## Background / preamble

The *Coopracambra* landscape was recognised during the 2019/20 Gippsland Biodiversity Response Planning (BRP) process as a focus area for future collaborative biodiversity action and investment.

Under the Victorian Government’s *Biodiversity 2037: Protecting Victoria’s Biodiversity* plan, the BRP process 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 to benefit biodiversity by working together to identify, promote and tackle local biodiversity needs as part of an ongoing collective process.

In 2019/20, significant impacts from the bushfires in East Gippsland and coronavirus (COVID-19) on community, biodiversity stakeholders and agencies, and the environment, resulted in planned engagement with many local stakeholders in Gippsland about BRP being postponed to a future process. In the interim, a multi-agency working group of local staff in Gippsland came together to identify a series of potential strategic priority actions across the region, as well as 13 focus landscapes. Membership of this working group for Gippsland included staff from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) coasts & marine policy and local forest, fire and biodiversity teams, East Gippsland and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authorities (EGCMA & WGCMA), Parks Victoria, Trust for Nature (TfN), the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) and the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC).

As part of this process, the Gippsland BRP working group drew upon information available from the DELWP Strategic Management Prospects (SMP) tool as well as their own local knowledge to identify key biodiversity assets, threats and potential management actions across Gippsland. A subset of this information is presented in this Fact Sheet, reflecting a point in time assessment of some of the important biodiversity needs and landscapes for focus across the region.

These BRP Fact Sheets provide useful biodiversity information for the community, non-government and government organisations during project planning and development, including guidance for stakeholders interested to contribute towards some of the strategic priorities identified in these areas to date. 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

**Landscape context:** 104,668ha, 92% public land, 95% native vegetation cover

The Coopracambra landscape generally incorporates the foothills and low mountains (to about 1000m) bounded by Princes Highway, NSW border and Monaro Highway. The vegetation in this area includes lowland forest grading to Damp Forest with small areas of wet forest in some gullies and Riparian Forest and Warm Temperate Rainforest patches in larger gullies and along rivers.

This landscape is virtually all public land, with a mix of National Park (Coopracambra and Drummer) and State Forest continuous with South-east Forest National Park and State Forest in NSW. The upper catchments of Thurra and Wingan Rivers fall within this area, and Coopracambra National Park is largely untracked with higher peaks including Mt Kaye and Mt Coopracambra.

Small areas of private land occur at Wingan River, Genoa, Wangarabelle, east side of Monaro Highway north of Cann River and Chandlers Creek. The Genoa River cuts a gorge through the landscape.

### **Biodiversity highlights and important places:**

Many species at southern limit of distribution. Unbroken expanse of native forest across the landscape continuous with forested landscapes to the south, west and north (in NSW). Tracts of old growth forest especially in Coopracambra National Park. Many tributaries in the landscape still remain trout-free.

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| Important vegetation communities in this landscape include: | |
| \*FFG listed | Warm Temperate Rainforest - Far East Gippsland  Warm Temperate Rainforest - East Gippsland Alluvial Terraces |
| \*\*EPBC listed | Nil |

\**Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Victorian)

\*\**Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Federal)

## Cultural importance

We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land across this landscape. We pay our respects to Country, and to First Nations 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 into the 21st century and beyond in the spirit of self-determination. The Gippsland BRP project team are seeking interest from traditional owners in this area to contribute towards biodiversity planning and conservation processes, including Biodiversity Response Planning.

## Stakeholder and community interest

Local engagement for BRP in Gippsland in 2019/20 was postponed due to impacts from fire and coronavirus (COVID-19). If you would like to contribute local knowledge about this landscape in the future, find out more about BRP or add your name to the state-wide or Gippsland BRP stakeholder lists, you can find [further information](http://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/working-together-for-biodiversity) on the Department’s Environment website.

## Species summary

An analysis of available Habitat Distribution Models\* identified 216 species with more than 5% of their Victorian range falling within the *Coopracambra* BRP landscape, including 57 threatened species and 9 EPBC listed species.

\*Note: While version 2.0 of the SMP model utilises HDMs for ~3,200 terrestrial species in its analysis, these models currently exclude aquatic, invertebrate, marine and non-vascular plant species. These HDMs and SMP will continue to be improved upon with ongoing input from species experts and natural resource management practitioners.

