

# Morwell National Park

November 1998



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## Management Plan



This Management Plan for Morwell National Park is approved for implementation. Its purpose is to direct all aspects of management in the Park until the Plan is reviewed. A Draft Management Plan for the Park was published in May 1997. Ten submissions were received and have been considered in developing this Approved Plan.

Copies of the Plan can be obtained from:

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Parks Victoria Information Centre  
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## FOREWORD

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Morwell National Park is an important area for the conservation of native flora and fauna. It protects significant remnant vegetation, such as small pockets of Warm Temperate Rainforest, that was once scattered throughout the Strzelecki Ranges.

Set in the industrial region of the LaTrobe Valley, Morwell National Park offers many opportunities for local residents and other visitors to enjoy the natural environment.

Future developments in the Park will focus on developing day visitor areas for picnicking and

barbecues, and improved opportunities for bushwalking in more remote areas of the Park.

This Approved Plan provides for the protection of the Park's important natural and cultural features, and ensures quality visitor experiences.

I thank those individuals and organisations who made submissions on the Draft Plan, and I look forward to the community's support in managing this important National Park.

**Marie Tehan MP**  
**Minister for Conservation**  
**and Land Management**

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## APPROVED MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

The Plan provides the basis for the future management of Morwell National Park. It was finalised following consideration of the ten submissions received on the Draft Plan.

Rod Gowans  
**Acting Director of  
National Parks**

Mark Stone  
**Chief Executive  
Parks Victoria**

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## SUMMARY

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Morwell National Park is an area of natural beauty, suitable for passive recreational activities, that is particularly valued by the people of the LaTrobe Valley.

The Park has regional significance as one of the few areas of remnant natural vegetation in the Strzelecki Ranges.

This vegetation, predominantly Damp Sclerophyll Forest dominated by Blue Gums and marginal Warm Temperate Rainforest with narrow strips of Fern Gully, will be protected.

Rehabilitation of the Billy's Creek Valley, much of which has been cleared and used for grazing, will be undertaken as a priority.

Re-establishment of the native forests and understorey on heavily modified sites will be continued, as will efforts to control the extensive infestations of introduced species.

Future developments in the Park will provide day visitor areas for picnicking and barbecues, and improved opportunities for bushwalking in more remote areas of the Park.

Major management directions for the Park are summarised below.

- Significant natural features, flora and fauna will be given special protection.
- Biological surveys to identify significant fauna will be encouraged.
- Co-operative efforts with adjoining landholders to control pest plants and animals will be undertaken.
- The revegetation program for degraded areas will be continued.
- Visitor enjoyment of the Park will be enhanced by developing Billy's Creek Valley for day visitor use, extending bushwalking opportunities and improving interpretation.



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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 Location and planning area

Morwell National Park is on the lower northern slopes of the Strzelecki Ranges, 164 km east of Melbourne along the Princes Highway and 16 km south of Morwell. The Park lies within the LaTrobe Valley, in which over 100 000 people live (figure 1).

The Management Plan covers Morwell National Park (396 ha) and the following additional areas of public land being investigated for addition to the Park, comprising a total of 524 ha (figures 1 and 4):

- 20 ha of reserved forest south of the Park's eastern block;
- 74.4 ha of unreserved Crown land further south of the Park's eastern block;
- 3.3 ha of land along Billy's Creek, north of the eastern block, which was purchased by the Victorian Conservation Trust and transferred to the Crown in 1991 for addition to the Park;
- approximately 20 ha of Crown land along Billy's Creek;
- 3.8 ha of Crown land near Jumbuk Road providing a valuable link between the eastern and western sections of the Park;
- 3 ha of Crown land in the south-western section of the Park near Brewsters Road;
- 3 ha of Crown land in the vicinity of the Kerry Road entrance - the site of the former Ranger's house and depot.

The reserved forest, unreserved Crown land and land purchased by the Victorian Conservation Trust are proposed additions to the Park currently being managed by Parks Victoria as part of the Park (section 7.2.1).

## 1.2 Regional context

Morwell National Park is an area of natural beauty suitable for passive recreational activities. The Park is particularly important to the people of the LaTrobe Valley and other local residents.

Surrounding land, including forest and cleared areas, is used for grazing, forestry and rural residential subdivision. The majority of the subdivided land is north of the Park boundary and has been steadily expanding over the years.

The Park is the closest National Park to the LaTrobe Valley. Other natural areas in the region include Holey Plains State Park to the east, Tarra-Bulga National Park to the south-east and Baw Baw National Park, Moondarra State Park and Tyers Park to the north.

## 1.3 Significance of the Park

Morwell National Park makes a valuable contribution to Victoria's park system, which aims to protect viable representative samples of the State's natural environments occurring on public land. Parks also provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy and appreciate natural and cultural values, and many make important contributions to tourism.

Morwell National Park is assigned the IUCN Category III (Natural Monument) of the United Nations' List of National Parks and Protected Areas. Category III areas are managed mainly for the conservation of specific natural features.

Significant features of the planning area are summarised below.

### Natural values

- Regional significance as one of the few remaining areas of remnant vegetation in the Strzelecki Ranges.
- Over 320 recorded flora species, including five rare or threatened species and 44 orchid species.
- A total of 129 native fauna species, including 19 mammal species, 96 bird species, 11 reptile species and three amphibian species including two threatened species.
- High scenic values, from the low valleys to the spectacular backdrop of the Baw Baw Plateau.

### Cultural value

- Relics of past land uses.

### **Tourism and recreational values**

- Excellent opportunities to interpret the natural environment.
- Bushwalking experiences close to the LaTrobe Valley in more secluded areas.

## **1.4 Creation of the Park**

Morwell National Park (138 ha) was originally declared on 26 November 1966 as a result of the *Morwell National Park Act 1966* (Vic.). Subsequent additions in 1969, 1981 and 1989 increased the Park size to 396 hectares. The Park is included in Schedule 2 of the National Parks Act.

## **1.5 Legislation and guidelines**

Morwell National Park is reserved and managed under the provisions of the National Parks Act. The Act requires the Director to preserve and protect the natural environment of the Park, and its natural and other features and, subject to this, to provide for the use of the Park by the public for enjoyment, recreation and education. The Act also provides for appropriate research.

In its Final Recommendations for the South Gippsland Area District 2, the former Land Conservation Council (LCC 1982) recommended that the area be a Regional Park to:

- provide opportunities for informal recreation for large numbers of people;
- conserve and protect ecosystems to the extent that this is consistent with the above.

The current status of the area is National Park.

The Park is managed in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines for the management of parks with other guidelines and procedures, including the area's fire protection plan (CNR 1994).

## **1.6 Park management aims**

Sections 4 (Objects) and 17 of the National Parks Act provide the main basis for management of the Park. The following management aims are derived from those sections, and as such broadly govern all aspects of park management.

### **Resource conservation**

- Preserve and protect the natural environment.
- Allow natural environmental processes to continue with the minimum of interference.
- Maintain biodiversity.
- Conserve features of archaeological, historical and cultural significance.

### **Park protection**

- Protect human life, the Park and adjacent lands from injury by fire.
- Eradicate, or otherwise control, introduced plants, animals and diseases.

### **The Park visit**

- Provide opportunities for appropriate recreation and tourism.
- Promote and encourage an appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the Park's natural and cultural values and its recreational opportunities.
- Encourage appropriate Park use and visitor behaviour, and foster a conservation ethic in visitors and an understanding of minimal impact behaviour.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure 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 Park.
- Co-operate with local, State and interstate government authorities, the community and other interested organisations to assist in the management of the Park.

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## 2 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

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### 2.1 Park vision

A future visitor to Morwell National Park enjoys a variety of activities in a peaceful, natural setting in the heart of a major industrial region. Bushwalking in more remote settings is provided for and encouraged. Areas that were once degraded have been rehabilitated. The Park is an excellent venue for research and scientific study.

