2024-25

National Parks Act Annual Report

Parks VICTORIA

VICTORIA

Acknowledgement of Country

Victoria's network of parks and reserves form the core of Aboriginal cultural landscapes, which have been modified over many thousands of years of occupation. They are reflections of how Aboriginal people engaged with their world and experienced their surroundings and are the product of thousands of generations of economic activity, material culture and settlement patterns. The landscapes we see today are influenced by the skills, knowledge and activities of Aboriginal land managers. Parks Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Owners of these cultural landscapes, recognising their continuing connection to Victoria's parks and reserves and their ongoing role in caring for Country.

Copyright © State of Victoria, Parks Victoria 2025
Melbourne VIC 3000

ISSN 2652-3183 (print)
ISSN 2652-3191 (online)

Published on www.parks.vic.gov.au

This publication may be of assistance to you, but Parks Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

Notes

- The Minister responsible for administering the Act during 2024–25 was the Minister for Environment, the Hon Steve Dimopoulos MP.

In this report

- 'the Act' means the *National Parks Act 1975*
- 'DEECA' means the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
- 'the Minister' means the Minister responsible for administering the Act
- 'the Regulations' means the National Parks Regulations 2013 and the National Parks Regulations 2024
- 'the Secretary' means the Secretary to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

Cover image: Parks Victoria rangers performing conservation works, Wilsons Promontory National Park.

Table of Contents

1 Foreword

2 A representative parks system **3**

2.1 Areas managed under the Act 3

2.2 Management planning 3

3 Natural values **4**

3.1 Managing natural values 4

3.2 Monitoring natural values 9

3.3 Researching natural values 11

4 Cultural values **13**

4.1 Aboriginal cultural heritage 13

4.2 Non-Aboriginal historic heritage 14

5 Fire and other emergencies **15**

5.1 Bushfires 15

5.2 Planned burning 15

5.3 Planning, monitoring and research 16

5.4 Recovery programs 17

6 Visitors, tourism, and the community **18**

6.1 Enhancing visitor enjoyment and tourism 18

6.2 Licensed tour operators 20

6.3 Visitation 20

7 Partnering with Traditional Owners **23**

7.1 Joint management 23

7.2 Co-operative management 25

7.3 Other Traditional Owner partnerships 27

8 Supporting park management **28**

8.1 Management arrangements 28

8.2 Legislation 28

8.3 Authorities under the Act 28

8.4 Enforcement 29

8.5 Advisory bodies 29

Appendix 1: Areas managed under the National Parks Act **29**

Appendix 2: Location of parks and other areas **39**

1. Foreword

This report on the workings of the *National Parks Act 1975 (the Act)* for the 2024–25 financial year is presented to the Minister for Environment, the Hon Steve Dimopoulos MP, under section 35 of the Act.

This year marks 50 years since the Act was enacted. This was a significant milestone in the history of national parks in Victoria, setting out the legal framework for the protection, enjoyment and management of what is now a system of national and other parks that are representative of Victoria's diverse natural environments.

Parks Victoria manages a system of more than 130 parks and other areas under the Act, totalling approximately 3.47 million hectares, on behalf of the Victorian Government. This work is done in close partnership with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA).

Parks Victoria is committed to providing accessible, enjoyable, diverse programs and destinations while protecting and enhancing environmental and cultural values.

Our highlights from this year include:

- undertaking considerable work aimed to stop harmful plants and animals from spreading, and putting more effort into controlling the number of deer
- delivering the 15th consecutive year of citizen science monitoring of threatened native grasslands and the critically endangered plains-wanderer at Terrick Terrick National Park
- undertaking a wide range of research activities to improve park management, protect nature, build partnerships, and help people learn more about nature
- undertaking post event heritage evaluations in response to flood, fire and storm events across Gunbower, Hattah-Kulkyne and Murray-Sunset national parks
- unveiling the new whale-inspired lookout at Loch Ard Gorge (Poombeeyt Kootapool) to the public in June 2025 in partnership with the Eastern Maar community.

Our teams also played a key role in managing response and recovery efforts during natural disasters, from working on the fire line and within Incident Management Teams, to playing a pivotal role in helping communities recover and rebuild.

