleys. There are also some areas of former farmland dominated by exotic grasses, and several tracks cross the reserve, including both access tracks for management vehicles and unauthorised single-track mountain bike trails, which have been constructed over many years, largely without official authorisation from the land manager.

Deer control programs have previously been conducted at Warramate Nature Conservation Area. Such programs may resume in the future as part of Parks Victoria's deer control program.

Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Area is designated as a nature conservation area as part of the Conservation Area under the National Parks Act. Some small areas of Yarra River stream frontage (Crown land) that adjoin the Warramate reserve have been consolidated into the area. Parks Victoria will continue to manage Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Area.

Many community members from universities, friends' groups and mountain biking groups have indicated that they are interested in participating in working bees and contributing volunteer work to improve the natural values. There is a history of community and student monitoring of biodiversity in the reserve, which will be supported into the future.

Mountain biking

Mountain biking has historically been a popular recreational activity within Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Area. Bicycles are currently permitted on the entire formed road network which traverses the site. The former unauthorised trail network was approximately 22km long and traversed a variety of vegetation communities in varying quality.

Community feedback has indicated equal measures of strong support and opposition for continued mountain biking access on existing tracks. The first Engage Victoria survey also indicated that the natural environment was of great importance to all respondents, including those both for and against mountain biking at Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Area.

Warramate Hills was acquired by the Government in 1992 and is one of the few remaining relatively large and undisturbed areas of native vegetation in the Yarra Valley outside the national parks and state forest. Its conservation value is reflected in its previous designation as a nature conservation area and its inclusion in the Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area as a nature conservation area.

Nature conservation areas are established with the primary purpose of conserving and protecting species, communities and habitats of indigenous flora and fauna and, where consistent with that purpose, passive recreation by small numbers of visitors. The provision and use of dedicated mountain bike trails is not consistent with providing for passive recreation and therefore mountain biking will be restricted to the formalised management vehicle track network. Other opportunities exist in the region for mountain biking on official dedicated trails (for example at Silvan and Lysterfield Park). At the time of drafting this plan, the construction of a network of dedicated mountain bike trails in Warburton is in the final stages of planning.

As part of ongoing management activities within the Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Area, the previous unauthorised mountain bike trail network will continue to be monitored as it regenerates back to its natural state.

Coranderrk Bushland Nature Conservation Area

Coranderrk Bushland Nature Conservation Area is designated as a nature conservation area. The Zoological Parks and Gardens Act has been amended to recognise the area's contribution to the conservation goals of the broader landscape by requiring Zoos Victoria to manage the area in accordance with the purposes relating to nature conservation areas within the Conservation Area (as set out in the National Parks Act). The land will continue to be managed by Zoos Victoria.

Changes to the boundary between the Coranderrk Bushland Nature Conservation Area and Healesville Sanctuary as recommended by VEAC have been made. Two areas have been excluded from the Conservation Area, the first area (approx. 25.8ha) contains the Bush Hut, Lake Coranderrk and the browse plantations, and is recognised as integral to the Sanctuary's operations. The second area (approx. 17.7ha) contains compounds for Tasmanian Devils and are part of the quarantined National insurance population for this endangered species. Zoos Victoria will retain capacity to use these areas to support the operations of Healesville Sanctuary and for low impact programs that support the recovery of critically endangered species such as the Tasmanian Devil.

To protect the values of the site, particularly its security against foxes and cats, public access is not permitted. The area is subject to other specific management arrangements relating to its proximity to Healesville Sanctuary, including the presence of predator-proof fencing. Cultural heritage management is undertaken in consultation with local Aboriginal people reflecting the significance of this area as a meeting place and, later, as part of the Coranderrk Aboriginal mission, which operated between 1863 and 1924. Very high vegetation diversity has been recorded at Coranderrk Bushland Nature Conservation Area, including the presence of three species of state significance and more than 75 species of regional significance. Threatened vegetation communities of Swamp Riparian Complex and Swamp Riparian Woodland exist where Boggy and Badger (Coranderrk) Creeks and Barak (Piccaninny) Creek cross the reserve. Extensive areas of Riparian Forest and Herb-rich Foothill Forest are also found here. This mixed habitat supports an equally diverse range of fauna species such as 12 species of bat (including Southern Myotis), Powerful Owl, Yellow-bellied Glider and Lace Monitor.

Everard Park

Everard Park near Healesville is currently managed by Yarra Ranges Council as committee of management. The Park contains areas of high-quality native vegetation and a picnic area on the Yarra River, just off the Maroondah Highway. There is also access to the river for canoes/kayaks with a cleared area of stream bank under a power line easement. There is some car parking onsite.

Riparian management licences in Precinct 1.

Riparian management licences will be considered along all Crown land water frontages in Precinct 1. Grazing licences will no longer be issued, with this type of licence phased out between 2016 and 2018. Adjacent landowners who previously held a grazing licence will have the option of transferring to a riparian management licence, with the primary purpose being conservation. A riparian management licence may allow grazing to continue inside a fence, as a special condition of the licence and if all conditions are met. Stock will not have direct access to waterways under any circumstances.

All use or occupation of Crown land must be formalised with a licence agreement, with licences issued at the discretion of DELWP. New licences may be also available for some Crown land water frontages that have not been previously licensed within Precinct 1.

The Conservation Area will be progressively created in phases over several years by placing areas of Crown land under the National Parks Act. Prior to any legislative changes to reserve areas of Crown land as part of the new Conservation Area, DELWP will remain as the licensing agency. DELWP will issue riparian management licences to adjacent landowners for up to five years, and if necessary, for a further five years if the land has not been included in the Conservation Area by the end of the first five-year term. Once Parks Victoria assumes management responsibility for a new area of the Conservation Area, licences will remain in place until they expire, at which time adjacent landowners can apply to Parks Victoria for a conservation agreement to maintain and improve the riparian environment.

For areas managed by Parks Victoria, grazing will be discontinued, except where Parks Victoria determines that grazing is the preferred management tool.

Financial support for adjacent landholders

Livestock must be contained within the livestock owner's property and be excluded from the Crown land and waterway. A stock exclusion fence is the most effective way to achieve this. The cost of installing a fence is the landowner's responsibility. Funding is available to assist licence holders to install fencing to exclude stock, as well as for off-stream watering infrastructure¹⁶, revegetation and weed works. This funding is administered through Melbourne Water's Stream Frontage Management Program. For more details, please contact Melbourne Water on 131 722 or refer to the Melbourne Water website <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/apply-funding/stream-frontage-management-program>

For more details on riparian management licences, please refer to the document *Licensing Principles for Fencing and Grazing within Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area* (Appendix B).

9.2. Precinct 2: Yarra River (Millgrove to Woori Yallock, including Little Yarra River), Britannia Creek and lower Hoddles Creek

This precinct includes the Yarra River between Woori Yallock and Millgrove, Little Yarra River from Yarra Junction to Gladysdale, Britannia Creek, and the lower Hoddles Creek for approximately 2km from the Warburton Highway. The Little Yarra River and Hoddles Creek are relatively narrow valleys fed from forested headwaters of the Yarra State Forest, which reach the more expansive floodplains of the Yarra River north of the Warburton Highway. The Little Yarra River joins the Yarra near Yarra Junction. Hoddles Creek meets the Yarra near Launching Place. The area is predominantly rural in nature with stock grazing and horticulture being the most prominent land uses.

The headwaters of Britannia Creek within the Yarra State Forest are in excellent condition with good quality riparian vegetation and good water quality. The Little Yarra River is an important drought refuge for a number of species. Rare and threatened species in this area include:

- Fauna: nationally listed Growling Grass Frog (*Liitoria raniformis*), Macquarie Perch (*Macquaria australasica*) and Australian Grayling (*Protroctes maraena*) and state-listed White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) and Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*)
- Flora: nationally listed Tall Astelia (*Astelia australiana*) and Matted Flaxlily (*Dianella amoena*)

Ecological Vegetation Classes occurring in the area include Riparian Forest, Damp Forest, Wet Forest, Riparian Thicket, Swamp Scrub, Swampy Riparian Woodland, Creekline Herb-rich Woodland and state-listed Cool Temperate Rainforest.

The Yarra River, Britannia Creek, Little Yarra River and Hoddles Creek frontages are predominantly permanently reserved for public purposes under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act and will be included in the Conservation Area under the National Parks Act, to be managed by Parks Victoria. These stream frontages are to be managed as natural features areas, acknowledging the natural values and landscape features of the area while allowing for continued access and some recreation.

¹⁶ Subject to licensing.



PRECINCT 2

YARRA RIVER, MILLGROVE T

Including Little Yarra River, Britannia Creek and Lower Hoddles Creek

Figure 4. Precinct 2 Map

DOON RESERVE

or boundary alignment change to take account the presence and operation of Doon Reserve Caravan Park



YARRA JUNCTION

Little Yarra River

Addition of reserve area into the Conservation Area Boundary.

THREATS

- **Stormwater runoff** – degrades water quality, reduces amenity, may cause erosion, may spread weeds into the riparian corridor.

PICNICKING

STORMWATER RUNOFF

BRITANNIA CREEK

Riparian management licences can be entered into with adjoining landowners. Future revegetation works are limited to 10m width either side of the top bank for the rivers and streams.

VALUES

- Part of the Little Yarra Water Supply Protection Area.
- Stream condition within the state forest is excellent.

THREATS

- **Blackberry** – out competes native vegetation, reduces amenity, may harbour pest animals.
- **Rubbish Dumping** – impacts amenity impacts, risk to public, introduction of pest plants from garden waste.

GOOD WATER QUALITY

PLATYPUS

BLACKBERRY

RUBBISH DUMPING

LITTLE YARRA RIVER

Riparian management licences can be entered into with adjoining landowners. Future revegetation works are limited to 10m width either side of the top bank for the rivers and streams. Potential for improved stormwater management to reduce impacts on the river.

VALUES

- 7 native species of fish
- 9 species of frog
- High quality remnant vegetation
- Water Supply Protection Area

THREATS

- **Dog walking** – dog waste, creation of informal tracks, interactions with wildlife.

