



An audit of Victoria's State Game Reserves

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Executive summary

As a result of the early 1960's land reservations made by the government, Victoria has a large and diverse Wildlife Reserve system protecting a broad range of conservation values and flora and fauna. Wildlife Reserves are further classified under the *Wildlife Act 1975*, as either Nature Conservation Reserves (in which you cannot hunt game) and State Game Reserves (which provide for game hunting). Currently, there are 199 State Game Reserves (SGRs), with a further one yet to be proclaimed. They provide valuable opportunities for recreation, including hunting on public land; however, the state of State Game Reserves and any existing issues specific to an individual reserve, have not been measured in recent times.

The *Wildlife Act 1975* specifies that management plans be prepared for all SGRs, however, this report found that of the 199 current SGRs, 69% (137) do not to have a management plan.

Reserve usage was difficult to determine and is somewhat subjective. Nonetheless, it can be concluded that SGRs are mainly utilised by waterfowl hunters. Some reserves are also utilised for a range of other recreational activities, such as camping, fishing, bird-watching and water-sports.

The level of pest animal infestation across the SGR estate was found to be generally low, with the European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* and the Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* being the most prevalent. On average, pest weed infestation levels were found to be moderate. African Boxthorn *Lycium ferocissimum* was the most prevalent, along with a vast range of other weeds being found, including Horehound *Marrubium vulgare*, Patterson's Curse *Echium plantagineum* and Bathurst Burr *Xanthium spinosum*. The audit found that 22% of reserves have a 'high' fuel load, 39% a 'moderate' fuel load and 39% a 'low' fuel load, with respect to fire risk.

Neighboring landholder encroachment, in the form of livestock grazing, cropping, firewood collection and rubbish dumping was prevalent and evident on 48% of reserves.

Ninety percent (180) of State Game Reserves have no infrastructure (excluding fencing and signage). Water control structure/s exist on 23 reserves (20 of which could be utilised for water delivery to the reserve). The condition of fencing was generally considered good overall, however, five reserves have no boundary fencing and 35 reserves have less than 50% boundary fencing. Reserve signage was found to be ambiguous and inconsistent across the state, with 42% (84) reserves not having any signage, 31% (62) reserves signed incorrectly as Wildlife Reserve, 9% (17) signed with the name of the reserve only (excluding any classification), four signed as Natural Features Reserve and one reserve signed incorrectly as a Nature Conservation Reserve. Of the 199 SGRs, only 16% (31) are signed correctly as State Game Reserves. A range of signage type were found in SGRs including educational, directional, regulatory and signs providing general information. A total of 285 signs were found across the State Game Reserve system, of which 20% were considered to be in 'excellent' condition, 47% in 'good' condition and 33% in 'poor' condition.

A total of four reserves are landlocked (i.e. totally surrounded by freehold) and cannot be accessed without the landholder's permission. Many reserves cannot be accessed because the entry point is ambiguous (i.e. not defined), with a total of 30 reserves having licensed unused roads that are not fenced and 16 being totally fenced off and/or locked.

A total of 37 licenses exist across 34 of Victoria's State Game Reserves. There are currently 29 grazing licenses, five water frontage licences (four of which are for the purposes of grazing), and three mineral extraction licences.

A broad dataset detailing areas of cultural significance showed 157 State Game Reserves to be within areas of cultural significance, however, the specific heritage site type, locations and condition were unable to be audited due to unavailable, fragmented and incomplete databases.

This audit establishes a benchmark from which management priorities and best practice for the holistic management of State Game Reserves can be determined. It also establishes a baseline to measure the impact of management actions on reserve condition and to monitor the reserve health over time.

The Game Management Authority in accordance with its function *to work with public land managers to improve the management of public land and facilities on public land where hunting is permitted* as set out in section 6(f) of the *Game Management Authority Act 2014*, partnered with Parks Victoria, the responsible land manager for State Game Reserves, to commission and undertake this audit.

1 Background

1.1 History of Victoria's State Game Reserves

The first Victorian Game Act was proclaimed on 18 June 1862, with an emphasis on introduced game. Wilsons Promontory was the first sanctuary which protected animals from hunting and was proclaimed on 4 November 1898. For the next 60 years the sanctuary system under the *Game Act 1962* was the only system related to wildlife conservation.

In May 1959, the Victorian State Wildlife Reserve Investigation Committee (the Committee) was formed to, among other things, advise on which areas of land should be reserved for wildlife and on what terms. The Committee proposed the establishment of a Wildlife Reserve System. The first Game Licence was introduced by the Department of Fisheries and Game in 1959, and, during its first year, the Department collected £34,863 in licence fees and established a Game Development Fund. This fund was used to establish the proposed Wildlife Reserves System and to publicly purchase private lands for waterfowl conservation and to provide for duck hunting opportunities.

The system attempted to incorporate at least one example of each type of environment found in the State on the grounds each environment has a particular fauna complex. Basically, it was developed as a planned approach to wildlife conservation and management.

Proposed additions to the Wildlife Reserve system could be referred to the Committee by the Fisheries and Wildlife Department or by an outside organisation. All proposals and submissions were detailed and fully documented before consideration. If a proposal was accepted by the Committee, it was then circulated amongst other government agencies for consideration. The recommendations were referred to the Premier and, if accepted, referred to the Lands Department for gazettal of the reserve. The *Land Act 1958* further permitted the making of regulations for the care and management of Crown reservations (under then s.218). Following gazettal, the Wildlife Reserve was placed under the administration of the Fisheries and Wildlife Department.

In 1964, the Game Management Section of the then Department of Fisheries and Wildlife was in charge of managing all Wildlife Reserve Systems. The Game Management Section consisted of a Superintendent of Game Management, a Reserve Manager, a Game Liaison Officer, a Game Administrative Officer, four technical assistants, two data processing assistants, a laboratory assistant and five Game Management Officers.

Further expansion of the staff occurred and major reserves had resident Game Management Officers who would also be responsible for lesser reserves in the region.

By 1965, some of the classifications of Wildlife Reserves included:

- State Game Reserves (game protected outside the game season and available for hunting in season)
- State Game Refuges (game protected throughout the year)
- State Faunal Reserves (protect specific wildlife such as koalas, penguins, seals, rock wallabies etc).

In 1996, the Parks and Reserves Branch and Flora and Fauna Branch of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources co-authored a report reviewing the Wildlife Reserve System and proposed further changes to the system based on a recommendation made by the Department in 1992 in a report titled *Appraisal and Review of Sanctuaries and Wildlife Reserve Systems in Victoria*. This report recommended that simply two categories of Wildlife Reserve should exist; State Game Reserves and Nature Conservation Reserves.

In the past, there was little recognition or understanding of the environmental benefits and ecosystem services provided by wetlands. They were primarily drained and reclaimed for grazing or other agricultural purposes.

State Game Reserves were proposed where game hunting did not conflict with conservation values and Nature Conservation Reserves (where hunting was not permitted) were proposed where major wildlife conservation values, waterbird refuge and/or where hunting was considered unsuitable for various management reasons. The report proposed 190 State Game Reserves (SGRs) and 135 Nature Conservation Reserves (NCRs) be reserved under the *Crown Land (Reserve) Act 1978* and to be managed under the *Wildlife Act 1975*. Further protection and management of State Game Reserves are provided by the Wildlife (State Game Reserve) Regulations 2014. The *Wildlife Act 1975* (the Act), requires the Secretary (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) to manage the reserve and prepare a management plan. The Act also limits a number of extractive activities (i.e. mining), allows the granting of a variety of licences, the ability to collect and receive tolls and, allows the Secretary to enter into a management agreement with Traditional Land Management Boards. The objectives of the Wildlife (State Game Reserve) Regulations 2014 are to provide for:

- (a) the management of State Game Reserves established under the *Wildlife Act 1975*; and
- (b) the preservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat within State Game Reserves with particular emphasis on indigenous game species; and
- (c) the hunting, taking or destroying of certain game species within State Game Reserves; and
- (d) the safety, enjoyment and recreation of visitors to State Game Reserves.

1.2 Management of State Game Reserves today

At the time of writing, there were 199 State Game Reserves covering a total of 75,318 hectares. One further State Game Reserve (Kerang State Game Reserve) is in the process of being proclaimed. Presently, SGRs are managed by Parks Victoria on behalf of the State, however, these reserves comprise a relatively small (in terms of area) and dispersed component of public land managed by that agency. Parks Victoria is responsible for the management of over four million hectares of parks and reserves. It is also the Local Port Manager for Port Phillip Bay, Western Port and Port Campbell and the Waterway Manager for the Yarra and Maribyrnong rivers. In addition to State Game Reserves Parks Victoria's estate comprises 45 National Parks, 26 State Parks, 13 Marine National Parks, 11 Marine Sanctuaries, three Wilderness Parks, 30 Metropolitan Parks, 60 other parks (including Regional and Reservoir Parks), more than 2,700 Natural Features and Conservation Reserves, more than 11,000 formally registered Aboriginal cultural heritage places and more than 2,500 non-Indigenous historic places.

