

Discovery Bay Parks



Management Plan

April 2004

Amended 2006

This Management Plan for the Discovery Bay Parks (Mount Richmond National Park, Cape Nelson State Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park) and the Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve is approved for implementation. Its purpose is to direct all aspects of management of the Parks and Reserve until the plan is reviewed. A Draft Management Plan for the area was published in February 1998. Sixty-five submissions including two supported by petitions totalling 413 signatures were received and have been considered in preparing this approved Management Plan.

Copies

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DISCOVERY BAY PARKS

Mount Richmond National Park

Cape Nelson State Park

Discovery Bay Coastal Park

Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve

MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Disclaimers

This plan is prepared without prejudice to any negotiated or litigated outcome of any native title determination applications covering land or waters within the plan's area. It is acknowledged that any future outcomes of native title determination applications may necessitate amendment of this plan; and the implementation of this plan may require further notifications under the procedures in Division 3 of Part 2 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth).

The plan is also prepared without prejudice to any future negotiated outcome between the Government/s and Victorian Aboriginal communities. It is acknowledged that such negotiated outcomes may necessitate amendment of this plan.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this plan is accurate. Parks Victoria does not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence, which may arise from your reliance on any information in the publication.

Cover: Discovery Bay Coastal Park, ocean beach near Nelson (Parks Victoria)

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FOREWORD

The Discovery Bay Parks and Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve are perhaps best known for some of the most dramatic coastal scenery and geological features along the Victorian coast, and the wildflower displays and extinct volcano of Mount Richmond. Less well known is that the Parks and Reserve protect many significant Indigenous places and objects, including some of the most significant Aboriginal archaeological sites on the south-eastern Australian coastline. The areas lie within the country of the Gournditch-Mara.

The Parks and Reserve are important components of Victoria's outstanding Parks and Reserves system. They also protect a range of coastal and wetland environments, including significant intertidal and estuarine habitats, and locally diverse native flora and fauna, including many threatened species.

The Parks and Reserve make an important contribution to the economy of south-western Victoria by attracting many tourists. The areas also provide a variety of recreational opportunities, including the Great South West Walk, which traverses parts of the planning area and attracts a wide range of walkers, including many from overseas, and coastal fishing, which is particularly important to the region's residents.

This Management Plan establishes a long-term management framework for preserving and protecting significant conservation, cultural, landscape and recreational values, and providing opportunities for users and visitors to enjoy and appreciate the planning area.

I recognise the valuable contributions that are made to the Parks' and Reserve's management by a number of community groups, and commend the plan's proposals for working partnerships among these and other groups, and with Parks Victoria, to continue to assist in achieving management outcomes that are balanced and sustainable. The Government respects the tradition, practices, interests and rights in the land, and aspirations for the Parks and Reserve, of the Gournditch-Mara. The plan's proposals for working partnerships among the Indigenous community and with Parks Victoria to integrate these considerations appropriately into all aspects of the areas' management is particularly welcome.

The plan was completed following careful consideration of sixty-five submissions received on the Draft Plan. I acknowledge these contributions and look forward to continued community involvement in and support for the management of the Parks and Reserve.



Hon John Thwaites MP
Minister for Environment

APPROVED MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Approved Management Plan has been prepared under Sections 17 and 18 of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.) and is approved for implementation.

The plan provides the basis for the future management of Mount Richmond National Park, Cape Nelson State Park, Discovery Bay Coastal Park and the Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve. It was finalised following consideration of sixty-five submissions received on the Draft Plan.



PROF LYNDsay NEILSON
Secretary to the
Department of Sustainability and Environment



MARK STONE
Chief Executive
Parks Victoria

SUMMARY

The Management Plan covers the contiguous Mount Richmond National Park, Discovery Bay Coastal Park, Cape Nelson State Park and Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve—a total area of 12 425 ha, which includes all of the coastal strip between Nelson Bay (south of Portland) and the South Australian border.

The coastal cliffs, dune fields, beaches, wetlands and woodlands of the planning area contain outstanding and important natural values, including a diversity of flora and fauna and numerous rare or threatened species.

The planning area is a part of the country¹ of the Gournditch-Mara, and contains many Indigenous places, particularly in the dune areas of Discovery Bay, that are integral to the dreaming of the Gournditch-Mara and highly significant to Indigenous people.

The spectacular scenery of coastal cliffs (including Victoria's highest coastal cliffs), extensive dune fields and beaches, Cape Nelson Lighthouse and The Great South West Walk are among the region's principal tourism assets. There are extensive opportunities for sightseeing, walking, camping, recreational fishing, and other specialised recreation activities. Fishing opportunities are particularly important for regional residents.

Significant management directions for the planning area are summarised as follows.

- Special protection of rare and threatened plant and animal species and significant coastal landforms, and management of these natural values to the highest practicable standards.
- Protection of Aboriginal places and objects, and archaeological relics.
- Control of coastal erosion caused by visitor use, and restoration of coastal sites as appropriate.
- Prevention and control of potentially severe disturbance along the planning

¹ 'country' refers to the whole of the environment, including the material and spiritual and customary components.

area's boundaries through active co-operation with neighbours, including the erection of appropriate boundary fencing.

- Development of a sound base of knowledge about the planning area's biological values through biological, ecological and prehistory studies.
- Encouragement and support for appropriate research and interpretation of the Gournditch-Mara's tradition², practices³, places, objects and archaeological sites.
- Development of management strategies for water bodies within the planning area, including the Bridgewater Lakes and the Glenelg River Estuary.
- Improvement and integration of information and interpretation services, and recreation facilities, at key visitor sites, with due protection for environmental and cultural values.
- Maintenance of sections of The Great South West Walk within the planning area, in accordance with requirements identified in environmental, cultural, landscape and visitor risk assessments undertaken prior to any substantial works, through working with Friends and user groups.
- Appropriate integration of the Gournditch-Mara's tradition, practices, interests and rights in the land, and aspirations for the planning area, in all aspects of the planning area's management, through a strong co-operative working partnership with the Gournditch-Mara.
- Promotion of recognition and respect for the Gournditch-Mara's tradition and practices.

² 'tradition' refers to the body of knowledge and belief about 'country' that is held and transferred from generation to generation by the Gournditch-Mara.

³ 'practices' refers to the traditional land management and resource use practices of the Gournditch-Mara.

- Encouragement of community groups and institutions and government agencies to work together, and with Parks Victoria, to achieve common goals for the planning area.
- Promotion of appropriate tourism activities in the planning area, and provision of adequate signage and information, through a close working relationship with the Glenelg Shire Council and regional tourism authorities.
- Establishment of a management committee to facilitate ongoing co-operation with the Gournditch-Mara and a Consultative Group to facilitate balanced and sustainable management outcomes for the planning area.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and planning area

The planning area is in far south-western Victoria and includes all coastline between Nelson Bay (south of Portland) and the South Australian border.

The planning area includes the following parks and reserve, totalling 12 425 ha:

- Mount Richmond National Park (1733 ha);
- Cape Nelson State Park (210 ha);
- Discovery Bay Coastal Park (10 460 ha);
- Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve (21.9 ha).

In the text, the expression ‘the Discovery Bay Parks’ and ‘the Parks’ refers to the three parks, and the expression ‘the Reserve’ refers to the Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve.

Under the *Parks Victoria Act 1998* (Vic.), Parks Victoria is charged with the responsibility for managing the Parks and Conservation Reserves system, including the Discovery Bay Parks and the Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve.

Under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* (Vic.), Parks Victoria is the appointed Committee of Management for the Reserve. Parks Victoria manages the Lighthouse area through a lease arrangement with a commercial operator.

As the appointed Local Authority under the *Marine Act 1988* (Vic.), the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) manages the boating activities on the waters of the Glenelg River (including ‘Oxbow Lake’) and the lakes (Bridgewater Lakes, Lake Monibeong, Malseeds Lake and Swan Lake) in Discovery Bay Coastal Park.

Parks Victoria is responsible for developing management plans for the planning area as the responsible management agency.

1.2 Creation of the Parks and Reserve

Victoria’s Parks and Reserves system has been established over the past one hundred years through the dedicated efforts of many

committed organisations, individuals and Governments of the day.

Mount Richmond National Park was declared a National Park (with an area of 621 ha) on 7 June 1960 as a result of the *National Parks (Amendment) Act 1960* (Vic.), following strong representations from the Portland Field Naturalists Club and other conservation groups. Additions in 1968, 1975, 1978 and 1987 brought its area to the current 1733 ha.

Cape Nelson State Park was included in Schedule Three (Other Parks) of the National Parks Act on 26 April 1979 as a result of the *National Parks Act 1978* (Vic.), following the acquisition of the whole area (210 ha) containing the significant eucalypt species, Soap Mallee. It was transferred to Schedule 2B (State Parks) in 1989.

Discovery Bay Coastal Park was first included in Schedule Three of the National Parks Act on 26 April 1979 as a result of the *National Parks (Amendment) Act 1978* (Vic.). Its area was then 8450 ha. Additions of purchased land in 1981 and 1987 increased its area to 8590 ha. It was initially recommended as a Coastal Reserve in 1973 by the Land Conservation Council (LCC), but subsequently as a Coastal Park (LCC 1973, 1983). The Discovery Bay Coastal Park does not include the Bridgewater Bay Foreshore Reserve.

In 1983 the Land Conservation Council recommended that most of the public land along the coast west from Sheoaks Road, being land not within the boundary of the then Township of Portland, be added to the Park (LCC 1983). An area totalling 1870 ha was added to the Park on 4 June 1997.

Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve Lightstation properties at Cape Nelson, which are surrounded by the State Park, were transferred from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority to the State of Victoria for ‘Public and Tourism purposes (Lighthouses)’ by a purchase agreement dated 22 November 1995. Under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act* the lighthouse properties are reserved for the purposes for which they were purchased by Executive Order dated 1 December 1995.

1.3 Developing the management plan

This Management Plan has been prepared by Parks Victoria for approval by the Secretary to the Department of Sustainability and Environment ('the Secretary'). This is the first Management Plan for Mount Richmond National Park and Cape Nelson State Park.

Parks Victoria prepared a Draft Plan in consultation with key stakeholders and with due consideration for previous planning (NPS 1977). The Draft Plan was published for public comment in 1998. Sixty-five submissions were received. Two submissions were supported by petitions including a total of 413 signatures. In accordance with Division 3 of Part 2 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth), DSE (then NRE) notified Mirimbiak Nations Aboriginal Corporation of the creation of the plan in 1999 and received further comment.

In response to the range of substantial comments received, Parks Victoria conducted extensive consultations with key stakeholders. The comments received in the submissions and consultations have been considered in developing this Management Plan. Substantial

changes were made in preparing the final plan including:

- enhanced focus on partnerships with community groups and agencies with common goals relating to the area throughout the plan, especially a strong working partnership with the Gournditch – Mara;
- retention of most existing ocean fishing access in accordance with the outcome of consultations with the Western Province Environment Users Association;
- establishment of a Bridgewater Lakes Liaison Committee and introduction of a proposal to prepare an overall Bridgewater Lakes Management Strategy in consultation with all stakeholders;
- the introduction of a Cultural Heritage chapter with a major focus on Indigenous cultural heritage.

2.1 Regional context

The planning area forms a magnificent natural scenic backdrop of a coastal hinterland landscape dominated by native forests, grazing properties and forest plantations. Most inland boundaries of the planning area abut grazing land, except those of Discovery Bay Coastal Park west of Bridgewater Lakes, and Mount Richmond National Park, which mostly abut freehold land used for pine plantations and grazing.

Other important conservation areas in the region include the new Discovery Bay Marine National Park (section 2.5); the nearby Lower Glenelg National Park (linked to the planning area by the Great South West Walk); Mount Eccles National Park and Mount Napier State Park (linked to the Parks through the western volcanic theme); and Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park in South Australia (abutting Discovery Bay Coastal Park).

Lower Glenelg National Park contains natural tourism assets that complement those in the planning area. The Park and planning area together contain many of the significant natural assets that sustain tourism along the far western section of the Great Ocean Road.

The Great South West Walk, which comprises a circular route linking a range of environments in various areas between the towns of Portland and Nelson, is a major regional tourist attraction that is attracting international tourist attention and use from overseas walkers. The Walk is promoted internationally at events such as the Berlin Tourist Fair under the slogan 'A Walk on the Wild Side'. Sections of the walk are located within the planning area.

Cape Nelson, Cape Bridgewater and Mount Richmond are sites on the Volcanic Trail, a tourist marketing initiative linking the major volcanic sites between Mt Gambier and Camperdown (Tonge et al 1998).

The planning area is within Tourism Victoria's Great Ocean Road product region (and will feature increasingly in the promotion of the region as a tourist destination (Glenelg Shire Council 2001, GORM 2001). The Great

Ocean Road product region includes areas encompassing the section of the Road linking Geelong to the South Australian border.

Portland and Nelson - which have Visitor Information Centres - and Cape Bridgewater are the main sources of visitor services in the vicinity of the planning area.

2.2 Planning area values and significance

The Parks make a major contribution to Victoria's parks system, which aims to protect viable, representative samples of the State's natural environments occurring on public land and a variety of cultural values. Parks enable visitors to enjoy and appreciate natural and cultural values, and many make important contributions to tourism.

Mount Richmond National Park is assigned the IUCN Category II (National Park) of the United Nations' List of National Parks and Protected Areas. Category II areas are managed primarily for ecosystem conservation and appropriate recreation. Cape Nelson State Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park are assigned IUCN Category III (Natural Monument). Category III areas are managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features.

The planning area includes widespread and significant Indigenous cultural values. It is located within the Aboriginal language area of the Dhauwerd wurrung ('Gunditjmara') people (Godfrey 2000), which is central to the dreaming of their descendants. Central to the dreaming is Bunjil, the great ancestor spirit.

Mount Richmond National Park, Cape Nelson State Park, Discovery Bay Coastal Park and Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve are listed on the Register of the National Estate in recognition of their outstanding values and importance as part of our heritage (Anon. 1981; LCC 1996).

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) has classified the Portland coastline from Cape Sir William Grant to the north of Bridgewater Lakes in recognition of its significance. Bridgewater Lakes, Cape Bridgewater, Cape Nelson, Cape Sir William Grant and Mount

Richmond are also all individually classified. (National Trust n.d.).

The planning area protects a major segment of Victoria's coastline and adjacent hinterland. Significant features of the planning area include:

Natural values

- Mount Richmond — a part of the chain of extinct volcanoes across Western Victoria.
- The high diversity of vascular plants in Mount Richmond National Park (498 species).
- Many species of rare or threatened flora and fauna, including eight plant and 37 animal species listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic.) (FFG Act).
- A range of coastal environments, including rugged cliffs, extensive beaches, extensive mobile dune fields, wetlands and woodland forest communities.
- Spectacular and unusual geological features, including the 'Petrified Forest' and coastal flowstone and stalactite formations that are of State significance.
- Important Pleistocene fossil deposits.
- Significant intertidal and estuarine habitats, which form a link to conservation values in adjacent offshore areas.
- Wetlands and beaches that are important habitat for threatened fauna such as the Orange-bellied Parrot and the Hooded Plover.

Cultural values

- Indigenous tradition relating to the planning area.
- Extensive and significant Aboriginal archaeological sites throughout Discovery Bay Coastal Park, including extensive materials on the floor of the Tarragal caves dating back to 11 300 years 'before present' (BP) and highly significant midden deposits and earth ovens elsewhere dating back to 11 000 years BP.
- Historical values associated with the Cape Nelson Lightstation.

Tourism and recreation values

- Excellent opportunities for short and long walks, including a substantial section of the Great South West Walk.
- The Cape Nelson Lighthouse and spectacular coastal scenery that provides outstanding opportunities for sightseeing and scenic drives and forms a part of the natural base for the regional tourist industry.
- Excellent opportunities for beach, rock, lake and estuary recreational fishing.
- Sites for camping and surfing, and for more specialised recreation activities such as dune buggy driving, canoeing and water-skiing which are important recreation resources for residents in the region.
- Numerous opportunities to interpret natural and cultural values, particularly Indigenous cultural values.

2.3 Past land use

Discovery Bay Coastal Park and Cape Nelson State Park in particular have an extensive pre- and post-European history of Aboriginal occupation, dating back at least 11 300 years BP. The Gournditch-Mara, descendants of the Dhauwerd wurrung, have maintained a continuing active involvement with the Parks and Reserve since their declaration.

Little information on past European land use is available. Most land utilisation and disturbance occurred along or near the coast. Documented land uses include shell grit extraction from Murrells Beach and Shelley Beach in Bridgewater Bay, the construction and operation of the lightstation at Cape Nelson, and a Marram Grass nursery at Discovery Bay.

The Parks have been important places for the local community and visitors to pursue and enjoy recreational activities such as fishing.

2.4 The park visitor

The forest environment of Mount Richmond and the spectacular coastal cliff scenery of Cape Nelson and Cape Bridgewater are readily accessible to visitors, particularly those staying at Portland, Cape Bridgewater and Nelson. The dune fields of Bridgewater Bay and

Discovery Bay, and Discovery Bay Beach, are less accessible.

The communities of south-western Victoria and south-eastern South Australia, including those of the larger population centres such as Hamilton and Mount Gambier, make widespread use of the planning area for relaxation, and recreation activities including recreational fishing, walking, horse riding, canoeing, bird watching, boating and water skiing.

Most tourists visiting south-western Victoria make short visits to one or more of the four major tourist attractions located in the planning area: Cape Nelson, the Australian Fur Seal colony on the eastern side of Cape Bridgewater, The Blowholes and Petrified Forest on the exposed western side of Cape Bridgewater, and the Glenelg River Estuary.

The sections of the Great South West Walk in the planning area also attract many tourists, of whom a substantial proportion come from overseas to Victoria specifically to do 'The Walk'.

The market segments that offer the best potential for tourism development have been identified in the marketing plan for the Great Ocean Road product region (GORM 2001) include Socially Aware, Young Optimists, Traditional Family Life and Conventional Family Life.

Visit numbers

Monitoring of total visit numbers for the planning area is difficult because of the substantial number of access routes. The surveys that have been conducted at particular sites indicate annual visitor numbers as follows:

- The Blowholes, 80 000—with sharp summer and Easter peaks.
- Bridgewater Lakes, 8300—distributed uniformly throughout the year.

Annual visit numbers recorded for Portland Visitor Information Centre and Nelson Visitor Information Centre in 2002–03 were 54 620 and 23 010 respectively.

The western section of the Great Ocean Road receives a significantly lower market share of tourism than sections further east (GORM 2001).

Visitor facilities and services

The planning area's facilities and services have evolved primarily to cater for short visits. Most of the sites contain an entry road and walking access to a feature. Some sites have additional facilities. Most camping areas, specific facilities and longer walking tracks are more recent developments.

Major visitor sites such as Cape Nelson and the Blowholes on Cape Bridgewater have facilities appropriate for large numbers of visitors. Other recognised visitor sites receive far fewer visits and have less developed facilities, as appropriate. A few more important sites could benefit from minor upgrades of facilities.

An extensive range of visitor facilities exists in other nearby reserves, notably Lower Glenelg National Park, Cobboboonee State Forest and Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park.

2.5 Legislation, LCC recommendations and guidelines

The Discovery Bay Parks (section 1.2) are reserved and managed under the National Parks Act. The Act requires the Secretary to preserve and protect the natural condition of the Parks, their natural and other features, and, subject to this, to provide for the use of the Parks by the public for enjoyment, recreation and education. The Act also provides for appropriate research. The *National Parks (Park) Regulations 2003* apply to the Parks. The *Marine Regulations 1999* apply to waters within the Discovery Bay Coastal Park (section 1.1).

The section of Discovery Bay Coastal Park containing the Glenelg River and Oxbow Lake is part of the Glenelg River Heritage Area, and is also managed under the *Heritage Rivers Act 1992* (Vic.), which provides for the protection of, and preparation of a management plan for, such areas. The legislation was prepared following the recommendations from the LCC Rivers and Streams Special Investigation (LCC 1991).

The Cape Nelson Lighthouse area is reserved for Public and Tourism purposes (Lighthouses) and managed under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act.

The *Coastal Management Act 1995* (Vic.) applies to all Crown Land within 200 metres of the high water mark of coastal waters within the planning area. The Act provides for a co-ordinated approach to the planning, management and use of coastal Crown land in Victoria.

The Discovery Bay Marine National Park was included in a new Schedule 7 of the National Parks Act on 16 November 2002 as a result of the *National Parks (Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries) Act 2002* (Vic.). Some aspects of the management of Discovery Bay Coastal Park may be affected as a result of the establishment of the Marine National Park, which is mostly located offshore but abuts the Coastal Park at the high water mark between Whites Beach and Blacks Beach.

The Historic Places Special Investigation for South-western Victoria Descriptive Report (LCC 1996) identified historic places for protection that are indicative of the cultural heritage of the planning area (section 5.2).

When reviewing the Discovery Bay Coastal Park, the Land Conservation Council (LCC 1983) recommended continuation of existing uses such as recreational fishing and surfing.

Aboriginal places including registered archaeological cultural heritage places (sites), objects and archaeological relics are protected under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Cwlth) and the *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972* (Vic.).

Issues relating to native title will be dealt with in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth). The Gourditch-Mara, descendants of the Dhauwerd wurrung, are recognised as the applicants for native title in processes under the Act. An application by the Gourditch-Mara for a Native Title determination for land included within the Parks and abutting reserves, and certain other Crown land and adjoining sea, was lodged with the National Native Title Tribunal on 30 August 1996 and accepted by the Tribunal on 27 July 1999. A process to address the Gourditch-Mara's aspirations, and to negotiate a mediated outcome between the Gourditch-Mara and the Commonwealth and State Governments, commenced in August 2002.

The management of the planning area will take into consideration the provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) with respect to actions that have, will have or are likely to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance.

Consistent with the legislation and LCC recommendations, the aims for the planning area are as follows:

Conservation

- Preserve and protect the natural environment.
- Allow natural processes to continue with a minimum of interference, except where habitat manipulation is shown to be desirable.
- Maintain biodiversity.
- Protect and conserve features of archaeological, historical, cultural and scenic and landscape significance.
- Protect water catchments and streams.
- Eradicate, or otherwise control, introduced plants, animals and diseases.
- Protect human life, the planning area, and adjacent lands from injury by fire.

The park visit

- Provide opportunities for appropriate recreation and tourism.
- Promote and encourage an appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the planning area's natural and cultural values and their recreation opportunities.
- Encourage appropriate planning area use and visitor behaviour and foster a conservation ethic in visitors.
- Take reasonable steps for the safety of visitors.

Other

- Provide for and encourage scientific research, surveys and monitoring that will contribute to a better understanding and management of the planning area.
- Work with the Gourditch-Mara to integrate their tradition, practices, interests and rights in the land, and aspirations for

the planning area, in all planning and management, as appropriate.

- Work with interested community and users groups and organisations, institutions, and local, State and interstate government authorities, to enhance management of the planning area.

The planning area is also managed in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies, and other plans including:

- Heritage Rivers and Natural Catchment Areas Draft Management Plan Volume 1: Western Victoria (NRE 1997);

- Great Ocean Road Strategic Marketing Plan (GORM 2001);
- Portland District Fire Protection Plans (CFL 1990);
- Victorian Coastal Strategy (Victorian Coastal Council 2001).

The National Trust's Landscape Classifications for the area and the 2002–2005 Tourism Marketing Plan (Glenelg Shire Council 2002) are considered in managing the planning area.

3 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

3.1 Vision

A future visitor to the planning area finds an area renowned as one of the most scenic coastal areas in Victoria. The diversity of flora and wildflowers of Mount Richmond National Park, spectacular cliff scenery of Cape Nelson State Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park, Aboriginal heritage and diverse recreational opportunities are especially appreciated.

The planning area's natural and cultural values are well protected in the context of a dynamic coastal environment where natural forces dominate. Indigenous species and communities are conserved with special emphasis given to threatened species by active management where necessary, in accordance with strategies based on a sound understanding of ecological processes.

A wide range of tourists, including overseas tourists, takes opportunities to visit readily accessible key scenic locations and enjoy the solitude of more remote rugged coastal locations. Local and regional visitors continue to use and enjoy the planning area for a range of traditional recreational activities, including sightseeing, scenic driving, fishing, water sports, horse riding, walking and picnicking. Activities are supported by necessary, simple, unobtrusive and high-quality visitor facilities and services that assist visitors while protecting the planning area's values and visitors' experiences.

Visitors' understanding of the planning area's natural values and cultural heritage is deepened with the encouragement and support of appropriate, innovative and high-quality visitor information and interpretation services and facilities.

Increased numbers of visitors stay longer in the planning area to enjoy more of the attractions and thereby provide appreciated support for the regional economy.

The planning area is managed in a manner that is consistent with the aims for the planning area and community views by working in co-operation with a strong Friends group for the Discovery Bay Parks, the Gourditch-Mara

community and the Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, and with community groups, institutions and government agencies, in relation to their interests. By sensitive management, increased visitor numbers are accommodated without compromising park values.

3.2 Zoning

The planning area is zoned to:

- provide a geographic framework in which to manage the planning area;
- indicate which management directions have priority in different parts of the planning area;
- indicate the types and levels of use appropriate throughout the planning area;
- assist in minimising existing and potential conflicts between uses and activities, or between these and the protection of park values;
- provide a basis for assessing the suitability of future activities and development proposals.

Two management zones apply to the planning area: Conservation and Recreation, and Recreation Development.

