

Barmah National Park



Visitor Guide

Barmah National Park (28,521ha), together with the adjoining Millewa forest in New South Wales, forms the largest River Red Gum forest in the world. The complex ecology of the forest is closely linked to the Murray River and its flooding regime, creating a diverse natural habitat for a variety of wildlife, particularly waterbirds.



Protecting our River Red Gum forests

The Victorian Government created Barmah National Park, along with other new and expanded parks, in April 2010 to protect and enhance the River Red Gum forests in Victoria.

River Red Gum forests have high natural, cultural and economic values. These forests are coming under increasing pressure from climate change, drought and reduced water flows in the northern rivers.

Protecting this precious environment relies on balancing the economic and recreational activities with preserving its natural beauty and conservation values.

River Red Gums line the Murray River for most of its length. These iconic trees can reach 45 metres and live for more than 500 years. The trees need periods of flooding and can survive inundation for months. Their seeds are washed onto higher ground during a flood and germinate and grow before the next flood reaches them. Hollows and broken branches provide nesting for galahs, cockatoos, cockatiels and various parrots; while fallen branches provide habitat for other animals.

Joint management

The Yorta Yorta people have long-held aspirations to be involved in caring for country and have an active role in the management of Barmah National Park. Traditional owner knowledge assists with management of the land and recognises the unique relationship of the traditional owners to the land.



Enjoying the park

Camping ranges from isolated dispersed camping along the river bank to more populated camping along the sandy beaches. Beware of camping under trees as River Red Gums can drop branches and fall over without warning.

Walking tracks near the Barmah Lakes and Dharnya include Loops Track and Yamyabuc Discovery Trail (see back). Many longer walks are available as most of the forest is accessible by foot.

Fishing for Murray Cod, Golden Perch, Cat Fish and Yabbies is also a popular pastime with many visitors returning time and time again to fish their favourite spot.

A NSW Freshwater Recreation Fishing Licence is required for the Murray River. A current Victorian Recreational Fishing Licence is required for fishing in waters south of the Murray River.

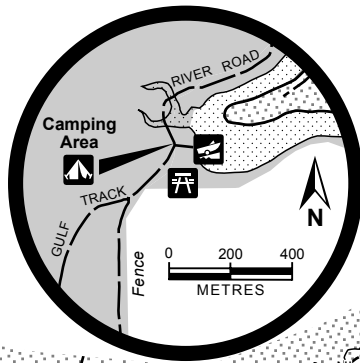
Boating and canoeing are popular on the Murray River, Barmah Lakes and adjoining creeks. There are several boat launching areas.

Swimming can be enjoyed at the numerous sandy river bend beaches.