The importance, values and management of the Park are understood and appreciated. Visitors enjoy high quality visitor facilities in the Billy's Creek area and high quality information services help them interpret the Park's natural values.

Care and management of the Park is undertaken in close association with the local community, Friends and other volunteer groups.

### 2.2 Management directions

Major management directions for the Park are outlined below.

#### Resource conservation

- Significant natural features will be given special protection.
- Biological surveys to identify significant fauna will be conducted.
- Management prescriptions will be developed for areas of significant botanical interest.

#### Park protection

- Co-operative management with adjoining landholders to control pest plants and animals will be encouraged.
- The revegetation program for degraded areas will be continued.
- A Fire Management Plan will be developed for the Park, with particular emphasis on fire prevention, suppression and ecological burning.

### The Park visit

- Billy's Creek Valley will be developed and promoted for day visitor use.
- Bushwalking opportunities will be improved and extended.
- High quality information on the Park's natural values will be available.
- Visitor enjoyment of the Park will be enhanced by improved interpretation of key features - for example, native vegetation and historical features.

### Community awareness and involvement

- Co-operation with local landholders, community groups and local Government will be fostered to encourage the application of the Good Neighbour Policy to management issues on or near the boundary of the Park.

### 2.3 Zoning

A park management zoning scheme has been developed to:

- provide a geographic framework in which to manage the Park;
- indicate which management directions have priority in different parts of the Park;
- indicate the types and levels of use appropriate throughout the Park;
- 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 Park - Conservation, and Conservation and Recreation. In addition a Special Management Area—Revegetation—is used to summarise requirements additional to those of the underlying zones.

Table 1 specifies the management zones and overlay characteristics, and figure 2 shows their location.

**TABLE 1 MANAGEMENT ZONES AND OVERLAY**

	ZONE		OVERLAY
	CONSERVATION	CONSERVATION AND RECREATION	REVEGETATION
AREA/ LOCATION	288 ha, 55 % of the planning area. Includes the western section of the Park, which is of high conservation value.	236 ha, 45 % of the planning area; comprises the total Billy's Creek Valley.	95 ha, 18% of the planning area – 92 ha in the eastern section of the planning area and 3 ha in the western section.
VALUES	Essentially undisturbed vegetation and areas of high conservation significance.	Important natural values and scope for facilities development in a natural setting.	Largely disturbed sites including some areas with soil erosion problems.
GENERAL MANAGEMENT AIM	Protect sensitive natural environments and provide for minimal impact recreation activities and simple visitor facilities subject to ensuring minimal interference to natural processes.	Protect less sensitive natural environments and provide for sustainable dispersed recreation activities and small-scale recreation facilities without significant impact on natural processes.	Managed primarily for revegetation with high, medium and low priority areas.

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## 3 RESOURCE CONSERVATION

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### 3.1 Geological and landform features

The Park is on the northern foothills of the Strzelecki Ranges. Its topography is a series of steep to moderate spurs and deeply incised gullies.

Fosters Gully, which runs in a north-westerly direction, and Billy's Creek, which generally runs in a northerly direction, are the two main streams within the Park. Both drain into the Morwell River via Middle Creek.

Elevations in the Park range from 150 m above sea level in Fosters Gully to 430 m above sea level in the far north-east corner of the eastern section of the Park.

#### Aims

- Protect sites of geological and geomorphological significance.
- Maintain or enhance water quality.
- Improve knowledge of the geology and geomorphology.

#### Management strategies

- *Encourage landholders in the catchment of the Park to revegetate gullies and creeks (sections 4.2, 4.3 and 7.2.2).*
- *Encourage appropriate research into, appreciation of and education about, geological and geomorphological sites and processes in the Park.*

### 3.2 Vegetation

Effective vegetation management requires the overall conservation, protection and re-establishment of indigenous flora. It also requires appropriate fire regimes, control of pest plants and animals, and control of damage by visitors (sections 4.1, 4.2 and 5.2).

A total of 320 indigenous plant species, including 44 species of orchids, has been recorded in the planning area (Harris 1997). Five of these species are listed as rare or threatened in Victoria (Gullan, Cheal & Walsh

1990): Elongate Fork Fern is classed as rare in Australia and vulnerable in Victoria; Oval Fork Fern, Common Spider Orchid and Slender Tick-trefoil are considered rare in Victoria; and Southern Spider Orchid is classed as 'insufficiently known' in Victoria (NRE database 1998).

The vegetation is predominantly Damp Sclerophyll Forest dominated by Blue Gum, Mountain Grey Gum and Manna Gum. Wetter vegetation communities include some marginal Warm Temperate Rainforest and narrow strips of Fern Gully communities (Griffiths 1989).

One of the reasons for creating the Park in 1966 was to protect the uncommon epiphytic Butterfly Orchid population and its Wet Fern Gully habitat, which is locally abundant in the Park but extremely restricted within the Strzelecki Ranges. The Butterfly Orchid and rare ferns depend on stable, moist environments such as that in Fosters Gully. It is essential that disturbance of these environments is minimised and fires are excluded (sections 4.1 and 4.2).

Vegetation along the Billy's Creek Valley is highly disturbed; much of the valley has been cleared and used for grazing in the past. In some areas the natural overstorey species, mainly Blue Gum, Mountain Grey Gum and Manna Gum, remain, and Mountain Ash also occurs along Billy's Creek. The understorey along the creek, however, is weed infested (section 4.2). Rehabilitation is discussed in section 4.3.

Large old trees of Sweet Pittosporum are found in Fosters Gully, some of which support the uncommon Butterfly Orchid. Pittosporum is spreading from the steeper wetter gullies, where it may have occurred naturally (there is some doubt as to whether it is indigenous to the Strzelecki Ranges or not) (Griffiths 1989), to the ridges where it is invading areas aggressively (section 4.2).

### Aims

- Protect and conserve the range of vegetation communities in the Park.
- Protect any sites and species of special botanical interest.
- Restore degraded communities.
- Improve knowledge of the Park's flora and management requirements.
- Allow natural ecological process to continue.

### Management strategies

- *Conduct necessary investigations into, and develop management prescriptions for, areas of special botanical interest.*
- *Manage species and communities listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic.) in accordance with approved action statements.*
- *Promote and assist survey and research into the flora in the planning area.*
- *Monitor the distribution of Sweet Pittosporum (section 4.2).*

## 3.3 Fauna

The planning area's remnant vegetation contains a diverse range of fauna.

Generally wildlife management can be achieved by maintaining and improving the overall quality and diversity of vegetation, and in particular through the protection of native vegetation, re-establishment of natural habitat (section 4.3) and control of pest plants and animals, especially foxes and cats (section 4.2)

Only limited information is available on the fauna of the Park as no detailed survey has been undertaken. Very little is known about the Park's amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates.

To date 129 native fauna species have been recorded for the Park including two threatened species.

Nineteen species of native mammals have been recorded in the Park. Of the arboreal

mammals, Feathertail Gliders, Sugar Gliders and Greater Gliders are found in the Park along with the Mountain Brushtail Possum, which is usually abundant in tall open and closed forests. Forest-dwelling bats include the Lesser Long-eared Bat and Gould's Long-eared Bat. Smaller ground-dwelling mammals recorded include the White-footed Dunnart, Long-nosed Bandicoot and Dusky Antechinus.

Birds are particularly well represented, 96 species being recorded. The endangered Powerful Owl has been sighted infrequently in Fosters Gully and the Superb Lyrebird is common in the fern gullies of the Park.

Three species of amphibians and 11 species of reptiles have been recorded in the Park (CNR 1995). The Eastern Water Skink is threatened in Victoria (NRE 1998).

Until 1956 timber harvesting was undertaken in the Park. This resulted in a depletion of mature trees in the Park, reducing the availability of hollows and habitat. The plant communities are relatively young (approximately 40 years old).

Annual Koala counts are undertaken by the Morwell National Park Friends group. At present there are no visible signs of the disease *Chlamydia*. Young Koalas have been sighted, indicating that the population is successfully breeding in the Park.