In addition, Special Protection Area, Special Management Area –Recreation, and Land Use Designation–Heritage River Area overlays are used to establish requirements additional to those of the underlying management zones.

The characteristics of management zones and overlays are specified in table 1 and their locations are shown on figures 1 to 4.

3.3 Management directions

Major management directions for the planning area are outlined below.

- All management actions will be in accordance with the general management aims for the planning area (section 2.5).

TABLE 1 MANAGEMENT ZONE AND OVERLAY CHARACTERISTICS

ZONE / OVERLAY	AREA / LOCATION	VALUES	GENERAL MANAGEMENT AIM
ZONE			
Conservation and Recreation	1733 ha, 100% of Mount Richmond National Park.	Important natural and Indigenous cultural values and scope for recreation.	Protect relatively sensitive natural and Indigenous cultural environments and provide for sustainable dispersed recreation activities and small-scale recreation facilities without significant impact on natural processes.
	210 ha, 100% of Cape Nelson State Park.		
	10 459 ha, >99% of Discovery Bay Coastal Park.		
	21.2 ha, 97% of Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve.		
Recreation Development	0.5 ha, <0.1% of Discovery Bay Coastal Park (Cape Duquesne).	Existing and proposed facility development to support recreation in a natural setting.	Provide primarily for high use visitor nodes with a concentration of recreation and/or interpretation facilities.
	1.8 ha, 8.2% Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve.		
OVERLAY			
Special Protection Area	1225 ha, 12% of Discovery Bay Coastal Park:	Bridgewater Bay Dunes contain important and highly sensitive coastal natural and scenic environments, exposed highly significant middens and earth ovens, and associated Aboriginal relics.	Protect specific natural and/or cultural values in specific areas and sites where a special management focus is required. Develop management strategy for controlled and permit based public access.
	- Bridgewater Bay Dunes;		
Special Management Area – Recreation	- Bridgewater Bay Australian Fur Seal Colony (from low water mark to five metres vertically above high water mark).	Bridgewater Bay Australian Fur Seal colony.	Allow traditional recreation uses (water skiing, dune buggy use, four-wheel-drive vehicle use and horse riding) that would have severe impacts in more sensitive areas, in accordance with strategies to be developed in accordance with the plan. Ensure seasonal bird nesting and visitor needs are not affected. Enforce regulations.
	Six areas total 1686 ha, 16% of Discovery Park Coastal Park:	Impressive scenery and remote settings, and opportunities for tours and particular recreation activities on beaches, in open (unvegetated) siliceous dunes in the spray zone of the Ocean Beach, and on freshwater lakes. Shore-nesting birds.	
	- Bridgewater Bay foreshore (horse riding, dogs);		
	- Discovery Bay Foreshore (Bridgewater Lakes to Lake Monibeong, horse riding);		
- Bridgewater Lakes (canoeing, fishing, birdwatching, walking, swimming, use by school groups and controlled motorised recreation — water skiing);			
	- Swan Lake dunes (coastal walking and fishing, and motorised recreation — dune buggies if authorised);		
	- Swan Lake dunes beach access corridor (registered vehicles other than motor cycles and horse riding);		
	- Nelson foreshore (dogs).		
Land Use Designation – Heritage River Area	Glenelg River Estuary, 170 ha, 2% of Discovery Park Coastal Park.	Designated Heritage River Area significant for nature conservation, recreation, scenic or cultural heritage.	Protect the heritage values of the area.

- Opportunities for community interests and user groups to work together, and in partnership with Parks Victoria to enhance management of the planning area and achieve common goals, will be promoted.
- Gournditch-Mara tradition, practices, interests and rights in the land, and aspirations for the planning area, will be respected, considered, and integrated as appropriate, into all planning and management.
- Management strategies will be implemented in accordance with statewide prioritised programs, prepared in accordance with the management plan and the Parks Victoria Corporate Plan.

Natural values conservation

- Rare or threatened plant and animal species will be protected, and actively managed on the basis of sound research findings, as necessary to conserve populations and biodiversity.
- Requirements for fire protection of the planning area, including natural values, cultural heritage and assets, and ecological management of flora and fauna and vegetation communities, will be considered and integrated into all fire management plans and programs.
- Conservation objectives for environmental values in the short, medium and long term will be developed.
- Significant geological and geomorphological features and land-forming processes will be protected from adverse impacts of human activities.
- Boundary areas of the planning area will be actively managed to minimise disturbance by external influences.
- Comprehensive weed mapping and risk assessments will be undertaken to determine priority actions.
- Vehicle access will be controlled to avoid damage to important environmental and Indigenous cultural values.

Cultural values conservation

- Indigenous places, objects and archaeological relics will be protected.
- An Indigenous cultural heritage strategy will be developed to guide the protection, conservation, interpretation and promotion of the planning area's Indigenous cultural heritage.
- Significant European post-settlement sites and relics will be protected.
- Research into the cultural heritage of the Gournditch-Mara relating to the planning area, including places, objects, archaeological relics, tradition and practices, will be encouraged and supported as appropriate in conjunction with the Gournditch-Mara community and the Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation.
- Cultural, visitor, landscape and environmental risk assessment will be included in the planning for all works.

The park visit

- Increases in visitor numbers will be managed by better utilising existing opportunities, access and facilities, improving infrastructure support, and encouraging the use of opportunities outside the planning area. Significant expansion of visitor facilities will be avoided.
- Recreational use of the planning area will be encouraged in accordance with legislation, conservation aims for the Parks and Reserve and requirements for managing the full range of risks that could be associated with the activities.
- Recreation activities will be managed in accordance with table 2.
- Visitor facilities and services will be planned, designed and sited to provide quality visitor experiences with minimal detriment to natural and cultural values, based on targeted visitor surveys as appropriate.
- Current and potential visitor markets will be clarified by encouraging and supporting relevant visitor monitoring and market research.

TABLE 2 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES MANAGEMENT

ACTIVITY	ZONE		OVERLAY		
	1	2	A	B	C
	>99% of planning area	<1% of planning area	10% of planning area	14% of planning area	1% of planning area
Sightseeing	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Picnicking	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Walking	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Canoeing	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	Y
Sailing	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	Y
Swimming	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	Y
Bicycle riding	Y	Y	N	N	N/A
Camping — vehicle based, designated sites	N	Y	N	N	N/A
Camping — walk-in defined sites on Great South West Walk	Y	Y	N	N/A	N/A
Fishing	Y	N/A	N/A	N/A	Y
Intertidal collecting	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Hunting	N	N	N	N	N/A
Firewood collection	Y	Y	N	N	N/A
Surfing	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	N/A
Diving (SCUBA, snorkelling)	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	N/A
Motorised uses	Y	N	N	Y	N/A
Four-wheel-driving	Y	N	Y	Y	N/A
Rock climbing and abseiling	N	N	N	N	N/A
Horse riding	Y	N	N	Y	N
Dogs	Y	N	N	Y	N

Note: The recreational opportunities shown for zones (columns headed 1 and 2) are subject to the limits imposed through overlays (columns headed A, B and/or C) and any conditions included elsewhere in the plan.

KEY:

1	Conservation and Recreation Zone	Y	Yes (permitted)
2	Recreation Development Zone	N	No (not permitted)
A	Special Protection Area	N/A	Not applicable
B	Special Management Area – Recreation		
C	Land Use Designation – Heritage River Area		

- Parks Victoria will encourage the Glenelg Shire Council and VicRoads to improve and maintain directional signage and maintain access roads to the planning area to standards appropriate for visitors and management.
- Visitor orientation will be enhanced by providing and maintaining signage, information and facilities at appropriate sites.
- Visitors will be encouraged to use minimum impact techniques, and to observe the applicable regulations and appropriate codes of conduct.
- Improvements proposed for the planning area's facilities, including sections of the

Great South West Walk within the planning area, will be investigated and assessed for any risk to park values or visitor safety, and for the sustainability of maintenance.

- A comprehensive safety and standards audit of visitor sites and facilities, including geotechnical assessments as appropriate, will be implemented.
- A monitoring and maintenance program, including regular safety audits, will be established for visitor facilities and sites.
- Parks Victoria staff will work with the Glenelg Shire Council and relevant regional tourism authorities to promote appropriate tourism to key destinations in the planning area.

Community awareness and involvement

- The strong relationship with the Gournditch-Mara will be further developed to facilitate the appropriate integration of Indigenous tradition and practices, interests and rights in the land, and aspirations for the planning area, in all aspects of the Parks and Reserve's planning and management.
- Community groups and institutions and government agencies with interest in the planning area's management will be encouraged to work together, and with Parks Victoria, to achieve common goals relating to the planning area in accordance with the plan.

4 STRATEGIES FOR NATURAL VALUES CONSERVATION

4.1 Geological and landform features

Coastal landforms are major scenic features that attract visitors to this region. They include coastal cliffs and headlands (Nelson Bay, Cape Nelson and Cape Bridgewater) and the dune fields of Bridgewater Bay and Discovery Bay. In contrast, Mount Richmond, some five km inland, is an older volcanic cone covered with limestone and calcareous sands.

The coastline west from Portland is a dynamic high-energy system. Coastal erosion is most obvious on the shoreline adjacent to the Bridgewater Lakes.

The headlands are formed from basalt overlaid by limestone. They are the principal sites where the Western Victorian volcanic systems meet the Southern Ocean. Wind and wave action has cut into both rock types, creating tall cliff faces with overhangs and deep caves. The steep cliffs are mostly inaccessible, and there is a risk of rock falls. Where the materials are softer (tufa and limestone around Nelson Bay), the cliff slope is less precipitous, allowing access to the base of the cliffs by walkers, anglers and surfers. This can contribute to erosion, and on steeper sites can constitute a safety hazard. The limestone contains important mammalian fossil deposits (MacFadden et al. 1987), including one of the very few fossil terrestrial mammal sites in Australia that is firmly dated as Early Pleistocene (T. Rich pers. comm.).

Cape Bridgewater also contains significant geomorphic features which are of interest to visitors and lend themselves to interpretation. The most accessible is the 'Petrified Forest', a formation of cemented columns exposed by extensive erosion of the limestone soil surface (Webster 1996). The other formations are the tufa ('flowstone') and stalactites found on the sea cliffs. Rainwater seeps through the limestone until it reaches the surface of the basalt. It then flows laterally to the coast, emerging as springs. These flow over the cliff, depositing lime to create the formations.

Recent research at Cape Nelson (Rosengren 1995) has rated the volcanic materials, travertine and tufa features as being

geomorphological features of State significance. Other features are of regional and local significance. Although not as intensively studied, similar features on Cape Bridgewater would also be of State significance, as they are more spectacular than the Cape Nelson features.

The travertine drapes and other calcareous decorations are the most fragile features and could easily be damaged through direct visitor contact and through hydraulic starvation (the exact source of the limestone-laden waters is not known). Other soft and brittle features could also be easily damaged, but most are protected from human interference by their inaccessible or dangerous location. Most visitors see the features from a distance while on walking tracks on the cliff tops.

Further inland, limestone features are also seen at the Tarragal Caves, a set of shallow limestone caves overlooking the Bridgewater Lakes.

The dune fields are also unusual, constituting the largest area of mobile dunes in Victoria. The system is very dynamic. The extensive areas of bare sand may be partly natural, although it is likely that human activity (post-European settlement) has extended and accelerated dune erosion (Bird 1993).

The important archaeological values associated with the cliffs and dunes are addressed in section 5.1, cliff and dune erosion in section 4.8, and safety issues in section 6.1.1.

Aims

- Protect significant and sensitive geological and geomorphological features and land-forming processes.
- Minimise the impacts of visitors and other activities on the significant geological and geomorphic features.
- Improve understanding of the nature, origin and dynamics of the landform and geological features of the planning area.
- Interpret geological and geomorphological features of the planning area.

Management strategies

- *Protect the significant limestone and basalt formations on Cape Bridgewater and Cape Nelson from adverse impacts of future management and development.*
- *Determine the significance of the limestone formations on Cape Bridgewater and all sites between Cape Grant and Descartes Bay.*
- *Encourage continued scientific studies of fossil sites in Nelson Bay, and control unauthorised fossil collecting.*
- *Allow dune dynamics to continue to function naturally. Attempt to stabilise dune erosion only where important park or neighbouring values or assets (not including fencing) are threatened by sand drift. Utilise appropriate indigenous species.*
- *Minimise the need to have walkways or vehicle access crossing the dunes, and where required design steps and walkways that allow for continuing sand movement.*
- *Provide interpretation of the Parks' geology and landforms, including specific interpretative information at key sites.*

4.2 Rivers and wetlands

Open water bodies are important sites for recreation in Discovery Bay Coastal Park. The largest of the Bridgewater Lakes is used for a wide range of recreational water activities and is a key recreational site for sailing, canoeing, fishing, swimming, water skiing and personal watercraft use. Other lakes including Lake Monibeong are used for canoeing, small yacht sailing and swimming. Smaller lakes and reed swamps include Swan Lake, McFarlanes Swamp and Long Swamp. There are a few smaller swamps (Blacks Waterhole, Malseeds Swamp) in Mount Richmond National Park. Better-known lakes with similar names occur in Discovery Bay Coastal Park. The Glenelg River Estuary and the associated Oxbow Lake are the major water bodies near Nelson.

Other areas that once contained swamp sediments are now dry, supporting low grass, rushes and sedges.

Historical evidence indicates that reed or sedge-filled wetlands such as Long Swamp were once much more open water bodies than

they are now. It is likely that Aboriginal people tracking through the swamps to harvest the roots and tubers of Water Ribbons and Bulrush kept them open.

Long Swamp is a shallow wetland fed by groundwater aquifer. Since Europeans arrived, water levels have lowered dramatically; it is now a sedge-filled swamp with little or no open water. It is possible that the swamp is around 30 cm lower than in earlier times. This has enhanced the growth of Bare Twig-sedge (an unusual species as a community dominant), which is a preferred food of the threatened Ground Parrot. Water levels may be gradually lowering further, as Woolly Tea-tree appears to be encroaching into sedge-dominated areas.

Causes suggested for lower water levels include:

- excessive use of aquifer;
- the cutting of artificial drainage channels to improve the growth of sedges and grassland vegetation for cattle grazing;
- partial drainage to enhance eel fishing;
- invasion by Coast Wattle (section 4.3);
- replacement of native vegetation in the catchments with pine plantations.

Long Swamp and the Glenelg River Estuary are recognised as nationally important wetlands (ANCA 1996) on the basis of their unique geomorphological settings, rare plant communities and the presence of a number of threatened plant species. Long Swamp is also highly significant to Indigenous people (Godfrey 2002).

Long Swamp was traditionally available for duck hunting. In the 1950s and 1970s unsuccessful attempts were made to raise the swamp's water level by closing the Nobles Rocks outlet. Hunting is thought to have ceased at least 20 years ago because of dense vegetation and a lack of open water to attract ducks. The new National Parks (Park) Regulations have no provision for duck hunting at Long Swamp. Significant Indigenous cultural and environmental values support the prohibition of duck hunting at this site.

At times the Glenelg River rises to a level that causes flooding of local boat sheds. On occasions the river mouth has been opened

using explosives or machinery to relieve flooding under permit conditions specified by the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (GHCMA).

Aims

- Maintain and manage the wetlands for natural and cultural values conservation and appreciation.
- Maintain access to the deeper lakes for approved recreation and to assist in minimising visitor impacts.

Management strategies

- *Investigate the implications of the current hydrological regime on the environmental and Indigenous cultural values in Long Swamp.*
- *Work as a lead agency with the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority to prepare a Glenelg River Estuary Management Plan that includes protocols for opening the Glenelg River. Work with the Gournditch-Mara people and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, and other agencies and community groups as appropriate (sections 4.4 and 7.1).*
- *Investigate the impacts of recreational use of all lakes (section 4.4). Develop management strategies to resolve issues in accordance with the estuary management plan, as necessary. Integrate strategies into the Bridgewater Lakes Management Strategy (section 6.7).*
- *Seek control of sediment entry to lakes from construction and timber harvesting in the catchments (EPA 1991) to maintain water quality (section 4.4).*

4.3 Vegetation

The planning area contains a diversity of vegetation types. The major types are:

- coastal dune scrub complexes on sands and limestone headlands;
- dry and wet heaths and swamps;
- mallee and woodland eucalypt communities.

Ecological vegetation mapping shows there is a total of 19 Ecological Vegetation Communities (EVCs) in the planning area.

Mount Richmond National Park contains four EVCs, predominantly Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland (39%) and Heathy Woodland (46%). Discovery Bay Coastal Park contains 17 EVCs but is dominated by Calcerinite Dune Woodland (62%). Cape Nelson State Park contains four EVCs, predominantly Coastal Mallee Scrub (73%). Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve contains three EVCs, mainly Coastal Heathland Scrub (59%).

A detailed vegetation study has yet to be undertaken in the area. However, plant collecting has been extensive: Discovery Bay Coastal Park has some 320 native vascular plant species recorded, and Mount Richmond National Park some 498 (DSE database 2003b). More species are likely to be found.

The planning area is unusually important for flora diversity. Appendix 1 lists 47 threatened plant species, eight of which are listed under the FFG Act. Threatened species occur in each of the Parks and the Reserve, including the narrow and heavily used coast of Nelson Bay and Cape Nelson. Their habitat requirements are poorly understood. Some communities are unusual; in particular, the Soap Mallee community on Cape Nelson is the only known stand of this species in Victoria.

Tubers of various freshwater reeds and the fruit of the Muntries (*Kunzea pomifera*) were significant foods that brought large gatherings of Aboriginal people to the area for cultural ceremonies and feasting each summer (section 5.1). The stands of Muntries around Swan Lake are at the easternmost limits of the species' range.

The available scientific evidence (Head 1983) suggests that there have been dramatic changes in the composition and structure of the vegetation along the Discovery Bay coastline over the past 10 000 years, from open Coast She-oaks and Moonah woodland to the denser dune scrub complexes seen today. Further dramatic changes have occurred in the last 150 years, including the invasion of Coast Tea-tree, and particularly Coast Wattle (Baldock et al. 1996a, b, c; Milne et al. 1996; McMahan et al. 1995). These changes relate to human influences upon the vegetation by both Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people. (Note that historical reports mention Aboriginals burning the vegetation; Tyers n.d.).

Current research being undertaken in conjunction with Portland Aluminium (Carr & Muir 1995; McMahon et al. 1995) and ecological burning projects in other parks on Victoria's coast (e.g. Wilsons Promontory National Park) will be relevant to future management.

Aims

- Manage ecosystems to ensure the preservation and protection of indigenous flora, particularly threatened communities and species.
- In the short-term, conserve native plant communities in their present condition as far as practicable, and conserve biodiversity.
- Improve knowledge of vegetation community dynamics and the ecology of threatened plant species.
- Adopt, in the longer term, improved vegetation management practices to achieve outcomes identified in vegetation studies.
- Respect Indigenous peoples' tradition and practices related to indigenous flora.

Management strategies

- *Develop conservation objectives for the planning area, based on vegetation condition.*
- *Provide an improved ecological basis for vegetation and species management in co-operation with the Gournditch–Mara community and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, and together or in consultation with other Indigenous peoples and key stakeholders as appropriate, by:*
 - *establishing baseline studies to define vegetation communities and determine their ecological requirements;*
 - *locating rare or threatened species and their habitats;*
 - *developing and implementing ongoing vegetation condition monitoring, including regeneration monitoring after fire;*
 - *identifying flora species of cultural and resource significance to the Gournditch-Mara.*

- *researching Indigenous tradition and practices relating to the use and management of endemic flora.*
- *Implement a program of vegetation management according to conservation objectives for the planning area when developed, including ecological burning and incorporating Indigenous traditions and practices as appropriate. Co-operate with the Gournditch–Mara community and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, and work together or in consultation with other Indigenous peoples and key stakeholders as appropriate.*
- *Encourage the development of habitat and habitat corridors on freehold land along the coast, through programs such as Land for Wildlife, Landcare, and Coastcare.*
- *Implement relevant actions of FFG Act Action Statements in the planning area.*
- *Monitor threatened plant populations and significant sites using established protocols.*
- *Ensure that all records of all significant species in the planning area are incorporated into the Environmental Information System.*
- *Undertake environmental assessments as part of planning for any development, or change in maintenance or management practice, within the planning area, prior to commencing any works.*

4.4 Fauna

The planning area supports an impressive assemblage of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish. Appendix 2 lists 83 threatened fauna species, including 37 listed under the FFG Act. They contribute to the planning area's nationally significant biodiversity. Many of these species require active management of their habitats to ensure their survival.

Important fauna habitats include the beaches (nesting waders e.g. Hooded Plover), shore platforms and cliffs (Australian Fur Seal, Little Penguin), wetlands (Ground Parrot, Brolga and Australasian Bittern), dunes and coastal shrublands (Orange-bellied Parrot, Rufous Bristlebird, Beautiful Firetail, Swamp Antechinus, Striped Worm-lizard and Four-

toed Skink), cliffs (Short-tailed Shearwater, Peregrine Falcon, Common Bent-winged Bat, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Osprey), eucalypt forest (Powerful Owl) and heathland (Heath Mouse).

Australian Fur Seal colonies occupy rock shelf sites on the eastern shores of Cape Nelson and Cape Bridgewater. The seal colony at Cape Bridgewater is accessible by jet-ski, sea kayak or boat (section 6.7). Tour boats visit the site (section 6.10). These activities have the potential to disturb the seal colony and need to be monitored and reviewed. Prevention of the landing of watercraft and visitors at this site will greatly reduce human disturbance to the seal colony.

Mount Richmond National Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park provide habitat for the Long-nosed Potoroo, which is rare in the area although common in some other places. The Common Wombat is a recent extinction (1960s) from the Bridgewater Lakes area (M. O'Brien, J. Seebeck, W. O'Connor, pers. comm.).

Two threatened bird species (Hooded Plover and Little Tern) nest on beaches in Discovery Bay Coastal Park, including at the Glenelg River mouth. Discovery Bay is an important stronghold for Hooded Plovers. Other birds breed on the beaches (Pied Oystercatcher, Sooty Oystercatcher and Red-capped Plover). Major threats to the two threatened species are abnormally high tides, introduced predators and disturbance to summer nest sites through visitor use. Illegal off-road driving, trail-bike riding and horse riding are particular threats to birds which nest on beaches and in dunes, especially during summer.

A number of species listed under the Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (JAMBA) and the China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (CAMBA), and listed or nominated under the FFG Act, occur in the planning area (appendix 2). Discovery Bay Coastal Park is an internationally important non-breeding area for Sanderling, which use the whole of the coastal strip but concentrate around the Glenelg River mouth (section 4.2).

There is a current proposal to add Discovery Bay Coastal Park and the abutting intertidal areas of Discovery Bay Marine National Park to the East Asian–Australasian Shorebird Site Network.

Lakes in Discovery Bay Coastal Park contain some 15 native fish species. They constitute a unique assemblage of freshwater and estuarine species, especially in a coastal lake. There are three threatened species, including Yarra Pygmy Perch and Dwarf Galaxias. Unusual occurrences include Freshwater Blackfish and Small-mouthed Hardyhead in a coastal lake. The threatened species need clean water with minimal silt. The effects of noise, wave action and water pollution caused by recreational activities need to be monitored, and management strategies to minimise impacts implemented (section 4.2).

The adjacent waters along the coast provide habitat for marine mammals such as seals, whales and dolphins as well as numerous seabirds, which can often be observed from Discovery Bay Coastal Park (Charlie Cooper pers. comm.).

Aims

- Protect native fauna from unnecessary disturbance by visitors and management activities.
- Maintain or enhance fauna habitat diversity and integrity.
- Increase knowledge of the distribution and management requirements of rare or threatened species.
- Respect Indigenous tradition and practices related to endemic fauna.

Management strategies

- *Manage significant fauna in accordance with approved Action Statements, recovery plans and other relevant documents (appendix 2) in co-operation with the Gournditch-Mara.*
- *Encourage and support research, surveys and monitoring of threatened fauna, especially Hooded Plover, to identify their distribution and ecological requirements, and manage accordingly.*
- *Develop appropriate fire regimes for maintaining specific faunal habitat in the planning area, especially as part of the management of significant species, in particular the Heath Mouse.*
- *Reduce the impact of recreational activities and illegal off-road driving on*

ground-nesting birds through education, and enforcement as necessary (sections 6.1 and 6.2).

- *Identify the rock shelf and cliff habitats used by Australian Fur Seals as Special Protection Area (section 3.2 and table 1) and prohibit public access.*
- *Investigate whether or not the close approach of watercraft to the Australian Fur Seal colonies on Cape Bridgewater is disturbing the seals, and take action as necessary to avoid such disturbance.*
- *Encourage research and surveys to provide an improved ecological basis for fauna habitat (section 4.3) and fauna species management (section 4.3).*
- *Encourage monitoring of fauna species that may be disturbed by visitors, management activities or environmental change, particularly beach-nesting birds and species inhabiting swamps and heaths, in partnerships with volunteers and local naturalists.*
- *Encourage the identification of fauna species of cultural and resource significance to the Gournditch-Mara, and research of related Indigenous tradition and practices, and where appropriate incorporate into management programs.*
- *Ensure that all sightings of significant species in the planning area are recorded in the Environmental Information System.*
- *Ensure that information, interpretation and education materials highlight the requirement to avoid disturbance to fauna (section 6.1).*
- *Seek to maintain clean water in lakes to protect native fish and other aquatic species (sections 4.2 and 6.7).*
- *Utilise and work with DSE's contingency plans when dealing with marine mammal strandings or oil-affected wildlife along the coast of the planning area.*

4.5 Landscape

The importance of the planning area's scenic values to our heritage is recognised in listings on the National Estate and classification by the National Trust Australia (Victoria) (section 2.2).