HIGH QUALITY REMNANT VEGETATION

PLATYPUS



YELLINGBO INVESTIGATION AREA



RESTRICTED REVEGETATION AREA
10m either side of a waterway

ZONES:



CONSERVATION



RESTORATION



BIODIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY USE

NFA

NATURAL FEATURES AREA

COM

COMMUNITY USE AREA



SHARED TRAIL
(BICYCLES AND WALKERS ONLY)



TO WOORI YALLOCK

North-East Corner – Special conditions for revegetation in streambanks

In January 2017, the State Government responded to community concern regarding bushfire risk in the north-east corner of the Conservation Area, including the townships of Yarra Junction, Launching Place, Don Valley, Millgrove and Wesburn. The Government's response included a decision that, for certain areas of Precinct 2, revegetation¹⁷ on public (Crown) land is to be restricted to a maximum of 10m from the top of bank on either side of waterways in this area only.

The restricted revegetation area includes the Yarra River only for areas east of Yarra Bridge Streamside Reserve (excluding Haining Farm), Little Yarra River and Britannia Creek. The restricted revegetation area also extends south from the confluence of the Yarra River and Hoddles Creek only as far as the public land adjacent to the intersection of Gembrook Launching Place Road and Grieve Street, Launching Place. (Refer **Figure 1. Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area Map**).

It will give greater surety to local landholders that bushfire risk and environmental values will be managed effectively.

The restricted revegetation area applies only to public (Crown) land and includes the following conditions:

- Revegetation is defined as *the establishment of native vegetation to a minimum standard in formerly cleared areas outside a remnant patch*¹⁸
- Revegetation on public land will only occur to a maximum of 10m from the top of bank on each side of a waterway, in the streamside areas
- Revegetation may still be required beyond 10m in some circumstances, for example for the suppression of weeds or to prevent erosion
- Revegetation works will be managed by either DELWP, Parks Victoria or Melbourne Water, depending on land management arrangements for a particular area
- At the request of adjacent landholders, narrow bands of revegetation along fence lines are permitted beyond 10m to maintain privacy for adjacent landholders
- Revegetation of riparian wetlands, which serve to mitigate bushfire risk, may also occur beyond 10m from top of bank

- All revegetation work will be conducted in accordance with the *Yellingbo Conservation Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan* (2018)
- Prioritising on-ground works to support bushfire prevention and pest management.

Rationale for the 10m revegetation restriction

Melbourne Water commissioned a study by Ecology Australia in 2009¹⁹ to undertake an assessment of riparian setback widths required to support biodiversity values. The report classified riparian areas based on the sensitivity of different indicator species into categories of low, medium and high value, and assigned a corridor width to each of these categories. The corridor width includes both sides of the water body so that a 20m corridor equates to 10m either side of the waterway. The minimum corridor widths are as follows:

- Low sensitivity – 20m
- Medium sensitivity – 40m
- High sensitivity – 50m.

The report indicates that a 10m width each side of a waterway (that is, a total corridor width of 20m) is sufficient to support native fauna with low sensitivity to their environment.

The outcome of the classification system and of identifying management requirements is that streamside areas within the restricted revegetation area are largely classified as having relatively low ecological value, and revegetation can be restricted to 10m either side of the waterway without significantly compromising ecological outcomes.

Millgrove to Yarra Junction

Planned works from Millgrove to Yarra Junction include weed control works for Yarra River downstream of Dee River (Millgrove) to Station Road (Wesburn). The project will involve willow and weed control along both banks downstream of the existing maintenance program (about 800m downstream from the Dee River confluence) to Station Road (Wesburn) and revegetation to replace canopy cover. The revegetation will not exceed 10m from top of bank.

¹⁷ Definition of revegetation from DEWLP Output Data Standard (March 2021).

¹⁸ Definition of revegetation from DEWLP Output Data Standard (March 2021).

¹⁹ Ecology Australia 2009. *Assessment of riparian setback widths required to support biodiversity value*.

Yarra Junction to Yarra Bridge

A kayak launch has recently been constructed on the Yarra River at Launching Place to provide a safe and convenient starting point for visitors to explore the Yarra River by kayak or canoe. The launch is located near the corner of Don Road and the Warburton Highway – the location is indicated on the **Precinct 2 Map**. Capital works are ongoing along the Little Yarra River, downstream of Tarrango Road, Gladysdale focusing on weed control and minor revegetation.

Precinct 2 recreation trail proposals

The Millgrove Residents Action Group have been investigating opportunities to develop a circuit loop trail as part of the Millgrove River Road footpath project. The proposal is to establish a river walk along River Road to complement the existing Dee Road River reserve trail to create a walking loop. Further detailed planning will be required to determine an appropriate alignment of the trail while ensuring conservation values are considered.

Melbourne Water are working to enhance the quality and extent of streamside vegetation along the Little Yarra River, through the removal of exotic vegetation, exclusion of domestic stock and targeted revegetation. As part of this process, Melbourne Water is working closely with Yarra Ranges Council and DELWP to identify opportunities which deliver good outcomes for the local environment and community. One such opportunity has been identified to improve recreational activities, amenity, community access and connection to the waterway by constructing a new walking trail along the river which connects with the existing Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail. The first section starts at the Warburton Highway and links up with the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail. Other stages in the area are also being considered by Melbourne Water, Yarra Ranges Council and DELWP.

Melbourne Water are also investigating a Yarra loop trail. The proposed trail is located down stream of Don Road, Launching Place on the southern side of the Yarra River. A trail following the public land adjacent to the river would provide users with a link between the rail trail and the river. The trail is currently at a conceptual stage with preliminary design and safety checks being completed. It will be subject to available funding and further stakeholder and community consultation.

Haining Farm

Haining Farm is managed by Parks Victoria and, until recently, operated as a working dairy farm. Parks Victoria and DELWP are working with Greening Australia and Zoos Victoria to transform this site to include community access and recreation, along with restored floodplain forest habitat, so as to become a future release site for critically endangered species such as the lowland Leadbeater's Possum and Helmeted Honeyeater. Haining Farm will retain a strong education focus, providing a landscape in which future generations can have fun, experience the outdoors, and learn to love the land on which they depend. The 59 ha site is in Don Valley at the confluence of the Yarra and Don rivers.

The restoration of Haining Farm provides an example of what can be achieved through the broader implementation of the Conservation Area across the landscape. The concept plan for Haining Farm was developed following an extensive community engagement process that included a community reference group and broader community engagement. Haining Farm is being restored to provide habitat for critically endangered species with community access for passive recreation and educational activities. The concept plan aims to provide a balance between the importance of conservation to the broader community with the community access and recreation needs of the local community. At the foundation of the final plan are bushfire mitigation measures that ensure the implementation of the plan does not materially increase the bushfire risk to the local and broader community.

The redevelopment of Haining Farm is consistent with the Government supported VEAC recommendation that Haining Farm be known as the Haining Education Area and that it be used for land management and educational opportunities including a greater emphasis on sustainability, improved protection of riparian areas and restoration of habitat for the Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeaters Possum.

Linking the site with the Yarra River and the Lilydale-Warburton Rail Trail will improve access and use for the site. The works at Haining Farm will be complemented by the proposed Melbourne Water project in Launching Place and other projects taking place along the Yarra River surrounding Haining Farm.

Haining Farm is designated as a community use area – education area as part of the Conservation Area under the National Parks Act and will continue to be managed by Parks Victoria. The land is partly in the restoration zone to reflect the habitat restoration goals and partly in the biodiversity and community use zone to allow for a range of recreation activities and community uses to be developed over time. On 1 May 2021, parts of the original Haining Farm were reserved as the Don Valley Education Reserve and the adjoining Sherwood Reserve, both outside the Conservation Area.

Riparian management licences in Precinct 2

Riparian management licences will be considered along most Crown land water frontages in Precinct 2. Grazing licences will no longer be issued, with this type of licence phased out between 2016 and 2018. Adjacent landowners who previously held a grazing licence will have the option of transferring to a riparian management licence, with the primary purpose being conservation. A riparian management licence may allow grazing to continue inside a fence, as a special condition of the licence and if all conditions are met. Stock will not have direct access to waterways under any circumstances.

All use or occupation of Crown land must be formalised with a licence agreement, with licences issued at the discretion of DELWP. New licences may be also available for some Crown land water frontages that have not been previously licensed within Precinct 2.

Creating new recreation opportunities is one of the key goals of this plan. Community feedback supports this goal, with a significant amount of feedback being received from the community requesting more recreation opportunities around the Conservation Area. Licences will not be renewed or issued over Crown land on which recreation areas, including trails, are being planned and constructed.

The Conservation Area will be progressively created in phases over several years by placing areas of Crown land under the National Parks Act. Prior to any legislative changes to reserve areas of Crown land as part of the new Conservation Area, DELWP will remain the licensing agency. DELWP will issue riparian management licences to adjacent landowners for five years, and if necessary, for a further five years if the land has not been included in the Conservation Area by the end of the first five-year term. Once Parks Victoria assumes management responsibility for a new area of the Conservation Area, licences will remain in place until they expire, at which time adjacent landowners can apply to Parks Victoria for a conservation agreement to maintain and improve the riparian environment.

For areas managed by Parks Victoria, grazing will be discontinued, except where Parks Victoria determines that grazing is the preferred management tool.

Financial support for adjacent landholders

Livestock must be contained within the livestock owner's property and be excluded from the Crown land and waterway. A stock exclusion fence is the most effective way to achieve this. The cost of installing a fence is the landowner's responsibility. Funding is available to assist licence holders to install fencing to exclude stock, as well as for off-stream watering infrastructure, revegetation and weed works. This funding is administered through Melbourne Water's Stream Frontage Management Program. For more details, please contact Melbourne Water on 131 722 or refer to the Melbourne Water website <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/apply-funding/stream-frontage-management-program>

For more details on riparian management licences, please refer to the document *Licensing Principles for Fencing and Grazing within Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area* (Appendix B).

9.3. Precinct 3: Hoddles Creek, including Hoddles Creek Nature Conservation Area, Beenak Nature Conservation Area and Wet Lead Creek

This precinct contains two large blocks of intact vegetation: Beenak Nature Conservation Area and Hoddles Creek Nature Conservation Area. These two reserves are linked by a section of the upper Hoddles Creek. In the lower reaches, Hoddles Creek meets the Yarra River to the north of the Warburton Highway at Launching Place.