### Aims

- Protect and conserve the Park's native fauna, significant species and communities.
- Improve knowledge of the Park's fauna and management requirements.
- Minimise disturbance of fauna and habitats.

### Management strategies

- *Survey the planning area to establish baseline information on vertebrate fauna.*
- *Monitor the habitats of threatened species.*
- *Manage species and communities listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act in accordance with approved action statements.*

- *Encourage research into the biology and habitat requirements of the Park's fauna.*
- *Encourage systematic survey of invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles in the Park.*
- *Do not allow fishing in the Park.*
- *Ensure that Koalas are counted annually, and encourage study of the size of the population.*
- *Continue to encourage participation of community groups in fauna surveys in the Park, in particular the Koala count by the Morwell National Park Friends group.*
- *Protect mature habitat trees during burning operations by raking around bases, and retain these trees unless they pose a threat to visitor safety.*

### 3.4 Landscape

The scenery of Morwell National Park forms a sharp contrast to the industrial setting of the LaTrobe Valley. In a locality with very few areas of remnant vegetation, it is vital to conserve what is left for current and future generations.

Landscape qualities vary dramatically within the Park, from Warm Temperate Rainforest in Fosters Gully to the semi-cleared/grazed areas in the Billy's Creek Valley (section 7.2).

Magnificent views can be obtained across the LaTrobe Valley from the elevated land in the south-east corner of the western section and the higher points in the eastern section of the Park. Clearing of vegetation close to the Park has enhanced panoramic views of the lower-lying land, showing a widely cut valley at the foot of the Baw Baw Ranges.

It is essential that the visual environment is protected and that disturbed areas are restored. Landscape protection in the Park involves the appropriate siting of all developments, such as walking tracks, recreation sites and structures, and the sensitive planning and execution of essential field operations such as prescribed burning.

The visual quality in parts of the Billy's Creek area is poor. Restoration will visually improve the area (section 4.3).

#### Aims

- Protect or enhance landscape diversity and scenic quality in the Park.
- Minimise the visual impact of existing and necessary additional alterations to the landscape values.

#### Management strategies

- *Minimise the visual impact of management activities on landscape values.*
- *Improve the landscape quality of degraded areas (section 4.3).*
- *Implement Parks Victoria guidelines in planning, design and construction works in the Park. Consider distant as well as close views in the design of all projects.*
- *Design and program prescribed burning operations, particularly those abutting public roads, to minimise impact on scenic quality.*

### 3.5 Cultural heritage

Morwell National Park and the surrounding area is of significance to the Woollum Woollum Clan, one of the Kurnai group of Gippsland. Archaeological work at Buchan indicates that Aborigines were in Gippsland 18 000 years ago. Occupation of the south and east Gippsland area by the Kurnai began at least 6000 years ago.

The Woollum Woollum people are said to have frequently visited the area seeking possums, for food and especially for their skins.

Large numbers of artefacts have been found in surrounding areas such as Jumbuk and Driffield. An archaeological survey of the Park has not yet been undertaken.

All Aboriginal sites and relics are protected under the *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972 (Vic.)* and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage*



*Protection Act 1984* (Cwlth). The Central Gippsland Aboriginal Health and Housing Co-operative Ltd is the relevant authority for cultural heritage in the Park.

An application for a native title determination was lodged with the Native Title Tribunal in 1997 covering, among other areas, Morwell National Park.

The Strzelecki Ranges was one of the most inhospitable areas in southern Australia. The area of land which now forms Morwell National Park was first settled by Europeans in the 1840s following the explorations of Paul Edward de Strzelecki in 1830.

Much of the Park was formerly privately owned and has been exploited at some stage since European settlement. Within the area of the original Park, there is some evidence of prior land use, e.g. a 1930s timber sawmill, a gravel pit (1929) and a mine shaft (1946). The majority of the Billy's Creek Valley was cleared grazing land.

These sites are often not obvious to visitors although some are identified as points of interest along walking tracks (e.g. Lyndons Clearing and the old gravel pit site along Fosters Gully Nature Walk).

The weir at Billy's Creek, in the eastern section of the Park, is a significant historic site for the LaTrobe Valley.

### **Aims**

- Preserve and protect, and where appropriate interpret, significant sites of cultural interest.

- Encourage investigation of the Aboriginal and European history of the area.

### **Management strategies**

- *Identify, protect, interpret and manage Aboriginal sites and places within the Park in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines and in consultation with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and the Central Gippsland Aboriginal Health and Housing Co-operative Ltd.*
- *Consult Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and the Central Gippsland Aboriginal Health and Housing Co-operative Ltd, and investigate sites for archaeological features, before undertaking development work.*
- *Notify Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and the Central Gippsland Aboriginal Health and Housing Co-operative Ltd if new Aboriginal sites are discovered.*
- *Ensure that visitor and management activities do not adversely affect cultural sites.*
- *Promote the investigation and documentation of Aboriginal culture of the area.*
- *Provide interpretative material at appropriate cultural sites, e.g. the weir at Billy's Creek.*

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## 4 PARK PROTECTION

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### 4.1 Fire management

The National Parks Act requires the Director of National Parks to ensure that appropriate and sufficient measures are taken to protect parks from injury by fire.

Fire management involves the protection of the Park from fire, the suppression and prevention of unplanned fire and the specified use of fire (prescribed burning) to achieve management objectives.

Strategic fire protection requirements for Morwell National Park are identified in the Yarram Region Fire Protection Plan (CNR 1994). This Plan covers maintenance of the Park's system of fire protection access tracks, recommendations for fuel reduction burning, and liaison with private landholders for the common purpose of fire management within the Park, on adjacent land and in areas of ecological and cultural significance.

Fuel reduction burning is conducted in strategic areas to hinder the development of an unplanned fire and to provide protection for specific assets both within the Park and on adjoining freehold properties. Prescribed burning is also used in the regeneration of natural vegetation, especially after disturbance and in the maintenance of particular fauna habitat or successional stages of vegetation.

Morwell National Park has three burning zones as defined in the Yarram Region Fire Protection Plan (CNR 1994).

**Priority 2 Burning Zone** forms corridors of sufficient width and continuity to create a substantial barrier to the spread of unplanned fire. This area is across the possible path of a large fire, adjacent to other public land and private assets and along main thoroughfares. Burning frequency depends on the rate of fine fuel accumulation and is expected to vary between 5 and 8 years.

**Priority 4 Burning Zone** provides for protection burning to reduce fuel accumulation only where it is compatible with habitat management of flora and fauna species. Burning frequency and timing will depend on

ecological requirements of various communities.

The third zone, **No Burning Area**, applies to Fosters Gully, a Wet Sclerophyll Forest which is sensitive to fire. Burning will not be undertaken in this area and all efforts will be made to protect it from unplanned fire.

Potential sources of unplanned fires are lightning strikes, illegal campfires and adjoining land.

Fire intensity and frequency is a major influence on the development of vegetation communities; however, burning specifically for ecological purposes has not yet been carried out in the Park to any great extent.

#### Aims

- Protect human life, property and park values from injury by fire.
- Establish, implement and maintain fire regimes appropriate to the conservation of native flora and fauna.
- Use fire as a tool in effective vegetation management.