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| Species class | Species with a high proportion of their Victorian distribution in this landscape | Other notable species identified during the BRP process |
| Plant  199 plants, incl. 47 threatened species (7 EPBC) | 13 species with more than 50% of their Victorian range falling within this landscape, notably:   * Cotoneaster Pomaderris *Pomaderris cotoneaster* (EPBC listed, Endangered, 99% of Victorian range) * Willow Needlewood *Hakea macraeana* (FFG listed, endangered, 97% of Victorian range) * Pink Mountain-correa *Correa lawrenceana var. cordifolia* (FFG listed, vulnerable, 90% of Victorian range) * Thyme Pink-bells *Tetratheca thymifolia* (FFG listed, vulnerable, 90% of Victorian range) * Native Quince *Alectryon subcinereus* (FFG listed, endangered, 89% of Victorian range) * Genoa River Correa *Correa lawrenceana var genoensis* (EPBC listed, Endangered, 71% of Victorian range, restricted to Far East Gippsland) * Orange-blossom Orchid *Sarcochilus falcatus* (FFG listed, endangered, 61% of Victorian range) | * Forrester’s Bottlebrush *Callistemon forresterae* (EPBC listed, Vulnerable, 47% of Victorian range, restricted to Far East Gippsland) * Genoa Grevillea *Grevillea parvula* (FFG listed, vulnerable, 38% of Victorian range, restricted to Far East Gippsland) * Genoa River Bottlebrush *Callistemon genofluvialis* (restricted to Far East Gippsland) * Prickly Tree-fern *Cyathea leichhardtiana* (FFG listed, vulnerable, 11% of Victorian range) |
| Rat  2 mammals, incl. 2 threatened species (2 EPBC) | Including:   * Long-footed Potoroo (EPBC listed, Endangered, 12% of Victorian range) * Long-nosed Potoroo (EPBC listed, Vulnerable, 7% of Victorian range) | * Southern Brown Bandicoot (EPBC listed, Endangered, 5% of Victorian range) |
| Snake  1 reptile, incl. 1 threatened species (0 EPBC) | Including:   * Diamond Python (FFG listed, endangered, 11% of Victorian range) | * Lace Monitor (FFG listed, endangered, 2% of Victorian range) |
| Sparrow  8 birds, incl. 3 threatened species (0 EPBC) | Notable species include:   * Glossy Black-Cockatoo (FFG listed, vulnerable, 12% of Victorian range) * Masked Owl (FFG listed, endangered, 8% of Victorian range) * Sooty Owl (FFG listed, vulnerable, 7% of Victorian range) | * Powerful Owl (FFG listed, vulnerable, 3% of Victorian range) |
| Frog  6 frogs, incl. 4 threatened species (3 EPBC) | Notable species include:   * Large Brown Tree Frog (EPBC listed, Vulnerable, 13% of Victorian range) * Keferstein’s Tree Frog (FFG listed, vulnerable, 12% of Victorian range) * Giant Burrowing Frog (EPBC listed, Vulnerable, 11% of Victorian range) * Green and Golden Bell Frog (EPBC listed, Vulnerable, 5% of Victorian range) | * None raised |
| Other species raised by the working group (e.g. fish, invertebrates etc):  East Gippsland Spiny Crayfish (FFG listed, vulnerable, restricted to Far East Gippsland) | | |

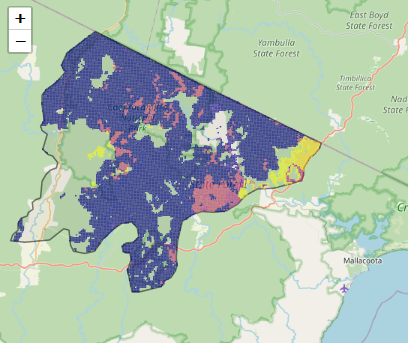
## Strategic Management Prospects

Strategic Management Prospects (SMP) models species distributions, habitat importance, landscape-scale threats, and management costs. It then compares and highlights those places with the greatest opportunities for cost-effective action state-wide. Learn more about this tool on the [SMP webpage](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/natureprint).

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

The maps and information below show those places and actions modelled by SMP to provide the best opportunities for cost-effective action to benefit biodiversity across the state. Coloured areas in the maps below indicate opportunities for highly cost-effective actions that provide significant benefits to biodiversity in those places. If undertaken across Victoria, these collective actions should provide the greatest potential benefit to biodiversity by focusing on undertaking landscape-scale actions in places where they will provide the greatest benefit for cost across all species.

**Map a)** shows actions in the top 3% cost-effectiveness areas, and **Map b)** shows actions in the top 10% cost-effective areas.

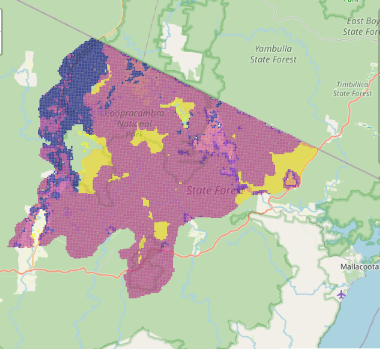


Map a) – SMP top 3% cost-effective actions



The following landscape-scale actions were ranked among the top 3% cost-effective opportunities for biodiversity action across the state by SMP:

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|  | Control deer 48,752ha |
| Pig | Control pigs 37,447ha |
|  | Control weeds 10,925ha |



Map b) – SMP top 10% cost-effective actions



The following landscape-scale actions were ranked among the top 10% cost-effective opportunities for biodiversity action across the state by SMP:

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| A picture containing text  Description automatically generatedA picture containing text  Description automatically generated | Control weeds 83,759ha |
|  | Combined fox and cat control 82,640ha |
|  | Control deer 82,245ha |
| A picture containing text  Description automatically generated | Control cats 75,072ha |
|  | Control foxes 72,6001ha |
|  | Control pigs 31,251ha |

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| The most cost-effective actions for flora & fauna according to SMP | | | |
| Plant | Plants – Control deer and Combined fox and cat control |  | Birds – Combined fox and cat control |
| Rat | Mammals – Combined fox and cat control | FrogSparrow | Amphibians – Combined fox and cat control (particularly cats) and Control deer |
| Snake | Reptiles – Combined fox and cat control (particularly cats) |

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

## Additional threats raised by the working group

* Removing trout from headwaters with threatened galaxiid species

## Highest priority strategic actions

With consideration of the information available in SMP and local knowledge of this landscape, the Gippsland BRP working group identified the following priority actions for future collaboration and investment in this landscape:

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| The highest priority actions for the Coopracambra landscape include: | |
| A picture containing text  Description automatically generatedA picture containing text  Description automatically generated | 1. Integrated predator control (including the continuation and expansion of the Southern Ark fox-baiting program plus cat control around key biodiversity assets) |
|  | 1. Controlling deer |
|  | 1. Controlling transformer weeds |
| Other key actions highlighted by the working group include: | |
|  | * Surveillance for and controlling pigs |
| Forest scene | * Protection of riparian corridors (particularly along the Genoa River) including permanent protection, domestic stock control and revegetation |

