## Background / preamble

The *Corner Inlet Nooramunga* 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: 125,761 ha, 55% public land, 30% native vegetation cover

The Corner Inlet Nooramunga landscape features Corner Inlet and its embedded islands (Snake, Sunday, St Margaret's and Little Snake island, as well as many other small islands and sandbars), and the adjacent coastal plain from Foster to McLaughlins Beach. The coastal plain is largely freehold land used for intensive grazing (excluding Gelliondale State Forest) and the islands are public land (except Sunday Island). The dominant native vegetation types for this area include Lowland Forest, coastal woodlands and saltmarsh. Main towns are Yarram, Foster, Port Albert and Toora.

### Biodiversity highlights and important places:

The Corner Inlet & Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Parks are Ramsar wetlands and Asia-Australasian shorebird flyway sites of international significance for migratory shorebirds. Corner Inlet also features large seagrass ecosystems that support a wide range of aquatic flora and fauna species.

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| Important vegetation communities in this landscape include: | |
| \*FFG listed | Nil |
| \*\*EPBC listed | Natural Damp Grasslands of the Victorian Coastal Plain  Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh |

\**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, the Gunaikurnai and particularly the Brataualung people. We pay our respects to Country, and to 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.

Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) are the appointed Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) and hold a Native Title Determination and current Recognition Settlement Agreement over this area. GLaWAC are an ongoing member of the local Gippsland BRP working group.

* 1. **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 101 species with more than 5% of their Victorian range falling within the *Corner Inlet Nooramunga* BRP landscape, including 30 threatened species and 13 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  62 plants, incl. 6 threatened species (3 EPBC) | Notable species include:   * Tuberous Tassel *Ruppia tuberosa* (74% of Victorian range) * Tasman Pomaderris *Pomaderris apetala subsp. maritima* (FFG listed, vulnerable, 57% of Victorian range) * Bassian Pomaderris *Pomaderris oraria subsp. oraria* (30% of Victorian range) and *Pomaderris oraria* (14% of Victorian range) * Silver Everlasting *Argentipallium dealbatum* (15% of Victorian range) * Slender Mint *Metha diemenica var. serpyllifolia* (14% of Victorian range, short-leaf variety occurring on Corner Inlet islands and Wilsons Promontory not formally recognised) * Gippsland Lakes Peppermint *Eucalyptus arenicola* (14% of Victorian range, restricted to Gippsland) * Maroon Leek-orchid *Prasophyllum frenchii* (EPBC listed, Endangered, 10% of Victorian range) * Eastern Spider-orchid *Caladenia orientalis* (EPBC listed, Endangered, 8% of Victorian range, restricted to Gippsland) * Thick-lip Spider-orchid *Caladenia tessallata* (EPBC listed, Vulnerable, 7% of Victorian range) | * Slender Leek-orchid (FFG listed, vulnerable) * Strzelecki Gum (EPBC listed, Vulnerable, restricted to Victoria found predominantly in the western & southern Strzelecki ranges) * Swamp Everlasting (EPBC listed, Vulnerable) * Coast Boronia *Boronia anemonifolia subsp. variabilis* (FFG listed, vulnerable, Victorian distribution mostly on Corner Inlet islands and Wilsons Promontory) * Variable Spider-orchid *Caladenia X variabilis* (FFG listed, endangered, restricted to south Gippsland) |
| Rat  2 mammals, incl. 2 threatened species (2 EPBC) | Including:   * Swamp Antechinus (EPBC listed, Vulnerable, 6% of Victorian range) * New Holland Mouse (EPBC listed, Vulnerable) | * None raised |
| Snake  2 reptiles, incl. 0 threatened species (0 EPBC) | Including:   * Four-toed Skink (8% of Victorian range) * Metallic Skink (7% of Victorian range) | * None raised |
| Sparrow  35 birds, incl. 22 threatened species (8 EPBC) | 21 species with greater than 10% of their Victorian range in this landscape, notably:   * King Quail (FFG listed, endangered, 29% of Victorian range) * Grey-tailed Tattler (FFG listed, critically endangered, 28% of Victorian range) * Lesser Sand Plover (EPBC listed, Endangered, 19% of Victorian range) * Great Knot (EPBC listed, Critically Endangered, 18% of Victorian range) * Whimbrel (FFG listed, vulnerable, 17% of Victorian range) * Pacific Golden Plover (FFG listed, vulnerable, 16% of Victorian range) * Grey Plover (FFG listed, endangered, 15% of Victorian range) * Red Knot (EPBC listed, Endangered, 15% of Victorian range) * Ruddy Turnstone (FFG listed, vulnerable, 15% of Victorian range) * Terek Sandpiper (FFG listed, endangered, 15% of Victorian range) * Greater Sand Plover (EPBC listed, Vulnerable, 14% of Victorian distribution) * Eastern Curlew (EPBC listed, Critically Endangered, 11% of Victorian range) * Ground Parrot (FFG listed, endangered, 11% of Victorian range) * Bar-tailed Godwit (EPBC listed, Vulnerable, 11% of Victorian range) | * Little Tern (FFG listed, vulnerable, 9% of Victorian range) * Fairy Tern (FFG listed, vulnerable) * Common Greenshank (FFG listed, vulnerable, 8% of Victorian range) * Curlew Sandpiper (EPBC listed, Critically Endangered, 7% of Victorian range) * Hooded Plover (EPBC listed, Vulnerable, 6% of Victorian range) * Little Egret (FFG listed, endangered, 5% of Victorian range) * White-bellied Sea-eagle (FFG listed, vulnerable, 5% of Victorian range) |
| Frog  0 frogs | No species with more than 5% of their Victorian range within this landscape. | (Landscape supports many common frog species) |
| Other species raised by the working group (e.g. fish, invertebrates etc):  None raised | | |