#### Management strategies

- *Publicise and enforce fire regulations and restrictions on the use of fire within the Park. Patrol areas of high public use during periods of high fire danger to ensure visitor compliance with fire regulations.*
- *Develop a Fire Management Plan (as a sub plan of the Yarram Region Fire Protection Plan CNR 1994) specifically for the Park which:*
  - *determines the appropriate level of burning for specific vegetation types (section 3.2);*
  - *allows ecological burning or slashing to preserve threatened flora or fauna species in accordance with approved species/community action plans and if there is no threat to other species;*

- *implements fuel reduction burning outside the Conservation Zone as required by the Regional Fire Protection Plan, and maintains detailed records of areas burnt;*
  - *monitors the effect of fuel reduction burning on vegetation communities and associated fauna;*
  - *reviews, and if necessary upgrades, the network of water points and facilities in or near the Park to ensure adequate water supplies;*
  - *monitors the effectiveness of using small scale burns to reduce the spread of Pittosporum;*
  - *ensures maintenance of signposts, access tracks and adequate perimeter fire breaks.*
- *In conjunction with CFA encourage private property owners, to reduce fire hazards adjacent to the Park.*
  - *Maintain close liaison with local CFA brigades to ensure co-operation in fire suppression activities.*

## 4.2 Pest plants and animals

Under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (Vic.) and National Parks Act, there are statutory obligations to control noxious weeds and vermin in National Parks.

A large number of introduced species occur in the Park, some of which are declared noxious weeds in Victoria. Many are introduced agricultural species resulting from a history of clearing, grazing and pasture establishment, particularly in the Billy's Creek Valley, which was previously grazed.

A control program for pest plants in the Park has been developed and is being implemented.

Particular problem species in the Park are Blackberry, Ragwort, Nightshade, Wild Teasel and Purple-topped Verbena.

A rare variety of nightshade, *Solanum douglasii*, is an aggressive agricultural weed that spreads quickly and dominates other ground species. Problems are arising when

control programs for Blackberry are successful because of subsequent invasion by nightshade.

Wild Teasel inhabits creek banks, and Purple-topped Verbena is hampering natural regeneration in the east of the Billy's Creek Valley. Both these species are proving difficult to control.

Sweet Pittosporum occurs in the Park (section 3.2) and has the potential to be a major management problem. It is a vigorous invader of moist forests, and this is occurring in the Park at present. It has the ability to form a dense canopy, excluding less competitive species (due largely to the lack of light).

The high level of weed invasion from adjacent pastoral and residential land is a major concern (section 6.2).

As with most urban fringe parks, domestic pets, particularly cats and dogs, are a serious problem (section 6.2). Other introduced species in the Park include rabbits, foxes, sheep, feral goats, European wasps and starlings.

Rabbits contribute to erosion problems by burrowing and can have detrimental effects on regeneration and rehabilitation projects.

The fox is an opportunistic predator and scavenger, preying particularly on small mammals and birds. Foxes, along with dogs and cats, can have detrimental effects on native fauna, particularly lyrebird populations.

Stock such as goats and sheep entering the Park are an increasing concern, creating problems in erosion control and rehabilitation. They inhabit the steeper and more inaccessible areas of the Park, making control difficult.

Over the past two years the number of European wasp nests has increased within the Park.

### Aims

- Control, and where possible eradicate, introduced pest plant and animal species.
- Control environmental weeds which have the potential to degrade the natural values.
- Prevent the introduction of exotic species.

### Management strategies

- *Continue the program to control pest plants. As a priority:*
  - *remove willows from creek banks and replace with large indigenous seedlings;*
  - *hand pull new seedlings of *Pittosporum*, cut and paint larger trees (not within 100 m of the stream bed of Fosters Gully and its tributaries) and trial the use of small scale burns to reduce the spread of seedlings;*
  - *hand pull weeds in the Conservation Zone, if necessary spray large infestations but do not use mechanical control methods;*
  - *monitor the spread of pest plants along walking tracks and take actions as necessary.*
- *Develop and implement pest animal control programs, initially concentrating on foxes, feral cats and feral goats.*
- *Monitor the effectiveness of the pest plant and animal control programs and modify as necessary.*
- *Control European wasps using appropriate techniques.*
- *Ensure that neighbouring land owners are aware of and address their responsibilities, particularly in regard to fencing and controlling stock and pets.*
- *Encourage the development of community education materials and programs on environmental weeds to encourage removal of invasive pest plants from adjoining land, reduce rubbish dumping and promote the use of appropriate garden plants on adjacent land.*

### 4.3 Revegetation

Revegetation programs are designed to improve wildlife habitat, increase landscape character and re-create the natural environment after disturbance. They involve direct seeding and tree planting, and encouraging natural regeneration by controlling pest plants and pest animals, in particular rabbits, goats and sheep.

Much of the Billy's Creek Valley has been cleared and/or grazed. Some areas have a relatively intact overstorey but a weedy understorey; other areas have more severe weed problems (sections 3.2 and 4.2).

A revegetation program being developed for the planning area addresses high, medium and low priority revegetation areas (figure 2). The program involves tree and understorey planting of high priority areas and areas with significant erosion problems, direct seeding of medium priority areas and the steeper areas of the planning area, and natural regeneration of low priority areas.

#### **Aim**

- *Revegetate degraded areas of the Park.*

#### **Management strategies**

- *Continue to develop and implement the revegetation program.*
- *Where weeds have been eradicated, quickly restore native vegetation to prevent weed re-invasion.*
- *Slash appropriate parts of the Billy's Creek Valley weedy understorey to enhance picnic sites along the creek.*
- *Continue to encourage the Morwell National Park Friends group, local residents, schools and community organisations to participate in tree planting, clean-up days and other revegetation works.*
- *In accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines, use only indigenous species for vegetation. Use seed and seedlings propagated from sources from within the Park where possible.*
- *Use an appropriate mix of ground, middle and upper storey species for direct seeding and tree planting activities (section 3.2).*

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## 5 THE PARK VISIT

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### 5.1 The Park visitor

Morwell National Park has been a popular visitor destination for people from the LaTrobe Valley for many years. Major activities undertaken by visitors to the Park are picnicking, bushwalking, nature study and appreciation, and bird watching.

The Park attracts almost 35 000 visitors annually. Visitor numbers are fairly evenly distributed throughout the year, although slightly higher in the summer.

Trends over the last few years indicate that the visitor numbers will continue to increase.

The Park is part of Tourism Victoria's Gippsland Natural Discovery product region, which also includes Wilsons Promontory National Park, Tarra-Bulga National Park, Holey Plains State Park and various State forests.

#### Providing for the visitor

Morwell National Park will continue to provide visitors with an opportunity to relax in a natural setting.

Park management will work to facilitate good quality visitor experiences while at the same time conserving and protecting the Park's natural environment.

Future development of recreational and visitor facilities within the planning area will be concentrated in the Billy's Creek area (section 5.2.2).

Significant strategies include:

- development of a day visitor area within the Billy's Creek Valley, incorporating a car park, picnic area and toilets;
- creation of new walking tracks accompanied by trail interpretation or self-guiding walking information;
- ongoing monitoring of visitor numbers and uses;
- preparation of high quality information on the Park's natural values.

#### Aim

- Provide for visitors in accordance with the above overview of future management for visitors.

#### Management strategies

- *Permit recreational activities in accordance with table 2.*
- *Provide and maintain facilities and services which highlight, but are in keeping with, the area's distinctive character (sections 5.2 and 5.3, and tables 3 and 4).*
- *Apply current market survey findings on visitor profiles, patterns of behaviour, expectations and preferences to assist in park management.*
- *Establish a program to determine appropriate levels of recreational activity consistent with protecting visitor experiences and park values.*
- *Encourage all visitors to adopt minimal impact techniques and to adhere to codes of conduct appropriate to their activity.*
- *Monitor visitor numbers and use to ensure adequate provision of facilities consistent with appropriate types and levels of use.*

### 5.2 Visitor recreation activities and facilities

#### 5.2.1 Access

Parks Victoria aims to provide a range of access conditions to ensure that people (including those with limited mobility) are given the opportunity to use existing and new recreation facilities, participate in a wide variety of programs and have access to a range of natural environments.

Existing vehicle access to Morwell National Park is via Jumbuk Road and Kerry Road to the Kerry Road picnic area at Fosters Gully.