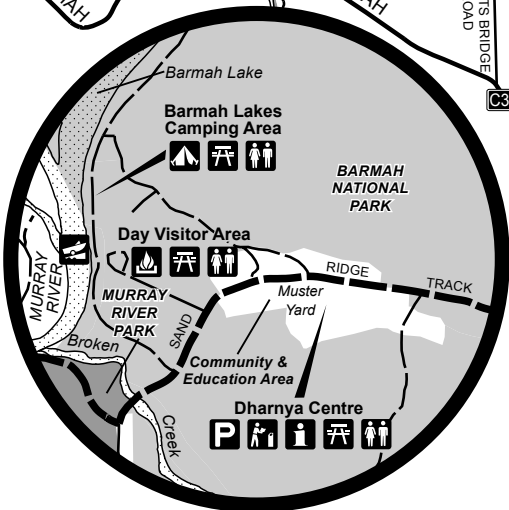
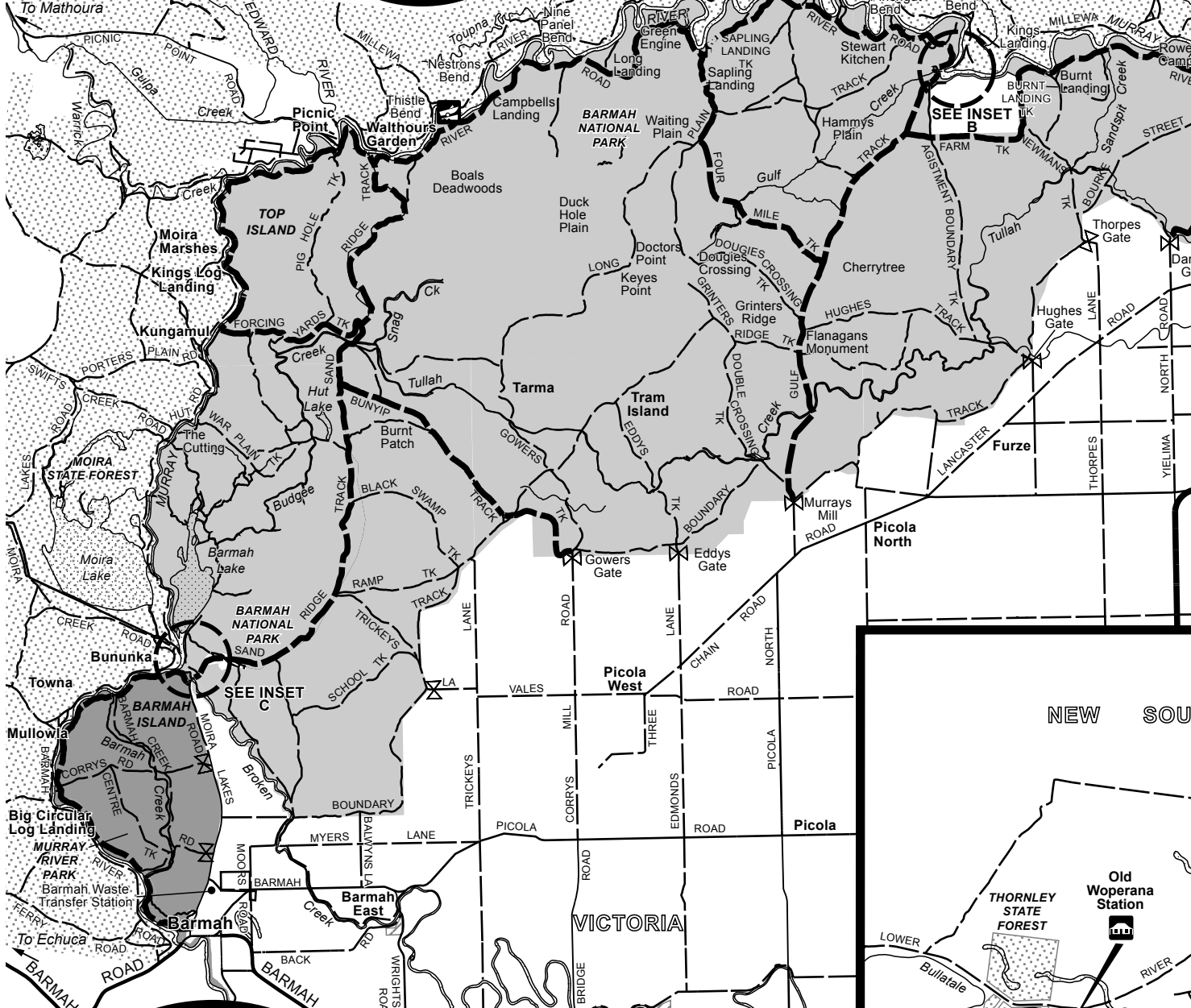
Note: Take care when swimming - cold water and fast currents can be hazardous and there may be submerged logs. Diving or jumping into the water can be dangerous.

For more information call the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or visit our website at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