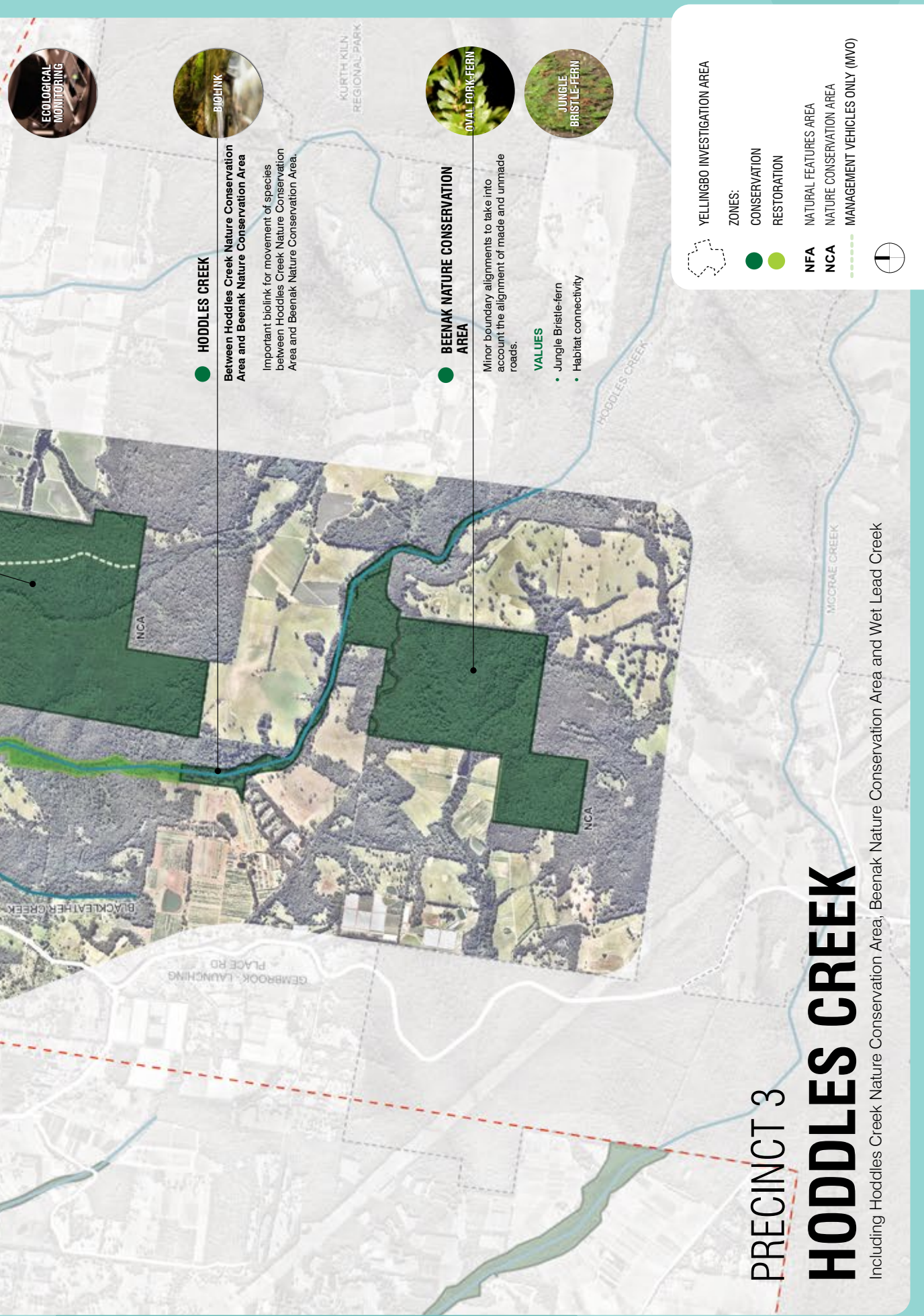
Precinct 3 is located among hilly topography of the East Victorian Uplands. A volcanic basalt substrate dominates, giving rise to red friable earths and, in some areas, surface and subsurface volcanic rock. There may also be a band of sedimentary substrate supporting yellow duplex soils and alluvial material along some of the waterways (Hoddles Creek, Wet Lead Creek and Slaty Creek). Common vegetation communities include Lowland Forest, which occurs on the small foothills and flats, Damp Forest, which occurs on the more exposed slopes and aspects, and Wet Forest, occurring on the more sheltered slopes and aspects. Hoddles Creek, Wet Lead Creek and Slaty Creek are important components of the Yarra River catchment.

The precinct forms part of an expansive mosaic of remnant vegetation in a broader landscape fragmented by cleared agricultural land and lifestyle properties. This mosaic includes Yarra State Forest, Beenak Nature Conservation Area, Kurth Klin Regional Park, Hoddles Creek Nature Conservation Area, and a network of riparian corridors. The precinct incorporates a diverse range of remnant vegetation and habitat in the landscape, which plays an important role in connecting parks and reserves, as well as in providing catchment services (for example stabilising substrate, filtering water and regulating flows).

Vegetation composition and structure within the precinct provides a diversity of habitat niches for flora and fauna. The general overall quality and intactness of the vegetation is very good, and an array of flora and fauna includes several threatened species and many locally significant species. The following is a selection of the threatened species that have been recorded: Fairy Lanterns, Tall Astelia, Jungle Bristle-fern, Brickmakers Saw-sedge, Long Pink-bells, Notched Leionema, Powelltown Correa, Brown Treecreeper, Greater Glider, Powerful Owl and Sooty Owl. The following locally significant species have also been recorded: Tall Oxylobium, Feathertail Glider and Yellow-bellied Glider.

Threats include feral deer, pest plants, soil disturbance, inappropriate development, altered hydrology, illegal vegetation clearance, inappropriate plantings and a loss of habitat connectivity for threatened species.





Instream habitat varies along the stream, however, most sites show some evidence of disturbance, including clearing and degradation of riparian vegetation, cattle access and previous mining. Accumulation of silt and sediment is an issue throughout the stream. Sedimentation has impacts on fish and aquatic invertebrate numbers in the lower reaches. Despite some of the degraded areas, the stream supports 14 species of fish, seven of which are native; notably, Pouched Lamprey (considered rare), River Blackfish and Mountain Galaxias. Overall water quality is good.

Hoddles Creek and Wet Lead Creek streamside areas

The Hoddles Creek, Wet Lead Creek and Blackleather Creek frontages are predominantly permanently reserved for public purposes under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act and will be included in the Conservation Area under the National Parks Act and managed by Parks Victoria.

Downstream of Blackleather Creek, the stream frontages will be designated as natural features areas, acknowledging the natural values and landscape features of the area while allowing for continued access and some recreation. This area will be in the restoration zone. Wet Lead Creek frontage is in the conservation zone.

Upstream of Blackleather Creek, the stream frontages will be designated as nature conservation areas to reflect the important biolink that the creek forms between the larger blocks of protected native vegetation and the values in the areas adjacent the larger reserve areas. Hoddles Creek between Blackleather Creek and the Hoddles Creek Nature Conservation Area will be in the restoration zone. Hoddles Creek between Hoddles Creek Nature Conservation Area and Beenak Nature Conservation Area will fall in the conservation zone.

Hoddles Creek Nature Conservation Area and Beenak Nature Conservation Area

Hoddles Creek Nature Conservation Area was designated as an education area by the Land Conservation Council as part of its Melbourne District 2 Investigation into public land in 1994. The area was intended for use as an education area for maintenance or restoration of an area's natural, cultural and landscape values as well as for studying a reasonably natural ecosystem. The area was protected from logging, hunting and quarrying, and has botanical and zoological significance due to its relatively undisturbed landscape and vegetation.

Most of the reserve is Lowland Forest with some areas of Riparian Scrub/Swampy Riparian Forest Complex in gullies through Lowland Forest areas. There are patches of Damp Forest and Riparian Wet Forest. An area of Cool Temperate Rainforest has been identified in the reserve. Significant plant species recorded in the area include rare Long Pink Bells and a population of Jungle Bristle-fern. The reserve is relatively free of weeds, which are almost confined to the edges of the reserve.

The Friends of Hoddles Creek had a vegetation study conducted by Graeme Lorimer on the education area. Along with the group, Melbourne Water co-funded a detailed vegetation study on the upper parts of Hoddles Creek, finding numerous rainforest species, previously undescribed vegetation communities and potentially a new species of Giant Woolly Tea-tree.

Hoddles Creek Nature Conservation Area and Beenak Nature Conservation Area have been designated as nature conservation areas of the Conservation Area under the National Parks Act and will continue to be managed by Parks Victoria.

The designation as nature conservation areas reflect the important values and the relatively intact nature of the vegetation in this area and connectivity to other areas of high-quality native vegetation locally. These areas will be in the conservation zone.

Riparian management licences in Precinct 3

Riparian management licences will be considered along most Crown land water frontages in Precinct 3. Licences will not be permitted in nature conservation areas under any circumstances. Grazing licences will no longer be issued, with this type of licence phased out between 2016 and 2018. Adjacent landowners who previously held a grazing licence will have the option of transferring to a riparian management licence, with the primary purpose being conservation. A riparian management licence may allow grazing to continue inside a fence, as a special condition of the licence and if all conditions are met. Stock will not have direct access to waterways under any circumstances.

All use or occupation of Crown land must be formalised with a licence agreement, with licences issued at the discretion of DELWP. New licences may be also available for some Crown land water frontages that have not been previously licensed within Precinct 3.

The Conservation Area will be progressively created in phases over several years, by placing areas of Crown land under the National Parks Act. Prior to any legislative changes to reserve areas of Crown land as part of the new Conservation Area, DELWP will remain the licensing agency. DELWP will issue riparian management licences to adjacent landowners for five years, and if necessary, for a further five years if the land has not been included in the Conservation Area by the end of the first five-year term. Once Parks Victoria assumes management responsibility for a new area of the Conservation Area, licences will remain in place until they expire, at which time adjacent landowners can apply to Parks Victoria for a conservation agreement to maintain and improve the riparian environment.