**TABLE 2 SUMMARY OF RECREATION ACTIVITIES**

ACTIVITY	MANAGEMENT ZONES		OVERLAY	SECTION
	1	2	3	
Bushwalking	Yes	Yes	YC	5.2.3
Camping	No	No	No	
Bird watching	Yes	Yes	YC	5.2.3
Nature study/appreciation	Yes	Yes	YC	5.2.3, 5.3
Orienteering/rogaining	No	No	No	
Picnicking	Yes	Yes	YC	5.2.2
Fishing	No	No	No	3.3
Horse riding	No	No	No	
Dogs	No	No	No	
Mountain bike riding/cycling	YC	YC	No	5.2.1, table 4
Trail bike riding	No	No	No	5.2.1
Off-road driving/riding	No	No	No	5.2.1
Fires and firewood collection	No	No	No	5.2.2
Rock climbing/abseiling	NA	NA	NA	

NA	Not applicable	1	Conservation Zone
No	Not appropriate	2	Conservation and Recreation Zone
Y	Appropriate	3	Special Management Area - Revegetation
YC	Conditional - refer to relevant section for details		

From there further access in the Park is by walking or bicycle only (section 5.2.3, table 4 and figure 3).

The proposed access into the Billy's Creek Valley is via Braniffs Road. All other public access in this part of the planning area is via walking tracks only (figure 3a and table 4).

Access for management purposes, search and rescue, and fire vehicles is provided (table 4).

#### **Aim**

- Provide and maintain access in the Park for visitor use and management purposes.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Permit use of, maintain and develop, roads and management access tracks in accordance with table 4.*
- *Design and create suitable access into Billy's Creek Valley and provide parking facilities for both cars and buses in accordance with table 3.*
- *Install a traffic counter at the Braniffs Road entrance to Billy's Creek Valley, and monitor visitor traffic.*
- *Allow bicycle riding on tracks in accordance with table 4.*

**TABLE 3 EXISTING AND PROPOSED FACILITIES AT BILLY’S CREEK VALLEY**

SITE NO.*	LOCATION	PROPOSED FACILITIES
1	Main gate	Major entrance sign, main gate, Park regulations sign.
2	Main road and bridge	Main road from entrance to bridge across Billy’s Creek to car park.
3	Main car park	Picnic tables, gas barbecues, main car park, toilets, information shelter and walking track signs.
4	1st creek crossing	Picnic table, foot bridge (existing).
5	2nd creek crossing	Picnic table, foot bridge (existing).
6	Potato Flat	Picnic tables, signs.
7	Grassy area	No formal facilities, area to be slashed for dispersed picnicking.
8	3rd creek crossing	Foot bridge (existing).
9	Weir	Picnic tables, signs interpreting the history of the weir, visitor safety, ‘swimming at own risk’ sign (toilets as demand requires).

\*Location of sites shown on figure 3a.

- *Liaise with VicRoads and LaTrobe Shire to update signs indicating access to the Park in nearby towns and along major access roads as required.*
- *Publicise and enforce regulations which prohibit off road use of trail bikes and other vehicles.*
- *In accordance with the Parks Victoria signage strategy, upgrade and standardise road and track signposting throughout the Park.*

### 5.2.2 Day visits

Day visitor facilities in the Park at the Kerry Road picnic area (near Fosters Gully) consist of

picnic tables, barbecues, toilets, a small car park, an information shelter, and access to the two main walking tracks in the Park - the self-guided Fosters Gully Nature Walk, and Stringybark Ridge Track (section 5.2.3).

With increasing visitor pressure on the existing picnic area, some natural values in Fosters Gully are threatened. Additional visitor facilities will be developed in the Billy’s Creek Valley (table 3 and figure 3a) as required.

There is little or no demand for camping, which has never been allowed in the Park.

#### Aim

- Establish and manage day visitor facilities which enhance visitor enjoyment and are consistent with protecting park values.

**TABLE 4 MANAGEMENT OF ROADS AND TRACKS**

ROAD/TRACK	CLASS	SITE	STATUS	COMMENTS/USES
Kerry Road	1	From Junction Road to Kerry Road picnic area.	O	Access to car park and day visitor facilities. Shire road (section 7.2.1).
Billy's Creek Entrance Road	1	From Braniffs Road to the proposed car park.	O/P	Develop all vehicle-all weather access to main car park and day visitor facilities.
Fosters Gully Nature Walk	B/C	Begins and ends at Kerry Road picnic area (2.3 km, 60 mins walking time).	W	Suitable for people with limited mobility as far as Lyndons Clearing. Good surface, moderate grades and some steps. Self-guided nature walk. Notes provided.
Stringybark Ridge Track	3	Begins 250 m along Fosters Gully and traverses ridge to west of Fosters Gully (3.8 km, 90 mins walking time).	MVO	Not suitable for people with limited mobility. Good surface, moderate grades, steep steps. Opportunities to view wildflowers and orchids in season.
Billy's Creek Track	3	From Junction Road to proposed car park along Billy's Creek (1.6 km, 30 mins walking time).	MVO/ Cyc/P	To be developed in conjunction with visitor facilities in recreation areas. Potential for highlighting current revegetation program along the creek flats and streamside interpretation trail.
Weir Track	3	From proposed car park to old weir (1 km, 20 mins walking time).	MVO/ Cyc	Minimal grades. To be developed in conjunction with visitor facilities. Potential for streamside interpretation trail and interpretation at historic and other interesting sites.
Unnamed	2	Stringybark Track to Brewsters Rd (2 km).	MVO	Fire access.
Clematis Track	C	From Billy's Creek along ridges and gullies above recreation areas (2.3 km - return to weir via Lodge track).	W	Very steep, some rocky surface. Cleared formed track, 1 km. Excellent views and vegetation (no signs). Potential for interpretation or self-guided walk.



Table 4 (cont.)

ROAD/TRACK	CLASS	SITE	STATUS	COMMENTS/USES
Lodge Track	2	From weir along steep ridge east of recreation area to Morans Road (2.1 km - from weir to Morans Road gate).	MVO	Very steep, complete except for signposting. Potential for interpretation or self-guided walk. Excellent scenic opportunities with spectacular views from higher areas.
Unnamed	D	From weir to top of large hill south-east of recreation areas (2 km - one way only).	W/P	Very steep with some rough, loose surface. Partly cleared and formed. Magnificent views. Suitable for interpretation.
Unnamed	D	From saddle near top of above hill, south to Billy's Creek returning along creek to weir (4.5 km - from saddle to weir).	W/P	Steep terrain. Remote, inaccessible area. Develop as required after establishing day visitor facilities (table 3). Wilderness experience. Suitable for interpretation.
Zig Zag Track	3	From Jumbuk Road down to Billy's Creek.	MVO	Steep grade, fire access and good view into Billy's Creek Valley

**Class**

1	All vehicle - all weather
2	4WD - all weather
3	4WD - dry weather
B	Track well defined, and benched and drained, up to 1 m wide.
C	Track defined through use, may be benched, drained and cleared in sections.
D	Track or footpath defined through use but with no basic construction.

**Status**

MVO	Management vehicles only (walking permitted on MVO tracks)
O	Open to public vehicles (including bicycles)
W	Walkers only access
P	Proposed
Cyc	Bicycle access

**Management strategies**

- *Implement the proposed developments in the Billy's Creek Valley (table 3 and figure 3a).*
- *Maintain visitor facilities at the Kerry Road picnic site at the existing level.*
- *Monitor and take appropriate action to minimise visitor impacts on park values.*
- *Replace existing fireplaces with gas barbecues. Permit solid fuel fires only in*

*fireplaces provided until replaced with gas barbecues.*

- *Do not provide rubbish bins. Place 'Please take your rubbish home' signs at strategic locations.*
- *Continue to encourage weekday park use.*

**5.2.3 Bushwalking and nature appreciation**

There are many opportunities within the Park for walking in a natural setting and appreciating

the Park's natural and cultural values, in particular birds and historic features.

Two main walking tracks start from the Kerry Road picnic area, the self-guided Fosters Gully Nature Walk and the Stringybark Ridge Track.