Cape Nelson State Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park offer spectacular views of coastal scenery, with agricultural land and the forests of Mount Richmond National Park, Coboboonee State Forest and Lower Glenelg National Park rising in the background. The tower at Mount Richmond National Park gives a 360 degree view of the coastline, agricultural lands and forests. The whole of the planning area is included in an area covered by a number of National Trust Landscape Classifications (National Trust n.d.).

The coastal cliffs in the eastern section of the planning area are the highest in Victoria. Spectacular views can be obtained from most points along the eastern part of the coast, particularly Yellow Rock, Cape Nelson, Cape Bridgewater and The Blowholes, and around the Bridgewater Lakes. In the west, the landscape is of lower relief, but views along the Discovery Bay Beach to headlands in South Australia reveal a wild and scenic coastline.

The landscape of the planning area is significant to the Gournditch-Mara and their dreaming. There are places that have special significance to them and relate to their connection with the land.

In the planning area, visual intrusions are relatively few, while the visual presentation of roadsides and visitor facilities is maintained. The principal visual intrusions are along the access roads: sheep feedlots on the Cape Nelson Road, and the pine forests and associated logging operations behind Discovery Bay. There is limited scope to influence these intrusions, and the operations are promoted as interesting local industries in the local tourist handbook (Portland Tourist Association 1995).

Potential locations of future wind farms need to be carefully assessed to avoid or minimise impacts on the planning area's values, particularly the views of the wild and scenic landscape from within the planning area, and of its hinterland and the ocean.

Aims

- Protect and preserve the landscape values of the planning area, particularly the places of special significance to the Gournditch-Mara and areas of high scenic quality and viewer interest.

- Minimise visual impacts on the natural landscape of the planning area, especially from major viewing points.
- Rehabilitate, remove or ameliorate undesirable visual intrusions in the planning area.
- Ensure that impacts of developments within the planning area on views from within and outside the area are adequately mitigated.

Management strategies

- *Include an assessment of long-distance views when designing the planning area's facilities, including views from Mount Richmond National Park and other key locations.*
- *Investigate the requirements for maintaining the tower and the view from the tower at Mount Richmond National Park, while minimising the visual intrusion of the tower to visitors on the ground.*
- *Rehabilitate and revegetate the former Mount Richmond depot site.*
- *Liaise with other agencies, industries, landowners and the Glenelg Shire Council, to avoid or mitigate the visual impacts on the planning area of developments on adjoining properties and adjacent industries, including overhead powerlines and wind farms.*
- *Minimise the impact of signs, visitor facilities and other development works in the planning area on the natural and cultural landscape of the planning area, and from views from adjoining properties and from scenic locations outside the planning area, including from the ocean.*

4.6 Fire management

Fire management

The National Parks Act requires the Secretary to ensure that appropriate and sufficient measures are taken to protect parks and humans from injury by fire. Current fire protection measures are carried out in accordance with the Portland District Fire Protection Plan (CFL 1990), the Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land (CFL 1995) and Parks Victoria's operational policies. The fire protection plan is currently

under review and a draft plan involving consultation with a range of stakeholders was released for public comment in October 2002. It is expected that final approval will be given to this plan soon. The plan provides for maintenance of the network of fire protection tracks and liaison with freehold landholders for the common purpose of fire management in the planning area and on adjacent land.

The question of appropriate vegetation management for the planning area, and the need for more active intervention including the possible need to use fire (ecological burning) in heath communities, is addressed in section 4.3.

Cape Nelson State Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park

Both Cape Nelson State Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park are regarded as areas of minimal strategic significance for fire management due to their proximity to the coast and presence of coastal vegetation communities. On days of extreme fire danger, with strong north winds, fire could move into these parks and the Reserve from adjacent land. It is far less likely that fire would move from the parks to the adjacent freehold areas. Onshore sea breezes are likely to reduce, but not eliminate, the risk of fire in the coastal sections of the planning area on days of extreme fire danger.

The level of fire protection works undertaken reflects this minimal risk. Fire protection works in Cape Nelson State Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park include annual slashing of some 15 km of fire breaks and access tracks, and maintenance of vehicle access tracks and watering points.

The fire protection plan includes both Cape Nelson State Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park in Zone 4 – Specific Flora and Fauna Management.

Mount Richmond National Park

The majority of the park, which has not been burnt for some time, comprises primarily heathy woodlands dominated by brown stringybark. These woodlands typically contain very high litter, elevated and bark fuel components, and represent a significant risk of a fire burning the entire park area under high fire danger conditions. There are risks of fire entering the park from adjoining freehold land,

and also fire spreading from within the park threatening adjoining property assets.

The fire protection plan provides for Zone 2 – Strategic Fuel Reduced Corridors on the north-western side of the park and in the southern section of the park. The remainder of the park is categorised as Zone 3 – Broad Area Fuel Reduced Mosaic, which complements more frequent burning within the strategic corridors. The fire protection plan refers to the need for a specific integrated sub-plan to be developed for Mount Richmond National Park.

It is desirable to develop and maintain a mosaic of vegetation in a diversity of age classes to maintain biodiversity within the park (NRE/PV Fire Ecology Working Group, 2002). Indicative fire regimes for the vegetation communities within the park are outlined in the fire protection plan. The prescribed use of fire is considered necessary to provide a balance in reducing fuels and achieve enhanced biodiversity outcomes.

Access to Mount Richmond is by way of a one-way access road (section of Mount Richmond Road, often referred to as Summit Road). An alternative emergency egress is maintained from the summit down Old South Boundary Track to Kennedy's Road. Public safety is addressed through closure of the Park on days of Total Fire Ban.

Liaison for fire protection is maintained with fire-fighting agencies, pine forest managers (through a long-standing Forest Owners' Conference) and other neighbours and individuals on an 'as needs' basis (section 8.1).

Aims

- Protect human life, property and planning area values from injury by fire.
- Manage fire and undertake fire protection works as appropriate for the protection of life, property and planning area values, and the conservation of natural values.

Management strategies

- *Develop an integrated Mount Richmond National Park Fire Management Plan that takes account of planning as necessary to protect human life, property, park values and adjoining freehold lands from injury, and to implement other park management objectives, based on the Portland District*

Fire Protection Plan and in accordance with the Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land (CFL 1995) and Parks Victoria's operational policies.

- *Ensure that Portland District Fire Protection Plan provisions relating to the planning area are ecologically based.*
- *Develop and implement fire management programs in accordance with the Portland Fire Protection Plan and the integrated Mount Richmond National Park Fire Management Plan (when this is developed).*
- *Maintain the road and vehicle track network for fire management purposes in accordance with the Portland District Fire Protection Plan and the integrated Mount Richmond National Park Fire Management Plan.*
- *Prepare an emergency evacuation plan for Mount Richmond National Park, and ensure that it is displayed at all visitor sites and made available to Fire Controllers and Police in the event of wildfire.*
- *Take action as necessary to ensure that Indigenous cultural heritage, including places and objects of significance to the Gournditch-Mara and archaeological relics, is protected, and Indigenous practices integrated as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of ecological burning, fire protection and wildfire management.*
- *Plan for, program and manage fire and fire protection activities in co-operation with the Gournditch-Mara community and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, and with other Indigenous peoples, key stakeholders, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) and other government agencies, as appropriate.*
- *Liaise with freehold landholders and local government to encourage implementation of necessary fire protection works for pine and blue gum plantations and other land uses adjacent to or in the vicinity of the planning area's boundaries.*
- *Publicise and enforce fire regulations to minimise the risk of the escape of campfires.*

- *Include the role of fire in the ecosystem, and fire prevention and fire safety issues, in interpretive programs and displays.*
- *Monitor the findings of fire research and review park fire management strategies where appropriate.*

4.7 Pest plants and animals

Pest plants, including certain introduced and invasive Australian species, are a major problem in the planning area. Some invaders, such as Coast Wattle, Myrtle-leaf Milkwort and Radiata Pine wildings, pose a real threat to the integrity of native vegetation (Baldock et al. 1996b; Carr & Muir 1995; McMahon et al. 1995).

Pest plant and animal control constitutes a major part of the planning area staff's workloads, and a continuing investment of time and financial resources is required. Control is usually undertaken in co-operation with neighbours and relevant local groups (e.g. Landcare, Coastcare, and Friends of the Great South West Walk), with funding through programs such as the Good Neighbour Program.

Much of the area of Discovery Bay Coastal Park has been disturbed by post-settlement activity at some time. In particular, grazing, clearing and some associated burning have occurred, creating openings for pest plant invasion. Discovery Bay Coastal Park is very long and narrow, so there is an extensive boundary with adjacent freehold land with very little of the park protected by distance from disturbed areas. Consequently, pest plant invasion from adjacent land is a continuing problem.

At least 24 major environmental weeds have been recorded as important in different parts of the planning area (appendix 3).

Feral and straying animals are also a continuing problem. Control programs include:

- the removal of goats and sheep that have escaped from farms and feedlots on Cape Nelson;
- an ongoing rabbit control program, implemented in co-operation with adjacent landholders;

- an ad hoc feral cat control program, based on sightings;
- the removal of cattle that have escaped from adjoining farms in the Bridgewater Bay Dunes and near the Bridgewater Lakes.

Aims

- Control, and where possible eradicate, pest plants and animals, including invasive Australian and local native species.
- Minimise the introduction and spread of new pest plant infestations and pathogens.
- Minimise the impact of control programs on native flora and fauna and cultural sites.
- Regenerate areas cleared of pest plants as part of control programs.

Management strategies

- *Continue to develop and implement control programs aimed at major pest plants (appendix 3) and major pest animals (rabbits, foxes and feral cats) and recent introductions that can be eradicated, working in co-operation with the Gournditch-Mara, and with neighbours and other community and Friends groups as appropriate (sections 7.1 and 7.2). The priority will be to control pest species that pose greatest threats to native flora or fauna.*
- *Remove the Blue Gum plantation from McFarlanes Swamp and restore the area.*
- *Encourage further studies of weeds, and in particular Coast Wattle and its relationship with fire, and incorporate research findings into management programs.*
- *Minimise or avoid the introduction and spread of introduced plants and diseases by:*
 - *ensuring appropriate standards of hygiene for vehicles and machinery working within the planning area;*
 - *minimising soil disturbance during ecological burning, wildfire suppression, road maintenance and facility development works.*
- *Integrate pest plant control into any program of vegetation management,*

addressing major problems such as invasive areas of Coast Wattle and Coast Tea-tree.

- *Control illegal stock entry, in co-operation with neighbours. Impound stock as a last resort.*
- *Monitor the effectiveness of pest plant and vegetation works, and the impact of pest animal control programs on non-target native animal species.*
- *Utilise statewide pest management programs as a resource for park management.*
- *Ensure that all pest plant and animal management actions are recorded in the Environmental Management System.*

4.8 Soil conservation

Natural erosion is a characteristic of two major environments in the planning area: the coastal headlands and the dune fields. Erosive processes have been accelerated by human intervention since European settlement. Ironically, some of the planning area's important assets are a result of this erosion.

Coastal headlands

Erosive forces are intense on the exposed western sides of the planning area's major coastal headlands (Cape Nelson and Cape Bridgewater) and on some intervening minor limestone headlands. Erosion has been accelerated, apparently by stock trafficking the coastal cliffs, sometimes in search of water from the cliff-edge springs. In places, the present land surface appears to be two or more metres below the original land surface. Much of the exposed surface is now hard calcareous soil or limestone.

Erosion has exposed extensive midden deposits on the headlands, and the 'Petrified Forest' (apparently an ancient subsoil geological formation), which may not have been apparent in pre-European times. In these severe conditions, restoration of the pre-existing profile is an unrealistic aim, which could involve, for example, burying the Petrified Forest.

Dune erosion

Mobile dune fields of siliceous sands in the hinterland of Discovery Bay and Bridgewater Bay existed before European settlement; they

were reported by French navigators in the early 1800s. These south-west-facing dune fields occur in very high-energy coastal environments, where natural erosion and sand movements are typical features.

The dunes comprise a continuously moving system. Prevailing winds tend to move the sand inland in a north-easterly direction, but other wind patterns counteract this movement and produce a complex pattern. Blowout development and erosion associated with human use also occur.

The type and density of vegetation on the mobile dunes have changed greatly in prehistoric and historic times. Vegetation has apparently always been a mixture of colonisers and sand binders, leading to the establishment of a dune scrub community with a grassy understorey. Burning and grazing tended to open out the dune scrub.

Since the 1950s plants have progressively colonised the coastal dunes around Nelson. Large areas of the dunes now carry dune scrub, which stabilises tracks, blowouts and other problem areas. However, the shape of the dunes and the general pattern of colonisation appears to have been changed by the Marram Grass (a vigorous sand binder) introduced by the former Soil Conservation Authority as part of a broad stabilisation program in the area (Heathcote & Maroske 1996). It would be virtually impossible to eliminate this species. From 1970 onwards the dramatic spread of Coast Wattle also appears to have caused change in the dunes.

The principal asset in the dunes is midden sites (section 5.1). The mobility of the dunes seems both to protect and to disturb these extensive sites, burying exposed sites and exposing new ones. The other park assets possibly threatened are the inter-dune swamps, which in places are also being inundated by unconsolidated mobile dunes. With time, these systems may be buried entirely as the coast is eroded and the dunes push inland. Dune sands are not known to threaten recreation facilities in Cape Nelson State Park or Discovery Bay Coastal Park or in adjacent pine plantations. Assets on adjacent freehold land, including fencing, may also be subject to inundation by sand.

The principal uses of the dunes that could cause erosion if not properly managed are:

- four-wheel-driving and trail-bike riding, including off-track management activities;
- recreational dune bugging;
- walking;
- horse riding;
- stock entry.

Aims

- Stabilise selected coastal headland areas to protect cultural values, particularly middens.
- Allow natural dune movement processes to continue without management intervention, except where clearly identified assets are threatened.
- Manage visitor and management activities to prevent erosion, especially in sensitive or significant areas.
- Restore erosion damage directly attributable to recent visitor use or where cultural or environmental values are threatened.
- Educate visitors, users and neighbours to respect the natural and cultural values of the dune environment and its assets.

Management strategies

- *Continue erosion control works and planting of local species on Cape Bridgewater and in strategic sites around The Blowholes and Petrified Forest, and commence similar works at strategic sites on Cape Nelson.*
- *Where practicable, selectively control dune erosion at sites where park or adjacent assets are threatened, or where erosion is clearly resulting from visitor use.*
- *Monitor the movements of motor vehicles in the Swan Lake area and ensure that they accord with the plan (section 6.2).*

- *Manage all vehicle access to the coast across the Bridgewater Bay Dunes to protect park values (section 6.2).*
- *Restore and manage eroded sites caused by vehicular and beach access at Murrells Beach, Bridgewater Bay Dunes south of Nagorckas Road, Shelley Beach, Nobles Rocks, Lake Monibeong Road and other sites as needed and in co-operation with community groups (section 7.1).*
- *Plan and implement soil conservation works in co-operation with the Gournditch-Mara community and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, and with user and interest groups as appropriate.*
- *Work with community interest and user groups to minimise the impacts of walkers, surfers and anglers, particularly along the Great South West Walk and other tracks leading down cliff faces and across the dunes, and take action where necessary to minimise erosion.*
- *Continue to consult and work with horse riding groups on soil conservation issues relating to their interests as appropriate.*
- *Monitor impacts from horse riding, and take appropriate action to ensure that horse riding only occurs at approved locations and erosion problems are not created. Encourage riders to assist in restoration programs (section 7.1).*
- *Implement research to increase knowledge of mobile dune systems.*
- *Restore vegetation in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies using only local indigenous plant species.*
- *Ensure that appropriate measures are taken to minimise soil loss after fuel reduction burns and wildfires, including immediate rehabilitation of tracks and fire control lines.*

5 STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL VALUES CONSERVATION

5.1 Indigenous cultural heritage

Land within the planning area has a long history of Aboriginal use dating back at least 11 300 years BP (Godfrey 2000). On the basis of studies of the history of Indigenous use of plants (section 4.3), Godfrey considered that Aboriginals visited the coastal areas primarily to collect plants for food and other uses, while recognising that the physical evidence of widespread middens indicates that shellfish and fish were also important for food during visits.

A number of major archaeological surveys have been undertaken in Discovery Bay (Godfrey 1980; Lourandos 1983). They have found large numbers of sites in the open dune areas and on exposed red limestone soil surfaces. By comparison, only limited studies have been undertaken on the coastal areas between Portland and Bridgewater Lakes (Godfrey 1996).

The many significant Aboriginal archaeological sites recorded for Discovery Bay Coastal Park and the Cape Nelson State Park include extensive shell middens, earth oven remains and numerous lithic materials such as edge ground axes, basalt grinding stones and flint artefacts.

The greatest concentration of middens occurs between the freshwater swamps and the sea at the north-western end of Discovery Bay. Most sites are within 100m of the beach. Sites near Nelson include ear bones from Mulloway probably taken from the Glenelg River.

The large number of Aboriginal artefacts (lithic scatters and earth oven sites) within the Bridgewater Bay Dunes and at Cape Duquesne are rated as highly significant on the basis of their scientific and archaeological value (Richards & Jordan 1996; Schell 2000a, 2000b). Some 50 oven sites and many shell middens on Cape Duquesne have been mapped.

Numerous exposed artefacts litter the eroded land surfaces on Cape Nelson and Cape Bridgewater. The immediate coastal cliff tops have been eroded, exposing artefacts originally buried through the soil profile.

A range of sites and materials have been dated, including:

- material on the floor of the Tarragal Caves (near the Bridgewater Lakes)—to 11 300 years BP;
- artefacts in exposed red limestone soil surfaces in Discovery Bay—to 11 000 years BP;
- Cape Bridgewater middens (the earliest dated)—approximately 10 000–8000 BP;
- middens between the freshwater swamps and the sea at the north-western end of Discovery Bay—at least 8500 BP;
- 50 oven sites and many shell middens—6000–9000 BP;
- middens in the Bridgewater dunes—approximately 4000 BP to present.

Many sites and artefacts remain to be discovered within the planning area in soil profiles not yet surveyed. Many further sites will be located beyond the park boundaries both offshore and in the coastal hinterland as a result of past relocations of the coastline with sea level changes over the past 10 000 years. The dynamic coastal processes will have covered many of the earlier sites. Sites have been found up to three km inland of the coast.

The wide spread of geographical sites and ages of sites along this section of coast is extremely significant to archaeological researchers, who are able to undertake comparative studies that are not possible at other locations.

Many of the Aboriginal cultural sites are threatened by:

- lack of knowledge and recognition;
- lack of respect, pillaging of artefacts and vandalism;
- coastal erosion;
- disturbance from recreational, environmental and some management activities;
- certain park facilities, including some roads and tracks that were inappropriately located in the past;

- trampling by people walking through the dunes, horses and stock grazing;
- illegal off-road vehicle and motor trail-bike activity.

Some knowledge of Aboriginal tradition (including perspectives of environment and landscape, and stories) and practices (relating to resource use and land management) has been lost to a large extent since the arrival of Europeans. However, much detailed knowledge has been retained through the oral history of descendants, historical documents, and archaeological and anthropological research. More Aboriginal stories, and much more about the significance of places and people in the landscape, timelines, the traditional use of natural resources and land management practices, could be discovered.

All Aboriginal places, objects and archaeological relics are protected under the Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Heritage Protection Act.

Issues relating to native title are dealt with in accordance with the Native Title Act (section 2.5).

Kerrup-Jmara Elders Aboriginal Corporation, c/- Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation is specified in the Schedule of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act as the local Aboriginal community. Its consent is required for any interference or disturbance to any Aboriginal place or Aboriginal object in the planning area as is the case elsewhere within the far south-west of Victoria.

Other Indigenous peoples living in traditional country of the Gournditch-Mara and certain government agencies may also need to be consulted or involved in the management of cultural heritage management issues.

The integration of the Gournditch-Mara's tradition and practices into the protection of Indigenous cultural heritage and into all other aspects of the planning area's planning and management is addressed in chapter 7.

Aims

- Protect Aboriginal cultural heritage from damage by natural processes and inappropriate human activities.

- Encourage research of Aboriginal heritage, including tradition and practices, relating to the planning area.

Management strategies

- *Develop as a priority, and implement, a strategy to protect Indigenous places and objects of significance to the Gournditch-Mara, and archaeological relics, in the planning area, especially the Bridgewater Bay Dunes (south of Nagorckas Road), from vehicles and other damaging agents. Co-operate with the Gournditch-Mara community and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, and consult and work with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) as appropriate (section 7.1).*
- *Develop an approved Indigenous cultural heritage strategy for guiding the research, survey, protection, conservation, interpretation and promotion of the planning area's Indigenous culture, including places, objects, archaeological relics, and tradition and practices, in a working partnership with the Gournditch-Mara, other community groups and relevant agencies.*
- *Plan and manage all works in accordance with:*
 - *relevant legislation;*
 - *approved strategies;*
 - *approved protocols for planning and managing works (section 7.1);*
 - *Parks Victoria's Guidelines for Working with Aboriginal Communities and Protection of Cultural Sites;*
 - *government policy and directions.*
- *Encourage and support as appropriate, in co-operation with the Gournditch-Mara community and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation:*
 - *surveys, research and risk assessments to identify Indigenous places, objects and archaeological relics requiring specific protection from natural processes or inappropriate human activity, or other management action;*
 - *research, identification and recording of Gournditch-Mara's tradition and practices relating to the planning area;*

- *establishment of benchmarks and ongoing monitoring programs for key Aboriginal places, objects and archaeological relics, and incorporation of benchmarks in AAV's statewide monitoring system.*
- *Promote, in co-operation with the Gournditch-Mara community and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, and in accordance with Indigenous tradition and practices and interests, the protection of Aboriginal places, objects and archaeological relics in:*
 - *protection of flora (section 4.3) and fauna (section 4.4) and landscape values (section 4.5);*
 - *regional fire protection planning and ecological fire planning (section 4.6);*
 - *information, interpretation and education programs (section 6.1).*
- *Liaise with and encourage other interested Indigenous peoples and AAV to work together with Parks Victoria in dealing with Indigenous cultural issues of mutual concern relating to the planning area (section 7.1).*
- *Maintain confidentiality in respect of Aboriginal tradition, practices, places, objects, archaeological relics and legal rights, in accordance with the wishes of the Gournditch-Mara.*
- *Use Indigenous intellectual property only with the agreement of the Gournditch-Mara.*

5.2 Post-settlement cultural heritage

In comparison with Indigenous artefacts, artefacts of European history in the planning area are sparse. Much of the planning area was grazed, but most developments were in the hinterland. The only development on the coast was at Cape Bridgewater township, outside the present Discovery Bay Coastal Park. European historical places are reported in Bridgewater Bay Dunes, but are poorly known.

The former Land Conservation Council's historic places study for South-western Victoria (LCC 1997) identified five European historical places in the planning area:

- Great South West Walk (Final Rec. B116);

- Marram Grass nursery in Discovery Bay (record NE0016);
- shell grit extraction site at Murrells Beach (Rec. C252, Final Rec. C300);
- cliff path to springs at The Springs, Cape Bridgewater (Rec. C42, Final Rec. C50);
- Cape Nelson Lightstation (constructed 1884) (Rec. A166, Final Rec. A165).

The historical values of the lighthouse and adjacent buildings have been surveyed (AMSA 1995).

Eight historic shipwrecks off the coast are interpreted as part of the Historic Shipwrecks Trail (West Coast Shipwreck Trail Working Group n.d.).

The visitor centre at Portland interprets the maritime history of Victoria's south-west coast.

Major Thomas Mitchell visited the planning area as part of his explorations in 1836. This is celebrated in the Major Mitchell Trail, constructed in 1988. The trail included directional signs but some signs were vandalised and have been removed.

Aims

- Protect archaeological and cultural places and relics from damaging natural processes and inappropriate recreational and other activities.
- Ensure that post-settlement historical perspectives are included in the planning and implementation of programs.

Management strategies

- *Develop management statements for key post European settlement places together with Heritage Victoria and local historical societies.*
- *Implement strategies relating to post-settlement cultural places together or in consultation with historical groups, universities and other agencies, as appropriate (section 7.1).*
- *Maintain the Major Mitchell Trail and the Historic Shipwrecks Trail within the planning area, and liaise with other land managers to ensure the continuity of trails.*

- *Provide interpretation for selected significant post-European settlement places, in conjunction with local historical societies.*
- *Seek advice from relevant experts on conservation actions, particularly in relation to the recommendations for places listed in the LCC investigation (LCC 1997).*
- *Encourage, and provide opportunities for, further research into the post-European settlement land use of the planning area to ensure that places are appropriately recorded and managed.*

6 STRATEGIES FOR VISITORS

6.1 Information, interpretation and education

Parks Victoria delivers information and interpretation to visitors to the planning area by various means, including information shelters, Park Notes, joint tourism brochures, displays, interpretive signs, licensed tour operators and Rangers. Schools education is supported by resources on the Parks Victoria website. Effective communication of messages to visitors increases their satisfaction, enhances their safety, and raises their awareness of the planning area's values and their support for management practices to protect those values.