For areas managed by Parks Victoria, grazing will be discontinued, except where Parks Victoria determines that grazing is the preferred management tool.

Financial support for adjacent landholders

Livestock must be contained within the livestock owner's property and be excluded from the Crown land and waterway. A stock exclusion fence is the most effective way to achieve this. The cost of installing a fence is the landowner's responsibility. Funding is available to assist licence holders to install fencing to exclude stock, as well as for off-stream watering infrastructure, revegetation and weed works. This funding is administered through Melbourne Water's Stream Frontage Management Program. For more details, please contact Melbourne Water on 131 722 or refer to the Melbourne Water website <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/apply-funding/stream-frontage-management-program>

For more details on riparian management licences, please refer to the document *Licensing Principles for Fencing and Grazing within Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area* (Appendix B).

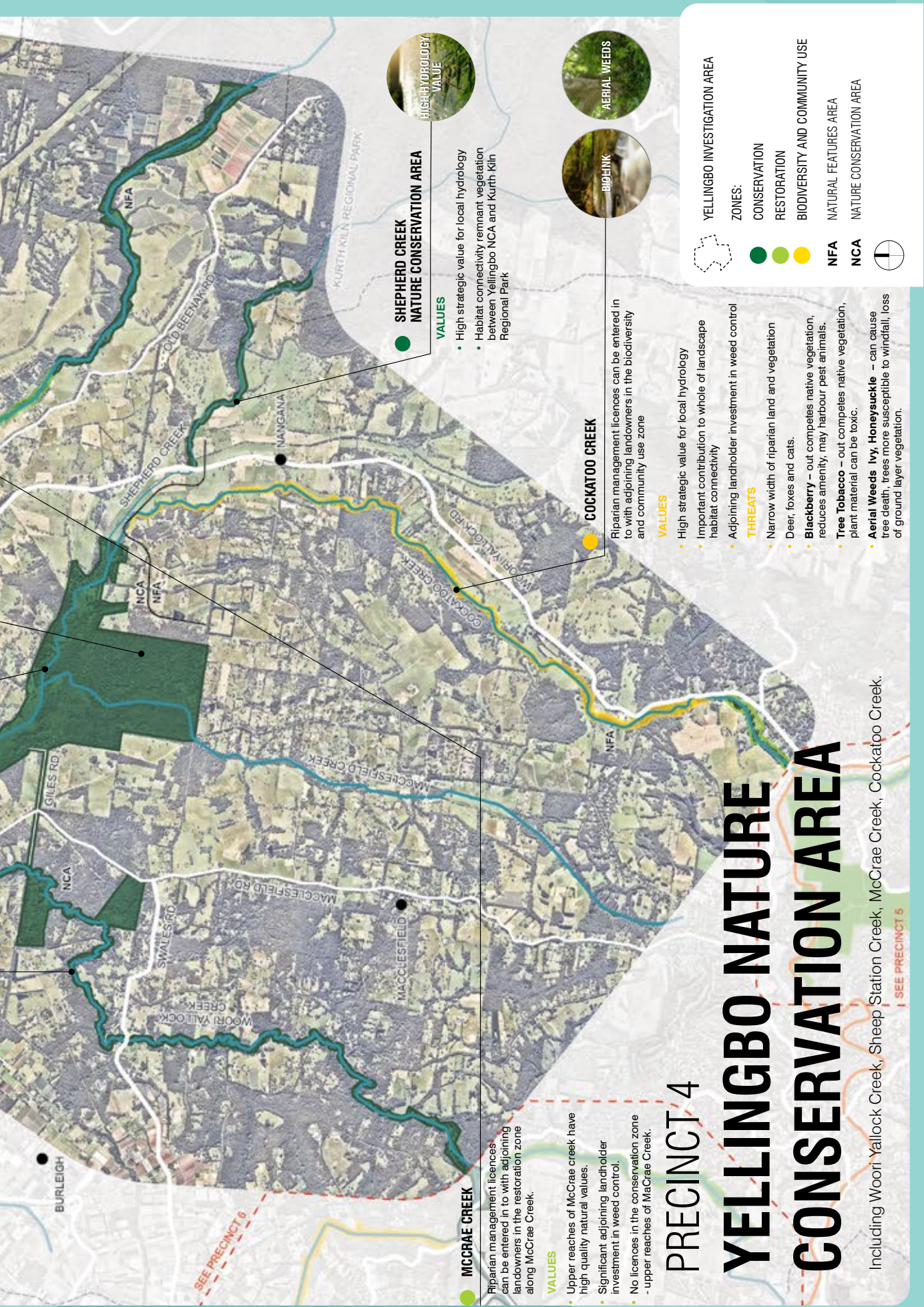
9.4. Precinct 4: Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area, Woori Yallock Creek, Sheep Station Creek Nature Conservation Area, McCrae Creek, Cockatoo Creek

The precinct centres around the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area, which contains the remaining core habitat for the Helmeted Honeyeater and the lowland Leadbeater's Possum. The tributaries to the existing Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area in this precinct are important to protect the hydrology in the reserve and to improve riparian vegetation, which may extend the range of the critically endangered species to the broader landscape. Tributaries include the Woori Yallock, Sheep Station, McCrae, Cockatoo, Shepherd and Macclesfield Creeks, which form part of the Woori Yallock Creek catchment of the Yarra River.

The Conservation Area is linked via the creek network to nearby areas of remnant bushland and other conservation reserves, such as Kurth Kiln Regional Park and Bunyip State Park to the south-east, Sassafras Creek Nature Conservation Reserve to the south-west and Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Area to the north.

The Woori Yallock, Sheep Station, McCrae, Cockatoo, Shepherd and Macclesfield Creeks form part of the Woori Yallock Creek sub-catchment of the Yarra River. The health of the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area and these streams and their catchments are closely linked. The linear nature of the conservation area makes it particularly susceptible to 'edge-effect' disturbances, including weed invasion. The surrounding area supports a significant amount of agricultural activity, including grazing and horticulture. Expansion of these activities, together with sub-divisions and loss of native vegetation through clearing, is placing pressure on natural resources of the catchment. Resultant high nutrient and turbidity levels in the waterways are contributing to an overall decline in quality of the riparian zone.





Woori Yallock Creek from Butterfield Reserve to Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area

This section of Woori Yallock Creek has benefitted from long-term investment of \$2 million by Melbourne Water in weed control and revegetation. A significant amount of conservation work is also being undertaken on adjacent private properties.

The Woori Yallock Creek frontage is predominantly permanently reserved for public purposes under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act and, subject to the outcome of cadastral surveys, will be included in the Conservation Area under the National Parks Act. Once the area is under the National Parks Act, it will be managed by Parks Victoria.

Woori Yallock Creek between Butterfield Reserve²⁰ and the existing Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area will be designated as a nature conservation area, to reflect the important values and habitat link that the creek forms. This area will be in the conservation zone.

Sheep Station Creek and McCrae Creek

Sheep Station Creek and McCrae Creek flow through a predominantly rural agricultural landscape and form a link between the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area and the Kurth Kiln Regional Park. The riparian vegetation in the frontages varies in extent and quality, with values generally higher in both streams in upstream areas.

Sheep Station Creek is designated as a nature conservation area as part of the Conservation Area under the National Parks Act and will continue to be managed by Parks Victoria. Sheep Station Creek has been designated as a nature conservation area to reflect its connection to the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area and the habitat link that the creek forms. This area is in the conservation zone.

The frontages to McCrae Creek are predominantly permanently reserved for public purposes under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act and, subject to the outcome of cadastral surveys, will be included in the Conservation Area under the National Parks Act and managed by Parks Victoria. McCrae Creek will be designated as a natural features area to reflect the important values and habitat link that the creek forms. This area will be in the restoration zone, with the upper reach in the conservation zone, reflecting higher values present in the frontage closer to the Kurth Kiln Regional Park.

Cockatoo Creek downstream of Wright Forest

This section of Cockatoo Creek flows from the outer suburban areas of Cockatoo township through rural areas to meet Shepherd Creek at Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area, forming Cockatoo Swamp. There have been significant historical alterations to the hydrology in this area, and rehabilitation works have been undertaken by Melbourne Water in the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area. The stream frontage varies in condition and extent along this reach, with some areas with significant presence of weeds and pest animals, such as deer, in among stands of modified-structure remnant vegetation.

Cockatoo Creek will be designated as a natural features area to reflect the important values and habitat link that the creek forms, while allowing for community access and a broader range of recreational activities. This area will be in the restoration zone, with the area closer to Cockatoo township in the conservation zone reflecting the higher values present in the frontage closer to the Wright Forest Bushland Area.

Woori Yallock Creek Downstream of Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area

This section of Woori Yallock Creek frontage to the north of Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area is discontinuous and surrounded by agricultural and horticultural properties. The extent and quality of riparian vegetation varies significantly, with some areas heavily degraded and other areas supporting pockets of high-quality remnant vegetation.

The Woori Yallock Creek frontage in this section is predominantly permanently reserved for public purposes under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act and, subject to the outcome of cadastral surveys, will be included in the Conservation Area under the National Parks Act and managed by Parks Victoria.

Woori Yallock Creek will be designated as a natural features area to reflect the important values and habitat link that the creek forms. This area will be in the restoration zone.

20 Most of the Butterfield Reserve is outside the Conservation Area.

Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area

Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area preserves wildlife habitat along sections of Woori Yallock Creek, Cockatoo Creek and part of the lower McCrae Creek. It protects a diverse array of flora and fauna, including around 285 native flora species and 230 native vertebrate species. Of these, around 55 species are regionally significant. The only known occurrence of Sedge-rich *Eucalyptus camphora* Swamp is within the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area. This has been listed as a threatened vegetation community under the FFG Act. A variety of invertebrate species have been recorded in the reserve. In addition to these intrinsic values, some invertebrate species are important as food sources for lowland Leadbeater's Possum, Helmeted Honeyeater and other insect-dependent species.

Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area has been assigned the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Category 1A (Strict Nature Reserve) for Protected Areas. Category 1A protected areas are managed primarily for science. Parks Victoria is the responsible land manager.

