## 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 Northern Inland Slopes East focus landscape is 95,899ha in size and encompasses the foothill slopes and minor ranges separated by river valleys that drain northward from the High Country to the Murray River. It is a mixed complex of granitic and metamorphic geology protruding into the Riverine Plain. The vegetation communities include Grassy Dry Forest, Box Ironbark Forest, Granitic Hills Woodland, Heathy Dry Forest and Shrubby Dry Forest ecosystems on the less fertile hills, with Herb-rich Foothill Forest ecosystems on the more fertile hills and outwash, and Grassy Woodland, Valley Grassy Forest, Plains Grassy Woodland, Floodplain Riparian Woodland, Riverine Grassy Woodland, Riverine Sedgy Forest and Wetland ecosystems on the more fertile plains and along watercourses.

## 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.

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| **Traditional Owners, stakeholders and community groups identified the following species of interest** | |
|  | * Remnant vegetation stands and patches * Riparian vegetation and corridors * Grey Grass – tree (*Xanthorrhoea glauca*) |
|  | * Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*) * Eastern Pygmy-possum (*Cercartetus nanus*) |
|  | * Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*) * Barking Owl (*Ninox connivens*) * Speckled Warbler (*Chthonicola sagittatus*) * White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) * Wetland and aquatic feeding species (Herons, Egrets, Kingfishers, Spoonbills) |
|  | * Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) * Brown Toadlet (*Pseudophryne bibronii*) * Smooth Toadlet (*Uperoleia laevigata*) |
|  | * Lace Monitor (*Varunus varius*) |

## 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.

**\* No SMP analysis was conducted for this focus area due to last minute boundary changes. An updated map and further information will be provided as soon as possible – please contact the regional Natural Environment Programs team for more information.**

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

## Additional threats

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

* Weeds: these can have a negative impact on the biodiversity values and through competition with native vegetation can alter natural ecosystems. Invasive woody weeds such as Willows are a priority for control as they infest sensitive riparian areas.
* Stock grazing along the riparian corridor is a continuing threat and uncontrolled access along water frontages impacts the landscape through overgrazing, pugging, and compaction. This activity leads to erosion, spread of weeds and competition with native fauna species.
* Deer are present in this landscape at high numbers and along with other pest species, impact the habitat for native flora and fauna species.

From the landscape nomination process, the following additional conservation actions were suggested:

* Continued monitoring and control programs for feral animals (deer and goats).
* Continued weed control programs, with emphasis on woody weeds to reduce infestations in sensitive areas.
* Fencing of waterways to control stock access and reduce the impact from erosion, sedimentation and pathogens entering waterways.

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