## 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 Lake Boort landscape is 5,255ha in size with 30% of the area covered in native vegetation. Public land makes up 22% of area and includes Woolshed Swamp and Lake Boort Wildlife Reserve (WR). Refer to the map at the end of this Fact Sheet.

This landscape has an overlap with the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation RSA landscape. For more information, please refer to this Fact Sheet in the [full list of Fact Sheets](http://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/working-together-for-biodiversity).

## Cultural importance

We recognise that the entire landscape has high cultural value for Traditional Owners. Landscapes identified as having “notable” cultural importance is 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.

Notable cultural importance for the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation is Woolshed Swamp Wetland Reserve and Boort – Yung Balug (the clan group). To heal the Murrup of Yung Balug, there must be a return of Yung (Quoll) to Djandak.

## Stakeholder Interest

As part of the BRP process, in October 2020 stakeholders were asked to nominate focus landscapes and actions of interest. Dja Dja Wurrung and Agriculture Victoria (North Central Irrigation Program) nominated Lake Boort.

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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| 0BEcological values identified by Traditional Owners, partners and community within this landscape |
| Revegetation of Djandak with:   * Buwatji (grasses used for grain) * Witji (weaving grasses) * Gatjawil Matorm (tuberous plants with scented flowers) * Murnang (Yam Daisies) including Kangaroo grass, Lomandra and Dianella species, Chocolate Lily, Vanilla Lily, Bulbine Lily and Yam Daisy |
| Lake Boort is important as a remnant of the Red Gum and Black Box wetlands that are characteristic of the northern plains landscape |
| Wi (cultural fire) authorised and lead by Dja Dja Wurrung on Djandak (Country):   * Boort - Woolshed Swamp WR south west * Boort - Woolshed Swamp WR west centre * Boort - Dja Dja Wurrung Boort Yando Rd * Boort - Woolshed Swamp WR west * Boort - Woolshed Swamp WR south east * Boort - Woolshed Swamp WR north * Boort - Woolshed Swamp WR centre |
| Over 80 species of birds, including 42 species of waterbirds have been recorded using the Lake Boort reserve, including many rare and threatened waterbirds |
| Threatened ecological vegetation classes (EVC) present at Lake Boort. These include:   * Red Gum Swamp (EVC 292): Vulnerable * Plains Woodland (EVC 803): Endangered * Lignum Swamp (EVC 104): Vulnerable |

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|  | Habitat Distribution Models identify 0 species with more than 5% of their Victorian range in this landscape area\*\*  \*\*The landscape area has been modified since the time of the development of the SMP summary report. Therefore, SMP data may have slightly altered from the results displayed below. | Traditional Owners, stakeholders and community groups identified the following species of interest within this landscape |
| Plant | Plants | * Pale Spike‐sedge * Sweet Fenugreek Spiny Lignum |
| Rat | Mammals | * Yung (Quoll) including Woolshed Swamp Wetland Reserve, Boort |
| Snake | Reptiles | * Woodland Blind Snake |
| Sparrow | Birds | * Freckled Duck * Blue‐billed Duck * Australasian Shoveler * Grey‐crowned Babbler * Royal Spoonbill * Little Egret * Eastern Great Egret * White-bellied Sea Eagle * Glossy Ibis * Brolga * Pink-eared Duck * Whiskered Tern * Brown Treecreeper |
| Frog | Amphibians | * Growling Grass Frog |

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| Traditional Owners, stakeholders and community groups identified the following threats within this landscape |
| Exclusion of Dja Dja Wurrung leadership (governance) |
| Lack of enquiry and understanding of Dja Dja Wurrung customs and practice to provide an enabling and supportive environment so that Djaara can reconnect to land and reconnect stories and knowledge to place. Ask “How?” not “Why?” |
| Lack of water flow |
| Lack of listening, hearing and respect for Dja Dja Wurrung ability to talk to Country – not utilising Dja Dja Wurrung knowledge base tools and the bias toward western science decision support tools |
| Utilising past learnings and achievement to guide future effort – Dja Dja Wurrung participation in past and future biodiversity planning and delivery below the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) level of ‘involve’ does not support Dja Dja Wurrung aspirations |
| Past mining operations |
| Firewood collection |

## 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).

## Additional threats

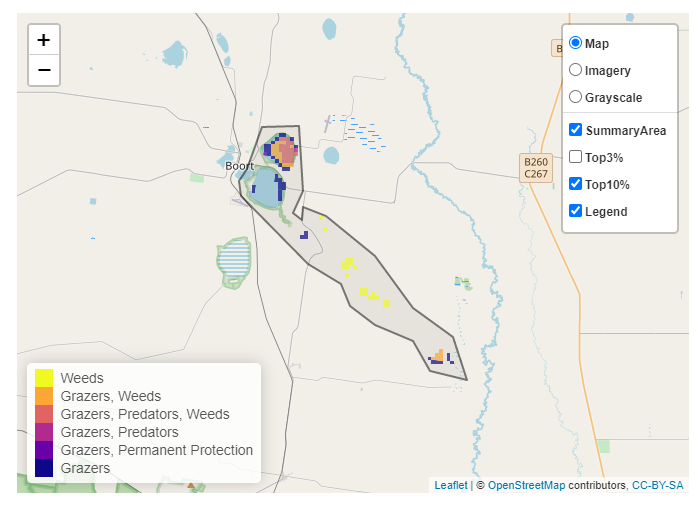
Threats identified (in addition to those modelled in SMP) through the consultation process were:

* alterations to hydrology
* land salinisation
* soil erosion
* habitat degradation due to extremes of climate and weather
* lack of regeneration in some vegetation classes
* recreational activities causing fragmentation
* loss of vegetation, and erosion
* legacy use of public land
* private land use impacting biodiversity
* inappropriate land use planning
* inappropriate fire regimes (planned burning and bushfires)

Some individual threatened species may also require targeted intervention, beyond actions to manage landscape-scale threats, to improve their future prospects.

## Which landscape-scale actions are most cost-effective in this landscape\*\*?

The coloured areas indicate where the identified landscape-scale actions and locations are most cost-effective and will maximise biodiversity benefit across Victoria for multiple species.

The SMP priority actions which rank among the top 10% for cost-effectiveness of that action across Victoria for much of the landscape are in order of the top 3 actions, see map and list below:

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| Rabbit | Control rabbits 446ha |
| Grain | Control weeds 365ha |
| Sheep | Control domestic stock grazing 122ha |

Of the top 10% of cost-effective actions, controlling rabbits provides the most cost-effective biodiversity benefits when considering all flora and fauna.

From the nomination process the following additional actions were also suggested for this landscape:

* weed control
* rabbit control
* cultural fire
* revegetation

\*\*The landscape area has been modified since the time of the development of the SMP summary report. Therefore, SMP data may have slightly altered from the results displayed above and below.

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| The most cost-effective action for flora and fauna | |
| SparrowPlant | Plants, birds - Control rabbits |
| FrogRat | Mammals, amphibians - Control domestic stock grazing |
| Snake | Reptiles - Combined cat and fox control |

For a further in depth look into SMP for this landscape please refer to [NatureKit](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/naturekit).

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