Levee banks were constructed in the 1950s along the northern section of Cockatoo Swamp, with the swamp drained for agriculture. Cockatoo Creek subsequently formed channels in the floodplain at this location and actively eroded upstream around 1.5km. Sediments from this in-stream erosion, together with sediments from agricultural areas upstream of the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area, are being deposited in the downstream end of the swamp. Severe dieback has occurred of a large area of Sedge-rich *Eucalyptus camphora* Swamp Community, critical habitat for both Helmeted Honeyeaters and lowland Leadbeater's Possum.

Remedial works were undertaken in 1999. In 2017-18, after extensive research and hydrological modelling, Melbourne Water initiated further works to restore a more natural hydrological regime in Cockatoo Swamp. The University of Melbourne is a key partner in monitoring and evaluating its efficacy.

Introduced animals present a threat to the native animals by predation, competition for habitat and food and dispersal of the seeds of weeds. Sambar and Fallow Deer populations create tracks and wallows, facilitating weed invasion and increasing sedimentation of waterways. Deer control programs operate at Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area, as well as programs to control foxes and feral cats.

A key priority for management of Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area has been the protection and enhancement of remaining Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum habitat. Building on a habitat restoration strategy that was developed in 1992, and the National Recovery Plan for the Helmeted Honeyeater (2008), the Helmeted Honeyeater Recovery Team's Five-Year Strategic Plan will guide the next phase of management works within the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area.

A key part of the broader Conservation Area will be addressing encroachments and boundary alignment issues adjacent to the reserve in this precinct. These issues will be identified in more detail by formal survey to be undertaken by the Office of Surveyor-General Victoria, as the boundaries of the Conservation Area are confirmed. To ensure public land is protected, encroachments, unlicensed grazing, cropping or other inappropriate uses will be addressed in accordance with relevant government regulations.

Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area has been designated as a nature conservation area as part of the Conservation Area under the National Parks Act and will continue to be managed by Parks Victoria.

A road is land that has been set aside for public access now or in the future. An unused road is a government road that was officially set aside for public traffic but never constructed or used. Some small areas of government roads have been consolidated into the area.

Riparian management licences in Precinct 4

Riparian management licences will be considered along some Crown land water frontages in Precinct 4. Licences will not be permitted in nature conservation areas under any circumstances. Grazing licences will no longer be issued, with this type of licence phased out between 2016 and 2018. Adjacent landowners who previously held a grazing licence will have the option of transferring to a riparian management licence, with the primary purpose being conservation. A riparian management licence may allow grazing to continue inside a fence, as a special condition of the licence and if all conditions are met. Stock will not have direct access to waterways under any circumstances.

All use or occupation of Crown land must be formalised with a licence agreement, with licences issued at the discretion of DELWP. New licences may be also available for some Crown land water frontages that have not been previously licensed within Precinct 4.

The Conservation Area will be progressively created in phases over several years, by placing areas of Crown land under the National Parks Act. Prior to any legislative changes to reserve areas of Crown land as part of the new Conservation Area, DELWP will remain the licensing agency. DELWP will issue riparian management licences to adjacent landowners for five years, and if necessary, for a further five years if the land has not been included in the Conservation Area by the end of the first five-year term. Once Parks Victoria assumes management responsibility for a new area of the Conservation Area, licences will remain in place until they expire, at which time adjacent landowners can apply to Parks Victoria for a conservation agreement to maintain and improve the riparian environment.

For areas managed by Parks Victoria, grazing will be discontinued, except where Parks Victoria determines that grazing is the preferred management tool.

Financial support for adjacent landholders

Livestock must be contained within the livestock owner's property and be excluded from the Crown land and waterway. A stock exclusion fence is the most effective way to achieve this. The cost of installing a fence is the landowner's responsibility. Funding is available to assist licence holders to install fencing to exclude stock, as well as for off-stream watering infrastructure, revegetation and weed works. This funding is administered through Melbourne Water's Stream Frontage Management Program. For more details, please contact Melbourne Water on 131 722 or refer to the Melbourne Water website <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/apply-funding/stream-frontage-management-program>

For more details on riparian management licences, please refer to the document *Licensing Principles for Fencing and Grazing within Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area* (Appendix B).

Horse riding

Horse riding is only permitted in designated areas. There are also horse riding opportunities in adjacent areas. For example, horse riding is permitted along Evans Road, which runs along the southern boundary to the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area and is part of the Macclesfield Equestrian Trail, administered by Yarra Ranges Council. The Macclesfield Equestrian Trail begins and ends at the Macclesfield Pony Club, running for approximately 16.5km. The trail follows two circuits, the first looping North through Coopers Road, Evans Road, Miller Road and Spillers Road. The second circles south through Kennedy Road, Avon Road, Macclesfield Road and Tschampions Road.

Horse riding will be permitted on Pioneer Road which crosses the Hoddles Creek Nature Conservation Area.

9.5. Precinct 5: Wright Forest Bushland Area and Cockatoo Creek in Cockatoo township. This precinct is centred around the Cockatoo township and includes the Wright Forest Bushland Area, the Cockatoo Creek Frontage upstream of Wright Forest, and part of Alma Treloar Reserve in Cockatoo.

Cockatoo Creek streamside

The area of Cockatoo Creek along the western bank and abutting the east of Wright Forest Bushland Area is to be added to the Wright Forest Bushland Area, subject to the results of boundary surveys. This allows for the consolidation of land use and management. This area is considered by many people to be already part of the reserve.

Cockatoo Creek will be designated as a natural features area to reflect the important values and habitat link that the creek forms, while allowing for community access and a broader range of recreational activities.

The Conservation Area will not include the Ox Creek Scenic Reserve, which is to the south of the extent of Cockatoo Creek that will be included in the Conservation Area. The Ox Creek Scenic Reserve will continue to be managed as it is currently.

Alma Treloar Reserve

The Cockatoo Creek streamside adjoins Alma Treloar Reserve in Cockatoo township. Part of Alma Treloar Reserve is council-owned and part is Crown land managed by Cardinia Shire Council. The footprint of Alma Treloar Reserve overlaps the streamside reserve in some places. The Council has recently commenced implementing a master plan for the Alma Treloar Reserve.

Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre

The Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre (AWBEC) is located in Cockatoo, adjacent to the Conservation Area. This community run centre is a major cultural heritage attraction, focussing on the ecological history (including fire) of the southern part of the Conservation Area.



Figure 7. Precinct 5 Map



AND
TOWNSHIP

Wright Forest Bushland Area

Wright Forest is an area of high quality remnant vegetation in the Cockatoo area. There are many important natural values in the bushland area, with more than 75 species of native flora. Wright Forest is also an important area for local recreation, so current levels of recreational access will be maintained where there is minimal impact on the existing natural values. The Emerald-Cockatoo Multipurpose Recreation Trail crosses Wright Forest and is a popular destination for walking, cycling and dog walking/exercising on-leash. Horse riding is not permitted in the reserve.

Wright Forest Bushland Area is designated as a natural features area as part of the Conservation Area under the National Parks Act and will continue to be managed by Parks Victoria.

Wright Forest Bushland Area is designated as a natural features area to reflect the important values and the relatively intact nature of the vegetation, allowing for continued access for recreation that would not normally be permitted in a nature conservation area. This area will be in the restoration zone.

To ensure public land is protected, encroachments or other inappropriate uses will be addressed in accordance with government regulations.

Riparian management licences in Precinct 5.

Neither riparian management licences nor conservation agreements will be issued in any part of Precinct 5.

9.6. Precinct 6: Sassafras Creek, Perrins Creek, Emerald Creek and Menzies Creek

The precinct includes Sassafras Creek, Perrins Creek, Emerald Creek, Ti-Tree Creek and Menzies Creek. This precinct is in the southern Dandenong Ranges, characterised by steep slopes and deep gullies, high rainfall, tree ferns and Mountain Ash. Surrounding land use includes medium density residential townships, agriculture, horticulture and nurseries.

This precinct is largely vegetated by Damp Forest, Wet Forest, and small patches of Cool Temperate Rainforest. Riparian Forest is the predominant ecological vegetation class along Woori Yallock Creek. Cool Temperate Rainforest can be found at the Sassafras Creek headwaters, sections of Perrins Creek, Casells Creek and some tributaries around the Alfred Nicholas Gardens²¹. Populations of the vulnerable Slender Tree-fern may be found in moist shaded gullies, particularly along Sassafras Creek. There is presence of Platypus, Dandenong Burrowing Crayfish and Dandenong Amphipod, as well as Powerful Owl, Sooty Owl and Lyrebird.

The Menzies Creek frontage has a walking trail and there is a small picnicking area at Avarad Picnic Ground, near Emerald. There are some historic gold mining infrastructure relics on the streamside and there is interest from the local historical society in creating signage and interpretation for the area. On-leash dog walking/exercising is permitted to continue along some sections of Menzies Creek, and in accordance with management planning.

²¹ Alfred Nicholas Gardens is adjacent to the Conservation Area.

The precinct supports threatened species of flora and fauna, valuable habitat and part of an important wildlife corridor connecting Dandenong Ranges National Park to Wright Forest and Bunyip State Park to the east, and through the Woori Yallock Creek to Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area to the north. The rich and fertile soil, and abundant rainfall, along with proximity of urban development, make the precinct particularly vulnerable to invasive weed species.

The stream frontages in this area vary from unreserved to reserved for recreation or public purposes under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act. Land that is not appropriately reserved will temporarily be reserved for conservation purposes and, subject to the outcome of cadastral surveys, all land will be included in the Conservation Area under the National Parks Act and managed by Parks Victoria. The Sassafras Creek Bushland Reserve, two parcels adjoining the streamside nature conservation area, will be consolidated into the Conservation Area.

The stream frontages will be designated as nature conservation areas to reflect the high values in these streamside areas. The area along Sassafras and Perrins Creeks is in the conservation zone and Menzies Creek is in the restoration zone. Emerald Creek from the confluence of Sassafras Creek to where it intersects with Monbulk-Lilydale Road is in the restoration zone. West of the road, Emerald Creek is in the conservation zone.