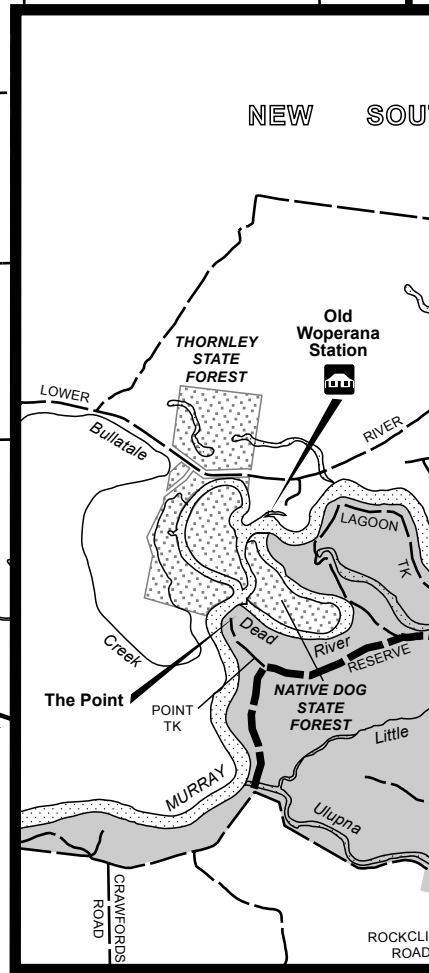


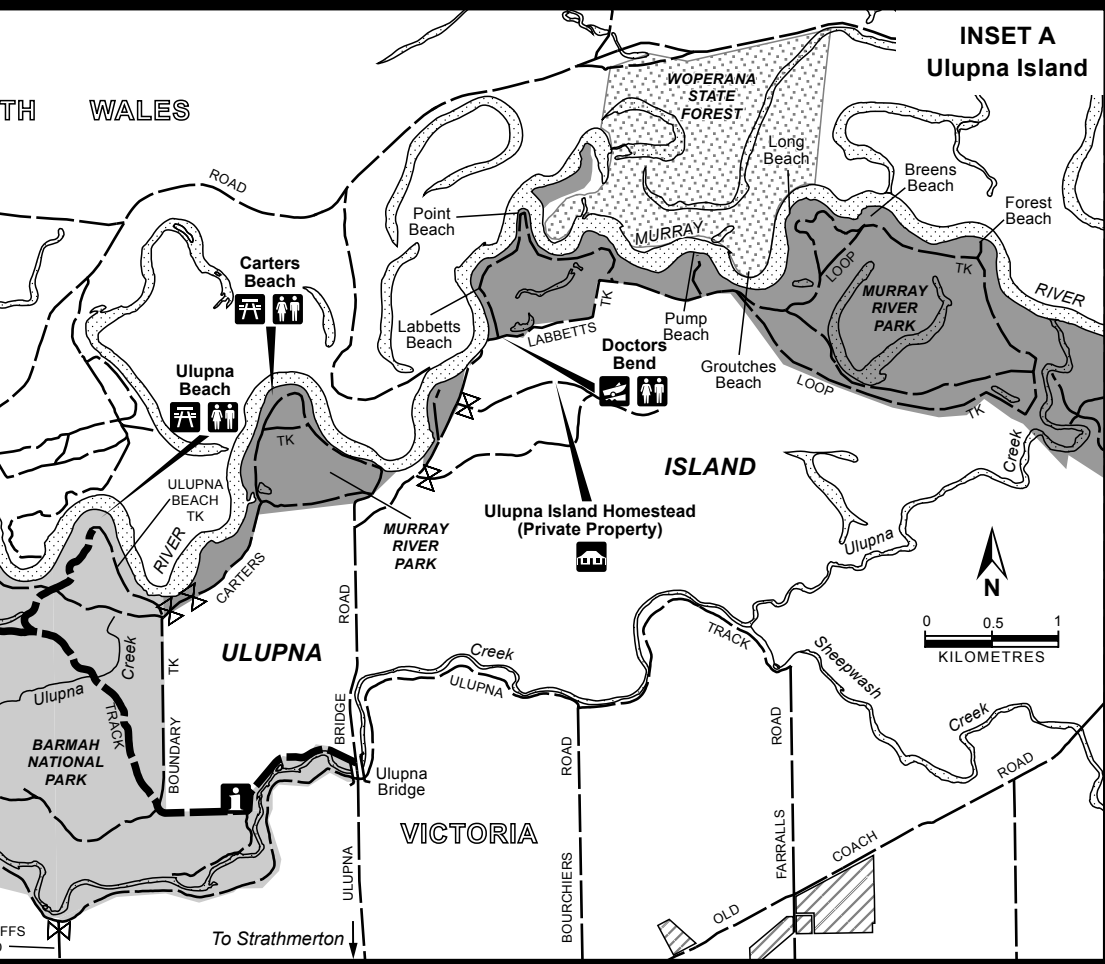
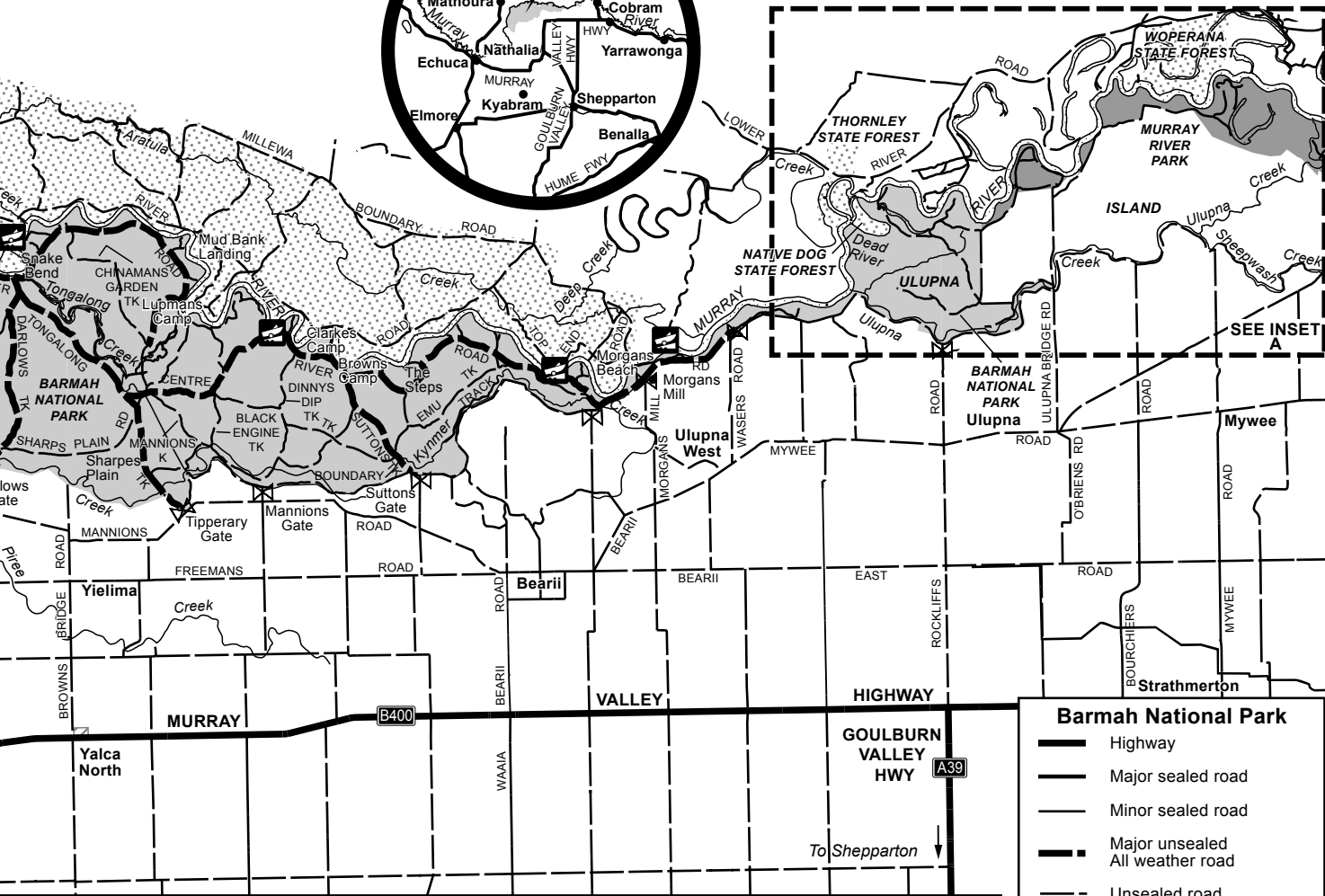
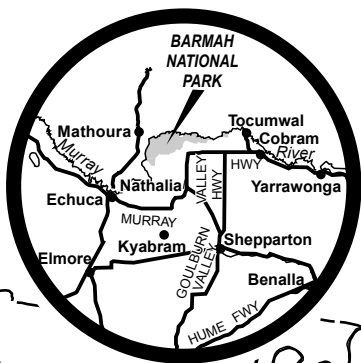