Promotion

Promotion of the planning area is focused on providing a quality tourist and visitor experience, and setting correct visitor expectations, rather than on the mass market. Parks Victoria co-operates with Glenelg Shire Council, Country Victoria Tourism Council and local and regional tourism associations and authorities to promote the area. Strategies to increase marketing efforts in Melbourne and overseas have been identified in the product region's Strategic Management Plan (GORM 2001).

The planning area is promoted as one of a number of assets in the region, and as a complement to other major coastal attractions to the east (e.g. Otways, Port Campbell and Warrnambool). Parks Victoria's positioning and promotion of the planning area's features as a regional asset increase the time spent by tourists in the region and consequently the amount of money spent. These increased expenditures strengthen the region's economy.

Pre-visit information

Pre-visit information about the planning area is provided on Parks Victoria's website and telephone Information Centre. Pre-visit information is also available from local government accredited Visitor Information Centres at Portland, Nelson (managed jointly by Parks Victoria and the Glenelg Shire Council), Hamilton and Warrnambool.

Pre-visit information for the planning area contributes significantly to promotion of the Glenelg Shire and the Portland area, and the tourist product for the western part of the Great Ocean Road product region.

Orientation

Directional signage to the planning area is provided by the Glenelg Shire Council and VicRoads in consultation with Parks Victoria. Directional signage provided by Parks Victoria at key visitor sites in the planning area gives orientation and facility information and guidance about appropriate behaviours. Walker orientation and safety, and park conservation, could be enhanced by appropriate improvements to signage for walkers (section 6.11).

Signs are also installed in the planning area in recognition of particular needs, including some initiated by the request of a local community. There are Great South West Walk 'step on – step off' signs posted at each entry and exit point from Cape Duquesne to Cape Nelson. A sign on the beach at the State border informs four-wheel-drive owners that vehicles cannot be driven on beaches in Victoria.

Interpretation

Interpretive signs and publications give explanatory information about the planning area and its history and natural features. This interpretation can form an important part of the visitor experience. The Great South West Walk promotes local flora, fauna and history messages through a dozen interpretive signs installed along the Walk from Cape Duquesne (The Blowholes – Petrified Forest precinct) to Cape Nelson and Cape Sir William Grant. Some other interpretive signage is provided as a component of regional trails (Major Mitchell Trail and the Historic Shipwrecks Trail).

Schools education

School enquiries about local resources and information are directed to specific staff or to the Parks Victoria website, which also provides support and resources.

School groups make extensive use of the Great South West Walk for outdoor education and leadership development training where

challenge in a remote environment is a part of the school's program. Such use is greatest during school holidays.

Many local school groups, and school groups from elsewhere staying in local camps, use Discovery Bay Coastal Park for educational purposes. The planning area's distance from Melbourne limits their potential for use by metropolitan schools.

Aims

- Provide appropriate pre-visit motivational and tour-planning information to visitors.
- Orientate visitors to the planning area and its features.
- Facilitate visitors' enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of the planning area by influencing their behaviour.
- Enhance the community's knowledge of the values of the planning area and its contributions to employment and the State's economy, and promote a positive image of the planning area.
- Inform visitors of appropriate behaviour during their visit to the planning area.

Management strategies

- *Incorporate Aboriginal tradition, including perspectives of landscape and environment and stories, and practices including resource use and management, into information, interpretation and education programs in co-operation with the Gournditch-Mara community and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation (section 7.1).*
- *Manage orientation and interpretation sites in accordance with table 3.*
- *Develop and deliver key messages (themes) through information shelters, displays, Park Notes and interpretive signs and programs, as appropriate and in accordance with table 3.*
- *Ensure that promotion, and educational and interpretive material:*
 - *highlights the requirement for walkers to avoid disturbance to fauna, especially ground-nesting shore birds during seasonal breeding periods (section 4.4) and specify major seasonal breeding times;*

- *highlights the impacts of recreational activities such as illegal off-road driving on values, especially ground-nesting birds and Indigenous cultural heritage (sections 4.3, 4.4, 4.7, 4.8 and 5.1).*
- *promotes the policy that visitors take all rubbish home with them.*

Promotion and pre-visit information

- *Promote the planning area as one of a number of tourist opportunities in the Great Ocean Road product region and the Discovery Coast and Hinterland Tourism Region, together with the Glenelg Shire Council and regional and State tourism authorities.*
- *Assist Glenelg Shire Council with information and interpretive materials relating to the planning area to enhance information and displays provided from Shire Council managed information centres.*
- *Encourage the Glenelg Shire Council and VicRoads to improve and maintain signage on access roads to the planning area.*
- *Encourage promotion of walking opportunities as a major feature of the planning area.*

Orientation

- *Provide adequate orientation information and safety messages through brochures, signage and other means, together with community groups and interest groups as appropriate.*
- *Provide information and signage about fishing regulations, fishing opportunities, safety, risks and access for visiting anglers, together with angling groups as appropriate.*
- *Maintain and improve walk signage as appropriate, indicating:*
 - *walk starting points;*
 - *major walk destinations;*
 - *distances, times and grades;*
 - *directions at intersections, particularly where the crossing is angled or offset;*
 - *areas that are off-limits to walkers;*
 - *warning signs;*

TABLE 3 ORIENTATION AND INTERPRETATION SITES MANAGEMENT

SITE	MAIN TOPICS	FACILITY / SERVICE	MANAGEMENT ACTION
Parks Victoria Offices			
- Portland – Nelson (Nelson Visitor Information Centre)	General park information Visitor Information	Personal information, brochures, Park Notes	
Discovery Bay Coastal Park–west			
Swan Lake	Dune system Coastal dynamics Catchment-fed Lake	Interpretive signage	Develop and maintain
Swan Lake transit corridor	Transit corridor	Warning and advisory signage for 4WD visitors	Maintain
Lake Monibeong	Freshwater Lakes System Power Boating —rationale of strategy	Interpretive and educational signage	Develop and maintain
Lake Monibeong	General park information	Information shelter	Develop and maintain
Nobles Rocks	Indigenous culture— historical connection and significance	Interpretive and educational signage	Develop and maintain
Ocean Beach	Dog access and management	Educational signage about Regulations	Develop and maintain
Glenelg River Estuary Beach	Little Tern (breeding area)	Interpretive signage	Develop and maintain
Discovery Bay Coastal Park – east/Cape Nelson State Park/Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve			
Yellow Rock	Flora and Fauna Geology Surfing Fishing	Interpretive signage	Develop and maintain
Flat Rock	Fishing from rock platforms	Warning signage	Develop and maintain
Cape Nelson picnic area	Orientation Flora and fauna Walking	Park Note	Maintain
Cape Nelson lighthouse (PV and lessee partnership)	Lightstation and maritime history	Interpretive signage Information shelter (existing shelter belongs to AMSA)	Maintain Develop and maintain
Sea Cliff Nature Walk	Flora and fauna Geology	Guided walk leaflet	Update and maintain
Shelley Beach	Geology	Interpretive signage	Maintain
Seal colony	Seals and other marine life Coastal dynamics	Interpretive signage	Upgrade and maintain

Table 3 (cont.)

SITE	MAIN TOPICS	FACILITY / SERVICE	MANAGEMENT ACTION
The Blowholes	Erosion and coastal dynamics	Information Shelter	Update and maintain
	Revegetation	Interpretive signage	Maintain
	Freshwater springs		
	Archaeological values		
	Indigenous culture		
	Settlement / development history		
Petrified Forest	Geological features	Interpretive signage	Maintain
Springs	Geology	Interpretive signage	Maintain
Bridgewater Lakes	Orientation	As included in Bridgewater Lakes management strategy (section 6.7)	Develop and maintain
	Multi-purpose use of lakes		
	Recreational opportunities and regulations including boating, swimming and fishing		
Tarragal caves	Geology	Interpretive signage	Develop and maintain
	Indigenous culture		
Mount Richmond National Park			
Mt Richmond summit	Landform	Information shelter	Update and maintain
	Flora and fauna	Park Note	Maintain
	Orientation		Investigate feasibility and options for erecting interpretation signage at top of tower
	Walking		
Benwerrin Nature Walk	Flora and fauna	Guided walk leaflet	Update and maintain
	Indigenous culture		
	History settlement and development		

Note: Parks Victoria's website and telephone Information Centre provide pre-visit information about the planning area.

- *emergency contacts and procedures.*

Interpretation and education

- *Prepare and implement interpretation programs for the planning area in accordance with table 3 and any regional interpretation plan prepared by Parks Victoria.*
- *Ensure that interpretive facilities and programs, and educational opportunities, appropriately target the facilitation of visitors' enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of the planning area, and are innovative and high-quality.*
- *Ensure that the services and facilities listed on the Parks Victoria website are up to date and are consistent with those provided in the planning area.*
- *Interpret Aboriginal cultural heritage, including places, objects, archaeological relics, tradition and practices, in co-operation with the Gournditch-Mara community and in accordance with their wishes.*
- *Include opportunities for learning, understanding and appreciating Aboriginal cultural heritage, including the spiritual significance of the land and other aspects of tradition (section 5.1), in*

interpretation and education services for the planning area's visitors, volunteers and Friends.

- *Encourage and support angling clubs and other interest groups to provide education and interpretation opportunities which foster enjoyable and safe fishing with minimal impact on the planning area's values.*
- *Investigate options for the provision of interpretation programs by licensed tour operators and peak bodies (section 6.10).*
- *Regularly evaluate information and interpretation programs and facilities relating to the planning area.*
- *Encourage schools and education groups to use minimal impact techniques and observe codes of conduct in educational activities.*
- *Promote the on-line educational services available on the Parks Victoria website to schools.*
- *Maintain staff contact with local schools as a means of encouraging community awareness of the planning area and involvement in its management.*

6.2 Vehicular access

Tourists usually gain access to the planning area by private Two-Wheel-Drive (2WD) or Four-Wheel-Drive (4WD) motor vehicles, motor cycles or commercial tour vehicles. Large buses visit Cape Nelson Lighthouse, The Blowholes and Glenelg River Estuary. Particularly in areas near Portland, some visits are made by bicycle, and substantial numbers of visitors walk into the planning area along the Great South West Walk (section 6.4). Motor boats are used in the Glenelg River Estuary and on the Bridgewater Lakes (section 6.7) and there is an area set aside for dune buggies operated by the Portland Dune Buggy Club in the Discovery Bay Dunes (section 8.2).

Most visitors in motor vehicles or on bicycles obtain access to the planning area via one of a relatively small number of roads that are mostly managed by the Glenelg Shire Council (table 4). These are:

- Mount Richmond National Park—Mount Richmond Road (also known as Stephens

Road and as Summit Road in the National Park);

- Cape Nelson State Park and the eastern coastline of Cape Nelson in Discovery Bay Coastal Park—Sheoaks Road / Scenic Road (Norman Wade Memorial Drive);
- Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve—Cape Nelson Road (access is also gained via Sheoaks Road and Scenic Road);
- Cape Bridgewater in Discovery Bay Coastal Park—Cape Bridgewater Road and the secondary route of Bridgewater Lakes Road;
- Discovery Bay—Kitsons Road, Bridgewater Lakes Road, Swan Lake Road, Lake Monibeong Road, Quarry Road and Beach Road all provide important vehicular access to the Coastal Park;
- Glenelg River Estuary in Discovery Bay Coastal Park—Beach Road provides the main access to the Glenelg River Estuary.

Visitors with local knowledge also use a small number of local roads and tracks to gain access to Mount Richmond National Park and the Discovery Bay and Bridgewater Bay sections of Discovery Bay Coastal Park. These routes are mostly on road reserve managed by the Glenelg Shire Council, although some are on freehold lands carrying pine plantations. The routes are used to gain access to walking tracks and fishing sites. Some also provide important management and emergency access to the planning area, as well as access to freehold land.

The planning area itself contains few tracks suitable for vehicular use by visitors. Most vehicular tracks are retained only for management purposes, especially fire and emergencies and they are also use for walking (section 6.4). A few vehicular tracks in Mount Richmond National Park are open for public vehicular use (table 4). In Discovery Bay Coastal Park there is a designated transit corridor (not a public road) through the Discovery Bay Dunes, linking the Swan Lake camping area and a parking area near the Discovery Bay Beach. This transit corridor may be used by visitors in registered and insured motor vehicles other than motor cycles, except during competitive dune buggy events in the area (section 8.2).

TABLE 4 ROAD AND VEHICULAR TRACK MANAGEMENT

ROAD	PLANNED CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITION AND COMMENTS	ACTION REQUIRED IN ADDITION TO NECESSARY MAINTENANCE
PLANNING AREA ROADS AND TRACKS			
Mt Richmond National Park			
Mount Richmond Road (section of Summit Road)	5,A,(O)	Principal access to Mt Richmond. 2WD.	-
Telegraph Road (section of alignment in park)	4,D,O	Scenic route impassable at times. 4WD.	Upgrade road to 2WD by limestone sheeting. Maintain scenic values.
Bridgewater Track	5,C,O	Good surface but narrow. 4WD.	Upgrade road to 2WD and incorporate into a tourist circuit drive.
West Spring Track	5,E,MVO	Sandy surface with wet areas. 4WD.	-
East Boundary Track (section of alignment in park)	5,E,MVO	Sandy surface with wet boggy areas in winter. 4WD.	-
Old South Boundary Track East of Mount Richmond Rd to Telegraph Rd)	5,E,MVO	4WD.	Sheet with limestone without degradation of scenery.
Old South Boundary Track West	5,B,MVO	Emergency access from Mt Richmond, 2WD.	-
Emu Hill Track	5,E,MVO	4WD.	Install locked gates to control illegal off-road four-wheel-drive, motorbike and trail-bike activity.
Hanns Track	5,E,MVO	4WD.	Only basic maintenance.
Mortons Track	4,E,MVO	Private property access, 4WD.	-
Kennedys Track	5,E,MVO	Emergency access only. 4WD. Overgrown.	-
South Fire Line	5,E,MVO	Hill sections sandy, prone to erosion. 4WD.	Only basic maintenance.
Cape Nelson State Park			
Cape Nelson picnic area access	5,B,O	Short well-defined road and carpark providing access to picnic area. 2WD.	Investigate need to upgrade road surface.
Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve			
Cape Nelson Lighthouse Carpark	5,A,(O)	Carpark on access to Cape Nelson Lighthouse lease area.	Assess need to seal carpark.

Table 4 (cont.)

ROAD	PLANNED CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITION AND COMMENTS	ACTION REQUIRED IN ADDITION TO NECESSARY MAINTENANCE
Discovery Bay Coastal Park			
<u>Nelson Bay area</u>			
Devils Kitchen access road	5,B,O	Short well-defined road and turning circle. 2WD.	-
<u>Bridgewater Bay area</u>			
Murrells Beach access track	5,D,O	Local fishing and surfing access. 2WD.	Formalise carpark and control erosion. Improve walking access to the beach. No boat launching.
Beach access track linked to southern end of Nagorckas Road	5,E,MVO*	Used illegally for 4WD vehicle and motor trail bike access. Key access point for management vehicles, emergency rescue, Indigenous Cultural Heritage site management, fishing and beach access.	-
Track (near Trewalla Camp)	4,D,O	Short track and carpark. 2WD.	-
Bishops Rock Beach access track	5,D,O	Short vehicle access track. 2WD. Carpark linked to beach by walking track. Very steep beach access.	Formalise carpark and investigate improvements to access track and beach.
Shelley Beach access	5,E,O	Surfing and beach access. 2WD. Carpark.	-
<u>Cape Bridgewater area</u>			
Blowholes/Petrified Forest Access Road	4,A,O	Carpark and walking access features. 2WD.	Fully seal carpark and upgrade facilities—refer strategy in section 6.3.
<u>Discovery Bay area</u>			
Swan Lake Road (ext.) and designated transit corridor to beach	4, D,O; 4,E,O	To carpark at Swan Lake—2WD. Designated corridor to near beach—4WD (no motor cycles).	-
Lake Monibeong Road (ext.) and west beach access track	4,D,O	To Lake Monibeong camp—2WD; To Western Monibeong Beach—4WD.	-
Nobles Rocks Beach track (ext. Quarry Road)	4,D,O	Access to parking near beach. 2WD.	-
Beach Road and Ocean Beach access track	5,B,O	Access to two carparks near Glenelg River Estuary. 2WD. Access to carpark near Ocean Beach. 2WD.	Ensure protection of environmental and Indigenous cultural values.

Table 4 (cont.)

ROAD	PLANNED CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITION AND COMMENTS	ACTION REQUIRED IN ADDITION TO NECESSARY MAINTENANCE
ACCESS ROADS LEADING TO PLANNING AREA			
Mount Richmond National Park			
Mount Richmond Road (Stephens Road)	5,A,O	Principal access to the park. Managed by the Shire. 2WD.	Encourage Shire Council to maintain as part of a scenic drive.
Telegraph Road (section west of Mount Richmond Road)	4,C,O	Managed by the Shire. 2WD.	Encourage Shire Council to maintain as part of a scenic drive.
Telegraph Road (section bounded by park)	4,D,O	Scenic route. Managed by the Shire. Sections of alignment in park.	Seek Shire Council's agreement to management by PV. PV to upgrade road to 2WD.
Kennedys Road	4,D,O	Managed by the Shire. 2WD.	Encourage Shire Council to maintain as part of a scenic drive.
North Boundary Track	4,E,MVO	Managed by the Shire. Sections of alignment may be within the park. Sandy surface with wet boggy areas in winter. 4WD.	Negotiate maintenance with Shire Council.
Cape Nelson State Park and Lighthouse Reserve			
Cape Nelson Road	4,A,O	Primary access to Cape Nelson and the Lighthouse Reserve. Managed by the Shire. 2WD.	Encourage Shire Council to maintain.
Discovery Bay Coastal Park			
Thistle Road	5,D,O	Leads to locked gate at park boundary near Crayfish Bay. Managed by the Shire.	Encourage Shire Council to upgrade road for visitor use.
Sheoaks Road / Scenic Road (Norman Wade Memorial Drive)	4,A,O	Principal scenic access to Nelson Bay coastline. Scenic Drive is located on road reserve within the park. Managed by the Shire. 2WD.	Encourage Shire Council to maintain as the preferred access to Cape Nelson. Negotiate construction of improved roadside pull-offs at sites with scenic views, including pull-off for 15-20 vehicles at Yellow Rock, with the Council.
Murrells Beach access track	5,D,O	Local fishing and surfing access. Managed by the Shire. 2WD.	Encourage Shire Council to improve access track for 2WD - carpark.
Nagorckas Road	4,D,MVO/O	Managed by the Shire. 2WD to locked gate.	Refer strategy in section 6.2.
Track (north of Trewalla Camp)	4,D,O	Managed by the Shire Council. 2WD.	-
Cape Bridgewater Road	4,A,O	Access to Bridgewater Bay Foreshore Reserve. Managed by the Shire. 2WD. Roadside parking for access to tours to seal colony.	Encourage Shire Council to maintain.
The Blowholes Road	4,A,O	Access leading to major tourist attraction. Managed by the Shire. 2WD.	Encourage Shire Council to maintain.

Table 4 (cont.)

ROAD	PLANNED CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITION AND COMMENTS	ACTION REQUIRED IN ADDITION TO NECESSARY MAINTENANCE
Amos Road	5,C,O	Access to Great South West Walk and track leading to Whites Beach. Popular interpretation site. Managed by the Shire.	Encourage Shire Council to maintain suitable access and parking for cars and buses.
Kitisons Road	4,C,O	Access to Great South West Walk and access to Blacks Beach. Managed by the Shire. 2WD.	Encourage Shire Council to maintain.
Bridgewater Lakes Road	4,A,O	Access to Bridgewater Lakes and Tarrigul caves carpark, which is in the park. Managed by the Shire. 2WD.	Encourage Shire Council to maintain.
Bridgewater Lakes access track	4,B,O	Access road to Bridgewater Lakes carpark and picnic area which are within the park. Managed by the Shire.	Clarify road reserve, park and grazing license area boundaries, and road management responsibilities, with Shire Council and adjacent property holder.
Swan Lake Road	4,C,O	Gravelled road over steep limestone terrain. Managed by the Shire.	Encourage Shire Council to install safety signs on crests.
Lake Monibeong Road	4,C,O	Access to Lake Monibeong. Sandy sections near park. 2WD. Private plantation road managed by Hancock Victorian Plantations.	Encourage land manager to sheet with limestone gravel on sandy sections and maintain as key access point.
Quarry Road	4,C,O	Links to Nobles Rocks access track in park. Section of important local access route to beach for local fishermen. Some sandy sections. 2WD. Managed by Hancock Victorian Plantations.	Encourage land manager to sheet with limestone gravel on sandy sections, maintain, install traffic warning signs, and avoid promotion to general public.
Beach Road	5,A,O	Principal access (2WD) to Glenelg River estuary overlook. Managed by the Shire. 2WD.	Encourage Shire Council to maintain at suitable standard to park boundary.

* Also conditional access for public vehicles on a trial basis—refer strategy in section 6.2.

Key to categories in Parks Victoria Roads Classification:

Function:

Class 4 roads provide for park access, and additional functions such as commercial uses, through access to other locations (outside the parks), or access to private property or utilities.

Class 5 roads exclusively provide access for visitors into parks for recreational activities, or exclusive use for Park Management.

Development (NB Levels of service reference 1-5 = A-E, U = unsealed, S = sealed):

- A Primary Road — all weather, two-laned, mainly sealed road.
 - B Secondary Road — all weather, two-laned formed and gravelled, or single lane sealed with gravel shoulders.
 - C Minor Road — Single lane unsealed, formed road usually lightly gravelled.
 - D Access Track — Single lane, dry weather formed (from natural materials).
 - E Rough Track — Single lane, unformed earth track at or near the natural surface.
- Status:
- O Open to public vehicles.
 - MVO Management vehicles only.

Trail-bike riding and off-road four-wheel-driving is a significant and increasing threat to the values of Discovery Bay Coastal Park, particularly in the coastal dunes adjacent to Bridgewater Bay and Discovery Bay. Illegal off-road activities have substantial adverse impacts on the environmental values of Discovery Bay Coastal Park, including:

- disturbance of highly significant archaeological sites;
- soil erosion, slumping and channelling;
- landscape degradation;
- vegetation disturbance;
- disturbance to ground-nesting birds and other fauna.

Off-road vehicle use also threatens the vegetation by the introduction and spread of undesirable pathogens and weed seeds.

The track leading south from Nagorckas Road is of special concern. Uncontrolled motorcycling occurring along the track and in the surrounding dunes is resulting in considerable damage to shell middens. Particularly near the coast, compaction, erosion and braiding of the track is resulting in considerable loss of vegetation. This track is used by anglers in four-wheel-drive vehicles to access the Bridgewater Bay Beach and by the Gournditch-Mara to visit and maintain cultural sites. It also provides essential management and emergency vehicle access to the beach. There are no obvious suitable alternatives to the existing alignment. An independent report has recommended either closure or permit access only via a locked gate (Godfrey 2000; Schell 2000a).

Four-wheel-drive vehicles also gain access from South Australia illegally to the Discovery Bay Beach west of the Glenelg River. A sign on the beach at the State border indicates that vehicles are prohibited on beaches in Discovery Bay Coastal Park.

Off-road vehicular use is also a significant concern on sections of the Great South West Walk, and certain tracks in Mount Richmond National Park, where the illegal use of motor-bikes, trail-bikes, four-wheel-drive vehicles and mountain bikes creates conflict between park users and threatens the safety of walkers.

Occasionally, access is sought to various sections of beach by commercial fishermen seeking to launch fishing boats for emergency purposes or to retrieve stranded fishing gear, or by tour boat operators to launch boats.

Noise levels from motorised activities within the planning area can reach levels that unduly disturb neighbouring residents, and may need to be managed.

Careful management of the public access to Discovery Bay Coastal Park by Glenelg Shire Council and other managers is necessary to enhance the amenity of visitors and control illegal visitor activities and damage to values in the planning area. Additions of substantial amounts of limestone gravel will be required to restore the existing sections of eroding and unsightly track to natural surface levels. Options for realigning track sections are usually limited by topographic features and the location of road reserve.

Aims

- Maintain existing public access in the planning area to standards appropriate to the use and protection of particular sites.
- Identify opportunities for reducing vehicular impacts on the planning area.
- Facilitate responsible four-wheel-drive vehicle use in appropriate areas.
- Protect park values from illegal off-road driving including sensitive dune areas.
- Ensure that appropriate materials are used for road construction and maintenance.