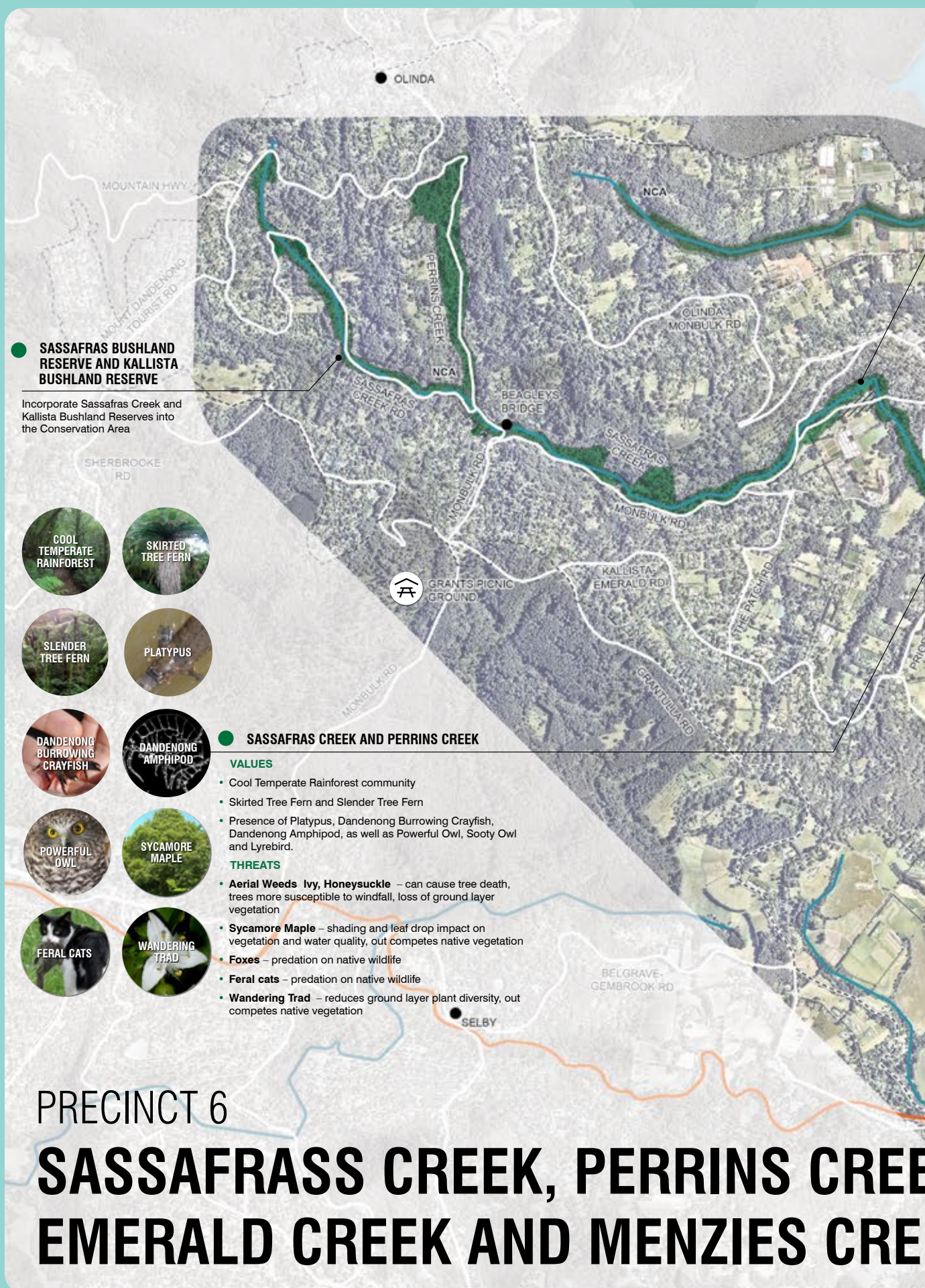


Figure 8. Precinct 6 Map



A key priority will be to continue to maintain and improve the quality and extent of native vegetation, minimise the impact of weeds such as Sycamore Maple, as well as the impacts from stormwater where possible, and to protect populations of threatened flora from disturbance. To ensure public land is protected, encroachments, unlicensed grazing, cropping or other inappropriate uses will be addressed in accordance with government regulations.

A range of passive recreation activities will be able to continue, in recognition of the narrow and steep roadsides and limited public land in the area available for activities such as on-leash dog walking/exercising. Dog walking/exercising will not be permitted along Emerald Creek anywhere upstream (west) of where the creek intersects with Monbulk Road, as this area is in the conservation zone.

A significant value of the precinct is the strong local community partnerships which have contributed to the preservation and quality of remnant vegetation not only through ongoing weed management projects but through collaborative major projects. The Community Weed Alliance of the Dandenongs (CWAD) and Friends of Sassafras Creek, along with the Monbulk, Macclesfield and Johns Hill Landcare groups, supported by Yarra Ranges Council, PPWCMA, Melbourne Water and other funding agencies – have been able to undertake significant projects such as protection of Slender and Skirted Tree-fern, removal of invasive Sycamore Maple, and protection of threatened Emerald Star Bush.

Sassafras Creek Nature Conservation Area

The Sassafras Creek Nature Conservation Area is home to at least seven threatened species of flora and fauna and one threatened vegetation community, the largest known population of the vulnerable Slender Tree-fern and Skirted Tree-fern found in the Dandenong Ranges, which are listed under the FFG Act. This area is a nationally significant site of Cool Temperate Rainforest and also one of the most threatened and fragile. It is home to small fauna, is a breeding ground of the Superb Lyrebird and is visited by 131 bird species, including Sulphur Crested Cockatoo, Crimson Rosella, Kookaburra, Eastern Yellow Robin and Pied Currawong.

There are at least 25 trees that exceed 80m in height along Sassafras Creek in the Dandenong Ranges. The tallest of these has been climbed to get a very accurate height estimate. These trees originated in the 1920s and are around 85 to 90 years old, adding about a metre of height every four or five years. The trees are very fire sensitive, an attribute of the narrow streamside reserve, and will likely become the tallest specimens in Victoria within about a decade.

Threatened invertebrates in the area include the listed Dandenong Freshwater Amphipod, Dandenong Burrowing Crayfish, Kallista Stonefly and Sherbrooke Amphipod. There is also a high diversity of fungi and bryophytes.

Invasive weed species present a major threat to the Sassafras Nature Conservation Reserve. Three major invasive weed species have been mapped, with notable widespread occurrence of Sycamore Maple, Wandering Tradescantia and Cape Ivy. Other significant weeds in the area include Tree Tobacco, English Ivy and Red Cestrum. Stormwater drainage is contributing to weed spread.

Loss of mature trees is particularly important in the precinct because of its impact on nest sites for arboreal fauna. Mature trees in the Conservation Area are particularly susceptible to windthrow because of the reserve's narrow linear nature. This problem could be partly mitigated by working with adjacent landholders to expand the effective width of the reserve. Nest boxes are also a useful response to the loss of hollows.

Butterfield Reserve

The frontage to the Woori Yallock Creek, directly adjacent to Butterfield Reserve, is included in the Conservation Area. Butterfield Reserve²² has high potential for Helmeted Honeyeater reintroduction, whether via natural dispersal or the release of captive-bred birds. The reserve, like many adjacent areas in Precinct 6; Sassafras Creek, Perrins Creek, Emerald Creek, Ti-Tree Creek and Menzies Creek, are very important in supporting the conservation objectives of the Conservation Area.

The reserve and surrounds includes the 20ha of public land owned by Yarra Ranges Council, which is adjacent to a Crown land picnic area managed by Yarra Ranges Council, and the smaller reserves and riparian areas of the connecting Sassafras, Emerald and Menzies Creeks. The area includes Riparian Forest with tall Manna Gums and Messmate Stringybark, and the more elevated Lowland Forest with Messmate Stringybark and Elderberry Panax. Although patches of weed infestation can be found in both the reserve and riparian areas, along with degradation in some riparian areas, the area demonstrates the benefits of significant revegetation and weed management over past years, including restoration of the understory trees and canopy species.

Riparian management licences in Precinct 6.

Neither riparian management licences nor conservation agreements will be issued in any part of Precinct 6.

²² Most of Butterfield Reserve is outside the Conservation Area.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Section 17E, *National Parks Act 1975*

17E Landscape conservation areas

- (1) Each area of land described in a part of Schedule Nine is, for the purposes of this Act, a landscape conservation area under the name specified in that part.
- (2) A landscape conservation area may comprise any of the following—
 - (a) nature conservation areas;
 - (b) community use and education areas;
 - (c) natural features areas.
- (3) A landscape conservation area must be managed for the following purposes—
 - (a) for any part that is a nature conservation area, for the purposes of—
 - (i) conserving and protecting the natural environment, including species, communities and habitats of indigenous flora and fauna; and
 - (ii) protecting cultural heritage; and
 - (iii) if consistent with the purposes in subparagraphs (i) and (ii), providing opportunities for recreation, education and scientific study;
 - (b) for any part that is for a community use and education area, for the purposes of—
 - (i) providing for community use, education and scientific study; and
 - (ii) as is appropriate to the particular area—
 - (A) conserving and protecting the natural environment, including species, communities and habitats of indigenous flora and fauna; and
 - (B) maintaining or restoring natural surroundings and the character and quality of the landscape; and
 - (C) protecting cultural heritage;
 - (c) for any part that is a natural features area, for the purposes of—
 - (i) conserving and protecting the natural environment, including species, communities and habitats of indigenous flora and fauna; and
 - (ii) protecting and restoring areas with indigenous vegetation or habitat; and
 - (iii) protecting scenic features and the character and quality of the landscape; and
 - (iv) protecting water quality where appropriate; and
 - (v) protecting cultural heritage; and
 - (vi) if consistent with the purposes in subparagraphs (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v), providing opportunities for recreation, education and scientific study.

Appendix B – Licensing principles for fencing and grazing within Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to define the licensing principles to be applied within the Conservation Area and provide clear guidance to government agencies and adjacent landholders around conditions to be applied to both riparian management licences and conservation agreements entered into with adjacent landholders. This includes defining the minimum stock exclusion areas to be achieved and associated special conditions to be included on licences.