The past year has been a challenging one for Parks Victoria, characterised by significant change and scrutiny. We look forward to getting back to basics, strengthening our frontline and delivering place-based services – while also working more closely and collaboratively with Traditional Owners and partner organisations such as DEECA and GORCAPA, to continue to achieve the objectives of the Act.

Daniel Miller
Chair

Lee Miezis PSM

Chief Executive Officer

2. A representative parks system

2.1 Areas managed under the Act

As at 30 June 2025, there were 138 areas with a total area of approximately 3.47 million hectares managed under various provisions of the Act. Appendix 1 lists the areas and Appendix 2 shows their location.

The 138 areas comprised:

- 124 areas listed on various schedules to the Act
  - 45 national parks (Schedule Two)
  - 3 wilderness parks (Schedule Two A)
  - 26 state parks (Schedule Two B)
  - 5 coastal parks, 3 historic parks, 1 marine and coastal park, 1 nature conservation reserve (flora and fauna reserve) and 8 regional parks (Schedule Three)
  - 3 marine and coastal parks, 1 marine park, 1 marine reserve, 1 national heritage park and 1 nature conservation reserve (Schedule Four)
  - 13 marine national parks (Schedule Seven)
  - 11 marine sanctuaries (Schedule Eight)
  - 1 landscape conservation area (Schedule Nine).
- 14 non-scheduled areas to which particular provisions of the Act apply.

The Act also defines the following areas within particular national parks:

- 19 wilderness zones (Schedule Five) in 7 national parks (see Appendix 1)
- 22 remote and natural areas (Schedule Six) in 12 national parks (see Appendix 1)
- 4 designated water supply catchment areas in the Great Otway, Kinglake and Yarra Ranges national parks.

There were 2 changes during the year to the areas managed under the Act:

- 2 February 2025, the lease of the historic Glenample Homestead was terminated. The State had leased the homestead and adjoining area from the owner since 1979 and had managed it under section 32AA of the Act as if it were a Schedule 3 park
- 31 March 2025, an area of 178 hectares in the upper reaches of the Anderson Creek catchment was added to Moondarra State Park. The addition was originally legislated in 1984 to be included in the park, pending a decision on whether the land was required as part of an overburden dump associated with developing the Latrobe Valley coalfields. It has been managed as if it were part of the park for many years.

2.2 Management planning

Parks Victoria undertook engagement on a draft amendment to the Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park Management Plan. This place is also referred to as the Dyurrite cultural landscape. The scope of the draft amendment is specific to visitor activities and areas where there are cultural and natural values that may be at risk of harm. Parks Victoria undertook public consultation on the draft amendment between 4 November 2024 and 14 February 2025. During the consultation period, Parks Victoria heard from over 1,600 community members and stakeholders. Parks Victoria continued engagement with partners and stakeholders, including representatives of the climbing community, local government, local community members, other government entities and Traditional Owners.

3. Natural values

3.1 Managing natural values

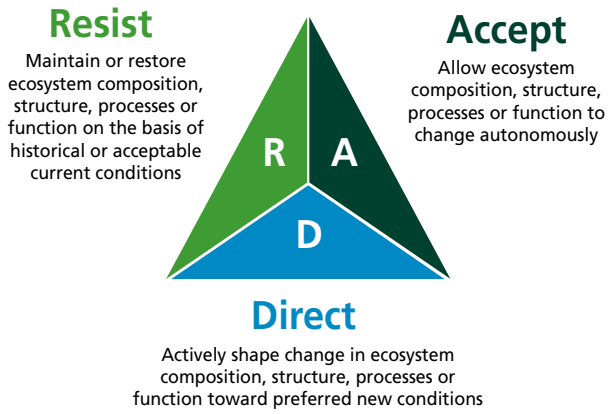
National and other parks under the Act protect the stronghold of Victoria's natural values, including a diverse array of animal and plant species, habitats, ecosystems, landscapes and seascapes. Conservation programs focus on direct action to protect threatened species, communities and habitat; transitioning for and addressing the effects of climate change, addressing threats from invasive species, changed bushfire and water regimes, overabundant native species; and the delivery of research, monitoring and planning for natural values. The programs are led by Parks Victoria in collaboration with key partners including Traditional Owners, DEECA, catchment management authorities, the Commonwealth Government and the community. Many programs are ongoing and achievements for 2024–25 are provided in the following sections.