INSET B
The Gulf



INSET C
Barmah Lakes
Camping Area





Barmah National Park

- Highway
 - Major sealed road
 - Minor sealed road
 - Major unsealed
 - All weather road
 - Unsealed road
 - Vehicle track
 - Seasonally Closed Gate
 - Barmah National Park
 - Murray River Park
 - State Forest
 - Other Reserves
 - Water body
- Recreational Facilities**
- Boat ramp
 - Camping
 - Carpark
 - Fireplace
 - Guided Walk
 - Park Information
 - Picnic table
 - Self-guided walk
 - Toilets
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For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre
Call 13 1963

or visit the
Parks Victoria website
www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Echuca-Moama Visitor
Information Centre
2 Heygarth Street
Echuca Vic 3564
Freecall: 1800 804 446

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish with you for recycling or disposal

All plants, animals, historical and archaeological sites and geographic features are protected by law. Bardie grubbing is prohibited

Dogs and other pets are not permitted in Barmah National Park. They are permitted in Murray River Park, but must be kept under control

Firearms are prohibited

No fires, including barbecues, may be lit on a day of **Total Fire Ban. Barmah National Park** is in the **Northern Country Total Fire Ban District**

It is your responsibility to know if it is a day of Total Fire Ban. If in doubt call the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667**

Park closures - Be prepared to leave early as **extreme weather may cause the closure of some park areas** for public safety

Collect only dead wood from the ground for campfires

Vehicles, including motor bikes, may only be used on formed open roads. Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy

Aboriginal people

The Yorta Yorta people have a long association with the forest. Scarred trees, mounds, stone artefact scatters, middens and burial sites can be found in the park.