Billy's Creek Valley has excellent opportunities for walking in more secluded areas, some with outstanding views. Table 4 outlines the proposed walking track system.

#### **Aim**

- Provide for bushwalking and nature appreciation opportunities compatible with conservation objectives.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Construct new and upgrade existing walking tracks in accordance with table 4, as rehabilitation is completed.*
- *Provide adequate information to the public on bushwalking and nature appreciation opportunities (section 5.3).*
- *Monitor the impacts of bushwalking, and restrict or modify areas as necessary.*

### **5.3 Visitor information, interpretation and education**

There is considerable potential in the Park for interpretation and study of wildlife, natural ecosystems and vegetation. The range of vegetation types presents an excellent opportunity to develop small nature trails (table 4).

Effective management of the Park relies on public co-operation and consultation. The provision of information is an important aspect of management, assisting visitors in overcoming possible problems created by lack of awareness of park values, hazards and regulations. Interpretation of the Park's physical, biological and historical values can enhance visitor enjoyment and understanding.

Some information pamphlets are available about the Park and its features, for example the notes for Fosters Gully Nature Walk.

Interpretation is planned for the new walking tracks (section 5.2.3 and table 3). A small information shelter is situated at Kerry Road picnic area.

Signs and information boards are an important aspect of visitor management, giving guidance, advice and information on the features of the Park, permitted activities and restrictions. Signs and sign positioning can also aid in other areas of management such as indicating zoning areas, access tracks and fire regulations. A signs plan for the Park is currently being prepared.

#### **Aims**

- Orientate visitors to the Park and its features.
- Enhance visitors' enjoyment and understanding of the Park's natural and cultural values.

#### **Management strategies**

- *Develop an interpretation plan for the Park.*
- *Provide adequate visitor orientation information and safety messages at key visitor nodes and provide information about the values and permitted activities of the Park.*
- *Investigate and provide appropriate interpretation for facilities and walks as proposed in tables 3 and 4.*
- *Prepare a new Parknote for the Park including the Billy's Creek Valley, and update other Parknotes and other Park information to include the Billy's Creek Valley.*
- *Make Park brochures and information available at tourist and visitor centres, and provide information for regional tourist displays.*
- *Encourage private operators to provide an interpretation program with appropriate activities where possible during summer, school and public holidays.*

- *Establish and implement monitoring and maintenance schedules for all interpretative facilities.*
- *Undertake regular evaluation of information and interpretation programs related to the Park.*
- *Continue to prepare and update a signs plan. Ensure that all signs comply with the Parks Victoria signage strategy.*

#### **5.4 Commercial tourism operations**

The Park is an important component of the tourism attractions of the LaTrobe Valley. The Park offers a variety of passive recreation opportunities in a relatively natural setting suitable for a range of nature-based tourism operations. The Park is part of the ‘Phillip Island and Gippsland Discovery’ Tourism Region.

A variety of commercial accommodation is available in and around the townships and other areas adjacent to the Park.

Currently, no commercial operations operate in or rely directly on the Park for business, although one operator does visit the Park. Commercial operators can help improve visitors’ understanding and appreciation of the Park. Well-organised tour groups can help minimise impacts on park values. Commercial operators are likely to increase with the expected increase in visitor numbers (section 5.1).

##### **Aims**

- Provide opportunities for commercial tourism operations, consistent with park management objectives.
- Monitor commercial use of the Park to ensure that impacts are not detrimental.

##### **Management strategies**

- *Encourage appropriate and sustainable commercial tour activities (section 5.3).*

- *Ensure that commercial operators comply with regulations, guidelines and permit conditions.*
- *Establish a network for information exchange and ensure that commercial operators provide high quality services, facilities and information for visitors, and help protect park values.*

#### **5.5 Public safety**

The natural environment of the Park presents inherent dangers and risks to Park visitors, for instance fires and falling trees, which may be increased by limited access.

Parks Victoria has a responsibility to ensure that visitors are aware of safety issues and risks within the planning area. Victoria Police is responsible for search and rescue operations. Voluntary and specialist groups such as the Country Fire Authority and State Emergency Service may also give valuable assistance.

##### **Aims**

- Promote public safety and safe practices among visitors and staff.
- Ensure that Park staff are trained and available to assist in any emergency situations that may arise.

##### **Management strategies**

- *Encourage visitors to seek information about any activities they intend to undertake in the Park.*
- *Ensure that Park staff are trained in emergency situations and search and rescue.*
- *Maintain liaison with Victoria Police, to address the problem of anti-social behaviour in the Park.*
- *Provide information about hazards in Park information, e.g. about the dangers of walking off tracks.*

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## 6 COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

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### 6.1 Friends and volunteers

Friends groups, volunteers and other interested groups and individuals make valuable contributions towards the protection, conservation, maintenance and development of parks, assisting in projects for which resources may be not available and which would not otherwise be achieved. Their assistance will be encouraged and supported.

Since 1986, the Morwell National Park Friends group has assisted with revegetation programs, weed removal, and flora and fauna surveys. The Friends group has been an invaluable source of knowledge and assistance for Park staff, for the Park and in the preparation of this Plan.

#### Aim

- Continue to encourage the Morwell National Park Friends group and encourage other volunteers to assist with park management activities.

#### Management strategies

- *Develop and evaluate a long-term volunteer strategy which incorporates the skills and interests of volunteer groups in park management activities.*
- *Continue to support the Friends group and support any other volunteers in undertaking relevant park management activities.*

### 6.2 Community awareness and the Park neighbours

Many of the adjacent residents were attracted by the area's natural environment, and value the Park. Encouraging sound management actions by Park neighbours will benefit the Park, as will increasing their awareness of their role as Park neighbours (section 7.2.2).

There are major opportunities for the community to become involved in management-related activities, particularly in the control of environmental weeds (section 4.2). Local schools could assist in collecting data, e.g. on water quality. There are also excellent opportunities for promotion of community awareness of the Park, its values, and management practices.

#### Aims

- Increase community awareness of park management activities.
- Encourage conservation and sound land management practices on private land adjoining the Park.

#### Management strategies

- *Encourage community awareness of park management activities, in particular pest plant and animal control, fire and threatened species management, Koala management and other conservation practices.*
- *Liaise with local community groups and adjacent land owners, and as appropriate involve them in relevant aspects of planning and managing the Park.*
- *Promote responsible pet ownership.*
- *Apply, and encourage the application of, the Good Neighbour Policy to management issues on or near the boundary of the Park (section 4.2).*
- *Where possible, co-ordinate pest plant and animal control efforts.*

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## 7 OTHER ISSUES

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### 7.1 Authorised uses

There are several Eastern Energy easements and Telstra underground cables within the planning area.

No other commercial enterprises operate in the Park, although at times there have been requests for use of the Park for various activities such as weddings and orienteering.

#### Aims

- Minimise the impact of public utilities on park values.
- Ensure appropriate licensing and use of any proposed public utilities.
- Minimise the impact of commercial activities on the values of the Park and on visitors.

#### Management strategies

- *Ensure that existing public utilities are covered by a Section 27 Consent in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines.*
- *Assess applications for organised events and commercial recreation activities in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines.*

### 7.2 Boundaries and adjacent uses

#### 7.2.1 Boundaries

Several areas proposed for addition to the Park are currently managed by Parks Victoria as part of the Park:

- reserved forest south of the Park's eastern block (20 ha);
- unreserved Crown land further south of the Park's eastern block (74.4 ha);
- land along Billy's Creek Valley purchased by the Victorian Conservation Trust (3.3 ha) and transferred to the Crown in 1991;
- other Crown land along Billy's Creek (approximately 20 ha);

- Crown land block near Jumbuk Road (3.8 ha) which will provide a valuable link between the eastern and western sections of the Park;
- Crown land in the south western section of the Park near Brewsters Road (3 ha);
- Crown land near the Kerry Road entrance in the western block (3 ha).