3.1.1 Nature Conservation Strategy

Parks Victoria's *Nature Conservation Strategy 2021–2031* recognises the natural riches and diversity of animal and plant species, habitats, ecosystems, landscapes and seascapes occurring across Victoria's parks estate. The Nature Conservation Strategy is designed to help protect nature in Victoria's parks, especially as it faces big challenges like climate change. Parks Victoria has adopted the Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD) Framework, which offers 3 honest and constructive management choices:

- 'resist' where species and their habitats are likely to persist, e.g. through climate-buffered refuges
- 'accept' that for some ecosystems and sites, change is inevitable or irreversible, and feasibility limits responses to alternatives such as managing staged retreats
- direct' sites and landscapes to potentially 'novel' nature configurations, particularly for highly impacted or degraded sites, that can still support native species and ecosystem functions but potentially through introduction of surrogate habitat-forming species.

At the same time, Parks Victoria needs to be agile and responsive to the impacts of major climate-driven emergencies including bushfires, floods, storms and other weather extremes. Consideration of strategic through to tactical conservation actions are being incorporated into all aspects of conservation management in parks. These combine the RAD Framework, future scenario planning, and more agile emergency preparations and responses, and influenced the responses to the 2024–25 summer bushfires at Budj Bim, Grampians and Little Desert national parks.



3.1.2 Conservation action plans

Conservation action plans identify the most significant natural assets in a landscape, threats to these assets, and strategies that will achieve the greatest improvement in the overall health of ecosystems.

Conservation planning now covers 14 of the 18 landscapes and their constituent parks under the Act, and the review of the earlier plans has commenced.

Two new conservation action plans were completed during the year. These incorporated outputs of a climate adaptation approach that examine the impacts of plausible climate futures:

- Basalt Plains & Bellarine Peninsula – addresses urbanisation, wetland management of Ramsar sites, and managing fragmented but highly significant grassland reserves
- Wilsons Promontory – provides a significant uplift to management of threats and restoration objectives for the next 15 years in alignment with the Wilsons Promontory Sanctuary Program and considers Wilsons Promontory as a climate refuge.

3.1.3 Threatened species and communities

Parks Victoria and DEECA continue to work with the community and key partner agencies to manage threatened species and communities. This work includes programs delivered as part of protecting and enhancing habitats (including management of invasive species).

3.1.3.1 Eastern bristlebird translocation monitoring

Following the successful translocations of Eastern bristlebirds into Wilsons Promontory National Park, ongoing monitoring of the new population has continued. Birds have been detected at new locations well away from the initial release site and there is evidence that natural spread has been occurring. Monitoring of one of the source populations at Croajingolong National Park has taken place and numbers appear steady. These activities have engaged community participation and are utilising new and emerging technology such as automated sound recorders.

3.1.3.2 Protection of native grasslands and the plains-wanderer

Parks Victoria delivered the 15th consecutive year of citizen science monitoring of threatened native grasslands and the critically endangered plains-wanderer in Terrick Terrick National Park. The results have revealed that habitat structure is slowly improving following rampant grass growth during the floods and above average rainfall to 2021–22. This improvement has been achieved through the application of ecological grazing. The number of plains-wanderers is slowly recovering but the number of fat-tailed dunnart remains low and may take a number of years to recover. Planning has commenced with Zoos Victoria for the release of captive-bred plains-wanderers into the park.

3.1.3.3 Cat eradication programs

Parks Victoria, in partnership with the Commonwealth Government, DEECA, Melbourne Water and other stakeholders, has continued working on French Island National Park cat eradication programs. This has had demonstrable positive impacts on threatened species such as the Eastern barred bandicoot and long-nosed potoroo, which continue to be detected in increasing numbers and at new locations in the park.