1.3 Importance of State Game Reserves

More than 70 SGRs support threatened species that are listed under *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and many reserves contribute to the protection of threatened animal and plant species. Wetlands within the SGR estate also provide specialised habitat for a range of other fauna, including mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and invertebrates. Because of this, many State Game Reserves are listed as wetlands of international importance. There are 18 SGRs listed under the Ramsar Convention. This convention is an international agreement that requires signatory nations to protect wetlands deemed to have international significance for waterfowl or for other specified values. Ramsar also recognizes the important role of the sustainable use of wildlife resources at these sites. State Game Reserves also provide valuable opportunities for recreation, including hunting, on public land. All reserves contribute to biodiversity and conservation.

2 Audit of State Game Reserves

2.1 Purpose

The Game Management Authority in accordance with its function *to work with public land managers to improve the management of public land and facilities on public land where hunting is permitted* as set out in section 6(f) of the *Game Management Authority Act 2014*, partnered with Parks Victoria, the responsible land manager for State Game Reserves, to commission and undertake this audit. The purpose of this audit was to review and assess the current status, condition and availability of land resources principally set aside for game hunting.

2.2 Audit scope

This audit did not include detailed flora and fauna surveys, habitat hectare assessments, assess water management and delivery or make reserve specific management recommendations. Instead the audit documents for each of the 199 State Game Reserves present land use (including whether leases or licences permit certain activities) cultural heritage, values and assets, pest infestations, water delivery structures and water management arrangements, infrastructure condition (including fencing and signage) and availability of hunting opportunities. The information herein should be used to inform future recommendations for planning management, investment opportunities, improvement and key principles for best practice management of State Game Reserves. It also establishes a baseline to measure the impact of management actions on reserve condition and to monitor the reserve health over time.

2.3 Audit method

In 2007, the previous Department of Sustainability and Environment developed a rapid assessment method for assessing reserve health, infrastructure, water management and asset condition. The template (**Appendix I**) was enhanced and used as the basis to conduct a consistent on-ground assessment of reserve condition across the State.

The reserve audit method also utilised desktop information (e.g. LandVic databases, personal communications), coupled with field verification and habitat assessment to re-affirm and add to existing databases. From July 2015 to February 2016, Game Management Authority staff and Parks Victoria staff undertook a field audit of each of the 199 State Game Reserves.

Information contained in this report is a summary of the State Game Reserve system as a whole. This report provides a consistently derived statement of assets and issues to enable priorities to be set for more detailed management planning. A major issues log accompanies this report (Appendix III) and identifies issues specific to each State Game Reserve. This report helps establish a benchmark to monitor changes in condition over time.

3 Findings

3.1 Current reserve system

At the time of writing, there are 199 State Game Reserves comprising of over 75,000 hectares of public land. That equates to a land size equivalent to the Alpine National Park. If all the wetlands in the State Game Reserve system were at full level, it would equate to 47,786 hectares of surface water and approximately 40,000 hectares of public waters.

There are 18 Ramsar listed wetlands of international importance in the current State Game Reserve system. These sites contain representative, rare or unique wetlands, or wetlands that are important for conserving biological diversity.

The current system contains 19 different wetland types, spread across 12 of Victoria's 28 existing Bioregions (**Figure 1**), from the coastal saltmarsh swamps of the Gippsland region to the deep freshwater marshes of the Victorian Riverina. The most common wetland types contained within the State Game Reserve system are the semi-permanent swamps, lakes and marshes of the Wimmera Bioregion (58 reserves).

Most wetlands (63% - 125) in the reserve system are 1-2 metres deep when full. The remaining wetlands are less than a meter deep when full (28%) or 2 – 3 metres deep when full (9%). The majority of wetlands do not flood outside the reserve boundary (64.8%), with 33.7% known to flood outside the reserve boundary (and three reserves were assessed as 'unknown' if the wetland flooded outside the reserve boundary (1.5%).

3.2 Land use

A total of 132 State Game Reserves were assessed as not being utilised for any other activity other than waterfowl hunting. Camping (29), water sports (boating, kayaking, water-skiing – 26), bird watching (21), and fishing (20) were other popular activities undertaken on SGRs, many being utilised for two or more recreational activities. The reserves most utilised in the state were the coastal morasses of Gippsland, having being assessed as utilised by four or more of the above activities (excluding Lake Denison SGR which cannot be accessed by the public). Land usage was obtained using local historic knowledge gathered from Parks Victoria Rangers and primary user groups.

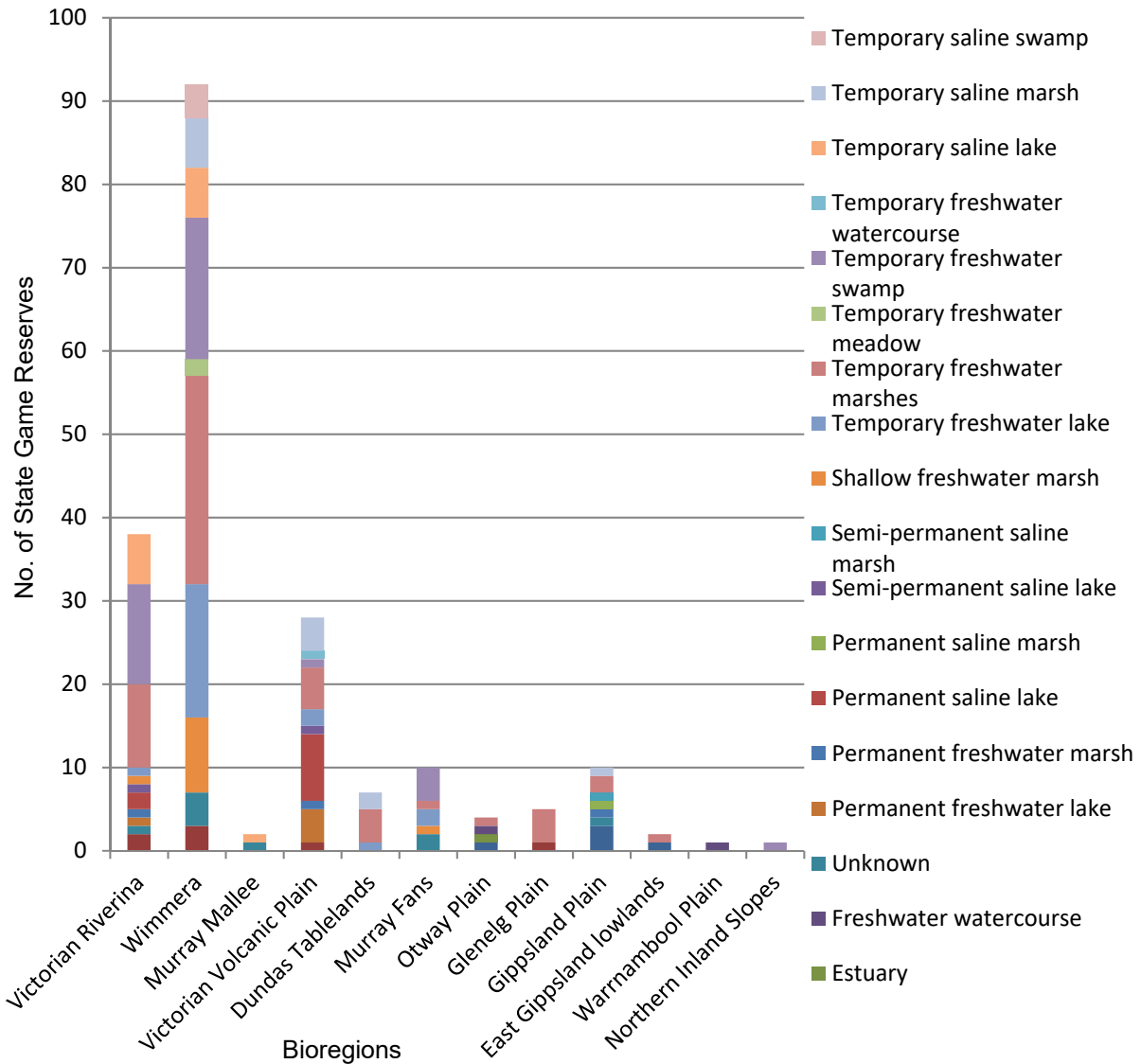


Figure 1. Distribution of wetland types [within SGRs] across Victoria's Bioregions.

3.3 Land management

3.3.1 Management plans

The *Wildlife Act 1975* requires that management plans are to be prepared for State Game Reserves by the Secretary (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) for adoption by the responsible Minister. Not all reserves have management plans, preventing considered and coordinated management and allocation of resources. Of the 199 State Game Reserves, 69% (137) reserves were found not to have targeted management plans for the reserve, 25 were found to have management plans specific to the reserve and it was unknown if 37 of the remaining reserves had existing management plans. It is likely that some of the reserves found not to have management plans are incorporated into a holistic regional or catchment management plan. However, such plans are broad in their management objectives and may not provide the detail required for the management of issues at individual reserve level.