Management strategies

- *Maintain and manage vehicular access roads and tracks within the planning area in accordance with table 4.*
- *Encourage community and user groups, to participate in maintaining access routes (section 7.1).*
- *Encourage cycling on roads and tracks open to motor vehicles, except for the transit corridor in Discovery Bay Dunes. Do not permit cycling on other tracks, including walking tracks.*
- *Continue to provide access for registered and insured motor vehicles other than motor cycles along the designated corridor*

-
- linking the Swan Lake camping area and the parking area near the Discovery Bay Beach. Monitor impacts associated with use of the corridor.*
- *Ensure that visitors do not use the corridor linking Swan Lake camping area and the parking area near Discovery Bay Beach during any competitive dune buggy events in the area including the corridor (section 8.2).*
 - *Develop and implement protocols for access to the planning area by emergency services and commercial fishermen designated by the Port McDonnell Professional Fishermens Association (for recovery of gear stranded on Discovery Bay Beach), together with stakeholders as appropriate and in accordance with Land Conservation (Vehicle Control) Regulations 2003 and National Parks (Park) Regulations.*
 - *Investigate the feasibility of allowing vessels including commercial fishing boats and tour boats to be launched from the beach at appropriate locations.*
 - *Implement, in a working partnership with relevant community and user groups (section 7.1), an 18 month trial strategy for managing the track linking the end of Nagorckas Road to the parking area near Discovery Bay Beach, that includes:*
 - *closing the track by gating the entry at the park boundary;*
 - *requiring track users to obtain written permission to use the track for vehicular access from the Ranger in Charge of the Coastal Park;*
 - *monitoring visitor use and the impacts on the Coastal Park;*
 - *regular consultation with stakeholders to address issues.*
 - *Review the outcomes of the trial strategy for managing the track linking the end of Nagorckas Road to the parking area near Discovery Bay Beach after 18 months, in consultation with relevant community groups and users. Determine appropriate management of the access track. If the trial strategy is not successful, restrict use to management vehicles only.*
 - *Review the existing vehicle track network within Mount Richmond National Park, in consultation with stakeholders. Give due consideration to fire access requirements. Work with stakeholders to develop and implement an approved track rationalisation program.*
 - *Monitor and prevent illegal motor-bike, trail-bike and four-wheel-drive entry to walking tracks within the planning area, especially The Great South West Walk and tracks used for walking in Mount Richmond National Park.*
 - *Prevent illegal off-road vehicle use, especially vehicle use in dune fields, in a working partnership with local police, key user groups and local landowners. Where appropriate, assist landholders to fence the Coastal Park boundary to deter illegal four-wheel-drive and trail-bike access.*
 - *Liaise with and encourage tour companies that visit the Glenelg River Estuary to protect park values by avoiding the parking of coaches close to beaches.*
 - *Encourage and work with the Glenelg Shire Council, VicRoads and relevant local landholders, including plantation managers, to identify appropriate standards of specification and maintenance for access roads to the planning area. Encourage agencies and landowners to implement agreed standards.*
 - *Support investigation and implementation by relevant road management authorities of initiatives:*
 - *to develop a tourist route linking Mount Richmond National Park and Bridgewater Lakes on existing roads, including Stephen's Road, Telegraph Road, Bridgewater Track and Kennedy's Road;*
 - *to improve Sheoaks Road/Scenic Road (Norman Wade Memorial Drive) sensitively as part of a scenic loop linking Portland and Cape Nelson.*
 - *Negotiate with the Glenelg Shire Council for the completion of vehicle pull-offs and viewing opportunities along Scenic Road (Norman Wade Memorial Drive) in*

accordance with an existing landscape plan (Orr-Young 1996).

- *Ensure that all roadworks implemented by Parks Victoria staff, consultants and contractors:*
 - *include appropriate environmental and cultural risk assessments;*
 - *use materials that minimise impacts on landscape;*
 - *provide for transit lanes as necessary;*
 - *accord with relevant legislation and Parks Victoria's 'Guidelines for Working with Aboriginal Communities and Protection of Cultural Sites'.*

6.3 Day visitor activities

Most day visits are made to Mount Richmond summit in the National Park or one of a few coastal sites in Cape Nelson State Park or Discovery Bay Coastal Park or Cape Nelson Lighthouse in the Lighthouse Reserve (section 8.1).

Bridgewater Lakes is used by a range of visitors, including many in large groups, for leisure and recreation pursuits including swimming, canoeing, motor boating, skiing including jet-skiing, fishing, bird watching, walking, education and picnicking (section 6.4–6.11).

Many visits are made by residents of local towns or regional cities such as Mount Gambier. Many make regular visits. The lakes are very popular with travellers for picnics. Most tourists stay in the planning area for a few hours at most.

A number of facilities need increased maintenance. These include the Australian Fur Seal Colony walking access track, The Blowholes viewing platform, carpark and toilet, and the water tanks, pump and toilet block in Mount Richmond National Park.

Aims

- Provide day visitor facilities that enhance visitors' enjoyment of the planning area while protecting park values.
- Provide and maintain safe visitor facilities of an adequate standard for visitors.

Management strategies

- *Manage day visitor facilities in the planning area in accordance with table 5 and figures 1–4.*
- *Plan and implement improvements to visitor facilities (sections 6.4–6.11) in co-operation with the Gournditch-Mara community and the Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation (section 7.1), and together with the local community and user groups as appropriate (section 7.2).*
- *Encourage community groups, and groups with interests in particular facilities, to work with Parks Victoria in planning, developing and managing facilities in accordance with the plan.*
- *Develop a strategic approach to maintaining and improving day visitor facilities.*
- *Complete necessary improvements to existing facilities, including investigating access from the viewing platform to the water at Yellow Rock.*
- *Maintain the Cape Bridgewater Australian Fur Seal Colony Precinct as a walker access site (section 6.4).*
- *Develop and implement a plan to improve the overall presentation of The Blowholes precinct as a key tourist destination, including:*
 - *visitor safety;*
 - *visual amenity;*
 - *protection of natural and heritage values;*
 - *access for visitors with disabilities.*
- *Monitor the management and operation of the lighthouse precinct and encourage the Cape Nelson Lighthouse lessee to take opportunities to improve services (section 8.1).*
- *Investigate the feasibility of continuing public access at the Tarragal Caves with the Gournditch–Mara community and Winda–Mara Aboriginal Corporation.*

TABLE 5 RECREATION SITE MANAGEMENT

SITE	LEVEL OF SERVICE	FISHING ACCESS	CAMP	SHELTER	TOILET	PICNIC TABLE	FIRE-PLACE	WATER SUPPLY	WALK TRACK	LOOK -OUT	STEPS BOARDWALK	COMMENTS
Mount Richmond National Park												
Summit	Mid	na	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Upgrade information board and review other existing facilities.
Cape Nelson State Park												
Sea Cliff Nature walk carpark	B	na	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	-
Cape Nelson Picnic Area	B	na	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	-
Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve												
Cape Nelson Lighthouse	Mid	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	-
Discovery Bay Coastal Park												
<u>Nelson Bay area</u>												
(Crayfish Bay)	VB	(Y, Ec*)	N	N	N	N	N	N	(Y)	(Y)	N	Located on Crown land to be considered for addition to Discovery Bay Coastal Park.
Yellow Rock	Mid	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y/U	Extend built access to beach.
Flat Rock	VB	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Install warning signage (unexpected waves).
Scenic Road viewing sites	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Roadside pull-offs at various locations for improving visitor safety. Several completed pull-offs may require maintenance and upgrading.
Devils Kitchen	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y/U	N	N	-
<u>Bridgewater Bay area</u>												
Murrells Beach	B	Y, Ec*	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y/U	N	N	Improve and upgrade carpark and walking access to beach.
Beach south of end of Nagorckas Road	VB	Y, Ec	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Trial access via keyed gate—refer section 6.2.
The Hole	VB	Y, Ec	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y/U	N	N	Assess need to upgrade walking track.

Table 5 (cont.)

SITE	LEVEL OF SERVICE	FISHING ACCESS	CAMP	SHELTER	TOILET	PICNIC TABLE	FIRE-PLACE	WATER SUPPLY	WALK TRACK	LOOK -OUT	STEPS BOARDWALK	COMMENTS
Bishops Rock Beach	B	Y, Ec*	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Assess requirements to upgrade.
Shelley Beach	B	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y/P	Y	Complete construction of lookout.
Bridgewater Bay Kiosk Beach East staircase	VB	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	-
<u>Cape Bridgewater area</u>												
(Seal Colony Carpark)	Mid	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	(Y)	(Y)	N	Site outside planning area. Encourage Shire and VicRoads to construct carpark with appropriate capacity on road reserve.
(Boat shed/jetty)	VB	(Y)	N	N	N	N	N	N	(Y)	N	N	Site outside the planning area.
Seal Colony viewing platform	Mid	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Improve information about Australian Fur Seals. Maintain and monitor upgraded facility.
Petrified Forest—Cape Dusquesne	M	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	-
The Blowholes—Cape Dusquesne	H	N	N	N	Y/U	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Complete improvements to site—refer section 6.3.
The Springs	Mid	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	-
Whites Beach	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Abuts Marine National Park.
Blacks Beach	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y/U	N	N	Abuts Marine National Park. Natural lookout. Realign walking track to reduce erosion.
Bridgewater Lakes Picnic Area	Mid	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Refer strategy in section 6.7.
Tarragal Caves	Mid	na	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y/P	N	N	Refer strategy in section 8.2.
<u>Discovery Bay area</u>												
Swan Lake Day Visit Area	B	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	-

Table 5 (cont.)

SITE	LEVEL OF SERVICE	FISHING ACCESS	CAMP	SHELTER	TOILET	PICNIC TABLE	FIRE-PLACE	WATER SUPPLY	WALK TRACK	LOOK -OUT	STEPS BOARDWALK	COMMENTS
Swan Lake Public Camp	Mid	na	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	-
Swan Lake Dune Buggy Camp	Mid	na	Y	Y/P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Negotiate maintenance by Portland Dune Buggy Club Inc.—refer section 6.8.
Swan Lake Ocean Beach	na	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Vehicular access closed during competitive events—refer sections 6.2 and 8.2.
Eastern Monibeong Beach	VB	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Improve access track for walkers.
Western Monibeong Beach	VB	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	-
Lake Monibeong Camping Area	B	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Refer strategy section 6.6.
Nobles Rocks Beach	B	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Key fishing use.
Ocean Beach	Mid	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	-
Gleneelg River Estuary	Mid	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Completed. Maintain and manage.
Camps on the Great South West Walk												
Mallee Camp	Mid	na	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	-
Trewalla Camp	Mid	Y, Ec*	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	-
The Springs Camp	Mid	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	-
Swan Lake	B	na	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	-
Lake Monibeong	B	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-
White Sands	VB	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	-

KEY:

Levels of Service: VH=Very high; H=High; Mid=Mid; B=Basic; VB=Very basic.

Fishing access: Y=Yes; N=No; na = Not applicable; E = use encouraged; Ec = Use encouraged if access is improved; * indicates improvements conditional on resourcing by community groups.

Facilities: Y=Yes; N=No; NA=Not applicable; P=Provide; U=Upgrade; R=Remove;

Review the levels of service provided at the Mount Richmond summit area, including consideration of visitor numbers and activities, and maintenance and replacement costs of existing facilities. Maintain, remove or replace facilities as appropriate.

- *Work co-operatively with local police and Glenelg Shire Council to tackle increasing vandalism of water tanks, toilets and signage, particularly at Cape Nelson.*
- *Encourage visitors to take their rubbish home (section 6.1).*
- *Permit solid fuel fires only in fireplaces provided by Parks Victoria.*
- *Permit gas and liquid fuel fires only within three metres of fireplaces provided by Parks Victoria and between high and low water mark on beaches within Discovery Bay Coastal Park.*
- *Encourage visitors using fireplaces to bring their own firewood from outside the planning area.*
- *Prohibit the use of chainsaws throughout the planning area.*
- *Prohibit the use of generators throughout the planning area in accordance with Parks Victoria policy, except in the camping area at Swan Lake (section 6.6).*

6.4 Walking

There are numerous opportunities for walking on dedicated walking tracks. A wide range of visitors enjoys walking in the planning area.

Information about the walks in the planning area is included in a booklet (Friends of the Great South West Walk & NPS 1996).

Short walks

Most tracks in Discovery Bay Coastal Park and Cape Nelson State Park are short, and in some cases circular. They provide access to attractions such as scenic vistas or fishing sites, and associated facilities. Some tracks provide access to coastal sections of the Great South West Walk. There are also several circular walks in Mount Richmond National Park.

The Three Capes Walk, developed by Parks Victoria and The Great South West Walk

committee, is a walk with accommodation options.

Great South West Walk

The Great South West Walk ('the Walk') is a major regional tourist attraction that was conceived and developed by the Friends of the Great South West Walk ('the Friends') (section 7.2).

The overall route of the Walk is circular; it is approximately 250 km in length, and links the towns of Portland and Nelson. The route incorporates the coastal environments in Discovery Bay Coastal Park and Cape Nelson State Park and coastal Crown land south of Portland. It also includes the forest and river environments of the coastal hinterland, including Lower Glenelg National Park, Cobbooboonee State Forest and some freehold land. A major alternative section of the coastal route includes Mount Richmond in Mount Richmond National Park.

The Walk provides most of the opportunities for longer walks in the planning area. Access to various sections of the Walk is gained by short access tracks. The route along the Discovery Bay Beach, which offers a different experience of this magnificent and remote section of coast, can be walked in a number of sections.

The Friends and Parks Victoria co-operate in maintaining the sections of the Great South West Walk in the planning area and in Lower Glenelg National Park. Parks Victoria is committed to continuing its relationship with the Friends, strengthening community partnerships and providing support for the Walk and the Friends as appropriate (sections 7.1 and 7.2).

Use of the Walk is increasing, some groups approaching it as a challenge in youth leadership and self esteem programs (e.g. the Duke of Edinburgh Awards). International visitors form a small but significant number of users.

The Walk is promoted as a major walking opportunity on a Victorian, national and international scale. The future development and marketing of the Walk is addressed in a separate study (Parks Victoria & Friends of the Great South West Walk 1997).

Management

The network of walking tracks in the planning area is a challenge to manage as the activities of walkers can impact on a range of park values. Of particular concern are activities associated with The Great South West Walk. On Discovery Bay Beach, rough seas and high tides push walkers onto the loose dry sand near the foredunes, which have significant Indigenous cultural value and which Hooded Plovers and other birds favour for nesting.

Some sections of the Walk away from the coast need improvements to protect the planning area's values and make better provision for family groups and, where practicable, people with limited mobility. Careful planning is necessary to ensure the appropriate selection of construction materials, avoid impacts on long distance views to and from the planning area, and minimise the risks to visitors.

Risk assessments into all aspects of the walks in the planning area, including geotechnical assessment of cliff sites, are necessary to minimise potential risks to users and assets and to protect Friends or other groups from potential liability.

Certain community groups are showing an increasing interest in co-operating with Parks Victoria in the implementation of planned improvements to facilities and maintenance (section 7.1).

Aims

- Provide for a variety of walking experiences, including long-distance walking experiences for independent and guided walkers.
- Maintain tracks to standards appropriate to their settings while minimising the impacts on park values.

Management strategies

- *Maintain and improve walking tracks in accordance with table 6.*
- *Manage and promote the Great South West Walk together with the Friends of the Great South West Walk, groups with interests in particular sections or facilities, and the Glenelg Shire Council, as appropriate.*

- *Investigate opportunities for improving the existing walking track network in partnership with the Friends of the Great South West Walk, other interested community groups and DSE Biodiversity and Natural Resources Division (section 7.1) consistent with the following:*
 - *protection of park values;*
 - *feasibility of implementation and maintenance;*
 - *cost-effective selection of designs and materials with due regard to construction, maintenance and replacement in the harsh coastal environment;*
 - *that environmental, landscape and cultural heritage risk assessments are made and necessary standards met;*
 - *that budgets are comprehensive, including costs of maintenance and replacement;*
 - *that works accord with plans and designs authorised in accordance with Parks Victoria's guidelines and any related legislation and regulations;*
 - *that assets are entered and/or updated on Parks Victoria's Asset database.*
- *Investigate options for surfacing sections of the Great South West Walk. Ensure that materials used harmonise with the natural landscape and are the most cost-effective of those available.*
- *Ensure that volunteers, consultants, contractors and staff work in accordance with Parks Victoria's 'Guidelines for Working with Aboriginal Communities and Protection of Cultural Sites' and legislative requirements.*
- *Investigate, as a priority, opportunities to realign the existing degraded walking track on road reserve at Bridgewater Lakes to reduce impacts on park values and provide safe access to the beach for walkers, anglers and horse riders. Arrest erosion and revegetate the existing track alignment if an alternative track alignment is developed.*

TABLE 6 WALKING TRACKS MANAGEMENT

TRACK / SECTION	CLASS CURRENT / PLANNED	COMMENTS	ACTIONS
GREAT SOUTH WEST WALK			
Mount Richmond National Park	4 / 4	Parallel with Telegraph Road, Whites Track, West Walk, Old South Boundary Track, Emu Hill Track, Hanns Track and Mortons Track.	Maintain and improve directional signage, particularly at track corners and junctions.
Mount Richmond National Park (longer walk)	4 / 4	Kennedys Road, access to new camp.	Investigate feasibility of any new track sections.
Coastal Park—Nelson Bay	4 / 4	Unformed walk along beach.	Maintain.
Cape Nelson State Park	4 / 4		Skirts Cape Nelson cliffs. Maintain.
Coastal Park—Bridgewater Bay	4 / 4		The Enchanted Forest. Maintain.
Coastal Park—Seal Colony to Petrified Forest—Petrified Forest to The Blowholes	4 / 4-2 (as appropriate)	Mostly accessed from The Blowholes; provides access to the Petrified Forest. Receives much use.	Maintain. Improve disabled access from The Blowholes to Petrified Forest.
Coastal Park—The Blowholes to Springs (popular short walk)—Springs to Blacks Beach	4 / 4-3 (as appropriate)	Mostly accessed from The Blowholes; provides access to the Springs, heavy use.	Investigate options to control erosion.
Coastal Park—Discovery Bay	4 / 4	Unformed walk along beach.	Maintain.
Coastal Park—Discovery Bay (inland loop, Swan Lake Camp to Mt Richmond)	4 / 4	Sheltered walk through forest. Partly on freehold land.	Maintain.
MOUNT RICHMOND NATIONAL PARK—LOCAL TRACKS			
Benwerrin Nature Walk	3 / 3	Self-guided nature walk, with leaflet.	Maintain. Investigate installation of interpretive signs to replace leaflet.
Noels Walk	4 / 4	Loop walk back to Mt Richmond Road.	Maintain.
West Walk	4 / 4	Loop walk back to Mt Richmond Road.	Maintain.
Ocean View Walk	3 / 3	Shorter loop, with lookout, seats.	Maintain.
CAPE NELSON STATE PARK—LOCAL TRACKS			
Tip of Cape Nelson	2 / 2	Access to views at tip of Cape. New track section.	Close existing sections of The Walk from western coastal cliff to lighthouse carpark. Avoid archaeological sites. Close access to the rock platforms for fishing. Reopen, subject to safety audits.
Sea Cliff Nature Walk	3 / 3	Cape Nelson Road to western cliffs.	Maintain. Update leaflet or provide interpretive signs.
Lighthouse Walk	4 / 4	Loop from picnic area via lighthouse.	Maintain.

Table 6 (cont.)

TRACK / SECTION	CLASS CURRENT / PLANNED	COMMENTS	ACTIONS
DISCOVERY BAY COASTAL PARK—LOCAL TRACKS			
Nelson Bay			
Crayfish Bay access	4 / 4	Coastal access, viewing, fishing, surfing.	Improve track to contain erosion (long-term proposal).
Yellow Rock access	3 / 3	Coastal access, viewing, fishing, surfing.	Extension of viewing platform to beach is proposed.
Bridgewater Bay			
Murrells Beach	4 / 4	Coastal access, fishing, surfing.	Upgrade and maintain walking track to beach, restore erosion damage.
Shelley Beach	3 / 3	Coastal access, viewing, fishing, surfing. Recently upgraded.	Provide viewing platform.
The Hole	4 / 4	Fishing access.	Assess and stabilise as needed.
Cape Bridgewater			
Seal Colony access	3 / 3	Steepest walk in the region; traverses freehold land in part, heavy use. Recently realigned.	Maintain. Provide interpretive signs.
Whites Beach	4 / 4	Coastal access, fishing (only from designated section of beach), swimming.	Maintain.
Blacks Beach	4 / 4	Passes close to dune field. Coastal access, viewing.	Realign to reduce erosion.
Bridgewater Lakes			
Bridgewater Lakes beach access	4 / 4		Maintain safe access to the beach for walkers. Investigate options to realign existing track; close off existing badly eroded access track, stabilise and revegetate if alternative track is developed (sections 6.3 and 6.8).
Tarragal Caves access	4 / 4	Access up steep slope to caves; stile on roadside fence.	Re-route to reduce grade; provide gentler grade return loop.
Discovery Bay			
Lake Monibeong (beach to camp)	4 / 4	Short walk through dunes and coastal vegetation.	Maintain.
Livingstone Island	3 / 4	Nature walk accessing Glenelg River Estuary and Oxbow Lake.	Maintain.
Glenelg River Estuary	2 / 2	Access to Glenelg River Estuary overlook.	Maintain.
Glenelg River Nelson western shore	4 / 4	Local beach access, fishing, stile over fence. Partly on freehold land.	Maintain.

Note: Management Vehicle Only tracks (table 4) are also available to walkers.

Key to Australian Standards Classification for tracks:

Grade 1 Large number of visitors with high level of interpretation facilities.

Table 6 (cont).

Grade 2	Opportunity for a large number of visitors to walk easily in a natural environment with a moderate level of interpretation and facilities.
Grade 3	Opportunity to walk in relatively undisturbed natural environments, requiring moderate levels of fitness and care. Low levels of interpretation and facilities.
Grade 4	Opportunity for visitors to explore and discover natural environments along distinct tracks with minimal if any facilities.
Grade 5	Opportunity for those with advanced outdoor knowledge and skills to find their own way along often-indistinct trails to more remote locations.
Grade 6	Opportunity for highly experienced walkers to explore remote and potentially hazardous natural areas without reliance on managed tracks.

6.5 Fishing

Discovery Bay Coastal Park and Cape Nelson State Park offer a wide range of recreational fishing opportunities from ocean surf beaches, rock platforms, the Glenelg River Estuary and various lakes.

Fishing, eeling and shellfish harvesting have been sustainably practised by Indigenous communities along the beaches, rock platforms, lakes and streams for thousands of years (section 5.1). Extensive shellfish middens within the Discovery Bay Dunes attest to this (section 5.1). The Gournditch-Mara still fish and collect shellfish from these coastal areas.

Ocean fishing is available along the whole of the coastline of the planning area, except in areas of Discovery Bay Marine National Park (section 2.5) where fishing is prohibited. The Marine National Park extends to high water mark between Blacks Beach and Whites Beach. At Blacks Beach, the alignment of the Marine National Park boundary is indicated by an orange peg in a sand dune and a red-painted sign on the escarpment. At Whites Beach, the alignment of the Marine National Park boundary is indicated by a red-painted triangle on rock and an orange peg at the carpark.

Ocean fishing opportunities include shark in summer at night and Australian Salmon from shoals visiting the Coastal Park's beaches during winter months. Beds of clamshells (pipis) occur at a number of beaches in Discovery Bay Coastal Park and may be collected for fishing bait by locals and visitors in accordance with the *Fisheries Regulations 1998*.

There are a number of long established fishing locations on the planning area coastline, which include Flat Rock in Nelson Bay, Murrells

Beach, Shelley Beach and Bridgewater Beach in Bridgewater Bay, and Bridgewater Lakes Ocean Beach, Eastern Monibeong Beach, Nobles Rocks and White Sands in Discovery Bay. Anglers prefer to visit locations where vehicles can be driven reasonably close to the water as they often carry a lot of equipment.

Sound local knowledge of the access routes to fishing locations and the associated hazards is essential to safe use. Anglers can easily expose themselves to danger by using routes over difficult or exposed topography, or locations with dangerous marine or climatic conditions. Several rock-fishing sites can be accessed only by informal tracks down steep cliffs, and some beaches (particularly between Cape Bridgewater and Cape Nelson), and rock platforms, can be dangerous as a result of treacherous rips or gullies or rapid changes in weather conditions. Anglers need to seek sound local advice about fishing sites, access and conditions, and advise someone of their proposed whereabouts, before visiting, and take precautions and remain aware during the visit.

Most anglers are sympathetic to natural and cultural resources and take care to avoid damaging park values. Use of some informal fishing access tracks can, however threaten natural and cultural values, particularly those associated with cliff faces and middens.

Parks Victoria acknowledges ocean surf beach and rock fishing as legitimate recreational pursuits, and accepts that access routes should be maintained to a range of coastal fishing locations which do not expose visitors to danger or pose a threat to the planning area's values.

User groups can benefit from working together and with Parks Victoria to carry out appropriate maintenance or improvements to

access routes and facilities that may not otherwise be possible (section 7.1). In 2001, the Portland Angling Club upgraded beach access at Shelley Beach with the support of a grant from Parks Victoria. The project was well co-ordinated and achieved excellent results for all users. This co-operative approach has considerable potential to achieve the goals of anglers and other visitors in accordance with aims for the planning area (section 2.5).

Information received from anglers on seasonal and natural processes, and illegal incidents, can also be of great assistance in improving the management of the planning area.

Fishing also occurs within Discovery Bay Coastal Park in the various lakes and the Glenelg River Estuary. Certain areas of Bridgewater Lakes are specifically zoned for fishing under the Marine Act (section 6.7).

Opportunities for anglers who are not familiar with the planning area are restricted due to a lack of fishing information, promotion and signage.

The Fisheries Regulations, which apply to fishing in the planning area, include strict limits on the clamfish take. In all Victorian marine, estuarine and fresh waters, unless exempt under the Fisheries Regulations, persons undertaking recreational fishing must hold a Recreational Fishing Licence.

Access issues relating to the recovery of fishing gear by commercial fishermen are addressed in section 6.2.

Aims

- Provide ongoing, sustainable opportunities for recreational fishing and bait collection.
- Work in partnership with angling clubs and interest groups to maintain appropriate access to fishing locations, while minimising impacts on the planning area's values and minimising the risks to visitors.