Image: Plains-wanderer

3.1.3.4 Fire recovery surveys

A concerted recovery campaign occurred following the 2024–25 summer bushfires in Grampians and Little Desert national parks. The recovery efforts surveyed threatened species and applied land management actions including supplementary feeding, pest animal control, translocation and provision of artificial habitat shelters to benefit species including the brush-tailed rock wallaby, Southern brown bandicoot, smoky mouse, Wannon River blackfish and Mallee fowl. Many of these actions will precipitate longer-term monitoring and recovery programs. Parks Victoria played central roles in all aspects of incident management and response and recovery planning, including leading rapid response assessment teams onto firegrounds as soon as access was permitted. The resulting impact details and recommendations have generated significant biodiversity recovery funding from the state and federal government for recovery works in Grampians National Park until June 2027.

3.1.4 Invasive species

Parks Victoria has continued to deliver threat management programs to address invasive species impacts in high priority parks. These control programs are targeted to maximise investment and effectiveness by focusing on the protection of specific environmental assets at site or landscape scale. Landscape scale conservation programs, often cross tenure and involving several partner agencies, are the cornerstones of invasive species management in parks.

In 2024–25, the major programs delivered in partnership with DEECA were:

3.1.4.1 Deer Control Program

The Victorian Deer Control Strategy guides the control of deer in Victoria to reduce their impact on biodiversity, agriculture, water quality, Aboriginal cultural heritage and public safety. A staged approach to program delivery and strategy implementation has been undertaken.

Phase 2 of the Deer Control Program continued to undertake deer control and other management measures at Alpine, Grampians, Little Desert and Wilsons Promontory national parks, consistent with the goals and actions detailed in the Victorian Deer Control Strategy and Regional Deer Control Plans. Projects range from high biodiversity sites, areas to reduce deer incursions (biosecurity approach) and include landscape scale programs with many programs delivering in partnership with park neighbours.

Parks Victoria has multiple park areas across its regions with control programs. The funding also supports Parks Victoria having regional program leads and a specialist team to deliver the aerial control services.

3.1.4.2 Protecting Biodiversity

Funding has been provided for multiple projects under the Protecting Biodiversity Priority Projects program, aligned to delivering on the targets of *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037*. Pest herbivore control, pest predator control and weed control projects were carried out in the Alpine, Barmah, French Island, Grampians, Great Otway, Mornington Peninsula, Point Nepean and Wilsons Promontory national parks.

3.1.4.3 Weeds and Pests on Public Land

The Eden projects continue to target high priority and emerging weeds in Glenelg (Cobboboonee, Lower Glenelg and Mount Richmond national parks, Cape Nelson State Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park) and Otway (Great Otway and Port Campbell national parks) landscapes.

The Ark programs involve fox control for small mammal protection and include the Barry Mountains fox control project (Alpine National Park), Glenelg Ark (Cobboboonee, Lower Glenelg and Mount Richmond national parks and Discovery Bay Coastal Park), Grampians Ark (Grampians National Park), Otway Ark (Great Otway National Park) and Southern Ark (Alfred, Alpine, Coopracambra, Croajingolong, Errinundra, Lind and Snowy River national parks, Lake Tyers State Park and Cape Conran Coastal Park).

The Weeds and Pests on Public Land program also supports rabbit control to reduce grazing pressure as part of the grazing management plan to restore semi-arid woodland in Murray-Sunset and Wyperfeld national parks. This initiative is supported by a long-standing investment in herbivore control by Parks Victoria.

3.1.4.4 Wilsons Promontory Sanctuary

The Wilsons Promontory Sanctuary Program continues to progress a 50,000 hectare climate change refuge in Wilsons Promontory National Park by delivering actions including large-scale deer control and targeted fox and cat control to protect newly established populations of threatened species for Eastern bristlebirds and pookila (also known as New Holland mouse). A total of 153 threatened species have now been recorded, with work delivered to identify priority on-the-brink species in need of enhanced protection under the program, and those species now missing that may be able to be brought back to the park following removal of foxes, cats and deer at a large scale. Camera arrays continue to detect new records including for lace monitors, rakali and a wide range of small ground mammals. Science programs continue to be developed with partner agencies and collaborators including Museums Victoria, an expanded Prom Technical Advisory Group, the Royal Botanical Gardens Victoria, Zoos Victoria and a range of universities. All cultural and natural values assessments have now been completed for the predator and grazer exclusion fence and construction is scheduled to commence in summer 2025–26 with the aim of it being completed by June 2026.