3.3.2 Weeds and pest animals

Infestation levels of pest weed and animals were assessed for each reserve. The European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* were the most prevalent pest animal (present on 113 reserves), however, infestation levels were generally low (67 reserves). Only eight reserves were assessed as having 'high' levels of rabbit infestation (**Image 1**) and no reserve was deemed to have 'very high' infestation levels of rabbits. The Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* was the next most widespread pest and was assessed as being present on 85 reserves, 62 of which also had rabbits present. Infestation levels (and indeed presence/absence) of fox are difficult to determine during a rapid assessment of each reserve, however, staff assessed that of the 85 reserves where foxes were detected, 64% of those reserves had a moderate level of infestation. Three reserves had a low level infestation of feral pig (*Sus scrofa*), and one had a low level infestation of feral goat (*Capra hircus*). The presence of other pest animals, such as wild dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*), were not detected during on any reserve during the period of this audit.

On most reserves, the level of pest animal infestation was generally low, with 35% (70) reserves not seen to hold a presence of pest animal. The presence/absence of aquatic pests was not assessed in this audit. The most prevalent pest weed was African Boxthorn *Lycium ferocissimum* (present on 19 reserves) and more frequently (63%) present with multiple other pest weeds, such as Horehound *Marrubium vulgare*, Patterson's Curse *Echium plantagineum* and Bathurst Burr *Xanthium spinosum*. Horehound was present in 14 reserves, Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* in 11 reserves, Patterson's Curse in 6 reserves and Bathurst Burr in 4 reserves. Small infestations of Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea* (two reserves) and Bridal Creeper *Asparagus asparagoides* (one reserve) were detected and were assessed as being low level infestations. No weed infestations were detected in 151 reserves, and, of those reserves where weed species were detected, the infestation levels were assessed as low (58.33%), medium (37.5%) and high (4.17%). No reserve was assessed as having a high level of pest weed infestation.



Image 1: High level rabbit infestation found at Red Plains State Game Reserve in Victoria's Wimmera.

3.3.3 Fuel load

Fuel load rating (fire risk) was assessed based on the current vegetation density in each reserve. It was found that 22% (45) of reserves were considered to have a 'high' fuel load rating, 39% (77) a 'moderate' fuel load rating and 39% (77) a 'low' fuel load rating. No reserve was assessed as having a 'very high' fuel load rating.

3.3.4 Encroachment and illegal use

Neighboring landholder encroachment, in the form of livestock grazing and cropping, firewood collection, and rubbish dumping, was present across 48% of reserves. Although there are 29 current grazing licences (**section 3.5**) applied to part or the whole of the reserve, there was evidence of livestock grazing on a further 29 reserves (**Image 2**). Illegal firewood collection/removal was identified at 35 reserves (**Image 3**), cropping at 7 reserves (**Image 4**) and illegal rubbish dumping at 18 reserves (**Image 5**).



Image 2: Lake Yampitcha SGR in Victoria's Wimmera where the lake-bed has been fenced out and presently illegally grazed by sheep. There is no current grazing licence issued for this reserve.



Image 3: Illegal firewood removal is evident at Rowan Swamp SGR in Victoria's north east.



Image 4: Lampard SGR (background) near Apsley in Victoria's far west is almost unrecognizable. Not only has access to the public road been illegally fenced off, but the entirety of the swamp-bed has been illegally sown to wheat crop.



Image 5: Evidence of rubbish dumping at Murchison (Doctors) Lagoon SGR in Victoria's north east.

Landholder encroachment in the form of fencing was evident where grazing occurred, however, was only seen in six reserves. Most grazing (legal or illegal) utilise the boundary fences to graze stock across the whole of the reserve, however, of the 29 current grazing licences, only 14 are for the entirety of the reserve. Partial grazing licenses exist on the remaining 15 reserves and it is suspected that for those partial grazing licences, overgrazing the reserve is common as few internal fences were observed. Evidence of other possible illegal activities occurring on reserves were identified, including water theft (in the form of a pump house) on one reserve, dog walking (two reserves) and horse riding (two reserves).

3.3.5 Commercial activities

Low intensity aquaculture operations are known to occur on four SGRs, namely Lake Connewarre, MacLeod Morass, Jack Smith and Heart Morass. These activities are sporadic and opportunistic in nature, and driven by water levels. Although these operations are licenced, they are not licenced under the Wildlife (State Game Reserve) Regulations 2014 as required, however, these operations are long standing historic commercial activities. Commercial mining of gypsum occurs on Duck Lake SGR, which is a newly gazetted State Game Reserve, proclaimed on 11th March 2013. This activity is in contradiction of the Wildlife (State Game Reserve) Regulations 2014, however, knowledge of the proclamation, given its recent occurrence, may not be known or understood by the mine operation manager.

3.4 Infrastructure

3.4.1 Recreational infrastructure

Ninety percent (180) of State Game Reserves had no infrastructure (excluding fencing and signage) (**Image 6**). Of the 19 reserves that have infrastructure, 79% of them have three or more types of infrastructure (**Image 7**), the most common being toilets (8), boat ramps (7), picnic ground (6), built fireplace (4), and shelter (4). Of a total of 50 infrastructure items found, few were in excellent condition (20%), the majority were in good condition (76%), and some rated as being in poor condition (4%).

3.4.2 Water control structures

A total of 23 (11.5%) of reserves had water control structures present (**Image 8**) and it was presumed by auditors that for 20 of these reserves, the local Catchment Management Authority does or could regulate water delivery to the reserve (i.e. the control structure and delivery means were sufficient to deliver water). A total of 63 (31.66%) of reserves received water by two or more means (i.e. either catchment runoff and/or creek and/or river). Eight reserves (4%), receive tidal water and one received treated waste water (MacLeod Morass). The proposed Kerang State Game Reserve will also receive treated waste water from the township of Kerang.

3.4.2 Fencing

The condition of fencing was generally considered good overall. However, five reserves (2.5%) had no boundary fencing and 35 had less than 50% boundary fencing. The majority of reserves (103) had between 50% and 90% boundary fencing and 54 (27%) reserves had greater than 90% of the boundary fenced. There was no correlation with the amount of boundary fenced and the condition of the fence. Many reserves are bounded on one side by a road and, where this occurs, it is quite common to see no fencing along the roadway while the remainder of the reserve is fenced.



Image 6. The Reserve SGR. No infrastructure present and almost unrecognisable as a reserve due to a lack of boundary fencing and signage.



Image 7. Facilities at Aire River SGR include toilets, campgrounds, fireplaces, shelters and a boat ramp.



Image 8. Water regulator at Mansfield Swamp SGR in central Victoria.

3.5 Leases and licenses

A total of 37 licenses exist across 34 of Victoria's State Game Reserves. There are currently 29 grazing licenses, five water frontage licenses (four of which are for the purposes of grazing), and three mineral extraction licenses (**Image 9**) (**Table 1**). No apiary sites or general purpose leases exist on Victoria's State Game Reserves.

Table 1. Licence type, quantity and administering legislation

Licence type	Quantity	Legislation
General licence (grazing)	12	<i>Land Act 1958 (Sec. 130/133)</i>
	17	<i>Wildlife Act 1975 (Sec. 16)</i>
Water frontage (grazing)	4	<i>Land Act 1958 (Sec. 130/133)</i>
Water frontage licence	1	<i>Land Act 1958 (Sec. 130/133)</i>
Mineral extraction	3	<i>Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990</i>



Image 9: Gypsum extraction occurring at Duck Lake SGR in Victoria's north west.

3.6 Reserve access

There are four truly landlocked SGRs in Victoria (i.e. completely surrounded by private property) (**Figures 2-5**); namely Goose Lagoon, near Port Fairy in Victoria's south-west, Little Lake Charm, near Lake Charm in Victoria's north-west, Blue Lake and Salt Lake near Streatham in Victoria's south-west. There are a further 30 reserves with licensed easements (unused roads) 8 of which are licensed for the purposes of grazing. During the audit, a further 16 reserves were identified as 'landlocked'. However, a review of crown land datasets revealed that there were government roads leading to each of these reserves. Of these eight reserves, all were said to have no definable entry and had locked gates or fencing across the roadway.

In summary, there are four reserves that cannot be accessed without the landholders permission, 30 reserves with licensed roads (**Image 10**) and 16 reserves that cannot be accessed because the entry point is ambiguous, locked or fenced off (**Image 4 & 11**). Therefore, 50 of State Game Reserves cannot be accessed by due to ambiguous or un-defined access points, undefinable leased easements (i.e. appears to be private property because of lack of fencing) and/or they are landlocked. 58% (116) of State Game Reserves have no two-wheel-drive access, with 29% (57) of access roads being assessed as being in 'poor' condition, 61% (121) in 'good' condition and 10% (21) in 'excellent' condition. It was found that car parking cannot occur on 40% (80) of reserves due to no vehicular access.