Background

Within the Conservation Area, large amounts of public (Crown) land that forms streamside reserves has been historically occupied and managed by adjacent landholders, either with or without licences issued by the land manager, DELWP.

The Conservation Area is being established in accordance with the Government supported Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) recommendations which include the provision of conservation agreements with adjacent landholders. This is to acknowledge that continuing to partner with adjacent landholders will help enhance the biodiversity and ecological values of these areas. These conservation agreements will be issued by Parks Victoria as it assumes management of areas of public land within the Conservation Area.

The Conservation Area will be progressively created in phases over several years, by placing areas of Crown land under the National Parks Act. Prior to any legislative changes to reserve areas of Crown land as part of the new Conservation Area, DELWP will remain the licensing agency. DELWP will issue riparian management licences to adjacent landowners for five years, and if necessary, for a further five years if the land has not been included in the Conservation Area by the end of the first five-year term. Once Parks Victoria assumes management responsibility for a new area of the Conservation Area, licences will remain in place until they expire, at which time adjacent landowners can apply to Parks Victoria for a conservation agreement to maintain and improve the riparian environment.

In some areas riparian management licences may also include a special condition to allow the use of

grazing as a management tool where this is consistent with this document.

For areas managed by Parks Victoria, grazing will be discontinued, except where Parks Victoria determines that grazing is the preferred management tool.

The establishment of the Conservation Area has involved the phasing out of grazing licences that have been previously issued. However, the Government-supported VEAC recommendations specify that grazing may be contracted for ecological or management purposes in certain areas. One of the key aims of this document is to clarify the principles that will be applied to determine where grazing within the Conservation Area is an appropriate management technique.

In August 2017, a spatial categorisation process was developed to better identify high-value conservation areas. The process includes a classification system for ecological values based on three categories; high, medium and low. Three zones were determined based on each of the three categories; conservation (high), restoration (medium) and community use (low). These zones will be used by land managers to determine where and under which circumstances licences, conservation agreements and grazing as a management tool can occur. Appendix C below provides further details of each zone.

Licensing objectives

To engage adjacent landholders effectively across the entire Conservation Area requires balancing values and objectives. However, it is important that licensing emphasises that nature conservation is the primary management objective and that ongoing effort will be made to reverse habitat fragmentation and improve biodiversity.

The values, threats and public land corridor widths vary significantly across the area. Consequently, assessment of fencing alignments and grazing opportunities will be required on a case-by-case basis.

The overall objectives to be met when issuing licences, and considering grazing as a management tool, will be:

- a. Established vegetation corridors supporting biodiversity outcomes consistent with the VEAC recommendations.
- b. Engaged adjacent landholders helping to deliver shared management (win-win outcomes)
- c. Effective pest animal control

- d. Effective weed control
- e. Stable and healthy waterways
- f. Community and recreational access where appropriate
- g. Maintaining adjacent land production values
- h. Maintaining historic legal access to water use
- i. Maintaining community safety in respect to fire risk (no material increase to bushfire risk).

Licensing principles

The following licensing principles are to be applied to all streamside reserves within the Conservation Area:

- a. Agreed fencing alignments will be the delineation between where grazing will be permitted and where it will not. Stock will not have access at any time to fenced-out revegetated areas or direct access through public land to waterways
- b. Gates may be constructed to enable access between public and private land for the purpose of maintenance, water access etc. Stock access is not permitted. Revegetation proposals should take into consideration requirements for water access where appropriate; i.e., set aside suitable areas and access for pumps and water infrastructure
- c. Grazing will not be considered on any public land in **any** of the following circumstances:
 - i. The land has not recently been grazed (not been grazed since 2012)
 - ii. High ecological values have been identified (based on DELWP Arthur Rylah Institute mapping and/or site inspection)
 - iii. Area has high potential for restoration of ecological values. (Based on the current ecological values of the adjacent public land and a strategic approach to providing wide habitat corridors throughout the Conservation Area for threatened species)
 - iv. The area is regularly inundated/flooded
 - v. Revegetation works have been undertaken
 - vi. In areas recommended by VEAC to be reserved as a nature conservation area.
- d. Minimum fencing setbacks will be applied based on zoning of the adjacent public land as follows;
 - i. Conservation zone – No licences, conservation agreements or grazing permitted.
 - ii. Restoration zone – Minimum of 35 m from top of bank (each side of the river – 70 m only)²³
 - iii. Biodiversity and Community use zone – Minimum of 20 m from top of bank (each side of the river – 40 m total)
- e. Grazing will be considered in areas where **all** of the following apply:
 - i. The minimum fencing setbacks above can be met
 - ii. The area is currently or has recently been grazed
 - iii. There is a riparian management licence in place (or has been applied for) and the adjacent landholder acknowledges their requirement to manage the nominated sections of public land for conservation purposes.
 - iv. Application of the *'Managing grazing on riparian land – Decision support tool and guidelines'* determines grazing can occur as an acceptable or beneficial outcome.
- f. Other matters that may be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine fencing/ grazing arrangements:
 - i. Width of public land frontage (cannot achieve fencing offset in all areas where frontage is narrow)
 - ii. A lack of access for maintenance vehicles makes direct management by DELWP/ Parks Victoria/Melbourne Water impractical
 - iii. Access to additional low value public land may be appropriate where additional areas of private land containing higher ecological values are set aside and managed for conservation (effectively offset)
 - iv. Whether a fuel break is required within the public land; i.e., due to proximity of houses on adjacent land
 - v. Where easy access to the public land makes it conducive to direct active management immediately adjacent to other actively managed areas

²³ This does not necessarily need to be evenly distributed on either side of a waterway. For example, in the case of breeding habitat, the required width could comprise of 35 m either side or 50 m on one side and 20 m on the opposite side.

All boundaries will be surveyed by the Office of Surveyor-General Victoria. Property boundaries can only be determined by cadastral surveys undertaken by licensed surveyors on behalf of the government.

Fencing alignments may by negotiation be less than the minimum specified above in the interest of achieving a practical outcome. Generally, though, there would be some give and take and the intent of the setback must be achieved on average. Give-and-take fence alignments negotiated between DELWP and adjacent landowners do not denote the common boundary between freehold and Crown land. Rather, give-and-take fences are for practical purposes only, such as to contain livestock on freehold land.

Setbacks are designed to provide habitat corridors for native wildlife and to enhance water quality. In determining outcomes on the ground, consideration to achieving the total corridor width should be made. Access along the Conservation Area for maintenance, fire prevention, weed spraying etc., should be accommodated where required outside of the fenced-off areas. If vehicle or other access is required within stock exclusion areas, then the fence offset should be extended to make provision for the access requirements on top of the minimum vegetation offsets specified above.

North-East Corner – Special conditions for revegetation in streamside

For certain areas of Precinct 2, revegetation²⁴ on public (Crown) land is to be restricted to a maximum of 10m from the top of bank on either side of waterways in this area only.

The restricted revegetation area includes the Yarra River, only for areas east of the Yarra Bridge Streamside Reserve (excluding Haining Farm), Little Yarra River and Britannia Creek. The restricted revegetation area also extends south from the confluence of the Yarra River and Hoddles Creek only as far as the public land adjacent to the intersection of Gembrook Launching Place Road and Grieve Street, Launching Place. (Refer **Figure 1. Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area Map**).

The restricted revegetation area applies only to public (Crown) land and includes the following conditions:

- Revegetation is defined as; *the establishment of native vegetation to a minimum standard in a formerly cleared areas outside a remnant patch*²⁵

- Revegetation on public land will only occur to a maximum of 10m from the top of bank on each side of a waterway, in the streamside areas
- Revegetation may still be required beyond 10m in some circumstances, for example for the suppression of weeds or to prevent erosion
- Revegetation works will be managed by either DELWP, Parks Victoria or Melbourne Water, depending on land management arrangements for a particular area.
- At the request of adjacent landholders, narrow bands of revegetation along fence lines are permitted beyond 10m to maintain privacy for adjacent landholders
- Revegetation of riparian wetlands, which serve to mitigate bushfire risk, may also occur beyond 10m from top of bank
- All revegetation work will be conducted in accordance with the *Yellingbo Conservation Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan* (2018)
- Prioritising on-ground works to support bushfire prevention and pest management.

Application of conditions on licences

DELWP will be responsible for issuing riparian management licences for conservation purposes under either the Crown Land (Reserves) Act or the Land Act, depending on the status of the land. Riparian management licences require special conditions to ensure that government investment and altered land management regimes are secured through the licence.

DELWP has prepared a statewide document titled *Crown water frontages - An explanatory guide to your licence conditions* available here: <https://www.forestsandreserves.vic.gov.au/land-management/crown-land-water-frontage-licensing>. The special conditions below have been taken from that document and modified as necessary for application with the Conservation Area.

Special conditions

The special conditions have been grouped into categories and are listed below. DELWP staff should choose which categories and conditions apply to each licence they issue, based on the riparian management agreement or the self-funded works on site. Special conditions are listed under item 14 of the licence schedule.

²⁴ Definition of revegetation from DELWP Output Data Standard (March 2021).

²⁵ Definition of revegetation from DELWP Output Data Standard (March 2021).