Significant funding has been secured to progress the establishment of the sanctuary, through 2 state government programs: $1.4 million for 2 years of enhanced threat control through the Protecting Biodiversity initiative, and $800,000 through joint state (Nature Fund) and matching philanthropic support to restore grassland, heath and offshore island habitats in preparation for fence completion, pest reduction and the commencement of species reintroductions.

3.1.4.5 Other pest plant and animal programs

The Alps Intensive Management Program continued to support the management of invasive pest animal and plants in key vulnerable areas of the Alpine National Park as well as other parks in alpine areas. Strategic management of horses and pigs continued as well as management of pest plants including willows, hawkweed and English broom.

Parks Victoria continued to implement feral horse management programs consistent with the *Alpine National Park: Feral Horse Action Plan (2021)* and the *Strategic Action Plan: Protection of floodplain marshes in Barmah National Park and Barmah Forest Ramsar site (2020–2023)*. Feral horses were removed in 2023–24 through targeted ground shooting by professionals. Close supervision and management of the control program remains in place to ensure the best possible outcomes for animal welfare, safety and effectiveness, including input from external technical experts.

The Peri-urban Weed Management Partnership with multiple councils continues to target areas for weed management on Churchill, Dandenong Ranges, and French Island national parks, as well as other parks and reserves.

The Good Neighbour Program continued to invest in controlling invasive species on the public-private land interface across Melbourne and Regional Victoria.

3.1.5 Native animals

3.1.5.1 Budj Bim and French Island koala programs

Koala health check and fertility control programs were delivered in spring 2024 and autumn 2025 at Budj Bim National Park, and on Raymond Island (Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park) and French Island, including French Island National Park, roadside reserves and private land.

The long-term koala contraception program has continued at Budj Bim National Park for almost 20 years to manage the health of the Manna Gum woodland, along with regular surveys of the koala population and tree condition.

3.1.5.2 Total grazing management

The active management of populations of non-native and native grazers (known as Total Grazing Management) protects and restores the threatened semi-arid woodland vegetation community in the Mallee landscape. It is a multi-decadal program of rabbit, feral goat and kangaroo control detailed in a comprehensive plan, which was renewed in 2025. A cyclical vegetation condition monitoring program demonstrates that herbivore control is enabling widespread recruitment and survival of woody seedlings and juveniles. Working in partnership with Barengi Gadjin Land Council, DEECA, First People of the Millewa Mallee, Mallee Catchment Management

Authority and Trust for Nature, and supported by 7 tied-funded projects, key achievements included:

- rabbit control across approximately 80,000 hectares, including in high cultural value areas
- more than 2,000 feral goats removed by aerial shooting and ground operations in partnership with the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia
- more than 6,000 kangaroos removed using professional shooters
- approximately 13,000 seedlings planted in 25 hectares.

3.1.6 Environmental water

In 2024–25, Parks Victoria continued to work in partnership with Catchment Management Authorities and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder to support the environmental watering program by contributing to the planning and approval of proposed activities in Barmah, Grampians, Gunbower, Hattah-Kulkyne, Lower Glenelg and Murray-Sunset national parks. This included the following watering events in those parks.

3.1.6.1 Barmah National Park

Barmah Forest experienced only one, brief natural flood peak during the year, which inundated an area slightly greater than can be achieved with environmental water releases alone under current delivery constraints. Had no water for the environment been delivered outside of this natural flood event, the duration of flooding on the moira grass plains would have been inadequate. However, both combined to achieve a suitable flood regime on the lower parts of the floodplain. The broader forest remains very dry, especially given the very hot and dry conditions that have prevailed since parts were previously flooded in winter and spring 2023. The last broad-scale flooding of the forest was in spring 2022.

3.1.6.2 Grampians National Park

Total rainfall across the Wimmera system during the year was below the long-term average, and water for the environment was used in the MacKenzie River and Burnt Creek from early August 2024, initially to provide a low flow. However, with drying conditions and water availability from Wartook Reservoir diminishing, the focus in these waterways shifted to maintaining drought refuges, including for threatened Glenelg spiny crayfish, and platypus, in the upper reaches of the MacKenzie River in the Grampians National Park. The recovery of catchments after fires across large areas of the Grampians and Little Desert national parks in summer 2024–25 is expected to be an important factor in water availability and quality in 2025–26.