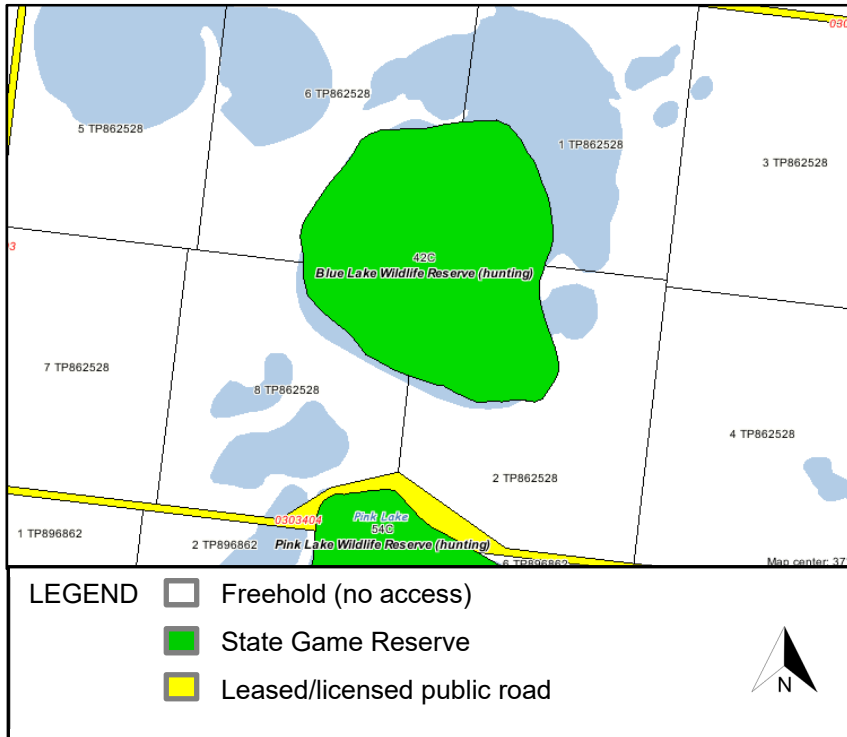


Figure 4: Landlocked. Blue Lake SGR near the township of Streatham in Victoria's south west.

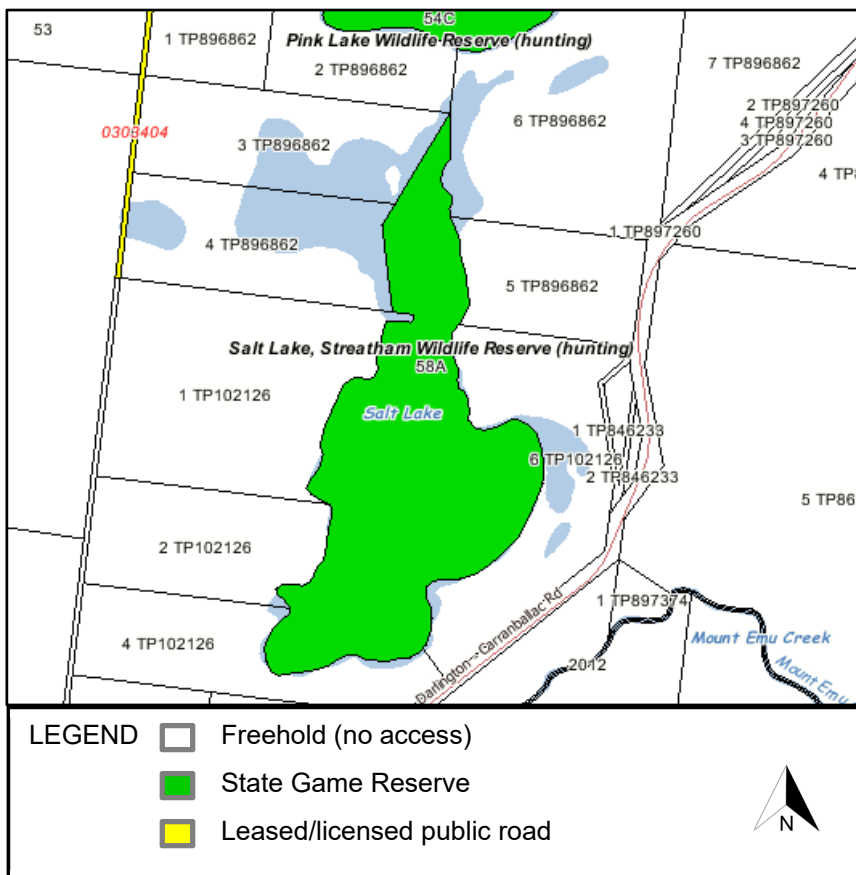


Figure 5: Landlocked. Salt Lake SGR near the township of Streatham in Victoria's south west.



Image 10. Thurrumbong SGR in Victoria's south west has an unused road easement (not defined) with a grazing licence over it. The gate has a padlock but was not locked at the time of the audit.



Image 11. Lake Wongan SGR in Victoria's Western District has an ambiguous entry (with a homemade sign) stating 'no shooting – lake entry'. The auditors could not find the entry point or any evidence of an easement.

3.7 Signage

Signage at State Game Reserves is particularly important for those wishing to utilise the reserve. Not only do they reaffirm to visitors they are in the correct location, the legal classification of the reserve also governs what activities can be legally undertaken on the reserve. However, signage was found to be ambiguous and inconsistent across the state (example Bryan Swamp SGR – Image 17). 42% (84) of reserves did not have any signage. 31% (62) reserves were signed as Wildlife Reserve and excluded any reference to their further classification as a State Game Reserve (Figure 6). Whilst the classification of “Wildlife Reserve” is correct, it fails to recognise the reserve has been classified under the *Wildlife Act 1975* as a State Game Reserve and it is this classification that specifically provides for game hunting and dictates other land use provided for under the Wildlife (State Game Reserve) Regulation 2014. Only 16% (31) reserves were signed correctly as State Game Reserves. Images 12 – 20 show the variation in sign design and wording. Several (four) reserves had multiple signs stating different land tenures.

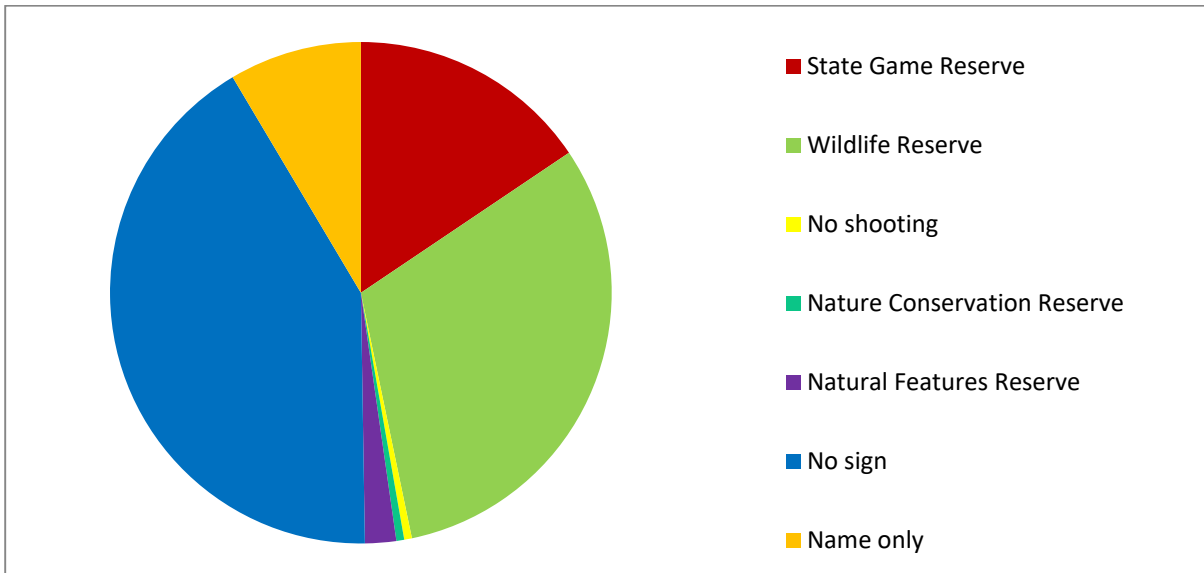


Figure 6. Signage type found across Victoria’s 199 State Game Reserves.



Image 12. An example of a new Wildlife Reserve (left) and an old Wildlife Reserve sign (right). Both signs ignore the further land classification as a State Game Reserve.



Image 13. One of seven reserves that are incorrectly signed “Natural Feature Reserve”.



