## 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

The Murray River Upper focus landscape is 41,579 hectares in size and covers the north-eastern part of the Hume region, extending from Lake Hume along the Murray and Mitta Mitta Rivers upstream to the Alpine National Park.

River Red Gums were identified by Traditional Owners and other stakeholders as being of interest in this landscape. This landscape covers waterways of interest to the North East Catchment Management Authority, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and DELWP.

## 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*.*

## 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.

**\* Unfortunately, due to time constraints, a SMP analysis was not completed for this focus landscape. A further update will be provided as soon as possible – please contact the regional Natural Environment Programs team for updated biodiversity information**.

More information about SMP is available in [NatureKit](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/naturekit).

**Threats**

Threats identified through the consultation process were:

* Stock grazing along the riparian corridor – uncontrolled access along the water frontages impacts the landscape through overgrazing, pugging, and compaction. This activity leads to erosion, spread of weeds and competition with native fauna species. Uncontrolled grazing affects natural regeneration and with the lack of native species recruitment, vegetation communities are severely impacted and lost.
* Woody weeds are also considered a major threat in this area.
* Uncontrolled and heavy recreational use of riparian areas including camping (compaction, removal of vegetation and firewood collection) presents a significant threat.

Biodiversity management activities identified as important in this focus landscape include:

* goat control and monitoring
* invasive weed management
* stock exclusion from riparian areas
* revegetation and establishment of linkages and corridors between riparian areas and remnant vegetation, including roadsides and public land
* wider community education programs and compliance to address the recreational activities occurring along waterways that are causing environmental damage

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