Management strategies

- *Maintain, improve and promote access to coastal, lake and estuary fishing locations in accordance with the plan (see also sections 6.3, 6.4 and tables 4 and 5).*
- *Develop a strategic approach to maintaining and improving access and*

facilities for anglers by working with angling and other community groups with interests in the particular access and facilities (section 7.1).

- *Encourage fishing groups to develop and implement projects to maintain and improve access and facilities at fishing access locations, and to promote appropriate and safe fishing (section 6.1), in accordance with the plan and with Parks Victoria's approval.*
- *Monitor any impacts on park values associated with recreational fishing and fisher access, and if necessary take appropriate action in consultation with angling groups. Promote practices that are safe, and environmentally-, culturally- and user-friendly.*
- *Liaise with and encourage angling clubs and agencies to develop and support appropriate research projects to improve management of fish habitat, species and populations.*
- *Permit bait harvesting in accordance with the Fisheries Regulations.*
- *Provide emergency access for vehicles to beaches as appropriate (section 6.2).*

6.6 Camping

Discovery Bay Coastal Park offers two very different categories of camping opportunities:

- vehicle-based camping at Lake Monibeong and Swan Lake. This is open to public booking through the Nelson Information Centre;
- walker-only camping, at sites on the Great South West Walk.

Vehicle-based camping is a relatively minor activity in Discovery Bay Coastal Park. Ten campsites are available at Lake Monibeong. There is also an open area available to visitors for camping adjacent to the dunes about a kilometre from Swan Lake. This camping area was developed and is maintained by the Portland Dune Buggy Club in co-operation with Parks Victoria (section 8.2). Many more vehicle-based campsites are available in complementary riverside and forest environments in the nearby Lower Glenelg National Park.

Walker-only camps are maintained as part of the Great South West Walk. The sites offer simple facilities: a few tent sites, fireplace, water and toilet.

Commercial accommodation is readily available at towns adjacent to Discovery Bay Coastal Park. There is a commercial campground at Nelson.

Use of fire and generators is strictly controlled, and use of chainsaws is prohibited in the whole of the planning area (section 6.3).

Aims

- Maintain and improve existing opportunities for vehicle-based camping.
- Maintain remote campsites in sections of the Great South West Walk in the planning area.

Management strategies

- *Develop a strategic approach to maintaining and improving camping facilities, including those located on the Great South West Walk (table 5), together with the Friends and other groups with particular interests in the facilities as appropriate.*
- *Maintain the camping area accessible to vehicles at Swan Lake in conjunction with the Portland Dune Buggy Club if and when it is authorised to resume dune buggy activities in the Dune Buggy Area (section 8.2).*
- *Maintain camps on the Great South West Walk together with the Friends of the Great South West Walk and other interested groups as appropriate.*
- *Encourage managers and owners of lands adjoining the planning area to investigate opportunities to provide additional campsites or accommodation, on the lands they manage, for park visitors using the Great South West Walk.*

6.7 Water-based recreation activities

Sea waters

Most of the coast within and in the vicinity of the planning area is unsafe for swimming. Murrells Beach and the Bridgewater Bay Foreshore are the safest sites in the planning area.

Surfing occurs principally at Yellow Rock, Murrells Beach, Bridgewater Bay Foreshore and Whites Beach (Portland Tourist Association 1995). Up to 100 surfers and spectators can be present at Yellow Rock at particular times (Godfrey 1996). Other sites are used but require local knowledge and entail potentially dangerous climbs up and down the coastal cliffs. Users often resent controls on their activities but will use formed access routes to the beach where provided. Surfing events take place occasionally.

Divers use sites around Cape Nelson and Cape Bridgewater as starting points for exploring the adjacent marine environment.

Jet-skiing, sea kayaking and boating occur at Bridgewater Bay and around Cape Bridgewater. Water craft and tour boats that visit the Australian Fur Seal colony on Cape Bridgewater have the potential to disturb the seal colony and these activities need to be monitored and reviewed (section 4.4).

Lake waters

Bridgewater Lakes, the largest lakes in the planning area, contain important natural features and habitat for a range of flora and fauna.

The lakes are used for a range of recreational activities, including canoeing, sailing and swimming, and associated activities such as picnicking, fishing and birdwatching. Speedboating and water skiing have occurred on the largest of the Bridgewater Lakes for many years. Jet-skiing commenced more recently.

Motorised activities occur on most fine warm days. Intensive use occurs on most summer weekends, and reportedly often extends into the evenings beyond the period currently permitted under the Marine Regulations. Reports are frequently received relating to conflicts between motorised activities and other visitor activities. The motorised activities generate noise and wave action, and fuel and oil pollution of lake waters that can threaten wildlife and contribute to declines in numbers of some species. They limit opportunities and raise safety issues for other recreationists and reduce amenity for other visitors and many local residents.

The Marine Regulations relating to the Bridgewater Lakes are aimed at avoiding the

conflicts and achieving a balance among recreational activities (boating, skiing, swimming and others uses) by segregating the activities. A small part of the northern lake is designated by buoys as 'no motor boats' to provide a swimming area.

Public submissions have indicated a high level of public interest in management of the lakes, with substantial support for conservation, passive recreational use and motorised recreational use. There is a widespread recognition of the obvious conflicts between uses and the need for an objective, balanced approach to management, including measures such as:

- regulated times for different uses;
- regulated levels and times for noise emission for motor boats and jet-skis;
- more empathetic regulations to ensure that different groups can enjoy the area;
- ranger and water police patrols and action to ensure compliance with the regulations.

Parks Victoria considers that some past use of the area has been in conflict with the natural systems and the amenity of some visitors and local residents, and that some activities also impose risks that need to be adequately managed.

Conflicts between recreational activities on the lakes could be avoided if all groups take a co-operative approach, respect other users and local residents, and observe signs and the regulations.

The Bridgewater Lakes Aquatic Club occupies a clubhouse beside the northern lake. The Club established the clubhouse many years before the addition of the area to Discovery Bay Coastal Park, and developed various facilities including carparks, boat ramps and picnic facilities. The facilities are available to other visitors. In recent years the Club has co-operated with Parks Victoria in managing and further developing the facilities by organising working bees, and by installing marker buoys and signs to designate boating and swimming zones.

Water-based recreational activities also occur on the Glenelg River Estuary (motor boating, sailing and occasional surfboarding) and on Lake Monibeong (occasional canoeing and sailing). These activities appear to have little

impact on Discovery Bay Coastal Park and additional management provisions are not required. DSE is the Local Authority under the Marine Act for the waters of the Glenelg River, Bridgewater Lakes, Swan Lake, Lake Monibeong and Malseeds Lake.

Aims

- Provide appropriate opportunities for a range of water based recreational activities, including motorised activities.
- Minimise impacts of water-based recreational activities on park conservation values.
- Minimise risks and loss of amenity for visitors and neighbours from motorised uses of the planning area.

Management strategies

- *Permit surfing events on their merits and in accordance with Parks Victoria's operational policies.*
- *Liaise with tour boat operators, and others as appropriate, to minimise impacts on the Australian Fur Seal colony (sections 4.4 and 6.10).*
- *Manage the Bridgewater Lakes to minimise conflict between water based activities, and protect the area's values in consultation with the Bridgewater Lakes Liaison Committee (section 7.1) and neighbours and by working with the Bridgewater Lakes Aquatic Club and other Bridgewater Lakes user groups (section 7.1).*
- *Regularly inspect operating areas and facilities.*
- *Develop a management strategy for the whole of the Bridgewater Lakes area as a priority, together with all user groups, local residents and interested parties, as appropriate, which includes:*
 - *review of leasing arrangements for the clubhouse near the northern lake (section 8.2);*
 - *provision for approved motorised boating by the general public on the largest lake;*
 - *code of conduct for all user groups.*

- *Manage the risks to visitors undertaking water-based recreational activities, together with the Victoria Police (section 6.11).*
- *Ensure the relevant Notice to Mariners and other marine regulations for Bridgewater Lakes, Lake Monibeong, Malseeds Lake, Swan Lake and the Glenelg River continues to be enforced.*

6.8 Horse riding

There are many horse riding opportunities within areas around the planning area, including roads in Cobboboonee State Forest and areas of pine plantation on freehold land.

Horse riding within the planning area is limited to:

- Bridgewater Track and the sections of Mount Richmond Road (also referred to as Summit Road) and Telegraph Road, and any sections of North Boundary Track, within Mount Richmond National Park;
- section of Bridgewater Bay Beach between the boundary of Discovery Bay Coastal Park east of the Bridgewater Bay Kiosk and Shelley Beach;
- section of Discovery Bay Beach between Bridgewater Lakes and Lake Monibeong, and defined access routes through Discovery Bay Coastal Park to the section of beach.

In these areas, the levels of horse riding use and the related impacts on Indigenous cultural values are low, and the impacts on the sandy soils are relatively minor.

Horse riders occasionally enter beaches not set aside for horse riding and dune areas. In open dune fields it is not possible to confine horses to a set route, and horse riding, especially if frequent, can have a considerable impact on Indigenous cultural values and natural values. Indigenous cultural values in the Bridgewater Bay Dunes are especially vulnerable.

Aim

- Provide ongoing, sustainable opportunities for commercial and recreational horse riding activities, consistent with protecting natural and cultural values, and avoiding conflicts with other park visitors.

Management strategies

- *Allow horse riding in the following areas:*
 - *Bridgewater Track, and the sections of Mount Richmond Road and Telegraph Road, and any sections of North Boundary track, in Mount Richmond National Park (figures 1–4);*
 - *Special Management Area–Recreation— at or below high watermark, on Bridgewater Bay Beach between the boundary of the Coastal Park east of the Bridgewater Bay Kiosk and Shelley Beach, and on Discovery Bay Beach between Bridgewater Lakes and Lake Monibeong (table 1 and figures 2–4);*
 - *designated access routes to Discovery Bay Beach Special Management Area–Recreation—track linked to Kitsons Road and beach at or below high water mark linking the track to the Special Management Area, designated transit corridor at Swan Lake, and the management vehicle (eastern) track to the beach south of Lake Monibeong (figures 3–4).*
- *Investigate, and if appropriately sustainable establish, a new horse riding access route to the south-eastern end of the Special Management Area—Recreation on Discovery Bay Beach that can be used by horse riders with minimal impact on the Coastal Park. If a new route is established, close the existing access route at Kitsons Road.*
- *Restrict all horse riding in the Discovery Bay Coastal Park at Bridgewater Bay, including racehorse training, to between 4 am and sunset. Restrict horse riding elsewhere in the Coastal Park and Mount Richmond National Park to between sunrise and sunset.*
- *Monitor horse riding and ensure that relevant regulations are observed and conflicts with other uses avoided.*
- *Develop and implement a code of conduct for horse riding in the planning area together with horse riding and other groups. Include the following guidelines:*
 - *no galloping near pedestrians and beach users;*

- *no horse riding in crowded areas, including key visitor areas.*
- *Encourage horse riders using the Bridgewater Bay Beach to use the eastern section of the beach when the Bridgewater Foreshore area is crowded.*
- *Develop a strategic approach to maintaining and improving horse riding routes and associated facilities to inform statewide prioritised planning, working with horse riding and other groups with interests in the facilities and the Glenelg Shire Council, as appropriate.*
- *Take action as necessary to prevent horse riders entering the Bridgewater Bay Dunes, in liaison and consultation with the Bridgewater Bay Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management.*
- *Encourage horse riding groups to assist in maintaining and developing horse riding access and facilities in accordance with the plan by implementing projects approved by Parks Victoria.*
- *Encourage horse riding groups to continue to apply for grants for planned and approved projects to improve tracks and signage and maintain facilities in the planning area (section 7.1).*

6.9 Dogs

Small numbers of visitors bring dogs to the planning area. In Discovery Bay Coastal Park, dogs are frequently seen at Yellow Rock and the western end of Bridgewater Bay Beach, and occasionally elsewhere. At Yellow Rock conflicts can occur between dogs and visitors as a result of the limited open space at the site. Dog droppings along tracks and on beaches reduce visitor amenity and can adversely affect wildlife.

Dogs are permitted within the western section of Bridgewater Bay and the Ocean Beach at Nelson within Discovery Bay Coastal Park in accordance with National Park (Park) Regulations. Dogs are not allowed on the foreshore of the Glenelg River Estuary or in Cape Nelson State Park or Mount Richmond National Park. The regulations also allow for the entry of dogs that remain in cars on a transit route or assist visitors with disabilities.

Aims

- Continue to permit dogs on leashes in designated beach areas.
- Minimise conflict between dogs and visitors.
- Minimise impacts from dogs and dog walking on natural and cultural values, particularly shore-nesting birds.

Management strategies

- *Allow dogs on leashes in Special Management Area–Recreation on Bridgewater Bay Beach and Nelson foreshore, and on tracks leading directly to these areas from nearby carparks (except the access track at the Shelley Beach end of Bridgewater Bay beach) (table 1 and figures 2 and 4). Prohibit dogs in all other areas within the planning area except as specifically authorised under National Parks (Park) Regulations.*
- *Work with the Glenelg Shire Council to implement a strategy requiring dog owners to retrieve dog droppings and remove them from areas where dogs are permitted.*
- *Inform visitors where dogs are allowed and under what conditions, and where dogs are prohibited, through Park Notes and signs as appropriate (section 6.1).*
- *Undertake frequent education and enforcement activities at sites where dogs are regularly observed and are not permitted.*

6.10 Commercial tourism services

Commercial operators can facilitate visitors' enjoyment and understanding of the planning area by providing appropriate services. A number of licensed tour operators currently provide such services.

Additional services could be usefully provided, particularly Aboriginal cultural heritage interpretation services.

Close and ongoing co-ordination between licensed tour operators and park management ensures that the commercial services provide outcomes consistent with the aims for the planning area.

Some licensed tour operators make a contribution to the Friends for each visitor they

bring to the Great South West Walk, which is used by the Friends to maintain the Walk.

The planning area has considerable potential to contribute to special events in the Portland area that are based on natural and cultural assets, including events involving walking, recreational fishing or environmental or cultural activities.

Aim

- Provide opportunities for, and encourage the provision of commercial tourism services and events that achieve outcomes consistent with the aims for the planning area and contribute to tourism opportunities.

Management strategies

- *Encourage tour operators to provide and promote the following tours under appropriate conditions:*
 - *horse riding tours on agreed routes, within the areas set aside for horse riding (section 6.8);*
 - *interpretive services (section 6.1);*
 - *schools education services (section 6.1).*
- *Encourage the Gournditch-Mara community and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation to undertake the provision of appropriate commercial services in the planning area in partnership with Parks Victoria, particularly interpretation and education services based on Aboriginal cultural heritage.*
- *Encourage licensed tour operators to work with and support the activities of the Gournditch-Mara community and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, the Friends of the South West Walk and other groups that contribute to the achievement of aims for the planning area, particularly:*
 - *commercial interpretation services and events provided by the Gournditch-Mara community or Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation;*
 - *tour operations that relate to Aboriginal cultural heritage;*
 - *events to encourage safe and sustainable angling practices developed by angling clubs.*

- *Facilitate the promotion of licensed Aboriginal enterprise within the planning area or relating to it, in co-operation with the Gournditch- Mara community and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, and together with other Indigenous peoples, Koori Business Unit, other agencies and local government, as appropriate.*
- *Permit and manage licensed tour operations in accordance with government policy, legislation and Parks Victoria's operational policies.*
- *Liaise regularly with licensed tour operators to review permit conditions as activities change and to ensure that permit conditions are being met.*

6.11 Public safety

The planning area contains many sites where the safety of people can be threatened by a combination of inappropriate activities or behaviour and unforgiving natural 'hazards' (Woodhouse 1999). Some visitors are often not aware of the dangers. Most risks to people are associated with the coastal areas that are subject to high energy processes, particularly the cliffs, ocean beaches and rock shelves. There are also risks associated with long distance walking by ill-equipped or insufficiently prepared or unfit walkers (section 6.4).

Aims

- Inform visitors and staff of risks to their safety.
- Promote and observe safe practices, and co-operate with emergency services.
- Avoid, and identify and minimise or remove, risks associated with developments, access and use.

Management strategies

- *Monitor potential risks and develop appropriate management responses, together or in consultation with clubs and interest groups as appropriate.*
- *Develop and implement comprehensive safety audits for all visitor sites and facilities (including signs), using Parks Victoria's Risk Profile Assessment and involving coastal engineering expertise.*

- *Monitor, and install, maintain and replace, facilities as necessary for safety and in accordance with statewide priorities.*
- *Modify The Blowholes viewing platform to enhance visitor safety (section 6.3).*
- *Ensure that safety signs meet Australian Standards and accord with Parks Victoria's Signs Manual and operational policies (section 6.1 and 8.2).*
- *Ensure that all leases, licences and permits associated with high-risk activities include appropriate conditions to minimise risks (sections 6.10, 8.1 and 8.2).*
- *Provide information on safety hazards to, and promote safe practices and discourage potentially dangerous activities among, visitors and staff (section 6.1).*
- *Provide appropriate safety training and supervision for Friends and other volunteer groups undertaking projects in the planning area.*
- *Carry out risk assessments, and require observance of occupational health and safety regulations, at all work sites including those of community groups, Friends and other volunteer groups (sections 7.1 and 7.2).*
- *Develop, and encourage visitors to follow, protocols for long-distance walking on the Great South West Walk that include guidelines on:*
 - *adequate clothing and fitness levels;*
 - *booking and lodging of walk schedules prior to walking;*
 - *use of designated tracks to access sites and facilities.*
- *Investigate, together with the Friends of the Great South West Walk, the possibility of providing a contact for adjacent resident landholders requested to help distressed walkers.*
- *Encourage Victoria Police, including local and water police, to assist in informing users of potential personal risk along the coast and at the lakes within the planning area.*
- *Identify and manage safety risks associated with boating together with the Victoria Police, including local and water police.*
- *Contribute to regional emergency management in relation to the planning area.*
- *Work with police and other emergency service providers.*
- *Improve directional, distance and time signage on the walking track network.*

7 STRATEGIES FOR COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

The planning area is a part of the country of the descendants of the Dhauwerd wurrung (Gunditjmara) (Godfrey 2000). Their descendants continue to have a strong affinity with the area. The Gournditch-Mara are recognised as the applicants for native title in processes under the Native Title Act (section 2.5). Parks Victoria recognises the rich and diverse Indigenous cultural heritage of the planning area and greatly respects the Gournditch-Mara's tradition, practices, interests and rights in the land, and aspirations for the planning area. Parks Victoria is committed to reconciliation with Indigenous communities.

Various other community groups, neighbours, institutions and government agencies have interests in the planning area's management. These interests relate to the conservation of values or improved access and facilities for particular uses or the co-ordination of management across boundaries. The interests provide opportunities for developing working partnerships in the planning area's management.

7.1 Community partnerships

A number of community groups are active in assisting Parks Victoria to conserve and protect the planning area. They include the Gournditch-Mara community, Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, other Indigenous people, Bridgewater Coast Action Group and Portland Field Naturalists Club.

The Friends of the Great South West Walk (section 6.4 and 7.2), Portland Angling Club (section 6.5), Portland Dune Buggy Club (section 8.2), Bridgewater Lakes Aquatic Club and some neighbours are also actively involved in supporting Parks Victoria's management of particular aspects of the planning area.

Parks Victoria also works with various bodies, agencies and institutions that may have common goals relating to the planning area, including the Glenelg Shire Council, local and regional tourism authorities (section 6.1), Bridgewater Bay Foreshore Reserve

Committee of Management, neighbours and AAV (section 5.1).

Parks Victoria appreciates the support and co-operation it receives in managing the planning area and is committed to maintaining and enhancing these partnerships. Parks Victoria has a strong relationship with the Gournditch-Mara and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation and is committed to enhancing the relationships and continuing to work with them in managing the planning area. Parks Victoria has a special commitment to strengthening these relationships and working with the Indigenous community in accordance with Parks Victoria's commitment to reconciliation with the Indigenous community.

Other groups that are likely to share common goals with Parks Victoria and have particular interests that serve as a focus for community support and involve the planning area include educational institutions, local angling groups, local fire brigades, horse riding clubs, Coastcare groups and tourism promotion groups. There would be benefits in these groups working together and with Parks Victoria to avoid duplication and to achieve common goals, particularly in maintaining and developing access and facilities.

There is a widespread recognition in local communities of the importance of the planning area to employment levels and the economy of the area.

Aims

- Encourage and support working partnerships among community and user groups and with Parks Victoria to assist in park management and achieve common park management goals.
- Inform, enrich and strengthen the planning area's management with Aboriginal tradition and practices.
- Foster reconciliation with the Gournditch-Mara and other Indigenous people of the area.

Management strategies

- *Establish a Consultative Group to obtain representative community views on strategic issues relating to the planning area.*
- *Continue and enhance the strong relationship with the Gournditch-Mara community and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation and establish a strong working partnership to support the appropriate integration of Indigenous tradition, practices and aspirations for the planning area, in all aspects of planning and management.*
- *Establish a management committee with representatives of the Gournditch-Mara community and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation to facilitate the working partnership, especially in relation to:*
 - *environmental management and fire protection (sections 4.2–4.8);*
 - *Indigenous cultural heritage (section 5.1);*
 - *information, interpretation and education (section 6.1);*
 - *management of recreational facilities and services (chapter 6);*
 - *planning and implementation of annual works programs (section 3.3);*
 - *permitting authorised uses (section 8.1).*
- *Seek to develop a local Memorandum of Understanding and protocols for planning and managing works and events in the planning area in co-operation with the Gournditch-Mara community and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation.*
- *Promote respect for the Gournditch-Mara’s tradition, practices, interests and rights in the land and aspirations for the planning area, and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.*
- *Promote opportunities among interest groups and Parks Victoria’s staff for sharing knowledge and increasing the understanding and appreciation of each other’s aspirations for the planning area.*
- *Liaise with neighbours, community groups, institutions, other bodies and government agencies with interests in or concerns with*

management of the planning area, and encourage them to work together and with Parks Victoria to resolve management issues (sections 6.1, 6.2, 6.5, and 6.7). Encourage their involvement in projects as appropriate.

- *Establish a Bridgewater Lakes Liaison Committee to obtain representative community views on management of the Bridgewater Lakes.*
- *Consult with the Bridgewater Lakes Liaison Committee and neighbours, and work with the Bridgewater Lakes Aquatic Club and other Bridgewater Lakes user groups, in managing the Bridgewater Lakes (section 6.7).*
- *Liaise with and continue to work with the Portland Dune Buggy Club, and other community groups as appropriate, in managing the Dune Buggy area and related facilities (sections 6.2, 6.6 and 8.2).*
- *Encourage and assist community groups to work together to pursue sources of funding, including Parks Victoria grants, for projects in the planning area. Encourage joint grants with other groups as appropriate (section 7.2).*
- *Investigate opportunities for Indigenous people to obtain employment in the planning area in accordance with the Victorian Government and Parks Victoria’s Aboriginal Employment Strategies.*

7.2 Friends groups and volunteers

The Friends of the Great South West Walk have major interests in and make significant contributions to planning and implementing the Walk (section 6.4). These contributions are especially valued by Parks Victoria.

In many parks, Friends groups and volunteers bring enthusiasm, knowledge and valuable assistance to park management, and foster community support for parks and their management.

Interest has been expressed in forming ‘Friends of Mount Richmond’, ‘Friends of Nagorckas Road’ and ‘Friends of the Bridgewater Bay Dunes’ groups. An overall Friends group with subgroups with similar

interests may be easier for Friends to organise and manage. There are benefits in Friends working together with other community and users groups (section 7.1).

Aim

- Encourage and support Friends groups and volunteers in assisting in park management.

Management strategies

- *Liaise with, and continue to encourage and support, the Friends of the Great South West Walk and other volunteer groups to work with Parks Victoria in the planning area's management.*
- *Encourage and support the formation of a Friends of Discovery Bay Parks group, including subgroups relating to particular areas or interests such as Mount Richmond National Park if appropriate.*
- *Liaise with volunteer groups with particular interests in or concerns with management of the planning area, and encourage their involvement in appropriate projects.*
- *Encourage friends to work together and with community groups to pursue sources of funding, including through the Parks Victoria grants program, for projects that accord with the plan.*
- *Develop a long-term volunteer strategy that incorporates the skills and interests of Friends and other volunteer groups in park management activities.*
- *Encourage and support Friends and volunteers to develop further an understanding of the planning area's values, including Indigenous cultural heritage and its significance to the Gournditch- Mara community (section 5.1).*
- *Investigate opportunities for the Friends of Great South West Walk to obtain contributions for ongoing maintenance of the Walk from commercial beneficiaries such as accommodation establishments and licensed commercial tour operations.*

8 STRATEGIES FOR OTHER ISSUES

8.1 Public utilities

A range of facilities is operated and maintained within the planning area by public authorities.

Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve contains:

- two navigational aids and the light in the lighthouse—maintained by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) under 21 year leases issued in December 1995 under section 17D of the Crown Land (Reserves) Act;
- meteorological facilities—maintained by the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology under a 21 year lease issued in 1995 under section 17D of the Crown Land (Reserves) Act.

The planning area also contains:

- a number of short sections of powerline operated by Powercor that are used to supply electricity to local properties;
- a number of short sections of communications cable operated by Telstra in Discovery Bay Coastal Park.

Aim

- Minimise impacts of public utilities on the planning area.