3.1.6.3 Gunbower National Park

Conditions across the Gunbower Forest floodplain over the last year have been dry, with no unregulated inflows. This contrasts with the 2 previous years, with Gunbower Forest receiving the largest flood since 1993 in 2022, which flooded about 80% of Gunbower Forest. Multiple unregulated flood peaks also delivered significant inflows to Gunbower Forest in 2023 and January 2024. The wetland vegetation showed a strong decline after the extensive and prolonged unregulated flooding. Accordingly, a drying phase was implemented across the floodplain in 2024–25 to enable most wetlands to reset. The delivery of environmental water to the Little Gunbower Wetland Complex and Barapa Swamp was the only forest watering action in spring and summer 2024.

3.1.6.4 Hattah-Kulkyne National Park

Over the last 5 years, most of the Hattah Lakes (including Lake Kramen) were inundated by either naturally high river flows or through environmental watering from pumping infrastructure, which last occurred in spring 2024. The lakes will continue a major drying phase to manage risks to the diversity of wetland vegetation caused by too-frequent and long-duration inundation. The drawdown will allow native plants within lakebed herbland communities to grow on exposed soils and provide foraging habitat for wading shorebirds.

3.1.6.5 Lower Glenelg National Park

In the Glenelg system, rainfall during the year was below the long-term average, and water for the environment was needed to help prevent the worst

impacts of the drought conditions and maintain a continuous flow from Rocklands Reservoir to the estuary from early November 2024 to June 2025, benefitting the Glenelg River estuary in Lower Glenelg National Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park.

3.1.6.6 Murray-Sunset National Park

Many wetlands and creeklines across Lindsay, Mulcra and Wallpolla islands had substantial flooding or periods of sustained high flow from winter to spring 2022 through to early autumn 2024. On a return to drier conditions in 2024–25, most environmental watering sites benefitted from partial or complete drawdowns with little active watering required.

3.1.7 Marine values

In 2024–25 Parks Victoria has delivered pest management and restoration programs to protect marine values within our marine national park and sanctuary system.

3.1.7.1 Invasive marine pests

Management of marine pests in Victoria's marine protected areas continued to be a major focus during the year. Removal and monitoring of the invasive Japanese kelp (*Undaria pinnatifida*) in Port Philip Head Marine National Park has continued, building on previous years efforts. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the Undaria removal program has been undertaken by Deakin University, which indicates that removal has been effective at limiting the spread of Undaria pinnatifida, though it hasn't been eradicated. Recommendations from that evaluation will be incorporated into future removal activities.

A total of 6 dives were undertaken during the Winter-Autumn season with a total of 1,066 plants removed (370 Adults and 696 juveniles) from the Popes Eye sector of Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park. On the final dive only 1 plant was found rounding out an effective weeding season.

Monitoring and surveillance for marine pests also continues to be a major focus in our marine protected areas. A total of 41 Marine Rapid Health Assessments, which include monitoring for marine pests, have been undertaken across 13 parks. No new pest incursions have been detected in these parks, though marine pests continue to be an issue in parks where they have been previously detected and are established.

3.1.7.2 Kelp forest restoration

Programs to mitigate the impacts of overabundant native urchins on macroalgal reef communities continues in Jawbone and Ricketts Point marine sanctuaries and are now one year in. To date this program has reduced overabundant urchins down to densities that promote the recovery of urchin barren reefs (2 urchins per square metre) across 12 hectares of reef at Jawbone (3 hectares) and Ricketts Point (9 hectares) marine sanctuaries. A total of 380,000 urchins have been culled and removed across these areas. Active restoration of the kelp *Ecklonia radiata* has also been completed on approximately 0.6 hectares of reef. Good recovery of macroalgal reef is being detected by monitoring following intensive culling, and urchin numbers have remained at levels below the target threshold more than 12 months following initial culling efforts.

3.2 Monitoring natural values

Monitoring is essential for conserving and protecting areas managed under the Act. It enables understanding of the status of assets and threats and how these change in time and space. This in turn supports decision-making based on evidence and promotes continuous improvement in management.