Image 14. The only example of a State Game Reserve being signed as a “Nature Conservation Reserve”.



Image 15. Several SGR signs have adopted the local name. However, for clarity, the gazetted name should be used (in this case Lake Cope Cope State Game Reserve).



Image 16. One of 16 SGRs that just have the title of the reserve signed with no reference to land tenure. In this instance, even the name is incorrect (should be Big Reedy Lagoon).

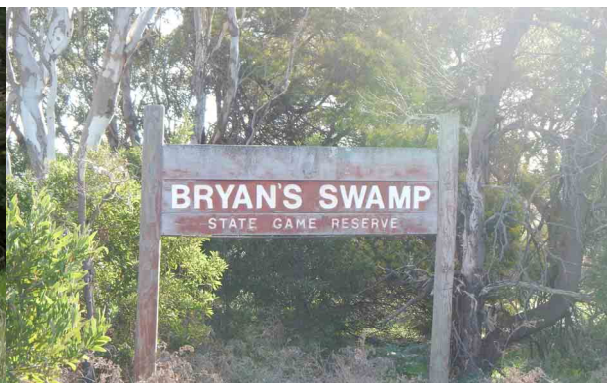


Image 17. An example of ambiguous signage at the same reserve.

Two hundred and eighty-five signs were found across the State Game Reserve system, which include regulatory signs (38), educational signs (27), directional signs (14) and general information (119) (Image 18). Of the signs found, 20% (57) were considered in 'excellent' condition, 47% (134) in 'good' condition and 33% (94) in 'poor' condition.



Image 18. Example of regulatory signs (left – a sign with shotgun pellet strikes), educational signs (middle) and directional signs (right).

Although causes of damage or disrepair to signs were not qualified in this audit, from the authors' observations, most signs considered to be in "poor" condition were largely due to degradation from the elements. Furthermore, a large number of new and old signage alike had some form of vandalism; the most common being shotgun pellet strikes.

3.8 Cultural heritage

Traditional Owner Groups in Victoria have hunted wildlife for over 35,000 years. Their existence depended on the management and sustainable use of wildlife for food, clothing, shelter and cultural and spiritual needs. Wetlands were an important place for hunting and ceremony and many SGR are known to have a rich Aboriginal heritage. An "Aboriginal place" is an area of land or coastal waters that are of cultural significance to Aboriginal people in Victoria. Aboriginal places include (but are not limited to): surface scatters and stone tools, scarred trees, mounds, freshwater middens and burials. Specific datasets detailing the exact location and of Aboriginal place do not exist in most regions and were unavailable upon request in regions where Traditional Owner Groups are active in mapping cultural heritage sites. A more broad dataset detailing areas of cultural significance was available and showed 157 (79%) State Game Reserves to be within areas of cultural significance.

4 Summary

Currently, landholder encroachment is the largest threat to the health of Victoria's State Game Reserves. Of particular concern is overgrazing, which can be detrimental to wetland health. Grazing regimes should only be used in the management of weeds (which overall were found not to be of high severity across the SGR estate) and fuel reduction purposes. Because the major land use and industry adjacent to reserves is broad-acre cropping and grazing, they [the reserves] will always remain attractive to landholder exploitation, particularly in difficult periods such as drought.

Signage is critical so people are aware of land tenure which dictates what they can and cannot do, hunters and other users alike. Reserve access is the main issue facing reserve user groups and causes much angst among hunters in particular. Defining reserve boundary and location (i.e. signage) is also important if a compliant use is to be achieved. Thirty four percent of wetlands within the State Game Reserve system flood outside the reserve boundary and 31% of SGR boundaries are not clearly identifiable by fencing. This not only creates a confused and frustrated user group, but creates a scenario where trespass on adjoining freehold land is more likely.

There are Wildlife Reserves in the current crown land estate that have not been declared either a Nature Conservation Reserves or State Game Reserves. This audit did not cover a review of those lands, however, it is recommended that these reserves be reviewed and the appropriate status be made clear.

The database from which the audit findings are drawn from is available and should be used to complement this report and inform future management plans and actions. Now that a baseline of information has been gathered, it is recommended that it be updated when continual improvement works are undertaken on reserves into the future. The information should be used to guide management priorities, based on issues threatening reserve health and function, and assist in formulating best practice for the holistic management of State Game Reserves with the aim of enhancing biodiversity, sustainability of game and wildlife populations and their habitats and enhanced user experiences.

Appendix I: State Game Reserve Audit template

Assessment date:		Assessors Name:	
Reserve information			
STATE GAME RESERVE NAME:		PRIMS ID:	WETLAND ID:
Size of wetland (ha):	Total reserve size (ha):	RAMSAR listed wetland ?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Wetland type:		Bioregion:	
Ecological Vegetation Classes:			
Known wetland Condition Index: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
Nearest major town:	Location (i.e. 6km NE of Natimuk):		
Map			

Leases / licenses

Document existing leases / licenses' on the reserve :

Type	Lease / License number
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Cultural heritage

What known cultural heritage sites are present on the reserve?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Midden | <input type="checkbox"/> Open camp site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scar tree | <input type="checkbox"/> Painting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burial site | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ceremonial site | <input type="checkbox"/> Story place |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heath / Oven | <input type="checkbox"/> Artefact scatter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stone arrangement | <input type="checkbox"/> Well |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dwelling | <input type="checkbox"/> Weir / Fish trap |

Land Use

Known recreational uses (please check applicable boxes):

- Fishing
 Skiing
 Camping
 Bird watching
 Festivals
 Boating
 Hiking

Other

List.....

Land Management

Is there a current management plan for the reserve?: Yes No

What pest animals occur / known to occur

- NIL OBSERVED
 Rabbit Pig
 Goat

What noxious weeds occur / known to occur?

- NIL OBSERVED Caltrop
 African Box-thorn Cape Broom

<input type="checkbox"/> Fox <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify	<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Dog	<input type="checkbox"/> Tamarisk <input type="checkbox"/> Blackberry <input type="checkbox"/> Gorse <input type="checkbox"/> Horehound <input type="checkbox"/> Bathurst Burr <input type="checkbox"/> Boneseed <input type="checkbox"/> Spiny Rush <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify	<input type="checkbox"/> Dodder <input type="checkbox"/> Kaki Weed <input type="checkbox"/> Lantana <input type="checkbox"/> Nogoora Burr <input type="checkbox"/> Paterson's Curse <input type="checkbox"/> Prickly Pear <input type="checkbox"/> Willow <input type="checkbox"/> Bridal Creeper <input type="checkbox"/> Wheel Cactus
Severity of animal infestation? <input type="checkbox"/> Very High <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		Severity of noxious weed infestation? <input type="checkbox"/> Very High <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Fire risk (based on fuel load): <input type="checkbox"/> Very High <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low			
Industry adjacent to the reserve?: <input type="checkbox"/> Mining <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry <input type="checkbox"/> Broad-acre cropping <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify.....			
Industry occurring on the reserve?: <input type="checkbox"/> Mining <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial eel fishing <input type="checkbox"/> Cropping <input type="checkbox"/> Grazing <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial aquaculture <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify.....			

Evidence of possible illegal activity:

- Rubbish dumping Livestock grazing Horse riding Firewood collection / removal
 Dog walking Cropping Landholder encroachment / fencing Water theft
 Other
 Specify.....

Wetland description

Water depth at when full (metres): <1m 1-2m 2-3m 3-4m 4-5m >5m

When wetland is at full level does water flood outside the reserve boundary?
 Yes No Unknown

How does the wetland receive water?

- Channel Creek / River Tidal inflow Local Catchment runoff
 Other
 Specify.....

Are there water control structures present? Yes No

Can water level be managed / regulated by local CMA? Yes No Unknown

Reserve access

Is the reserve boundary clearly defined by fencing? Yes No

Is the reserve landlocked?
 Yes No

Are access points clearly identifiable?:
 Yes No

Are there gates at the entry point/s
 Yes No

Are access point gates currently locked?
 Yes No

Is there 2wd (all weather) access to the reserve?:
 Yes No

Can car parking occur on the reserve?
 Yes No

Document main access points, road type and overall condition:

Access point		Road surface type:		Condition	
LAT	/ LONG				
1.		<input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Dirt	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravel	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Good
2.		<input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Dirt	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravel	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Good
3.		<input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Dirt	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravel	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Good
4.		<input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Dirt	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravel	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Good
5.		<input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Dirt	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravel	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Good

Circle best access point above.

Fauna

Game species known to occur:

DUCK

- Black Duck
- Grey Teal
- Chestnut Teal
- Mountain Duck
- Wood Duck
- Shoveler
- Pink-eared Duck
- Hardhead

DEER

- Fallow Deer
- Red Deer
- Sambar
- Hog Deer
- Rusa
- Chital

QUAIL

- Stubble Quail

Threatened / Vulnerable Species known to occur:

- Freckled Duck
- Blue-billed Duck
- Painted Snipe
- Little Bittern
- Brolga
- Brown Quail
- Glossy Ibis

Other notable species: *List*

.....
.....