1. Grazing and stock management

The most appropriate option should be chosen depending on the licence purpose as indicated below.

| Licence purpose 1 | Riparian management |
|-------------------|--|
| Instruction | This condition is applicable when all of the licensed land is fenced to exclude stock, and managed for riparian management purposes |
| Special condition | The licensee must ensure stock do not enter the licensed land |
| Licence purpose 2 | Riparian management/grazing |
| Instruction | This condition is applicable when part of the licensed land is fenced to exclude stock, with the remaining land used for the purpose of grazing |
| Special condition | The licensee must ensure stock do not enter the land shown by the area shaded green on the attached licence plan |
| Licence purpose 3 | Riparian management/grazing/cropping |
| Instruction | This condition is applicable when part of the licensed land is fenced to exclude stock, with the remaining land used for the purpose of grazing and cropping. Cropping is generally not encouraged on public water frontages and this licence purpose is rare |
| Special condition | The licensee must ensure stock do not enter and cropping does not occur on the land shown by the area shaded green on the attached licence plan. For cropping areas: you may need to add specific conditions for cropping; e.g., timing, extent, drainage and runoff controls. These should use wording that is consistent with other special conditions and be based on riparian management agreement or what has been agreed between the licensee and DELWP staff, based on local knowledge and ecological principles |

2. Fencing

| Licence purpose | Riparian management; riparian management/grazing; riparian management/grazing/cropping |
|-------------------|--|
| Instruction | This condition is applicable when fencing has been installed to prevent stock or unauthorised vehicle access to certain areas of the licensed land |
| Special condition | The licensee must ensure fencing is maintained so that stock or unauthorised vehicles cannot enter the areas shaded green on the attached licence plan |

3. Revegetation

| Licence purpose | Riparian management; riparian management/grazing; riparian management/grazing/cropping |
|-------------------|--|
| Instruction | This condition is applicable when it is likely that the licensed land will be revegetated |
| Special condition | If planting vegetation within nominated conservation areas on the licensed land, the licensee must only use indigenous species from an approved list |

4. Pest plants

| Licence purpose | Riparian management; riparian management/grazing; riparian management/grazing/cropping |
|-------------------|---|
| Instruction | <p>This condition is applicable when Melbourne Water or DELWP want to specify certain weeds to be controlled or eradicated on the licensed land. Clause 2.4.1.1 of the licence conditions states that the licensee must keep the licensed land 'free' of weeds as defined in the <i>Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Act 1994</i>. However, this special condition may serve as a 'reminder' of the Act's listed weeds, or environmental weeds (not listed in legislation), that require particular attention on the frontage. The species will generally be specified by Melbourne Water</p> <p>When using this condition, you should choose 'prevent the growth and spread of' or 'eradicate' depending on the <i>CaLP Act 1994</i> declaration for the species in a particular region, and then list the species to which the condition applies.</p> <p>If several species with different declarations are to be shown on the licence schedule, add one condition for 'prevent the growth and spread of' with a corresponding list of species, and then add a second condition for 'eradicate' with a list of species. Prescribed control measures may be included as appropriate.</p> |
| Special condition | <p>In addition to clause 2.4.1.1 of the licence conditions, the licensee must [prevent the growth and spread of]/[eradicate] the following weed species:</p> <p>i. [common name (scientific name)]</p> |

5. Storage of materials and machinery

| Licence purpose | Riparian management; riparian management/grazing; riparian management/grazing/cropping |
|-------------------|---|
| Instruction | This condition should be used on all riparian management licences to prevent the storage of equipment, materials, machinery, vehicles, fodder, fertiliser or harvest; or the locating of temporary stack sites on the public water frontage |
| Special condition | The licensed land must not be used for storage of equipment, materials, machinery, vehicles, fodder, fertiliser or harvest, or for temporary stack sites |

6. Improvements

| Licence purpose | Riparian management; riparian management/grazing; riparian management/grazing/cropping |
|-------------------|---|
| Instruction | <p>This condition is applicable and <i>must</i> be used when infrastructure (e.g., fencing or off-stream watering infrastructure) on the licensed land is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part or fully funded by the Victorian or Commonwealth government or any other agency (e.g., CMAs, water authorities), and • It is intended that the infrastructure remains on the licensed land on expiration, cancellation or transfer of the licence. <p>This condition allows the licensor (DELWP or Parks Victoria) to choose, on a case-by-case basis, whether the licensee must comply with clause 4.3 of the licence conditions. This clause states that 'on cancellation or expiry of the licence, the licensee must remove all Licensee's improvements from the licensed land to the satisfaction of the Secretary'</p> <p>This condition ensures that government investment into works such as fencing is not lost, and that the riparian environment continues to be protected from stock access</p> |
| Special condition | <p>Despite clause 4.3.2 of the licence conditions, on cancellation or expiration of the licence the following items must not be removed without the permission of the licensor:</p> <p>(i)</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All fencing located within the licensed land • All fencing located on the boundary of the licensed land • All off-stream watering infrastructure associated with a take- and-use licence including all works, appliances and dams, and outlet pipes and valves located on the licensed land. |

Appendix C – Description of zones

Conservation zone

Characteristics:

- Existing habitat for threatened species and vegetation types
- High conservation values.

Management requirements:

- Managed for conservation purposes as a priority
- Managed in accordance with VEAC classification of nature conservation area
- Area may provide opportunities for a limited range of passive recreation activities
- Riparian management licences and conservation agreements are not appropriate for this area
- No potential for grazing on the streamside areas
- Existing habitat for threatened species, high-value conservation – maintain and enhance; manage threats.

Restoration zone

Characteristics:

- High-priority restoration site for threatened species and/or particular vegetation communities (Ecological Vegetation Classes)
- Potential habitat for the Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum that comprise larger patches of vegetated Crown land to provide breeding habitat
- High-priority restoration sites to provide habitat corridors for threatened species including Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum.

Management requirements:

- Restoration areas may provide opportunities for a limited range of passive recreation activities
- Riparian management licences can be entered into with adjacent landowners
- Revegetation on streamside areas should cover a total width of at least 70m along the waterway where possible/practicable (35m each side). In the north-east corner of the Conservation Area revegetation will be limited to 10m either side of the waterway in response to community concerns about bushfire risk (Refer **Figure 1. Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area Map**)

- Grazing can be considered as a management tool outside the vegetated area subject to the application of *Managing grazing on riparian land: decision support tool and guidelines* (DELWP 2016).

Biodiversity and community use zone

Characteristics:

- General biodiversity corridors providing strategic linkages between localities
- In varying condition due to past land practices
- Contains some sections of good value vegetation
- Provides connectivity to surrounding Crown land parcels such as national parks and state forest.

Management requirements:

- Area may provide opportunities for a broad range of recreation activities where appropriate
- Vegetated corridors should cover a width of at least 20m from the top of bank where possible/practicable
- Riparian management licences can be entered into with adjacent landowners
- Grazing can be considered as a management tool outside the vegetated area subject to the application of *Managing grazing on riparian land: decision support tool and guidelines* (DELWP 2016)
- Vegetated corridors should cover a width of at least 40m from the top of bank where possible/practicable (20m each side). In the north-east corner of the Conservation Area, revegetation is limited to 10m either side of the waterway in response to community concerns about bushfire risk. (Refer **Figure 1. Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area Map**).

Appendix D – List of acronyms/definitions

| | |
|---------------|---|
| CaLP | <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> |
| CFA | Country Fire Authority |
| DEDJTR | Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources ²⁶ |
| DELWP | Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning |
| DJPR | Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions |
| EPBC | <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> |
| FFG | Flora and Fauna Guarantee |
| FFMV | Forest Fire Management Victoria |
| Land managers | The public land managers in the Conservation Area include Parks Victoria, DELWP, Zoos Victoria, Yarra Ranges Council (some reserves as committee of management and roadside verges), Cardinia Shire Council (some reserves as committee of management and roadside verges). |
| NCR | Nature Conservation Reserve |
| MW | Melbourne Water |
| PPWCMA | Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority |
| VEAC | Victorian Environmental Assessment Council |
| YCA | Yellingbo Conservation Area |
| YCACC | Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee |
| YNCA | Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area |

²⁶ The Victorian Government announced machinery of government changes which took effect from 1 January 2019. These changes mean the former Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) has transitioned into two new departments – the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) and the Department of Transport (DoT).

Appendix E – Recommended reservation of public land

| Current public land unit SF: Stream frontage natural features reserve, NCR: Nature Conservation Reserve | Revised name of public land unit |
|---|--|
| Badger Creek (Coranderrk Creek) and Yarra River SF (downstream of Warramate Hills NCR) and Yarra River Streamside Reserve (Everard Park) | Yarra River – Badger Creek Stream Frontage Natural Features Area |
| Beenak Bushland Reserve | Beenak Nature Conservation Area |
| Britannia Creek SF | Britannia Creek Natural Features Area |
| Cockatoo Creek SF | Cockatoo Creek Natural Features Area |
| Coranderrk NCR | Coranderrk Bushland Nature Conservation Area |
| Emerald Creek SF | Sassafras Creek Nature Conservation Area |
| Haining Park | Haining Farm |
| Hoddles Creek Bushland Reserve | Hoddles Creek Bushland Area |
| Hoddles Creek Education Area | Hoddles Creek Nature Conservation Area |
| Hoddles Creek (lower) and Wet Lead Creek SF | Hoddles Creek Natural Features Area |
| Hoddles Creek (upper) and Wet Lead Creek SF | Hoddles Creek Nature Conservation Area |
| Little Yarra River SF | Little Yarra River Natural Features Area |
| McCrae Creek SF | McCrae Creek Natural Features Area |
| Menzies Creek SF | Sassafras Creek Nature Conservation Area |
| Sassafras Creek NCR, Kallista Bushland Reserve (at Beagleys bridge), Sassafras Creek Bushland Reserve and Sassafras Creek Reserve (Consolidation) | Sassafras Creek Nature Conservation Area |
| Shepherd Creek SF | Shepherd Creek Nature Conservation Area |
| Warramate Hills NCR and adjacent Woori Yallock Creek and Yarra River SF | Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Area |

| Current public land unit SF: Stream frontage natural features reserve, NCR: Nature Conservation Reserve | Revised name of public land unit |
|---|--|
| Wright Forest Bushland Reserve and adjacent Cockatoo SF | Wright Forest Bushland Area |
| Woori Yallock Creek SF (between Yellingbo and Sassafras NCR) | Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area |
| Woori Yallock Creek SF (downstream of Yellingbo NCR) | Woori Yallock Creek Natural Features Area |
| Yarra River SF (upstream of Warramate Hills NCR) | Yarra River Natural Features Area |
| Yellingbo NCR | Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area |
| Yellingbo NCR (along Sheep Station Creek) | Sheep Station Creek Nature Conservation Area |

Note: Local names for current public land units of the Conservation Area will be retained. It is proposed that the current public land units be referred to as part of the broader Conservation Area. For example: *Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Area – part of Liwik Barring Landscape Conservation Area*