3.2.1 Terrestrial environments

In 2024–25, a wide range of monitoring was undertaken by staff, contractors, researchers, students, community groups and volunteers, including:

- vegetation condition in the Alpine, Mount Buffalo, and Yarra Ranges national parks
- threatened flora assessments in Chiltern-Mt Pilot, Mornington Peninsula, Point Nepean and Wilsons Promontory national parks
- recovery of semi-arid woodlands in Murray Sunset and Wyperfeld national parks
- native fauna surveys including:
  - small mammals in Cobboboonee, Coopracambra, Croajingolong, Grampians,

Great Otway, Lower Glenelg, Mornington Peninsula, Mount Buffalo, Point Nepean, Snowy River, Terrick Terrick and Wilsons Promontory national parks and Holey Plains State Park

  - arboreal mammals in Warby-Ovens and Yarra Ranges national parks
  - birds including hooded plover in Mornington Peninsula and Wilsons Promontory national parks; plains-wanderer in Terrick Terrick National Park; malleefowl in areas including Hattah-Kulkyne, Little Desert, Murray-Sunset and Wyperfeld national parks and bird communities in Grampians and Warby-Ovens national parks
  - frogs in Mornington Peninsula National Park and Holey Plains State Park
  - reptiles in Terrick Terrick National Park
- distribution and abundance of invasive animals including:
  - deer in the Alpine, Barmah, Grampians, Mornington Peninsula, Mount Buffalo, Snowy River and Wilsons Promontory national parks
  - feral pigs in the Alpine, Barmah, Great Otway and Lower Glenelg national parks
  - rabbits in the Hattah-Kulkyne, Murray-Sunset, and Wyperfeld national parks
  - feral horses in the Alpine National Park
  - foxes and/or feral cats in Cobboboonee, Coopracambra, Croajingolong, Grampians, Great Otway, Mornington Peninsula, Point Nepean, Snowy River and Wilsons Promontory national parks
  - weeds in the Grampians, Greater Bendigo, Mornington Peninsula and Point Nepean national parks and Warrandyte State Park
- overabundant kangaroos in the Hattah-Kulkyne, Murray-Sunset, Wilsons Promontory and Wyperfeld national parks.

3.2.2 Marine environments

During the summer, 6 monitoring dives adopting Reef Life Survey methods were completed in Point Addis Marine National Park and Point Danger Marine Sanctuary by Parks Victoria staff. Reef Life Survey

Image: Jawbone Marine Sanctuary

volunteer divers completed 8 monitoring dives within Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park and associated reference sites outside the park. The monitoring data and information collected from Reef Life Survey provides comprehensive data that feeds into a broad range of Parks Victoria initiatives, including conservation actions plans, State of Parks and State of Environment reporting, targeted marine conservation programs and media and communications of the excellent nature in marine parks to be exhibited.

The marine Rapid Health Assessment (RHA) program has also continued to deliver significant and more widespread monitoring of environmental condition across Victoria's marine protected areas in 2024–25. A total of 41 rapid health assessments were completed for subtidal and intertidal habitat in 13 distinct marine national parks and sanctuaries spanning the Surf Coast, Port Phillip Bay and South Gippsland. Overall, the assessments have been finding that these marine protected areas are generally in good condition. They have also identified the presence of invasive species and overabundant native species in a small number of marine protected areas in northern Port Phillip Bay. Fish and habitat surveys were also undertaken with Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) across 32 sites at Point Addis Marine National Park and in reference locations outside the park. These surveys provide an understanding of the ecological health and effectiveness of protection at Point Addis Marine National Park by understanding changes in fish abundances over time compared to areas outside the park. The results from these surveys are currently being analysed.

Comprehensive monitoring of fish, invertebrates and macroalgae has also been undertaken across 10 monitoring sites at Jawbone and Ricketts Point marine sanctuaries to understand their responses to urchin control programs aimed at restoring urchin barrens back to healthy reef.