Part of the proposed addition, Crown land allotment of 74.4 ha, is currently leased to and grazed by an adjacent landholder.

There are some areas with valuable remnant vegetation on land surrounding the Park.

#### Aim

- Consolidate proposed additions into the Park to increase conservation values and assist with effective management.

#### Management strategies

- *Seek to incorporate the proposed additions into the Park.*
- *Liaise with the LaTrobe Shire regarding management and maintenance of the section of Kerry Road in the Park.*
- *Implement a program to phase out grazing of the proposed addition (74.4 ha) by the end of 1999.*

#### 7.2.2 Adjacent land

Landscape values of the Park are vulnerable to insensitive development on adjacent private land (section 3.4).

Residential subdivision of neighbouring areas causes management problems such as visitor pressure, illegal access, weed invasion from gardens and dumping of clippings, wandering stock, disturbance to wildlife from dogs, and predation by cats.

**Aim**

- Ensure, where possible, that activities on adjacent land do not have a detrimental impact on the natural values of the Park.

**Management strategies**

- *Develop co-operative management arrangements with adjoining property owners to ensure protection of the natural values of the Park, using measures such as incentives, land exchange, conservation covenants and land purchase.*
- *Eliminate encroachments and inappropriate access into the Park from adjoining farming and residential land through discussion with landholders, using measures such as fencing, licensing and, where appropriate, land exchange.*
- *Liaise with adjoining landholders to minimise the impacts of visually intrusive structures, by screening structures with appropriate vegetation or painting in suitable colours.*
- *Liaise with the LaTrobe Shire to minimise adverse effects on the Park from developments and uses on adjacent land.*

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## 8 IMPLEMENTATION

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A three-year rolling implementation program will be prepared for the Park to ensure efficient implementation of this Plan. Priorities for management are identified in table 5 as an initial step in this process.

**TABLE 5 PRIORITY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES	SECTION IN PLAN
<b>Resource conservation</b>	
Develop management prescriptions for areas of special botanical interest	3.2
<b>Park protection</b>	
Develop a fire management plan for the Park	4.1
Develop and implement pest animal control programs	4.2
Implement pest plant control programs	4.2
Continue to implement the revegetation program	4.3
Develop a volunteer strategy for the Park	6.1
<b>The Park visit</b>	
Develop an interpretation plan and provide interpretative material	3.5, 5.3
Develop visitor facilities at Billy's Creek	5.2.1, 5.2.2
Develop new walking tracks	5.2.3
<b>Monitoring and research</b>	
Monitor the distribution of Pittosporum	3.2
Survey the vertebrate fauna	3.3
Monitor the effectiveness of pest control programs	4.2
Monitor visitor numbers and use	5.1
Install a traffic counter at Braniffs Road entrance	5.2.1
<b>Other</b>	
Seek to incorporate proposed land additions into the Park	7.2.1
Phase out grazing on proposed addition to the Park	7.2.1

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BAW BAW NATIONAL PARK

MOONDARRA STATE PARK

TYERS PARK

MOUNT WORTH STATE PARK

MORWELL NATIONAL PARK

TARRA-BULGA NATIONAL PARK

WARRAGUL

MOE

TRARALGON

MORWELL

KORUMBURRA

Boolara

Mirboo North

LEONGATHA

Meeniyan

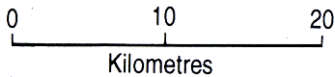
FOSTER

YARRAM

Welshpool

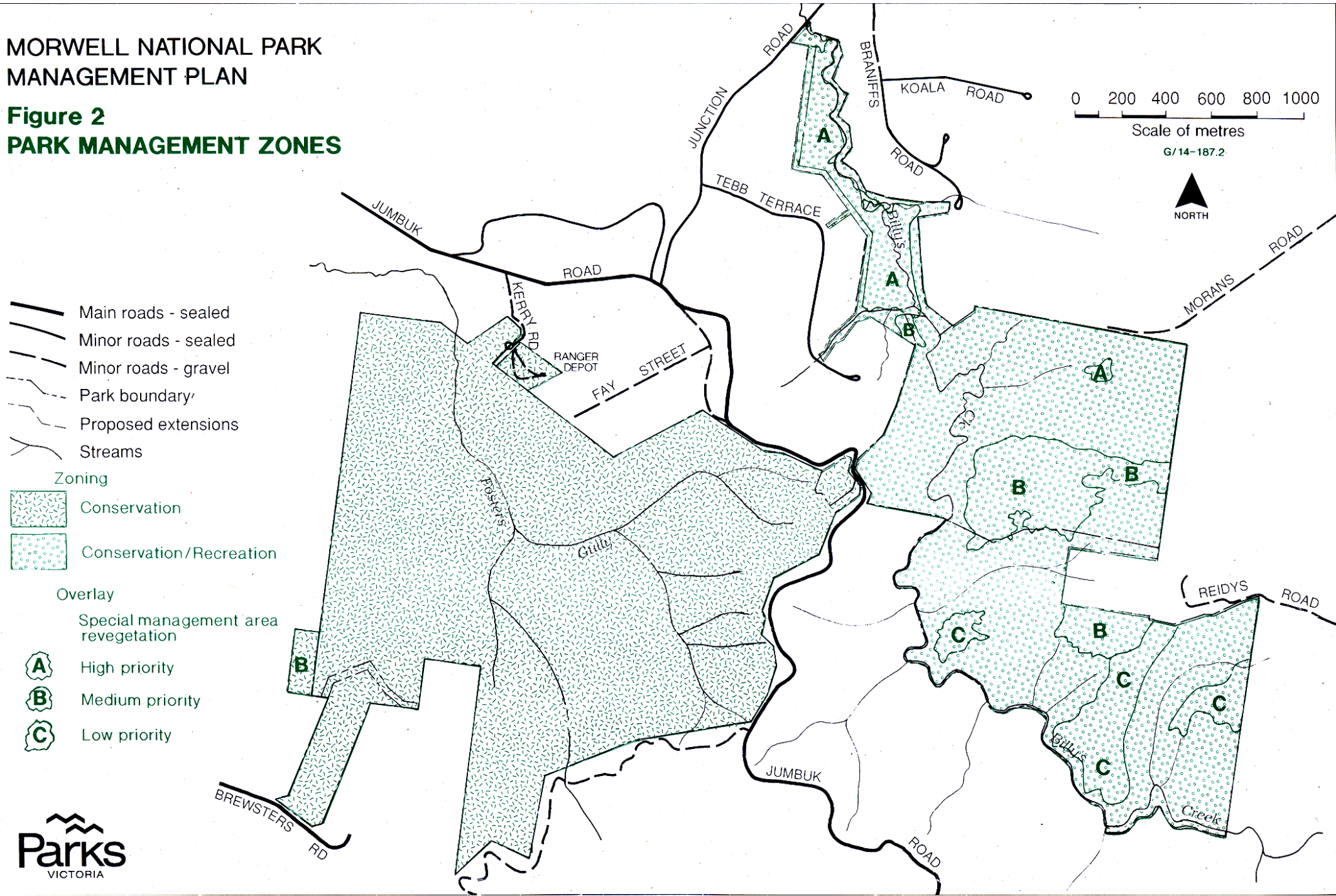


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# MORWELL NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

