## Introduction

Biodiversity Response Planning (BRP) is a long-term area-based planning approach to biodiversity conservation in Victoria. It is designed to strengthen alignment, engagement and participation between government, Traditional Owners, non-government agencies and the community.

DELWP Regional staff have been working with stakeholders on actions to conserve biodiversity in specific landscapes, informed by the best available science and local knowledge.

These Fact Sheets capture a point in time, reflecting data and knowledge available in 2020. They provide information for many (but not all) landscapes across Victoria, containing general information on the key values and threats in each area, as well as the priority cost-effective actions that provide the best protection of biodiversity. Fact Sheets are intended to provide useful biodiversity information for the community, non-government and government organisations during project planning and development.

Further information and the [full list of Fact Sheets](http://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/working-together-for-biodiversity) is available on the Department’s Environment website.

## Landscape description

This 103,064 hectare focus landscape incorporates Mt Wombat, Strathbogie State Forest, Mt Samaria State Park and Hat Hill Flora and Fauna Reserve. The Strathbogies area provides valuable habitat for many Glider species, such as Greater, Sugar, Squirrel, and Feather-tailed.

## Cultural importance

We recognise that the entire landscape has high cultural value for Traditional Owners. Landscapes identified as having “notable” cultural importance are based on the density of recorded cultural heritage sites and knowledge shared by Traditional Owners. We also recognise that there are locations important to Traditional Owners not within these landscapes of interest. This area falls within the Country of the Taungurung Peoples.

## Stakeholder interest

As part of the BRP process, in October 2020 stakeholders were asked to nominate focus landscapes, values, threats and potential biodiversity actions. Representatives from DELWP, Parks Victoria, Trust for Nature, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, North East Catchment Management Authority, Taungurung Land and Waters Council, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, and the Alpine Resorts agreed on the boundaries and key aspects of this landscape. Possible future investment/project development in this landscape will be available to any interested stakeholders in addition to those who nominated this landscape.

## Strategic Management Prospects

Strategic Management Prospects (SMP) models biodiversity values such as species habitat distribution, landscape-scale threats and highlights the most cost-effective actions for specific locations. More information about SMP is available in [NatureKit](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/naturekit).

**\*An SMP analysis was completed for Mt Wombat, however, the data displayed is not considered complete or representative of this polygon, so is shown here as base data.** **Due to last minute boundary changes, the SMP modelled output is only an estimate. A further update will be provided as soon as possible – please contact the regional Natural Environment Programs team for updated biodiversity information.**

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| Habitat Distribution Models identified 1 species with more than 5% of their Victorian range in this landscape area | |
| Plant | * 1 plant species with more than 5% of their Victorian range in this focus landscape which is Fireweed Groundsel (Euroa Variant - *Senecio linearifolius var. graniticola)* listed as Vulnerable, with 8% of Victorian range in area |
|  | Traditional Owners and stakeholders identified the following species of interest: Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*), Squirrel Glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*), Feather-tailed Glider (*Acrobates pygmaeus*), Yellow-bellied Glider (*Petaurus australis*), Sugar Glider (*Petaurus breviceps*) |

**Additional threats**

Threats identified through the consultation process (in addition to those modelled in SMP) were:

* pigs
* habitat degradation
* weeds and rabbits along Seven Creeks frontages specifically

Biodiversity management activities identified through the consultation process in addition to those modelled in SMP include:

* Pig control is a high priority for this area, as well as reducing their movement into the western Alpine area.
* Revegetation is a key priority with habitat restoration and improvement. The goal here is to develop and enhance linkages, with emphasis on private land, roadsides, linear reserves, and within existing reserves to reduce fragmentation, developing resilient landscapes in a changing climate.
* Permanent protection on private land is important, as there are numerous springs, paddock trees, and old growth forest patches within this focus landscape. Engagement with private landholders for long term protection of these values is key.
* Permanent protection can increase habitat area across landscapes, creating movement corridors for Greater Gliders and other species such as Powerful Owls and Bandicoots.

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