Signage

Is there signage present at access points?:

- Yes No

Do sign/s clearly state that the reserve is a State Game Reserve?

- Yes No

Is Hog

<p>What other signs are present?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> General Information</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Interpretive</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Directional</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Educational</p>	<p>If not signed as S.G.R, document the wording on the sign/s.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
--	--

Infrastructure																																										
<p>What built infrastructure is present and rank its overall condition:</p>																																										
<p>Facilities</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fireplace</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B.B.Q</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Boat Ramp</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Ground</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Toilets</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rubbish Bins</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Campsite</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Building / Shelter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fencing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sign/s</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Car park</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Running water</p> <p>Other Specify:</p>	<p>Condition</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Good</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Poor</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Good</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Poor</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Good</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Poor</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Good</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Poor</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Good</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Poor</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Good</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Poor</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Good</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Poor</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Good</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Poor</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Good</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Poor</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Good</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Poor</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Good</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Poor</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Good</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Poor</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Good</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Poor</td> </tr> </table>			<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
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What percentage of the reserve is fenced?

- 0%
 <10%
 10-20%
 20-30%
 30-40%
 40-50%
 50-60%
 60-70%
 70-80%
 80-90%
 >90%

Hunting

Is Duck hunting currently permitted?

- Yes No

Is Sambar deer hunting currently permitted?

- Yes No

Is Hog deer hunting currently permitted?

- Yes No

Is Quail hunting currently permitted?

- Yes No

What is the quality of hunting in an average year?:

DUCK

- Excellent
 Fair
 Poor
 Variable

QUAIL

- Excellent
 Fair
 Poor
 Variable

SAMBAR

- Excellent
 Fair
 Poor
 Variable

HOG DEER

- Excellent
 Fair
 Poor
 Variable

Applicable duck hunting methods:

- Punt
 Boat
 Decoys
 Hide
 Wading
 Pass Shooting

Is Hog

Please attach any other notable / relevant information

Appendix II: State Game Reserve list (by region)

South West

Name	Area (ha)	PRIMS ID
Alakilu Swamp State Game Reserve	76.73	703
Aire River State Game Reserve	352.953	402
Assiste Swamp (Brickie Swamp) State Game Reserve	27.167	704
Beniagh Swamp State Game Reserve	212.04	689
Bens Swamp State Game Reserve	57.833	705
Bills Gully State Game Reserve	26.854	785
Bitter Swamp State Game Reserve	34.083	706
Black Swamp, Balmoral State Game Reserve	149.047	707
Blue Lake State Game Reserve	39.786	405
Boiler Swamp State Game Reserve	7.815	708
Boundary Swamp State Game Reserve	156.112	709
Bow Lake State Game Reserve	194.354	710
Box Swamp State Game Reserve	61.033	786
Boyeo Swamp State Game Reserve	126.674	787
Brady Swamp State Game Reserve	223.84	376
Broughtons Swamp State Game Reserve	25.934	712
Brown Swamp State Game Reserve	37.114	545
Bryan Swamp State Game Reserve	727.198	713
Bunnugal State Game Reserve	13.865	714
Champion Swamp State Game Reserve	30.647	716
Church Swamp State Game Reserve	72.329	691
Cloughs Waterholes State Game Reserve	22.03	790
Cobrico Swamp State Game Reserve	13.146	407
Coker Dam State Game Reserve	33.028	791
Connangorach Swamp State Game Reserve	170.633	718
Cookes Reserve State Game Reserve	14.039	719
Crow Swamp (Phillips Dam) State Game Reserve	14.917	794
Dahwedarre State Game Reserve	24.426	795
Darlot Swamp State Game Reserve	264.478	796
Darragan Swamp State Game Reserve	67.169	720
Ding-a-ding State Game Reserve	16.455	797

Name	Area (ha)	PRIMS ID
Donald (Dollin) Swamp State Game Reserve	63.642	721
Fresh-water Swamp, Yarrock State Game Reserve	36.166	667
Goose Lagoon State Game Reserve	9.477	411
Green Swamp State Game Reserve	38.14	799
Greens Creek Swamp State Game Reserve	38.737	621
Greens Swamp State Game Reserve	14.862	723
Gum Swamp, Vectis East State Game Reserve	21.689	800
Habys Swamp State Game Reserve	15.668	801
Hardings Swamp (Tarranginnie Swamp) State Game Reserve	118.239	802
Hateleys Lake State Game Reserve	94.148	724
Heard Lake State Game Reserve	183.097	725
Jacka Lake & lakes to north State Game Reserve	110.913	715
Kerr Swamp State Game Reserve	289.652	694
Kingcourt Swamp State Game Reserve	33.697	727
Koonik Koonik State Game Reserve	4.049	804
Kurrayah Swamp State Game Reserve	40.462	728
Lake Barnie Buloke State Game Reserve	37.71	417
Lake Bookar State Game Reserve	480.396	419
Lake Buninjon State Game Reserve	248.634	729
Lake Cogumbul State Game Reserve	74.339	732
Lake Coyrahilla (Copper Colour) State Game Reserve	177.208	733
Lake Crawford State Game Reserve	68.138	696
Lake Dubban State Game Reserve	14.311	421
Lake Eyang State Game Reserve	130.023	422
Lake Gherang Gherang State Game Reserve	114.464	423
Lake Gilleear State Game Reserve	23.331	424
Lake Goldsmith State Game Reserve	923.645	397
Lake Jaie Jaie State Game Reserve	49.057	735
Lake Jollicum State Game Reserve	74.016	425
Lake Kanagulk State Game Reserve	454.139	736
Lake Karnak State Game Reserve	162.598	737
Lake Kemi Kemi State Game Reserve	91.515	738
Lake Kennedy State Game Reserve	240.93	426
Lake Kornong State Game Reserve	15.088	427

Name	Area (ha)	PRIMS ID
Lake Koynock State Game Reserve	81.412	739
Lake Lawloit State Game Reserve	116.316	806
Lake Muirhead State Game Reserve	343.731	740
Lake Mullancoree State Game Reserve	88.638	741
Lake Murdeduke State Game Reserve	1494.843	428
Lake Sinclair State Game Reserve	39.731	697
Lake Struan State Game Reserve	51.169	433
Lake Terrinallum State Game Reserve	188.908	435
Lake Thurrumbong State Game Reserve	408.648	436
Lake Wongan State Game Reserve	245.456	398
Lake Wyn Wyn State Game Reserve	65.085	5005
Lake Yampitcha State Game Reserve	64.082	742
Lakes Turangmoroke, Yuangmania and Gunjal State Game Reserve	164.957	399
Lampard Swamp State Game Reserve	37.476	782
Leah Swamp State Game Reserve	225.827	743
Lignum Swamp State Game Reserve	87.619	744
Little Donkey Woman Swamp State Game Reserve	11.439	745
Lumeah Swamp State Game Reserve	19.05	746
Mahney Swamp State Game Reserve	28.222	747
McClures Swamp State Game Reserve	36.688	748
McCosslen Swamp State Game Reserve	88.116	749
McGlashin Swamp State Game Reserve	36.089	750
Merwyn Swamp State Game Reserve	21.24	808
Minimay Swamp State Game Reserve	169.143	809
Mortat State Game Reserve	40.458	810
Mount William Swamp (The Big Swamp) State Game Reserve	624.056	751
Mutton Swamp State Game Reserve	32.695	811
Nerrin Nerrin Swamp State Game Reserve	290.563	438
Ni Ni State Game Reserve	16.246	813
North, Centre and other Lakes State Game Reserve	630.203	753
O'Keefe Swamp State Game Reserve	73.775	761
Okely Swamp State Game Reserve	17.302	762
Peechember Swamp State Game Reserve	246.412	815
Pieracle Swamp State Game Reserve	132.549	699

Name	Area (ha)	PRIMS ID
Pink Lake State Game Reserve	43.612	439
Pot Brook State Game Reserve	83.938	763
Princetown State Game Reserve	73.033	440
Red Gum Swamp, Goroke State Game Reserve	245.152	816
Red Gum Swamp, Jallumba State Game Reserve	171.408	764
Red Hill Swamp State Game Reserve	52.442	700
Red Plains Swamp State Game Reserve	34.152	818
Salt Lake, Streatham State Game Reserve	102.448	443
Saw Pit Swamp State Game Reserve	30.568	819
School Swamp State Game Reserve	30.262	765
Scotts Swamp State Game Reserve	28.824	766
Seven Mile Dam State Game Reserve	12.105	820
Sheepwash, Charam State Game Reserve	160.927	767
Silver Lake State Game Reserve	44.195	769
Tabor (Buckleys) Swamp State Game Reserve	60.293	445
The Green Swamp State Game Reserve	81.454	771
The Reserve State Game Reserve	32.872	772
Tooloy-Lake Mundi State Game Reserve	4120.54	701
Tower Hill State Game Reserve	624.125	446
Victoria Lagoon State Game Reserve	55.949	773
Victory Swamp State Game Reserve	8.284	774
Wally Allens Swamp State Game Reserve	95.731	775
Wash Tomorrow (Washdamorra) Swamp State Game Reserve	97.763	776
West Hut Swamp State Game Reserve	12.121	777
White Lake, Douglas State Game Reserve	616.796	778
White Swamp State Game Reserve	37.485	779
Winter Lake State Game Reserve	125.668	780
Yanac Swamp State Game Reserve	201.07	824
Yarrackigarra Swamp State Game Reserve	103.744	825
Subtotal	2139.01	