Dharnya, on Sand Ridge Track near Barmah, is a significant place where you can see evidence of Indigenous living as well as European settlement.

Aboriginal Cultural Officers can provide interpretative tours of the forest for schools and other groups. Call Parks Victoria on 13 1963 for bookings.

European settlement

The area was first explored in the late 1830s and settled soon after. Sheep and cattle were grazed throughout the region and the rich River Red Gum forest was harvested for timber. Paddlesteamers on the Murray River were the key mode of transport and heavily utilised by the wool and timber trade.

Evidence of past logging practices can be seen with old mill sites and equipment still visible.

Eucalyptus extraction and charcoal production once occurred in the forest.

A unique environment

The Barmah-Millewa forest is an internationally recognised wetland listed under the Ramsar Convention and represents all of the four freshwater wetland types in Victoria. The forest provides important habitat, particularly for waterbirds, with over 200 species of birds recorded. It is one of Victoria's largest waterbird breeding areas. Broglas, Night Herons, Spoonbills, Sea Eagles and Azure Kingfishers can all be seen within the Park.

The park protects 38 rare or threatened plants including fruit Saltbush and Winged Peppergrass. Yellow and Black Box grow on the ridges.

Wildlife abounds throughout the forest. Grey Kangaroos, Emus and Koalas are common.

Ulupna Island, bounded by the Murray River and Ulupna Creek, is higher than other parts of the forest and provides an excellent example of less frequently flooded River Red Gum forest. Mixed box woodland is also common on the sandy ridges.

The narrow Barmah Choke forces the river's flow into the Edward River in New South Wales and out onto the broader floodplain. Shallow widespread floods are common here.

Walking Tracks

Yamyabuc Discovery Trail

1.5km – 0.5 hours return

This self-guided walk begins at the Dharnya car park and will introduce you to some of the natural and cultural features of the Barmah forest. The walk includes evidence of Aboriginal and European occupation, the Barmah muster yards and aspects of park management, forestry operations and water regulation.

Lakes Loop Track

4km - 1.75 hours return

Begin this circular walk at the Dharnya car park or join at the the Barmah Lakes campground, day visitor area or Rices Bridge.

The walk passes through mature and regrowth River Red Gum trees past a number of Aboriginal oven (cooking) mounds. It skirts the edge of Barmah Lake, eventually reaching the Murray River and Broken Creek.

Broken Creek Loop Track

3.5km – 1.5 hours return

This circular walk begins behind the Visitor Centre and skirts Dharnya swamp, a low area subject to seasonal flooding. Walk through River Red Gum and Grey Box woodland to Broken Creek.

Continue downstream along Broken Creek where you can see pelicans, ducks, egrets and darters. There are a number of Aboriginal oven (cooking) mounds on the way to Rices Weir. See the fish ladder that allows fish to go back upstream past the weir.

Return via Sandridge Track or continue on the Lakes Loop track to Dharnya.

Be fire ready and stay safe

Many parks and forests are located in high fire risk areas. **On days of forecast Code Red Fire Danger this park will be closed for public safety.**

If you are already in the park you should leave the night before or early in the morning for your own safety.

Closure signs will be erected and rangers will patrol where possible, however you may not receive a personal warning that the park is closed so check the latest conditions by calling 13 1963 or visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au.

For up to date information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice call the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667**.

How to get there

Barmah National Park lies along the Murray River between the towns of Barmah and Strathmerton, about 225km north of Melbourne. There are 12 major entrance gates from Moira Lakes Road, Barmah-Picola Road and the Murray Valley Highway.

Two wheel and four wheel drive vehicles can access Barmah National Park and Murray River Park at Strathmerton via Ulupna Bridge Road.

All weather sealed road access for cars, caravans and buses is via Moira Lakes Road from Barmah township.

Major tracks in the park are suitable for two wheel drive vehicles. Seasonal road closures occur in wet periods.

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