## Strategic Management Prospects

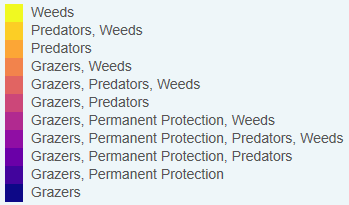
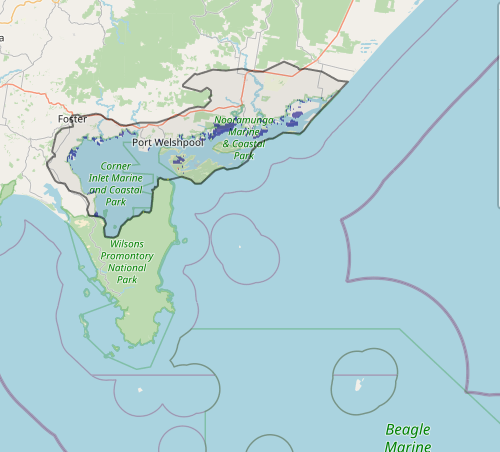
Strategic Management Prospects (SMP) models species distributions, habitat importance, landscape-scale threats, and management costs. It then compares and highlights those places with the greatest opportunities for cost-effective action state-wide. Learn more about this tool on the [SMP webpage](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/natureprint).

## 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.

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

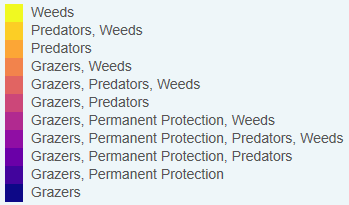
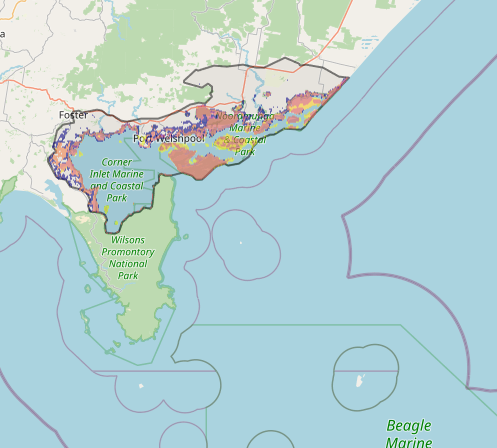


Map a) – SMP top 3% cost-effective actions

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| A picture containing silhouette  Description automatically generated | Control overabundant kangaroos 3,610ha |
|  | Control deer 314ha |
| Grain | Control weeds 25ha |
|  | Combined overabundant kangaroo control and permanent protection 20ha |

A picture containing silhouette

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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 generatedGrain | Control weeds 25,854ha |
|  | Combined cat and fox control 21,045ha |
| RabbitA picture containing text  Description automatically generated | Control rabbits 20,539ha |
| A picture containing text  Description automatically generated | Control foxes 17,182ha |
|  | Control cats 16,256ha |

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

* Pressure from onshore development (e.g. Barry Beach)
* Overabundant sea urchins and urchin barrens
* Changes to natural flow regimes impacting upon wetlands
* Increased sediment and nutrient inflows to waterways and wetlands

## 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 Corner Inlet Nooramunga landscape include: | | |
|  | 1. Protection of coastal, wetland and riparian vegetation (including permanent protection, revegetation, controlling rabbits and controlling domestic stock), and management of sediment and nutrient inflows to waterways and Ramsar wetlands |
|  | 1. Aquatic and terrestrial transformer weed control (particularly spartina in Corner Inlet) |
| A picture containing text  Description automatically generatedA picture containing text  Description automatically generated | 1. Integrated predator control (including on the Nooramunga islands) |
|  | 1. Use of appropriate ecological burning |
| Other key actions highlighted by the working group include: | | |
|  | * Restoration of natural flow regimes and aquatic habitats for priority waterways and wetlands |
| A picture containing silhouette  Description automatically generated | * Controlling grazers such as deer and overabundant kangaroos |