North West

Name	Area (ha)	PRIMS ID
Avon Plains (Hancocks and Walkers Lake) State Game Reserve	114.859	609
Baillieu Lagoon State Game Reserve	247.59	574
Benjeroop State Game Reserve	372.816	4906
Coorong Swamp State Game Reserve	53.747	792
Cullens Lake State Game Reserve	748.743	508
Duck Lake State Game Reserve	412.592	511
Frogmore Swamp State Game Reserve	30.709	615
Harts Swamp State Game Reserve	44.909	4909
Heywood Lake State Game Reserve	564.434	524
Hird Swamp State Game Reserve	456.469	4910
Johnson Swamp State Game Reserve	722.581	586
Kanyapella State Game Reserve	485.887	379
Kerang State Game Reserve	809.547	4911
Koorangie State Game Reserve	3254.291	519
Lake Boort State Game Reserve	502.092	3084
Lake Cope Cope State Game Reserve	303.971	622
Lake Elizabeth State Game Reserve	120.85	522
Lake Gilmour State Game Reserve	49.949	523
Lake Jil Jil State Game Reserve	9.794	805
Lake Leaghur State Game Reserve	82.726	4987
Lake Lyndger State Game Reserve	331.754	588
Lake Mannaor State Game Reserve	86.616	527
Lake Meran State Game Reserve	204.97	3121
Lake Murphy State Game Reserve	223.418	528
Lake Tyrrell State Game Reserve	12759.19	529
Lake Yando State Game Reserve	86.621	531
Little Lake Charm State Game Reserve	61.314	534
McDonald Swamp State Game Reserve	215.232	591
Merin Merin & Middle Swamp State Game Reserve	497.426	637
Murphy Swamp State Game Reserve	84.88	594
Plumptions State Game Reserve	157.342	4914
Stevenson Swamp State Game Reserve	92.655	537
Tang Tang Swamp State Game Reserve	128.844	640

Name	Area (ha)	PRIMS ID
Thunder Swamp State Game Reserve	91.96	641
Tutchewop State Game Reserve	508.907	543
Two Mile Swamp State Game Reserve	143.634	606
Westblades Swamp State Game Reserve	69.712	607
Woolshed Swamp State Game Reserve	483.791	608
Wooroonook Lakes (Middle and East) State Game Reserve	209.981	823
Subtotal	25826.80	

North East

Name	Area (ha)	PRIMS ID
Black Swamp (Black Dog Creek) State Game Reserve	129.544	576
Black Swamp (Nine Mile Creek) State Game Reserve	32.715	577
Corop State Game Reserve	12.248	4907
Doctors Swamp State Game Reserve	271.381	613
Dowdle Swamp State Game Reserve	285.898	579
Gaynor Swamp State Game Reserve	454.373	4908
Jubilee Swamp State Game Reserve	144.311	587
Lehmann Swamp State Game Reserve	66.016	589
Mansfield Swamp State Game Reserve	490.406	623
McBurney Swamp State Game Reserve	37.805	590
Moodie Swamp State Game Reserve	193.458	592
Morphett Swamp State Game Reserve	21.254	593
Murchison Lagoon State Game Reserve	5.561	391
Reedy Lake, Nagambie State Game Reserve	1315.53	638
Big Reedy Lagoon State Game Reserve	274.001	575
Rowan Swamp State Game Reserve	377.059	600
Tungamah Swamp State Game Reserve	147.945	604
Wallenjoe Swamp State Game Reserve	424.797	644
Subtotal	4684.302	

Gippsland

Name	Area (ha)	PRIMS ID
Blond Bay State Game Reserve	1922.207	3647
Clydebank Morass State Game Reserve	1449.759	3642
Dowd Morass State Game Reserve	1504.055	652
Ewing Morass State Game Reserve	6819.115	456
Heart Morass State Game Reserve	374.989	3637
Jack Smith Lake State Game Reserve	2782.432	668
Jones Bay State Game Reserve	120.197	3655
Lake Coleman State Game Reserve	2095.682	380
Lake Corringale State Game Reserve	920.536	459
Lake Curlip State Game Reserve	1036.716	460
Lake Denison State Game Reserve	117.555	681
Macleod Morass State Game Reserve	540.312	3654
Fresh- water Swamp (Balloong)	36.166	667
Subtotal	19719.72	

Port Phillip

Name	Area (ha)	PRIMS ID
Lake Connewarre State Game Reserve	3695.907	552
Subtotal	3695.907	
Total	75317.75	

Appendix III: State Game Reserve major issues log

State Game Reserve	Landlocked	Landlocked/licensed easement	Access point not defined	Access point locked	Incorrect signage	No signage	High pest infestation	High weed infestation	High fuel load	Encroachment	4wd only access	Poor infrastructure	Boundary not defined
Aire River					✓				✓		✓		
Alakilu Swamp											✓		
Assiste Swamp (Brickie Swamp)			✓		✓						✓		✓
Baillieu Lagoon													
Beniagh Swamp											✓		
Bens Swamp		✓			✓				✓		✓		✓
Big Reedy Lagoon				✓	✓								
Bills Gully						✓							✓
Bitter Swamp					✓				✓				✓
Black Swamp (Black Dog Creek)					✓								✓
Black Swamp (Nine Mile Creek)											✓		
Black Swamp, Balmoral					✓				✓				✓
Blond Bay					✓				✓	✓			
Blue Lake	✓					✓			✓	✓	✓		
Boiler Swamp		✓				✓					✓		✓
Boundary Swamp					✓				✓		✓		
Bow Lake			✓			✓				✓	✓		✓
Box Swamp					✓								✓

State Game Reserve	Landlocked	Landlocked/licensed easement	Access point not defined	Access point locked	Incorrect signage	No signage	High pest infestation	High weed infestation	High fuel load	Encroachment	4wd only access	Poor infrastructure	Boundary not defined
Boyeo Swamp						✓					✓		
Brady Swamp						✓				✓	✓		✓
Broughtons Swamp		✓				✓					✓		
Brown Swamp			✓			✓				✓	✓		✓
Bryan Swamp					✓								
Bunnugal					✓								✓
Cemetery Forest					✓					✓			
Champion Swamp						✓					✓		✓
Church Swamp					✓				✓		✓		
Cloughs Waterholes					✓						✓		
Clydebank Morass							✓		✓	✓	✓		
Cobrico Swamp						✓				✓	✓		
Coker Dam						✓				✓			
Connangorach Swamp					✓						✓		
Cookes Reserve					✓						✓		✓
Coorong Swamp					✓								
Corop						✓					✓		✓
Crow Swamp (Phillips Dam)					✓				✓		✓		

State Game Reserve	Landlocked	Landlocked/leased easement	Access point not defined	Access point locked	Incorrect signage	No signage	High pest infestation	High weed infestation	High fuel load	Encroachment	4wd only access	Poor infrastructure	Boundary not defined
Cullens Lake										✓			
Dahwedarre					✓								
Darlot Swamp					✓						✓		
Darragan Swamp					✓				✓				✓
Ding-a-ding		✓				✓					✓		✓
Donald (Dollin) Swamp					✓				✓		✓		✓
Dowd Morass				✓						✓			
Dowdle Swamp											✓		
Duck Lake						✓					✓		
Ewing Morass					✓						✓		
Fresh-water Swamp, Woodside Beach									✓	✓	✓		
Freshwater Swamp, Yarrock						✓	✓			✓	✓		
Frogmore Swamp						✓				✓			✓
Gashes Swamp					✓						✓		
Gaynor Swamp									✓				
Goose Lagoon	✓					✓				✓	✓		✓
Green Swamp						✓				✓			
Greens Creek Swamp						✓				✓	✓		

