Overview of the Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area 10-Year Plan

November 2021



Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

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.

We respectfully acknowledge that the Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area (Conservation Area) is located on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri People. We honour their culture, which has nurtured this land since the Dreamtime. The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation is the appointed Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP)1 for all of the land included in the Conservation Area.



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Front cover: Crown land reserve, Yarra River, Launching Place. Credit: DELWP

Page 3: Cockatoo Creek. Credit: DELWP

Page 6: Scented Paperbark (Melaleuca squarrosa). Credit: DELWP

Page 8: Lowland Leadbeater's Possum at Yellingbo NCA. Credit: Zoos Victoria

Page 10: Revegetation. Credit: DELWP

Page 12: Crown land frontage to the Little Yarra River. Credit: DELWP

Page 15: Bushfire prevention work. Credit: DELWP

Page 17: Cinnamon Bells (Gastrodia sesamoides) Credit: DELWP

Page 19: Woori Yallock Creek. Credit: DELWP

Page 22: Visitor Information Sign, Haining Farm. Credit: Parks Victoria

Page 24: Fringe Lily (Thysanotus tuberosus). Credit:DELWP

¹ 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.

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

About the Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area

Vision

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

Background

In March 2014, the 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 as a Landscape Conservation Area under the National Parks Act.

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.

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

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

This document provides a an overview of the key themes of the Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area 10-year Plan (plan).

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Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area 10-year Plan The plan has been developed through consultation with a wide range of interested community and stakeholder groups and individuals.

The plan describes the current condition of the 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 plan guides the direction and strategic approach applied to managing the Conservation Area. It does not detail operational work activity but rather will help shape such activity by encouraging compatibility with the vision for the Conservation Area as well as existing strategies and guidelines established by relevant governing bodies. The plan 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 to experience nature, appreciate scenery, rest and relax, and to 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. The Conservation Area will contribute 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*).

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.

Goals and strategies

Throughout the plan, a series of goals have been developed relevant to each of the four key themes. Within each goal, strategies have been included that contribute to the goal. The strategies identify what needs to happen, the priority of the action and who will be responsible.

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 three to five years with resourcing addressed by the second year.
- **Longer term:** both actions and resourcing commence from three 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. <complex-block>

Figure 2. Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) Landscape Conservation Area 10-year Plan

Precincts

As well as overarching goals, site-specific management directions have been developed. These are based on six precincts that have been developed that cover the Conservation Area. Precinct maps can be viewed in chapter nine of the plan. The precincts are as follows:

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

These precincts were based on logical geographic locations as well as by grouping similar geomorphology, land use, landscape type and vegetation type.

New name for the Conservation Area

Liwik Barring – Ancestors' Trail

The name Yellingbo Conservation Area was originally 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.

Community feedback 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 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 just Yellingbo.

The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation is the appointed Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for all of the land included in the Conservation Area. In June 2021, the Wurundjeri chose *Liwik Barring*, meaning 'Ancestors' Trail', as the Indigenous name for the Conservation Area.

The name *Liwik Barring Landscape Conservation Area* will be adopted in future legislation.

Stakeholder and community input

Community feedback through Engage Victoria (engage.vic.gov.au) was sought by DELWP and the former Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee (YCACC) on the draft plan in 2018.

Engage Victoria (engage.vic.gov.au) was a channel for Victorians to read the Yellingbo Conservation Area draft 10 Year Plan and any supplementary material and provide feedback on elements of the plan that were open for community input.

Respondents were able to complete a survey about the draft plan or make an independent submission.

Nine community information sessions, including drop-in and pop-up sessions, were also held across nine locations around the Conservation Area. In total, 281 responses were received during the consultation period, including from individuals, community groups, local government and other government agencies.

During 2019 a working group comprised of representatives from DELWP, Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water 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 Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) recommendations and existing legislation on uses within parks and reserves in Victoria.

What we heard: -



Creation of the Conservation Area

Reservation process

The Conservation Area will 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 although 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.

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.

A landscape conservation area may comprise any of the following:

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

These three key types of land status 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.

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.

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.

Zoning

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

- Conservation zone (high)
- Restoration zone (medium)
- Biodiversity and community use zone (low)

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

Relevant goal in the plan

Goal 1. Coordinated management of the Conservation Area enables efficiencies in program delivery and is supported by consistent land status and regulations.

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 Conservation Area. Parks Victoria, DELWP and Melbourne Water have worked in partnership to develop the plan and will continue working in partnership in its implementation.