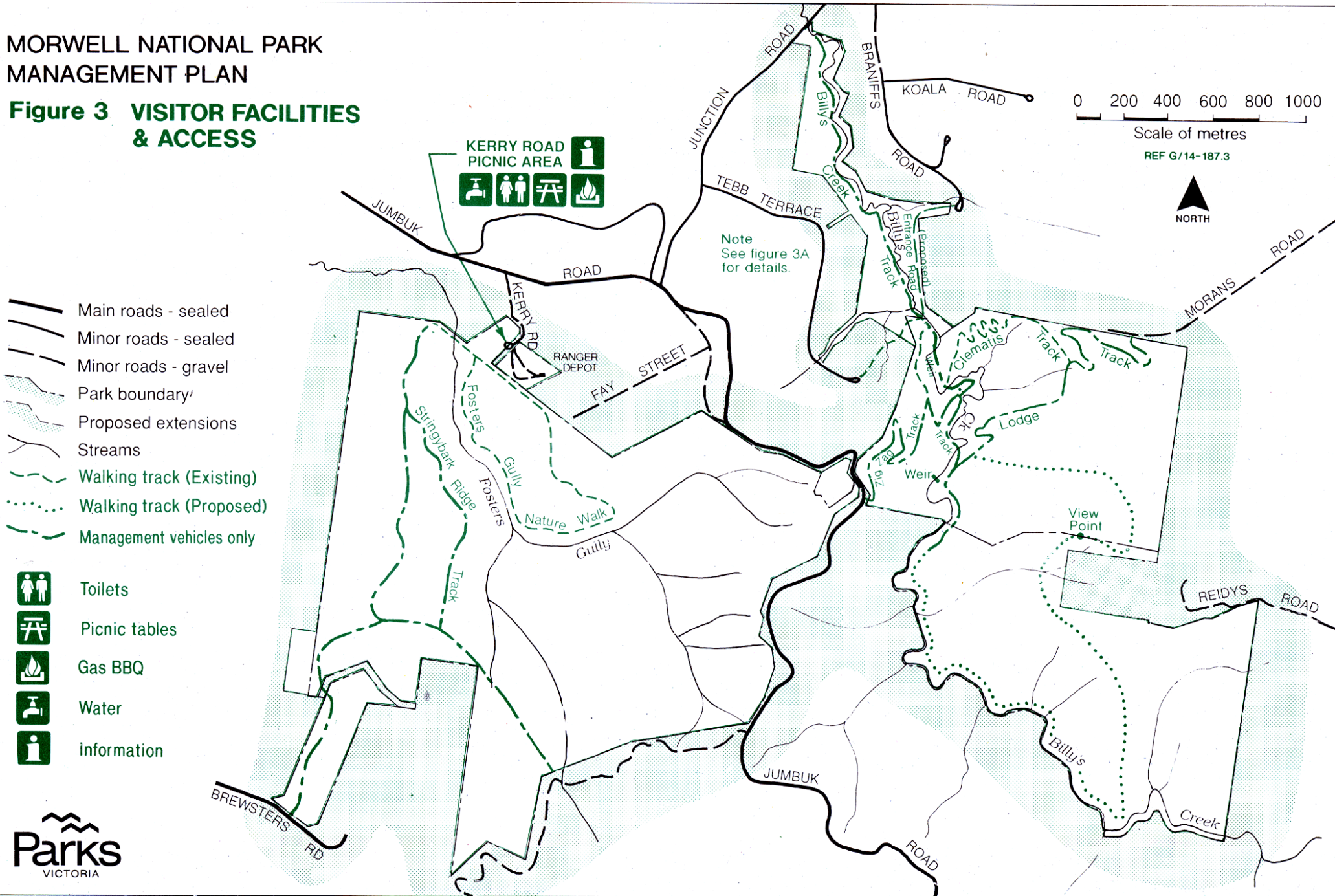
**Figure 2**  
**PARK MANAGEMENT ZONES**





# MORWELL NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Figure 3 VISITOR FACILITIES & ACCESS

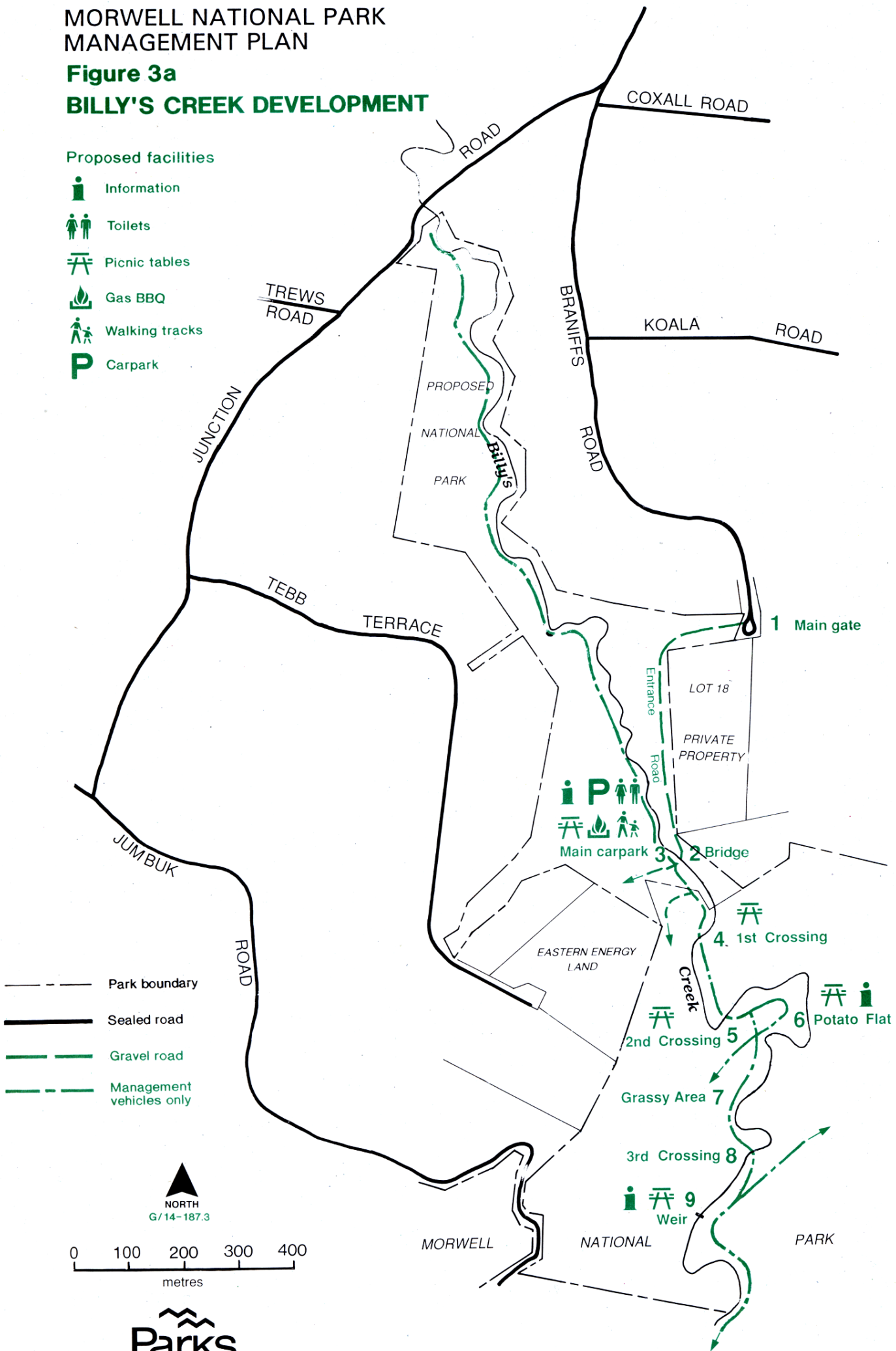


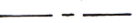



# MORWELL NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

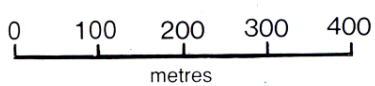
## Figure 3a BILLY'S CREEK DEVELOPMENT

### Proposed facilities

-  Information
-  Toilets
-  Picnic tables
-  Gas BBQ
-  Walking tracks
-  Carpark









-  Park boundary
-  Sealed road
-  Gravel road
-  Management vehicles only



# MORWELL NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Figure 4**  
**LAND TENURE**

-  Main roads - sealed
-  Minor roads - sealed
-  Minor roads - gravel
-  Park boundary
-  Proposed extensions
-  Streams
-  National Park
-  Crown Land
-  Reserved Forest
-  Government Road