Management strategies

- *Ensure that all activities of public authorities are considered and authorised as appropriate to minimise their impacts on the planning area, in accordance with relevant legislation, policies and guidelines. Review conditions of authorisations prior to renewal.*
- *Liaise with, and monitor the activities of, public authorities in the planning area, and manage the activities in accordance with authorisations.*

8.2 Other occupations

A range of other occupations occurs in the planning area. Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve is leased to the Cape Nelson Lightstation Pty Ltd for 21 years from 1 June 1999.

A clubhouse adjacent to Bridgewater Lakes is occupied by the Bridgewater Lakes Aquatic Club (section 6.7). The premises were licensed to the Club under section 26A of the National Parks Act.

Stock grazing occurs in Discovery Bay Coastal Park around the Tarragal Caves under an annual grazing licence issued under the *Land Act 1958* (Vic.) prior to declaration of the park. No bee sites are located in the planning area.

Dune buggies were operated within a system of siliceous sand dunes adjacent to Swan Lake sand dunes from the 1960s until the late 1990s. The operations were conducted on open, mobile dunes, avoiding the foredunes, limestone pediments and vegetated areas to prevent damage to stable environmental elements, archaeological sites and vegetation.

From 1969, the Portland Dune Buggy Club conducted dune buggy operations. Subsequent to the declaration of Discovery Bay Coastal Park the dune buggy operations were licensed under section 26A of the National Parks Act. Parks Victoria has not renewed the licence to the Dune Buggy Club due to its inability to provide satisfactory public liability insurance for activities. The passage of certain amendments to the registration provisions of the *Road Safety Act 1986* (Vic.) on 1 May 1999, and tightening of public liability insurance policy requirements following the events of 11 September 2002, have substantially increased the difficulties faced by the Club in obtaining the necessary insurances. Dune buggy operations continue to be permitted in similar nearby areas in South Australia.

A local commercial operator (Nelson Boat Hire) is permitted to harvest Pod-worm in the Glenelg River Estuary under a 'Commercial Bait Fishery Access Licence', renewable annually.

Aims

- Minimise the impacts of occupations on natural and cultural values and on the amenity of other park users and park neighbours.

- Minimise risks to other park visitors from motorised activities.

Management strategies

- *Liaise with, and monitor the activities of, existing uses that are authorised in accordance with current legislation, and ensure that they are managed in accordance with authorisations. Review conditions of authorisations prior to renewal in accordance with legislation, the plan and Parks Victoria's operational policies.*
- *Investigate occupations that are not authorised in accordance with current legislation (e.g. stock grazing around Tarragal Caves), and seek the issue of appropriate authorisations in accordance with legislation, the plan and Parks Victoria's operational policies, or do not allow the occupation to continue, as appropriate.*
- *Consider proposals for new occupations, and seek authorisations if appropriate, in accordance with legislation, the plan and Parks Victoria's operational policies.*
- *Review arrangements for the clubhouse near the Bridgewater Lakes as part of the development of a management strategy for the whole of the Lakes (section 6.7).*
- *Consider authorising the resumption of dune buggy activities in the former dune buggy area by the Portland Dune Buggy Club only if the Club can comply with necessary conditions, including the provision of a satisfactory public liability policy of insurance. If a resumption of dune buggy operations is authorised, ensure that the activities of the Club and other visitors to the area occur within a sustainable management framework that includes:*
 - *a code of conduct for the dune buggy area developed in consultation with the Dune Buggy Club, and other relevant user groups as appropriate;*
 - *appropriate management of the dune buggy area by the Dune Buggy Club in co-operation with Parks Victoria;*
 - *minimising environmental impacts (including noise and other pollution);*
- *appropriate vehicular and walker access for anglers and other visitors along the corridor linking Swan Lake and the carpark area near Discovery Bay Beach and east-west along the corridor without payment of a Dune Buggy Club membership fee;*
- *erection of adequate signs along alignments to be used by vehicles and adherence to them by Dune Buggy Club members and other users and visitors;*
- *provision by the Portland Dune Buggy Club of appropriate and timely prior notification to Parks Victoria and other visitors when access to the corridor linking Swan Lake and the carpark area near Discovery Bay Beach is to be closed for authorised competitive events;*
- *maintenance of the Swan Lake camping area by the Dune Buggy Club working in co-operation with Parks Victoria and other relevant user group.*
- *Regularly inspect Portland Dune Buggy Club operating areas, the transit corridor and facilities at Swan Lake.*

8.3 Boundaries and adjacent land use

The boundary/area ratio of the planning area is high as a result of the area's configuration. Most of the land abutting the planning area is used for grazing or pine plantation.

Many sections of Discovery Bay Coastal Park's inland legal boundary do not correspond to the boundaries of the natural area. In many instances, natural features (sand dunes) occur on abutting freehold land. In other instances, limestone soils inland of the dunes in the park are grazed by stock as part of the grazing operation on abutting freehold land.

During the 1970s, prior to the area becoming park, the Soil Conservation Authority defined a 'boundary of convenience' (the practical boundary) and provided financial assistance to landholders to fence this boundary. This practice is still continuing. The fences protect many areas of sand dune on freehold land abutting Discovery Bay Coastal Park from grazing, and many areas have revegetated and appear indistinguishable from the park.

Correspondingly, the areas of park fenced into adjacent properties continue to be grazed and are indistinguishable from adjacent grazing areas.

Where the practical boundary does not correspond with the legal boundary, realignment or establishment of fencing along the legal boundary would be difficult and costly. The existing fencing approach and arrangements meet the requirement to protect the natural and cultural values in the park, protect additional natural values on abutting freehold land, satisfy the interests of abutting land managers, and minimise difficulties in fencing and associated costs.

The siting and management of forest plantations (mostly pine, some eucalypt) along the inland boundary of the Discovery Bay section of the Coastal Park, and the south-eastern and north-western corner of Mount Richmond National Park, have considerable implications for the protection of these parks. The park/plantation boundary is usually identified on the ground by an access road, fire break or edge of plantation.

There is a substantial threat of pine wildling invasion of Discovery Bay Coastal Park from the abutting plantations. In a few locations inadvertent plantings have encroached on the Park, and in some cases these have not been removed. Some small parcels of land held by plantation companies along the Coastal Park boundary still retain native vegetation and might be suitable for addition to the park. Some roads on company-owned land provide practical public access to the park boundary (section 6.2).

There are narrow coastal strips of public purposes reserve and unreserved Crown land linking the eastern boundary of Discovery Bay Coastal Park at Sheoaks Road and a recreational reserve on Cape Sir William Grant west of Quarry Road (figure 2).

These areas as a whole carry mostly natural vegetation, coastal features, landscapes and a section of the Great South West Walk. Several threatened species occur in the area — the Rufous Bristlebird, Otway Bush-pea, Pale Guinea-flower and Heath Mouse.

Portland Coast Water Authority maintains a long-established ocean outfall for sewage across the Crown land and public purposes

reserve. The Authority is currently seeking tenure for the utility.

The LCC did not consider the area east of Sheoaks Road in its 'Review of the South-western Study Area District 1' (LCC 1983) as the area was located within the then City of Portland. In the 1990s, as a result of the reform of municipal boundaries, the area was incorporated within the Glenelg Shire.

The few inliers of freehold land within the planning area do not currently present problems for management. However, changes to the use of the inliers could result in deleterious impacts on the planning area.

The licensed Australian Fur Seal colony tours (section 6.10) are based on the jetty located outside Discovery Bay Coastal Park on Crown land on the eastern side of Cape Bridgewater (figure 2). The tour operator also uses the nearby boatshed on freehold land.

Aims

- Minimise conflicts between park values and uses, and surrounding land uses.
- Clearly define and consolidate an effective park boundary.
- Minimise adverse effects of freehold land developments on park values.

Management strategies

- *Encourage adjacent landholders to fence the Coastal Park boundary or an appropriate and agreed practical boundary, including locked gates in appropriate locations for MVO access. Work in co-operation with the community to minimise the impacts on the Coastal Park of stock, illegal entry of vehicles, and use of undesirable access by walkers.*
- *Resolve issues relating to boundary anomalies by agreements that avoid damage to native vegetation and disturbance of archaeological sites. Where feasible, negotiate to bring such values within the practical park boundary.*
- *Implement the Good Neighbour Program as a means of dealing with the management of pests and other similar issues along the Parks' boundaries, in co-operation with the adjacent land managers.*

-
- *Liaise, work and negotiate with the owners of adjacent plantations to:*
 - *identify and define shared boundaries;*
 - *resolve anomalies relating to boundaries such as pine or eucalypt stands or plantation fire protection works in the Coastal Park by agreements that minimise damage to native vegetation and disturbance to Indigenous heritage.*
 - *Encourage DSE to consider the addition of the narrow coastal strip of unreserved Crown land and abutting coastal public purposes reserve linking the eastern boundary of the Coastal Park and the western boundary of the Recreation Reserve on Cape Sir William Grant.*
 - *Ensure that the licence (under the Land Act) issued for use of the jetty at Cape Bridgewater to the operator conducting tours of the Australian Fur Seal colony at Cape Bridgewater reflects the requirements to minimise impacts on the Australian Fur Seal colony at Cape Bridgewater (sections 4.4, 6.7 and 6.10).*
 - *Work with AAV and DSE to assist the Gournditch-Mara community and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation to address Aboriginal cultural heritage management issues on lands immediately abutting the planning area.*
 - *Continue to liaise with DSE and the planning authorities in relation to planning applications for developments on freehold land abutting the planning area in order to minimise potential adverse impacts on the planning area.*

9 IMPLEMENTATION

This plan provides the strategic framework that governs the development and delivery of all management programs and actions affecting the Discovery Bay Parks and the Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve.

The plan encourages the community to become involved in plan implementation by working together and with Parks Victoria to achieve common management goals and ensure sustainable recreation and other uses of the area.

The management programs for the planning

area are prepared annually, in accordance with Parks Victoria's Corporate Plan and as a part of statewide prioritised program delivery.

The performance of the plan's implementation will be measured and reported on as part of these statewide programs as implemented to June each year.

Amendments may be made to this plan from time to time consistent with an authorised approval process. A partial or complete review of the plan will be considered ten years after its publication.

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APPENDIX 1 THREATENED FLORA

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS	HABITAT	LOCATION	COMMENTS
<i>Acrotriche cordata</i>	Coast Ground-berry	r	CS	CN, DB	
<i>Arachnorchis fragrantissima</i> var. <i>fragrantissima</i>	Scented Spider-orchid	R e N	He,HW,E F, CS.	MR, DB	Disturbance dependent at Mt Richmond; small population size, threatened by road maintenance (grading), Coast Wattle invasion; planned to burn small area of adjoining habitat to stimulate flowering of dormant plants & promote regeneration; continue monitoring, continue hand pollination. Unknown requirements at DB; potentially threatened by invasion of <i>Polygala myrtifolia</i> .
<i>Arachnorchis hastata</i>	Mellblom's Spider-orchid	E e L	He,HW	CN	Management at DB to implement appropriate fire regime, translocate new plants to supplement existing population, hand pollination, monitoring.
<i>Arachnorchis valida</i>	Robust Spider-orchid	R e L	EF,He,H W,EF	MR	Threats and issues similar to <i>A. fragrantissima</i> . Management actions also similar.
<i>Asperula charophyton</i>	Elongate Woodruff	R k		DB	
<i>Atriplex billardiarei</i>	Glistening Saltbush	x	CS	DB	.
<i>Austrofestuca littoralis</i>	Coast Fescue	r		DB	
<i>Baumea laxa</i>	Lax Twig-sedge	r	Sw	CN, DB	
<i>Burnettia cuneata</i>	Lizard Orchid	R r	Sw/He	MR	Fire dependent; frequency unknown.
<i>Corysanthes despectans</i>	Coast Helmet-orchid	v	CS	DB	
<i>Diuris palustris</i>	Swamp Diuris	v L	EF, CS, Gr, He, W	CN	
<i>Eucalyptus diversifolia</i> ssp. <i>megacarpa</i>	Coast Gum	v	EF, CS	CN, LR	
<i>E. kitsoniana</i>	Bog Gum	R r	EF	MR	
<i>E. leucoxydon</i> spp. <i>megalocarpa</i>	Yellow Gum variety	e	W	DB	Gleneilg River Estuary around Nelson the only known occurrence in Victoria (ANCA 1996). Colour variant.
<i>Exocarpus syrticola</i>	Coast Ballart	r	CS, He	DB, CN	
<i>Galium compactum</i>	Compact Bedstraw	r		CN	
<i>Glycine latrobeana</i> *	Clover Glycine	V v L	He	MR	
<i>Haloragis eichleri</i>	Eichler's Raspwort	v	CS	CN	

Appendix 1 (cont.)

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS	HABITAT	LOCATION	COMMENTS
<i>Haloragis myriocarpa</i>	Prickly Raspwort	v	CS	DB, MR	
<i>Hibbertia pallidiflora</i>	Pale Guinea-flower	r		DB	
<i>Hibbertia spathulata</i>	Rock Guinea-flower	R r		CN, DB	Unconfirmed western Victorian record (Ecoplan Australia 1995).
<i>Ixodia achillaeoides</i> ssp. <i>Arenicola</i>	Ixodia	V v	CS,	CN, DB	Post-fire coloniser in heathlands at NB; determine & apply appropriate fire regime. CB population is in open CS and probably does not require fire to maintain open habitat; threatened by rabbit grazing, boxthorn invasion; becoming popular in cut-flower trade and collection of propagating material may be threat at all sites.
<i>Lachnagrostis adamsonii</i> *	Adamson's Blown-grass	E v L		DB	
<i>Lachnagrostis rudis</i>	Ruddy Bent	r		DB	
<i>Lasiopetalum schulzenii</i>	Drooping Velvet-bush	r	EF, CS	CN	
<i>Lepidosperma canescens</i>	Hoary Rapier-sedge	r		CN	
<i>Lobelia beaugleholei</i>	Showy Lobelia	R r	EF	MR	Occurs along track margins, favours open habitat.
<i>Logania ovata</i>	Oval-leaf Logania	r	CS	CN, DB	
<i>Lotus australis</i>	Austral Trefoil	k		DB	
<i>Hydrorchis orbicularis</i>	Swamp Onion-orchid	v		DB	
<i>Orthrosanthus multiflorus</i>	Morning Flag	r	CS, He	CN	Threats include small population size, Coast Wattle invasion; unknown management requirements.
<i>Petalochilus alatus</i>	Fairy Orchid	k		MR	
<i>Petalochilus vulgaris</i>	Slender Pink-fingers	r		CN, MR	Unconfirmed Victorian record (Ecoplan Australia 1995).
<i>Pomaderris oraria</i> ssp. <i>oraria</i>	Bassian Pomaderris	R r	EF	CN	Unconfirmed western Victorian record (Ecoplan Australia 1995); doubtful.
<i>Potamogeton australiensis</i>	Thin Pondweed	k	Sw	MR	
<i>Prasophyllum frenchii</i>	Maroon Leek-orchid	E e L	Gr,He,G W	DB	
<i>Prasophyllum litorale</i>	Sandhill or Coastal Leek-orchid		CS,He,Gr	DB	

Appendices

Appendix 1 (cont.)

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS	HABITAT	LOCATION	COMMENTS
<i>Prasophyllum parviflorum</i>	Slender Leek-orchid (Sv)	v X		DB	Recorded at Long Swamp (ANCA 1996) but described as found in coastal heaths. The taxonomy of this and the previous two species is confused. Further collection or reference to specimens from the area is required to confirm identifications.
<i>Pterostylis cucullata*</i>	Leafy Greenhood	V v L	CS,W	DB	FFG Action Statement No. 54. Glenelg River Estuary population needs urgent attention, threats include pest plants, molluscs grazing, low numbers. Investigate the use of fire as a management tool, as successfully applied at Wilsons Promontory. Consider hand pollination, restocking with ex situ propagated tuberosids or re-establishing in a different location.
<i>Pterostylis tenuissima</i>	Swamp Greenhood	V v	CS, Sw	DB	Population(s) not mapped or assessed.
<i>Pultenaea canaliculata</i>	Coast Bush-pea	r		DB	
<i>Pultenaea prolifera</i>	Otway Bush-pea	r		MR	
<i>Schoenus carsei</i>	Wiry Bog-sedge	r		DB	
<i>Schoenus deformis</i>	Small Bog-sedge	v	EF, CS	CN	Population(s) not mapped or assessed.
<i>Thelymitra hiemalis*</i>	Winter Sun Orchid	e L	EF	MR	Occurs along edge of walking track. Threats include track maintenance/upgrading. Maintain open habitat.
<i>Stackhousia spathulata</i>	Coast Stackhousia	k		DB	
<i>Veronica hillebrandii</i>	Coast Speedwell	v	CS, He	DB	Population(s) not mapped or assessed.

Sources:

* DSE database 2003b;
Backhouse & Jeans (1995)

Appendix 1 (cont.)

Keys:**Threatened status****National threatened status:**

E endangered
 V vulnerable
 R rare

Victorian threatened status:

e endangered
 v vulnerable
 r rare
 k species poorly known
 x extinct

FFG Act *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act*

L listed under the Act
 N nominated under the FFG Act
 X rejected for listing under the FFG Act

Habitat:

Be	Beach	GW	Grassy Woodland
CS	Coastal Shrubland	He	Heath
DV	Dune Vegetation	HW	Heathy Woodland
EF	Eucalypt Forest	Sw	Swamp
Es	Estuary	W	Woodland
Gr	Grassland		

Location:

DB	Discovery Bay Coastal Park
MR	Mount Richmond National Park
CN	Cape Nelson State Park
LR	Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve

APPENDIX 2 THREATENED FAUNA

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS	HABITAT	LOCATION	COMMENTS
Mammals					
<i>Antechinus minimus</i> *	Swamp Antechinus	NT L	DV, He	CN, DB, MR	
<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i> *	Australian Fur seal	Vul	CI	CN, DB	Colony at Cape Bridgewater, transient colony at Devils Kitchen, Cape Nelson. Minimise disturbance by visitors accessing the sites by boat.
<i>Arctocephalus tropicalis</i> *	Subantarctic Fur seal	V	CI	DB	
<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	Spot-tailed Quoll	V End L		DB	
<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	Southern Right Whale	E CEn L		DB	
<i>Mirounga leonina</i> *	Southern Elephant Seal	V		DB	
<i>Potorous tridactylus</i>	Long-nosed Potoroo	V End L	CS, W	DB, MR	
<i>Pseudomys shortridgei</i>	Heath Mouse	V NT L	He	CN, MR	Threatening processes include inappropriate fire regime (too frequent or infrequent), predation. Additional survey work required to assess current distribution in study area.
Birds					
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	Grey Goshawk	Vul	W	DB, MR	
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	Vul J		CN, DB	
<i>Alcedo azurea</i>	Azure Kingfisher	NT		DB	
<i>Anas rhynchos</i> *	Australasian Shoveler	Vul	Sw/l	DB	
<i>Ardea alba</i> *	Great Egret	End L J	Sw/L	DB	Probable occurrence (M. O'Brien, J. Seebeck, W. O'Connor, DSE, pers. Comm).
<i>Ardea intermedia</i> *	Intermediate Egret	CEn L	Sw/L	DB	
<i>Arenaria interpres</i> *	Ruddy Turnstone	J		DB	
<i>Aythya australis</i>	Hardhead	Vul	Es/L	DB	
<i>Biziura lobata</i> *	Musk Duck	Vul	Sw/L	DB	
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i> *	Australasian Bittern	End L	Sw	DB	
<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	Bush Stone-curlew	End L		DB	
<i>Calidris alba</i> *	Sanderling	J	Be	DB B	Discovery Bay is internationally important, non-breeding site (fourth most important in Australia).
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i> *	Curlew Sandpiper	J		DB	
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i> *	Red-necked Stint	J		DB	
<i>Calidris canutus</i> *	Red Knot	NT J		DB	

Appendix 2 (cont.)

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS	HABITAT	LOCATION	COMMENTS
<i>Calyptrorhynchus banksii</i>	Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	E End L	EF	DB	Records are likely only to be overflights, as species relies on Brown Stringybark forests and River Red Gum woodlands which do not occur in the planning area. No specific management required.
<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i>	Cape Barren Goose	NT		DB	
<i>Charadrius veredus</i> *	Oriental Plover	J		DB	
<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i> *	Whiskered Tern	NT		DB	
<i>Coturnix chinensis</i>	King Quail	Cen L	Sw/He	MR	More than half of the records are 20 years old or more.
<i>Dasyornis broadbenti</i> *	Rufous Bristlebird	NT L	He, CS	CN, DB, MR, LR	Threatening processes include clearing, slashing, control burning, removal of undergrowth and ground litter, predation by feral animals, loss of habitat & habitat fragmentation.
<i>Diomedea cauta</i> *	Shy Albatross	V Vul L		CN, DB, LR	
<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>	Grey-headed Albatross	V Vul L		DB	
<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Wandering Albatross	V End L			
<i>Egretta garzetta</i> *	Little Egret	End L	Sw/L	DB	
<i>Falco subniger</i>	Black Falcon	Vul		DB	
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i> *	Latham's Snipe	NT J		DB	
<i>Grus rubicundus</i> *	Brolga	Vul L	Sw	DB	
<i>Haemotopus fuliginosus</i> *	Sooty Oystercatcher	NT		DB	
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> *	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	End L	Be, Cl	CN, DB, LR	
<i>Halobaena caerulea</i> *	Blue Petrel	V			
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i> *	White-throated Needle-tail	J		DB	
<i>Larus pacificus</i> *	Pacific Gull	NT	Es, Be	CN, DB, LR	
<i>Limicola falcinellus</i> *	Broad-billed Sandpiper	J		DB	
<i>Limosa lapponica</i> *	Bar-tailed Godwit	J		DB	
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Square-tailed Kite	Vul L	CS	DB	
<i>Macronectes giganteus</i> *	Southern Giant-Petrel	E Vul L	Of, Be	CN, DB, LR	
<i>Neophema chrysogaster</i> *	Orange-bellied Parrot	E CEn L	DV	CN, DB	Prepare a fire protection sub-plan (NRE 1996).
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl	Vul L	EF	MR	Protect known and potential roosting and nesting sites.
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> *	Eastern Curlew	NT		DB	
<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i> *	Nankeen Night Heron	NT			

Appendices

Appendix 2 (cont.)

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS	HABITAT	LOCATION	COMMENTS
<i>Oxyura australis</i> *	Blue-billed Duck	End L	Es, Ss	DB, MR	
<i>Pachyptila turtur</i> *	Fairy Prion	V Vul	Of, Be	CN, DB	
<i>Pelagodroma marina</i> *	White-faced Storm-Petrel	NT		CN, DB	
<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i> *	Common Diving-Petrel	NT		DB	
<i>Pezoporus wallicus</i> *	Ground Parrot	End L	Sw	DB	Population appears static.
<i>Phalacrocorax fuscescens</i> *	Black-faced Cormorant	NT		DB	
<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i> *	Pied Cormorant	NT		DB	
<i>Platalea regia</i> *	Royal Spoonbill	Vul L		DB	
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> *	Grey Plover	NT J		DB	
<i>Puffinus griseus</i> *	Sooty Shearwater	J		CN, DB	
<i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i> *	Short-tailed Shearwater	J	Cl, Of	CN	
<i>Rallus pectoralis</i>	Lewin's Rail	Vul L	Es, Sw, He	DB	
<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i> *	Arctic Jaeger	J			
<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i> *	Pomarine Jaeger	D/D		CN	
<i>Sterna albifrons</i> *	Little Tern	Vul L J	Es, Be	DB B	Implement relevant provisions of the Little Tern Management Plan (Murray & Reside 1994; Reside 1994).
<i>Sterna caspia</i> *	Caspian Tern	NT L J		DB	
<i>Sterna nereis</i> *	Fairy Tern	End L	Es, Be	DB B	
<i>Sterna nilotica</i> *	Gull-billed Tern	End L		DB	
<i>Sterna striata</i>	White-fronted Tern	NT			
<i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i> *	Yellow-nosed Albatross	Vul	Cl	LR	
<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i> *	Black-browed Albatross	End	Cl	LR	
<i>Thinornis rubricollis</i> *	Hooded Plover	Vul L	Es, Be	DB B	Discovery Bay is an important stronghold and important breeding area. Poor breeding success due to nest disturbance (walkers, four-wheel-drive beach use) and foxes. Implement FFG Action Statement No. 9.
<i>Tringa nebularia</i> *	Common Greenshank	J		DB	
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> *	Marsh Sandpiper	J		DB	
Reptiles and amphibians					
<i>Aprasia striolata</i> *	Striped Worm-lizard	NT L	CS, EF	CN, DB	
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leathery Turtle	V CEn L			
<i>Egernia coventryi</i> *	Swamp Skink	Vul L	Sw, He	DB	
<i>Hemiernis peroni</i> *	Four-toed Skink	NT	CS, DV	DB	

Appendix 2 (cont.)

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS	HABITAT	LOCATION	COMMENTS
<i>Litoria raniformis</i> *	Growling Grass Frog	V End L		DB	
Fish					
<i>Galaxiella pusilla</i> *	Dwarf Galaxias	V Vul L	Sw/L	DB	
<i>Nannopercha obscura</i> *	Yarra Pygmy Perch	V NT L	Sw/L	DB	
<i>Nannopercha variegata</i>	Variegated Pygmy Perch	V End L	Sw/L	DB	Restricted elsewhere to Glenelg River System.
Invertebrates					
<i>Euastacus bispinosus</i>	Glenelg Spiny Cray	Ins	Esw	DB	
<i>Hesperilla flavescensflavescens</i>	Altona Sedge Skipper Butterfly	–	Es, Sw/L	DB	The record from the Glenelg River Estuary, Discovery Bay may have regional significance. A Management Plan is available.