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.

Relevant goals in the plan

Goal 2. Community skills, knowledge and assistance provide stewardship and help in managing the Conservation Area

Goal 3. Traditional Owners caring for their Country is an integral part of the Conservation Area's management.

Goal 4. Adjacent landholders support and enjoy the ecological, economic, and social values of riparian areas.

Goal 7. Partnerships with Traditional Owners protects and conserves Aboriginal features, places, and objects of cultural significance.

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 selfdetermination 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.



Financial support for adjacent landholders

The presence of livestock in waterways creates a risk to human and stock health. Stock are also a cause of point erosion and degradation of stream banks, increasing instability in the channel.

To protect waterways and riparian land, stock will no longer have direct access to waterways. 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 Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways. For more details, please contact Melbourne Water on 131 722 or refer to the Melbourne Water website **https://** www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-andeducation/get-involved/apply-funding/LCLWprogram

Riparian management licences

Grazing licences are no longer issued. In some areas, 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. New licences may also be available for some Crown land water frontages that have not been previously licensed.

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

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.

For more details on riparian management licences, please refer to Appendix B of the plan: Licensing Principles for Fencing and Grazing within Yellingbo Landscape Conservation Area.



Figure 3. Healthy riparian land supports healthy primary production (Source: DELWP)



Theme: 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.

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.

North-east corner – Special conditions for revegetation in streamsides

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 revegetation 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.

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)
- 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.

Relevant goals in the plan

Goal 5. Ensure there is 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 (2014).

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.



Theme: 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.

Aboriginal land use and history

The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation is the appointed Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP)¹ for all of the land included in the Conservation Area.

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.

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 *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* provide for protection of a range of values. This legislation is taken into account in this plan.

There are no current Native Title claims in the Conservation Area, however Native Title rights apply whether or not a claim is pending.

European history

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. 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.

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.

Key management outcomes

- Establish and maintain partnerships with Traditional Owners which advance selfdetermination 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.

Relevant goals in the plan

Goal 3. Traditional Owners caring for their Country is an integral part of the Conservation Area's management.

Goal 7. Partnerships with Traditional Owners protects and conserves Aboriginal features, places, and objects of cultural significance.

Goal 8. European history is interpreted and protected in the Conservation Area.

¹ 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.



Theme: Healthy Conservation Landscape

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

The Conservation Area is home to several threatened species of flora and fauna. With the implementation of the Conservation Area, restoration of habitat will be a key objective to improve outcomes for biodiversity.

The Conservation Area will contribute to the recovery of endangered and vulnerable species of flora and fauna through creating links of habitat (streams and creeks) between large block of public land to able species to move throughout the landscape.

Significant flora

Two endangered Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) are sited on public land in the Conservation Area: Cool Temperate Rainforest and Swampy Riparian Complex.

The Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area supports the extremely rare and threatened Sedge-rich *Eucalyptus camphora* Swamp vegetation community.

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.

The area also supports the only lowland population of the critically endangered Leadbeater's Possum *(Gymnobelideus leadbeateri)*, which is Victoria's faunal emblem.

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 instream habitat.

Relevant goals in the plan

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.

Goal 10. Maintain and increase the extent and richness of threatened flora and vegetation communities.

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.

Invasive animal management

Invasive animals threaten environmental values within the Conservation Area, and in some cases adjacent private land assets.

Carnivorous invasive animals including foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*) which present significant threats towards native species, particularly 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.

Other invasive species that pose threats to the natural environment and private land assets include European wild rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and wild dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*).

Deer

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 management in the Conservation Area will be guided by The Victorian Deer Control Strategy. Management activities will include a deer control program in some of the larger reserves, as well as the installation of deer exclusion fencing at priority locations.

Relevant goals in the plan

Goal 11. Monitor and manage key invasive weeds, prioritising to enhance ecosystem values, support threatened species recovery and reduce impacts to adjacent land

Goal 12. Monitor and manage invasive animals, prioritising to enhance ecosystem values, support threatened species recovery and reduce impacts to adjacent land

Conserving our emblems









Theme: 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.

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. For further detail on recreation activities at specific locations, see section **7.3. Recreation activities by location** of the plan.

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.

Relevant goals in the plan

Goal 14. Provide opportunities for a range of recreational visitor activities to minimise impacts on natural values, cultural values, and other users.

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.

Goal 16. The Conservation Area provides formal and informal opportunities to educate the community about a range of factors including conservation.



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