State Game Reserve	Landlocked	Landlocked/easement	Access point not defined	Access point locked	Incorrect signage	No signage	High pest infestation	High weed infestation	High fuel load	Encroachment	4wd only access	Poor infrastructure	Boundary not defined
Greens Swamp						✓					✓		
Gum Swamp, Vectis East					✓								
Habys Swamp					✓	✓				✓	✓		
Hardings Swamp (Tarranginnie Swamp)					✓				✓		✓		
Harts Swamp						✓			✓		✓		
Hateleys Lake						✓	✓			✓			
Heard Lake			✓			✓				✓	✓		
Heart Morass										✓			
Heywood Lake					✓						✓		
Hird Swamp									✓		✓		
Hurleys Bank					✓					✓			
Jack Smith Lake										✓			
Jacka Lake & lakes to north					✓					✓			✓
Johnson Swamp									✓				
Jones Bay					✓					✓			
Jubilee Swamp				✓							✓		
Kanyapella			✓			✓					✓		✓
Kerr Swamp					✓						✓		

State Game Reserve	Landlocked	Landlocked/licensed easement	Access point not defined	Access point locked	Incorrect signage	No signage	High pest infestation	High weed infestation	High fuel load	Encroachment	4wd only access	Poor infrastructure	Boundary not defined
Kingcourt Swamp					✓								
Koonik Koonik						✓				✓	✓		✓
Koorangie									✓		✓		
Kurrayah Swamp			✓			✓					✓		
Lake Barnie Buloke						✓							
Lake Bookar										✓	✓	✓	
Lake Buninjon					✓								✓
Lake Clarke					✓						✓		
Lake Cogumbul					✓						✓		
Lake Coleman			✓			✓							✓
Lake Connewarre													✓
Lake Cope Cope							✓			✓		✓	
Lake Corringie					✓								
Lake Coyrahilla (Copper Colour)		✓				✓			✓		✓		
Lake Crawford						✓			✓		✓		✓
Lake Curlip					✓								
Lake Denison		✓		✓		✓				✓	✓		✓
Lake Dubban						✓							

State Game Reserve	Landlocked	Landlocked/licensed easement	Access point not defined	Access point locked	Incorrect signage	No signage	High pest infestation	High weed infestation	High fuel load	Encroachment	4wd only access	Poor infrastructure	Boundary not defined
Lake Elizabeth													
Lake Eyang					✓								
Lake Gherang Gherang											✓		
Lake Gilleard						✓							
Lake Gilmour			✓	✓		✓				✓	✓		✓
Lake Goldsmith					✓								✓
Lake Jaie Jaie					✓						✓		
Lake Jil Jil					✓				✓		✓		
Lake Jollicum		✓				✓							✓
Lake Kanagulk					✓				✓		✓		✓
Lake Karnak						✓					✓		
Lake Kemi Kemi						✓					✓		
Lake Kennedy					✓								
Lake Kornong						✓					✓		✓
Lake Koynock										✓	✓		
Lake Lawloit						✓			✓		✓		✓
Lake Lyndger						✓							
Lake Mannaor			✓			✓	✓			✓	✓		

State Game Reserve	Landlocked	Landlocked/licensed easement	Access point not defined	Access point locked	Incorrect signage	No signage	High pest infestation	High weed infestation	High fuel load	Encroachment	4wd only access	Poor infrastructure	Boundary not defined
Lake Meran										✓			
Lake Muirhead			✓		✓					✓			
Lake Mullancoree		✓			✓						✓		
Lake Murdeduke							✓			✓		✓	
Lake Murphy					✓					✓			
Lake Sinclair		✓				✓			✓		✓		
Lake Struan										✓			✓
Lake Terrinallum						✓					✓		
Lake Thurrumbong		✓				✓				✓	✓		
Lake Wandella						✓							
Lake Wongan		✓								✓	✓		
Lake Wyn Wyn				✓	✓					✓			
Lake Yampitcha						✓				✓			✓
Lake Yando					✓						✓		
Lakes Turangmoroke, Yuangmania and Gunjal		✓			✓					✓	✓		
Lampard Swamp		✓		✓		✓				✓	✓		
Leah Swamp									✓		✓		
Lehmann Swamp					✓								

State Game Reserve	Landlocked	Landlocked/licensed easement	Access point not defined	Access point locked	Incorrect signage	No signage	High pest infestation	High weed infestation	High fuel load	Encroachment	4wd only access	Poor infrastructure	Boundary not defined
Lignum Swamp					✓				✓				
Little Donkey Woman Swamp					✓								
Little Lake Charm	✓					✓				✓	✓		✓
Lumeah Swamp			✓			✓					✓		
Macleod Morass				✓			✓		✓	✓	✓		
Mahney Swamp		✓				✓					✓		✓
Mansfield Swamp									✓		✓		
McBurney Swamp						✓					✓		
McClures Swamp						✓				✓	✓		✓
McCosslen Swamp						✓					✓		
McDonald Swamp									✓				
McGlashin Swamp					✓					✓			✓
Merin Merin & Middle Swamp													
Merwyn Swamp						✓			✓		✓		✓
Minimay Swamp					✓								
Moodie Swamp					✓								
Morphett Swamp											✓		
Mortat						✓				✓	✓		

State Game Reserve	Landlocked	Landlocked/easement	Access point not defined	Access point locked	Incorrect signage	No signage	High pest infestation	High weed infestation	High fuel load	Encroachment	4wd only access	Poor infrastructure	Boundary not defined
Mount William Swamp (The Big Swamp)			✓			✓				✓	✓		
Murchison Lagoon					✓					✓			
Murphy Swamp						✓				✓	✓		✓
Mutton Swamp						✓					✓		
Nerrin Nerrin Swamp		✓				✓					✓		✓
Ni Ni				✓		✓				✓	✓		✓
North, Centre and other Lakes					✓				✓				
Nurcoung Swamp					✓								
O'Keefe Swamp		✓				✓				✓	✓		✓
Okely Swamp					✓								✓
Peecheamber Swamp					✓				✓		✓		
Pieracle Swamp					✓					✓	✓		✓
Pink Lake		✓				✓				✓	✓		✓
Plumptions					✓				✓				
Pot Brook		✓				✓					✓		✓
Princetown						✓							✓
Red Gum Swamp, Jallumba					✓					✓	✓		
Red Hill Swamp					✓				✓				✓

State Game Reserve	Landlocked	Landlocked/licensed easement	Access point not defined	Access point locked	Incorrect signage	No signage	High pest infestation	High weed infestation	High fuel load	Encroachment	4wd only access	Poor infrastructure	Boundary not defined
Red Plains Swamp					✓		✓		✓				
Rowan Swamp					✓					✓	✓		
Salt Lake, Streatham	✓				✓					✓	✓		✓
Saw Pit Swamp						✓					✓		
School Swamp					✓				✓		✓		
Scotts Swamp						✓							✓
Seven Mile Dam						✓					✓		
Sheepwash, Charam					✓				✓		✓		
Silver Lake						✓				✓	✓		
Stevenson Swamp						✓					✓		✓
Tabor (Buckleys) Swamp					✓						✓		
Tang Tang Swamp						✓			✓	✓			
The Green Swamp										✓	✓		✓
The Meadows						✓							
The Reserve						✓				✓	✓		✓
Thunder Swamp						✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Tooloy-Lake Mundi					✓						✓		✓
Tower Hill													

State Game Reserve	Landlocked	Landlocked/licensed easement	Access point not defined	Access point locked	Incorrect signage	No signage	High pest infestation	High weed infestation	High fuel load	Encroachment	4wd only access	Poor infrastructure	Boundary not defined
Tungamah Swamp					✓								
Tutchewop													✓
Two Mile Swamp									✓				
Victoria Lagoon					✓								
Victory Swamp		✓				✓					✓		
Wal Wal Swamp						✓					✓		
Wallenjoie Swamp					✓						✓		
Wally Allens Swamp					✓								✓
Wash Tomorrow (Washdamorra) Swamp													✓
West Hut Swamp		✓			✓						✓		
Westblades Swamp						✓					✓		✓
White Lake, Douglas					✓				✓		✓		
White Swamp			✓			✓			✓		✓		
Winter Lake					✓					✓	✓		
Woolshed Swamp						✓			✓				
Wooroonook Lakes (Middle and East)					✓								
Yanac Swamp						✓			✓				
Yarrackigarra Swamp					✓						✓		✓
TOTAL	4	30	16	9	83	80	8	2	44	63	117	3	62

Appendix IV: Parks Victoria letter of support



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Healthy People®*

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16 July 2015

Mr Greg Hyams
Games Management Authority
121 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Hyams

Thank you for your letter of 3 July 2015 regarding a State Game Reserve Audit.

As Parks Victoria is the responsible land manager for these State Game Reserves we encourage and support the need to conduct regular Statewide audits to ensure the success of these reserves.

Ron Waters, Manager Enforcement and Regulatory Services would be the most appropriate Parks Victoria contact for liaising with the project manager and engaging the most appropriate regional representatives around the state.

We value the support that the Office of the Minister for Agriculture and Game Management Authority both provide to Parks Victoria and would like to continue to build on this working relationship.

Should you require further advice on this matter please contact Ron Waters on 8680 2868.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Craig Stubbings", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Craig Stubbings
Acting General Manager, Regional Services