Sources: * DSE database 2003a

Note: Overall, 25 bird species found in the Parks are listed under the Japan/Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA) and/or the China/Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA).

Threatened status**National threatened status:**

E endangered

V vulnerable

J listed under JAMBA and CAMBA

Victorian threatened status:

CEn critically endangered

End endangered

Vul vulnerable

NT near threatened

DD data deficient

FFG Act *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act* status:

L listed under the Act

N nominated for listing under the Act

R recommended for listing under the FFG Act

Habitat codes:

Be	Beach	Es	Estuary
Cl	Cliffs	He	Heath
CS	Coastal Shrubland	Of	Offshore
W	Woodland	Sw/L	Swamp or Lake
DV	Dune Vegetation	Sw	Swamp
EF	Eucalypt Forest	L	Lake

Location codes:

B	beach nesting species
DB	Discovery Bay Coastal Park
CN	Cape Nelson State Park
MR	Mount Richmond National Park
LR	Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve

APPENDIX 3 MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS

SPECIES NAME	COMMON NAME	MAJOR OCCURRENCES	COMMENTS
<i>Lycium ferrocissimum</i>	African Boxthorn	Cape Bridgewater, whole of Discovery Bay	Control by pulling, including use of earthmoving equipment, and follow-up revegetation with cliff top species
<i>Solanum linearum</i>	Apple of Sodom	Bridgewater Bay, Cape Bridgewater	
<i>Rubus</i> spp.	Blackberry	Mt Richmond	
<i>Psoralia pinnata</i>	Blue Psoralia	Mt Richmond	
<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Boneseed	Cape Nelson and Nelson Bay, end of Thistle Road (major infestation)	
<i>Myrsiphyllum asparagoides</i>	Bridal Creeper	Bridgewater Lakes; spreading	Chemical control
<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>	Coast Tea-tree	Throughout coastal areas	Native of Gippsland and Melbourne areas
<i>Acacia sophorae</i>	Coast Wattle	Most of Coastal Park	Aggressively invading species, particularly in disturbed environments
<i>Dipogon lignosus</i>	Dipogon		
<i>Cuscuta</i> sp.	Dodder	Edge of swamps, widespread	Chemical control
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Horehound	Cape Bridgewater	Isolated infestations
<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	Kikuyu Grass	Encroaching from boundaries	Planted along adjacent farm and pine forest fire breaks
<i>Ammophila arenarea</i>	Marram Grass	Mobile dunes and foredunes	Planted extensively on the Discovery Bay Dunes in the 1970s; now regarded as an unnatural sand stabiliser
<i>Coprosma quadrifida/repens</i>	Mirror Bush	All coastal areas	
<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>	Myrtle-leaf Milkwort	Cape Nelson, Bridgewater Bay coast, Swan Lake area	Research into control methods in progress; continue control by selective herbicide spraying
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Paterson's Curse	Mt Richmond, previously grazed sections of Discovery Bay e.g. Long Swamp, roadsides, freehold land	Chemical control when actively growing
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Pine	Isolated on Cape Nelson; Discovery Bay, adjacent to pine plantations	Continue mechanical removal programs. Assess options for burning as a control method
<i>Senecio elegans</i>	Purple Groundsel	Bridgewater Bay, Cape Bridgewater, Mt Richmond and roadsides	
<i>Briza major</i>	Quaking Grass	All areas	Spread along walking tracks, particularly Great South West Walk where mowed
<i>Euphorbia paralia</i>	Sea Spurge	Most coastal dune areas	
<i>Hakea suaveolens</i>	Sweet Hakea	Near Portland	Escape
<i>various species</i>	Thistles	Throughout planning area	Widespread
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's Joy		
<i>Melianthus comosus</i>	Tufted Honey Flower	McFarlanes Swamp	Isolated infestation; follow-up control

APPENDIX 4 RECREATIONAL FISHING SITE CHARACTERISTICS

SITE	TYPE OF SITE	RANKING FOR REC FISHING	FISH SPECIES	CAPACITY OF SITE
Glenelg River Estuary Beach ^{#≈}	River & Open Surf Beach Fishing	1	ABCDO	>6
White Sands GSWWalk Campsite	Open Surf Beach Fishing Sand Bottom	2	ABC	
White Sands Access Road (Closed)	Open Surf Beach Fishing Sand Bottom	2	ABC	<6
Nobles Rocks ^{#≈}	Open Surf Beach Fishing Sand Bottom	1	ABC	>6
Western Monibeong Beach [#]	Open Surf Beach Fishing Sand Bottom	2	ABC	<6
Eastern Monibeong Beach ^{#≈}	Open Surf Beach Fishing Sand Bottom	1	ABC	>6
Swan Lake GSW Walk Camp Site [#]		1		>6
Discovery Bay/Swan Lake 4WD (no motor cycle) access only [#]	Open Surf Beach Fishing Sand bottom	1	ABC	>6
Bridgewater Lakes [#]	Open Surf Beach Fishing Sand Bottom	1	ABC	>6
Blacks Beach Discovery Bay Beach	Open Surf Beach Fishing Sand Bottom	1	ABC	<6
Whites Beach [#]	Beach Fishing Adjacent Reef Sand & Reef Variable Sea Floor	2	BEJ	<6
Amos Basalt Rock Platform	Rock Platform Reef Fishing	2	JNP	<6
Cape Bridgewater Blowholes [#]	Rock Platform Reef Fishing	1	JNP	<6
Old Fishing Hut pier [#]	Beach Fishing Adjacent Reef Sand & Reef Variable Sea Floor	2	ABCDEFGG	<6
GSWW Stairway Eastern end Bridgewater Bay Kiosk Beach [#]	Open Surf Beach Fishing Sand Bottom	2	ABCD	<6
Shelley Beach [#]	Open Surf Beach & Rock Fishing Sand Bottom	2	ABCD	<6
Bishops Rocks	Rock outcrop & Open Surf Beach Fishing Sand Bottom	2	ABCD	<6
Hufs Hole	Open Surf Beach Fishing Sand Bottom	2	ABC	<6
Trewalla Camp beach access track [#]	Open Surf Beach Fishing Sand Bottom	2	ABC	<6
Bridgewater Bay Beach [≈]	Open Surf Beach Fishing Sand Bottom	2	ABC	<6

Appendix 4 (cont.)

SITE	TYPE OF SITE	RANKING FOR REC FISHING	FISH SPECIES	CAPACITY OF SITE
Murrells Beach [#]	Beach Fishing Adjacent Reef Sand & Reef Variable Sea Floor	2	ABCDEFGHJI JP	<6
Murrells Point	Rock Platform Reef Fishing	2	JNP	<6
Cape Nelson Cave Basalt Rock Platform	Rock Platform Reef Fishing	2	JNPQ	<6
Cappers Camp	Fishing Adjacent Reef Sand & Reef Variable Sea Floor	2	JP	<6
Yellow Rock	Open Surf Beach Fishing Sand Bottom	2	BCE	<6

[#] Sites most suitable for family use. All sites are potentially hazardous and require local knowledge for access or use. Note that hazards vary depending on weather and tide change.

≈ Regulated bait collection sites.

Key to fish species:

A=Shark, B=Salmon, C=Mulloway, D=Mullet, E=Whiting, F=Snapper, G=Flathead, H=Garfish, I=Flounder, J=Sweep, K=Yellowtail Kingfish, L=Trevally, M=Squid, N=Crayfish, O=Bream, P=Blackfish, Q=Lythe.

APPENDIX 5 RISKS AND HAZARDS

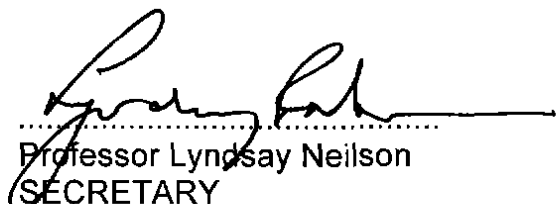
SITE OR AREA	USES	ASSOCIATED RISKS AND HAZARDS
Mount Richmond National Park	Walking, picnicking	Fire in high hazard periods, remoteness potential for visitors to get lost.
Cape Nelson State Park	Tourist use: viewing Rock and beach fishing	Tall, precipitous cliffs. Access, sea and inclement weather conditions.
Discovery Bay Coastal Park		
Bridgewater Lakes	Speedboats, jet-skis	Risks associated with motorised and passive use and potential conflict between user groups neighbours and wildlife and other park values.
Nelson Bay	Surfing Rock and beach fishing	Rough seas, rocks. Unstable cliff access, sea and inclement weather conditions.
Bridgewater Bay	Jet-skis	Human and wildlife hazard.
Cape Bridgewater	Walking Rock fishing	Potentially unstable soils. Mass movement of cliffs. Rough seas, and inclement weather conditions rocks.
Beaches (Murrells, Whites, Discovery Bay)	Swimming, surf fishing Access to beach	Rough seas and inclement weather conditions. Steep or undercut steps (the beach profile changes form frequently).
Discovery Bay Beach	Surfing Walking, fishing	Rough seas, rocks. Fatigue, injury due to long distance over sand with heavy packs. Wave wash, occasional large waves running up beach, inclement weather conditions. Potential disturbance to fauna.
Swan Lake dunes	Dune buggies	Risks to other visitors, spectators, and users of off-road vehicles.
Great South West Walk	Walking	Individuals or groups lost and/or exhausted.
Recreational fishing sites (see Appendix 4)	Fishing	Hazards vary depending on weather and tide change, users require local knowledge.

Attachment 1:

AMENDMENTS TO THE DISCOVERY BAY PARKS MANAGEMENT PLAN 2004

Page	Section of Plan	Amendment
Page 11	Chapter 3 Strategic Directions,	Table 2 - Add extra line in Table 2 Recreation Opportunities Management under Intertidal collecting: Hang gliding / paragliding – Zone 1 - Y, Zone 2 – N, Overlay A – N, Overlay B - N, Overlay C – N
Page 39	Chapter 6 Strategies for Visitors, Section 6.3 Day Visitor Activities	Insert following new paragraph under paragraph four: Designated sites for hang gliding and paragliding are located at Discovery Bay, Murrells Beach, Cape Bridgewater and Bishops Rock within Discovery Bay Coastal Park.
Page 39	Chapter 6 Strategies for Visitors, Section 6.3 Day Visitor Activities	Insert the following management strategy after the 9 th management strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Permit hang gliding and paragliding from the launch sites located at Discovery Bay, Murrells Beach, Cape Bridgewater and Bishops Rock within Discovery Bay Coastal Park, and manage the use of the sites in accordance with the licence agreement with the Victorian Hang gliding and Paragliding Association.</i>

Approved
~~Not Approved~~


.....
Professor Lyndsay Neilson
SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY
AND ENVIRONMENT

Date: 15 / 7 / 2006

Figure 1

MOUNT RICHMOND NATIONAL PARK



--- Planning Area Boundary

LAND STATUS AND USE

Mount Richmond National Park

Discovery Bay Coastal Park

Adjacent pine forest

ACCESS

Major road

Minor road or vehicular track

Track for management vehicles and walkers only

Walking track

Great South West Walk

Horse riding route

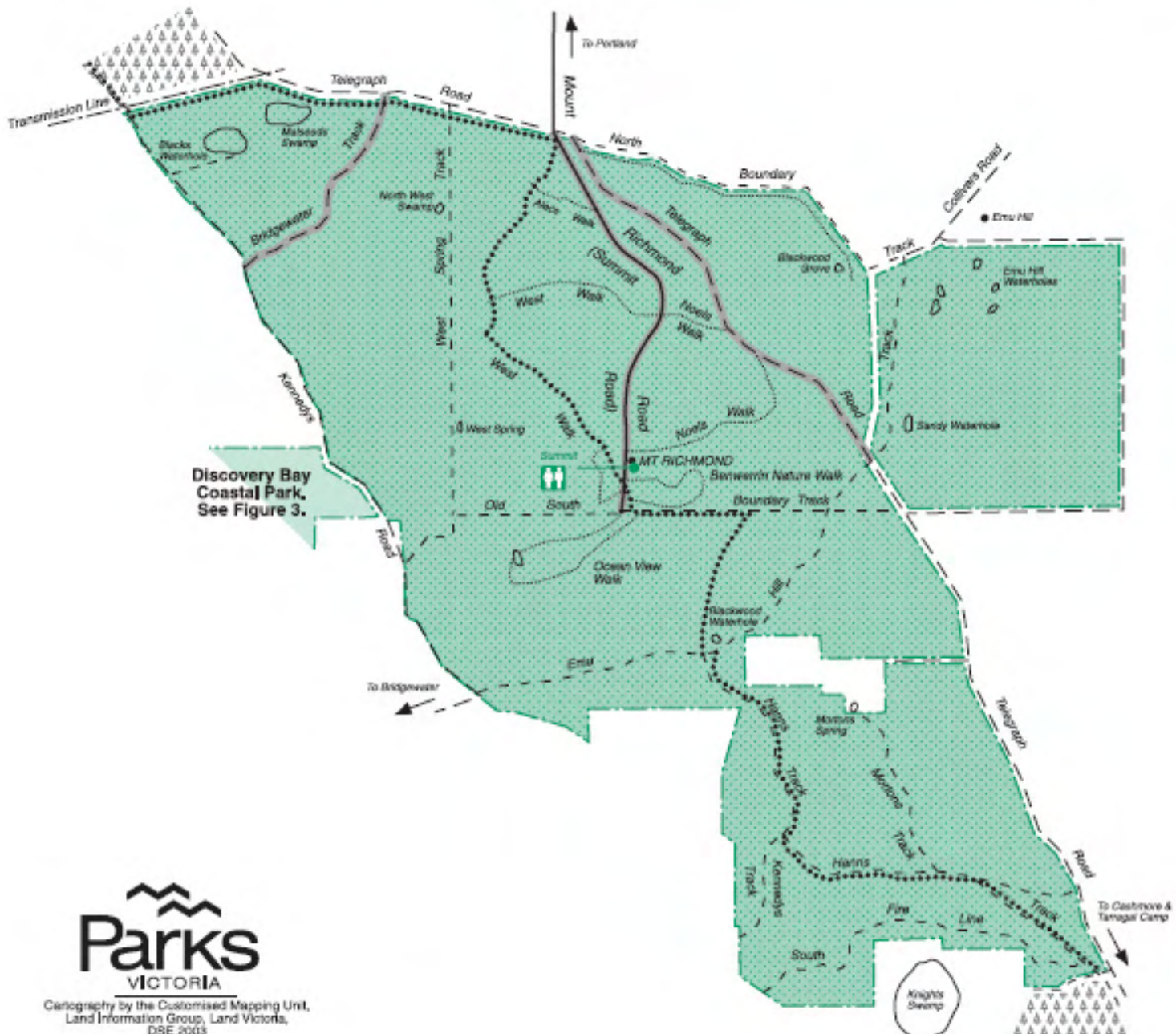
MANAGEMENT ZONING

Conservation and Recreation zone

RECREATION SITES AND MAIN FACILITIES

Recreation Site

Toilet



Parks
VICTORIA

Cartography by the Customised Mapping Unit,
Land Information Group, Land Victoria,
DSE 2003

Figure 2
CAPE NELSON STATE PARK
DISCOVERY BAY COASTAL PARK - EAST
CAPE NELSON LIGHTHOUSE RESERVE



Planning Area Boundary

LAND STATUS AND USE

- Cape Nelson State Park
- Discovery Bay Coastal Park
- Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve
- Uncommitted Crown Land and Crown Reserve land to be considered for addition to Discovery Bay Coastal Park
- Discovery Bay Marine National Park

MANAGEMENT ZONING

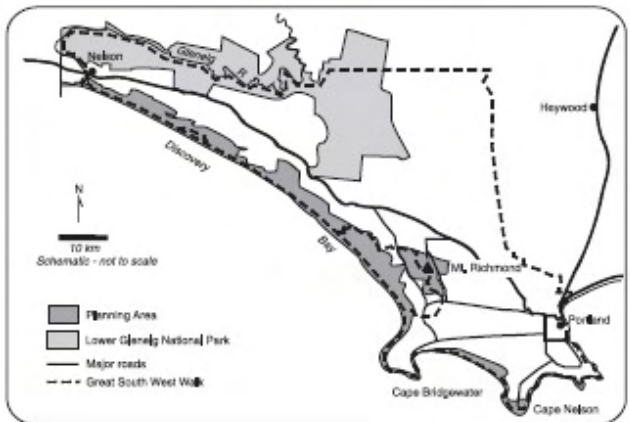
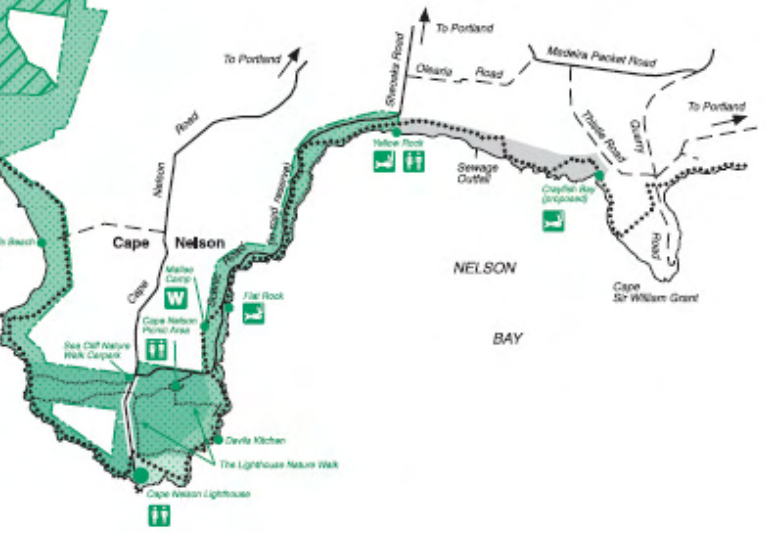
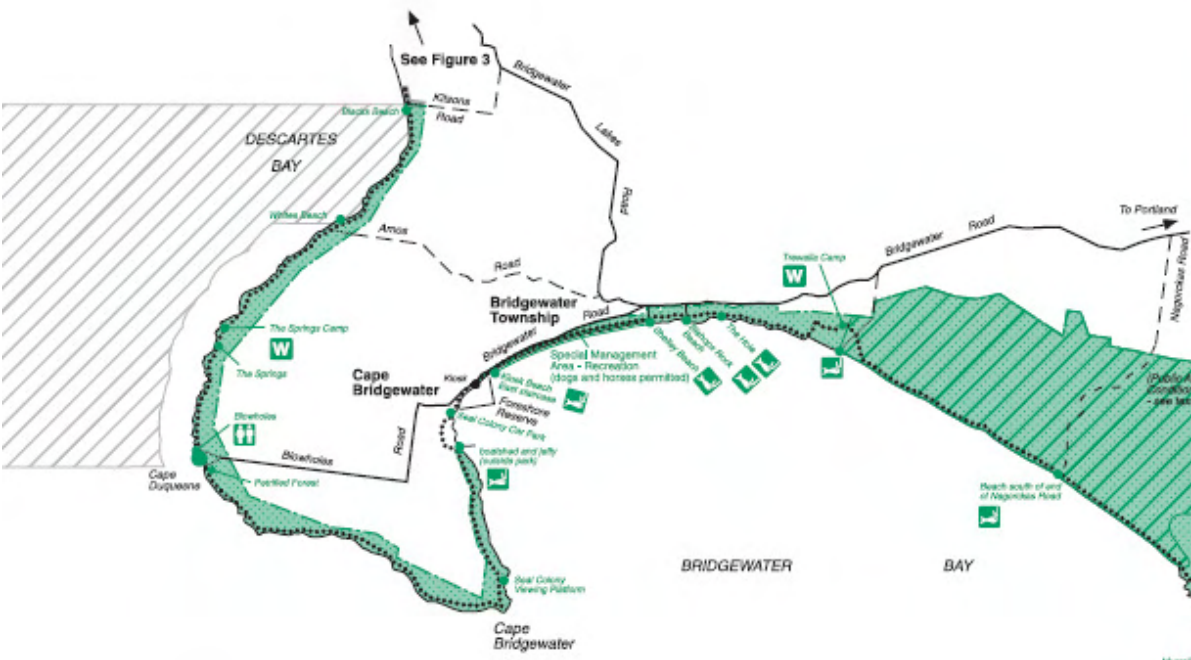
- Conservation and Recreation zone
- Recreation Development zone
- Special Protection Area overlay
- Special Management Area - Recreation overlay

RECREATION SITES AND MAIN FACILITIES

- Recreation Site
- Fishing access
- Toilet
- Camping on Great South West Walk

ACCESS

- Major road
- Minor road or vehicular track
- Track for management vehicles and walkers only
- Walking track
- Great South West Walk
- Horse riding route



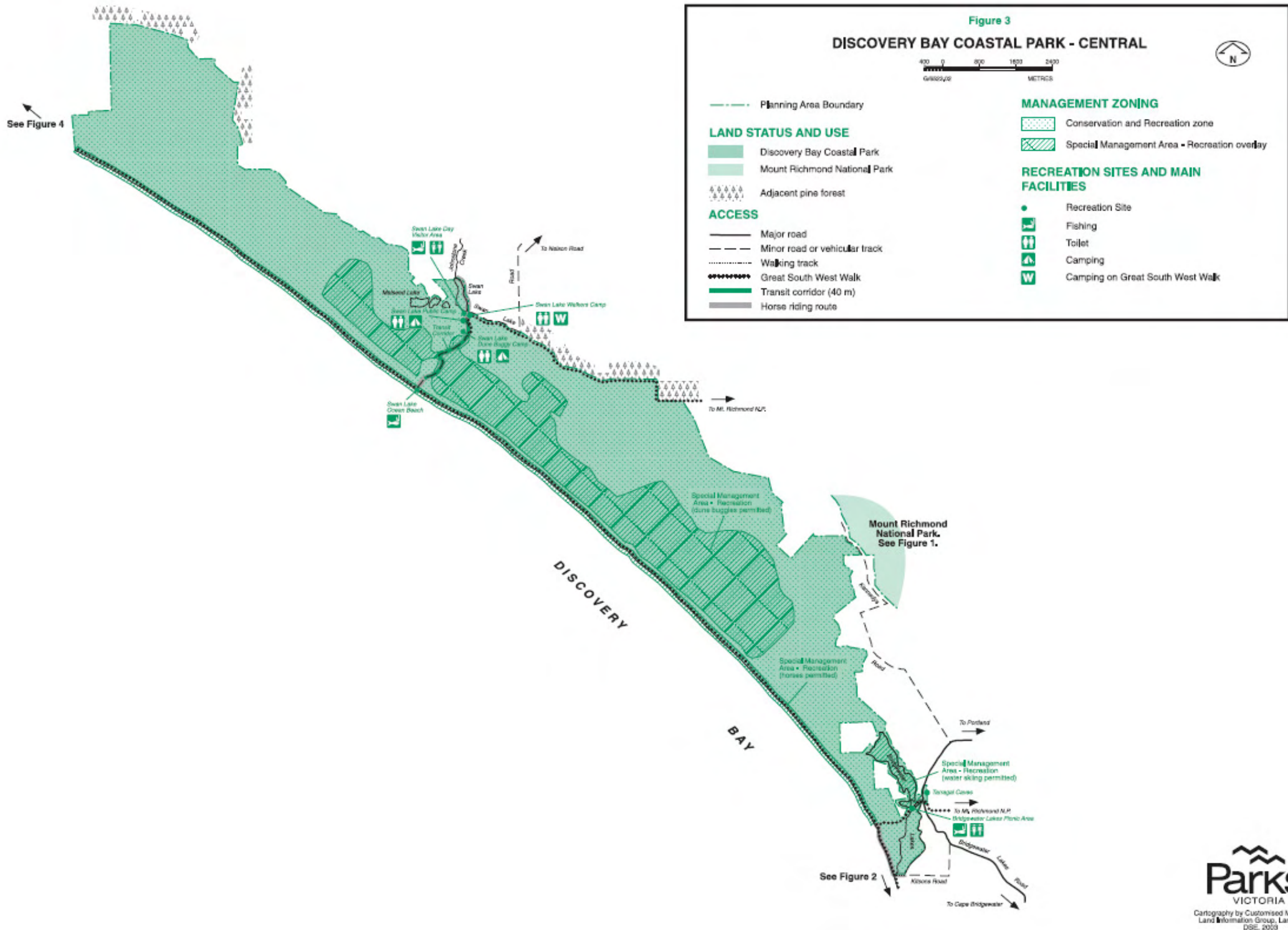


Figure 4
DISCOVERY BAY COASTAL PARK - WEST



- LAND STATUS AND USE**
- Discovery Bay Coastal Park
 - Adjacent Pine Forest
- ACCESS**
- Major road
 - Minor road or vehicular track
 - Track for management vehicles only
 - Walking Track
 - Great South West Walk
 - Horse riding route
- MANAGEMENT ZONING**
- Conservation and Recreation zone
 - Land Use Designation - Heritage River Area overlay
 - Special Management Area - Recreation overlay
- RECREATION SITES AND MAIN FACILITIES**
- Recreation Site
 - Fishing
 - Toilet
 - Camping
 - Camping on Great South West Walk