3.3 Researching natural values

3.3.1 Research activity access agreements

Parks Victoria provides access agreements for research activities to be undertaken on public land. Access Agreements are issued to organisations and individuals including conservation bodies, councils, naturalists clubs, Traditional Owners, and universities among many others. During the year, 267 access agreements were issued in areas managed under the Act, with a total of 397 active access agreements in place. A wide range of research activities were undertaken across the state in areas under the Act. This research improves park management, increases environmental understanding, improves conservation and biodiversity, connects people with nature and builds partnerships. It included:

- Advancing greater glider conservation with artificial hollows – since the 2019-20 bushfires, research shows that purpose built, thermally insulated nest boxes effectively support the greater glider population recovery in fire-affected habitat. Two knowledge gaps will be addressed as part of this research: firstly, to monitor utilisation of nest boxes in previously logged areas with abundant trees but lacking in natural hollows and, since nest boxes have limited lifespan, also to explore whether greater gliders will use artificially carved hollows for a long-term solution.

- Safeguarding threatened sub-alpine snow patches against shrub invasion – native shrubs will be removed to inform effective management and conservation of threatened snow patch flora. In the short-term, removal of shrubs may allow threatened species to persist in the natural landscape. In the long term, the research aims to examine the efficacy of localised shrub removal as a mitigation strategy.

3.3.2 Research programs

The diversity of ecosystems protected in areas managed under the Act, coupled with the unpredictability of nature and incomplete knowledge, make environmental management complex. On top of this are the challenges of climate change and dealing with a complex array of threats to biodiversity. Now, more than ever, good science is critical for enabling good decisions and improving park management.

A range of research projects was undertaken in areas managed under the Act to enhance knowledge and understanding and support decision-making. This includes collaborations enabled through Parks Victoria’s Research Partners Program, which contributes to improving management of areas managed under the Act. Work undertaken under this program includes continuation of projects established in previous years, as well as new projects established during the year, including:

- evaluating long-term outcomes of ecological restoration in Box-Ironbark forests including Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park and Paddys Ranges State Park
- assessing plant recruitment after planned burning in heathlands in the Great Otway National Park
- exploring remote sensing and aerial techniques to better map and understand distribution and patterns of forest canopy dieback in French Island National Park and recruitment of semi-arid woodlands in Wyperfeld National Park
- examining environmental impacts of seed collection from alpine and mountain ash in the Alpine and Yarra Ranges national parks
- optimising the effectiveness of introduced predator control programs across a range of national parks
- evaluating the effectiveness of urchin control and kelp outplanting on the recovery of reefs in Jawbone and Ricketts Point marine sanctuaries
- mapping urchin barrens and habitat distributions in Jawbone and Ricketts Point marine sanctuaries to guide urchin control and restoration efforts
- using predictive models to identify kelp refuges in Victoria's marine national parks and sanctuaries for management prioritisation
- assessing the effectiveness of protection on the Southern Rock Lobster (*Jasus edwardsii*) in Victoria's network of marine national parks and sanctuaries
- assessing the responses of fish to 20 years of protection in Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park
- assessing the effectiveness of 20 years protection on fish and macro-invertebrates assemblages in Victoria's network of marine national parks and sanctuaries
- evaluating the effectiveness of the Japanese kelp (*Undaria pinnatifida*) removal programs at Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park.

4. Cultural values

4.1 Aboriginal cultural heritage

Victoria's network of parks form part of unique cultural landscapes, created through long-term occupation and management by Aboriginal people. Shaped by thousands of years of knowledge and cultural practices, these landscapes contain significant distinguishing features and are rich in bio-cultural values. Importantly, they still support the connection of contemporary Traditional Owner communities and form part of our collective identity.

4.1.1 Aboriginal Heritage Assessment System

The Aboriginal Heritage Assessment System (AHAS) is an online portal that has been in use since July 2020. AHAS was developed to assist Parks Victoria staff to manage and protect cultural heritage when conducting any on-ground works. Information about activities is generated by proponents and assessed by technical experts who are knowledgeable of Aboriginal cultural values and legislation as well as park management. Advice is provided on how to meet legislative requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* as part of delivering the on-ground works.

In 2024–25, a total of 1,167 activities were assessed under this system. A review of business requirements and opportunities for IT enhancements is underway to keep up with demand and drive efficiencies.

4.1.2 Post event heritage evaluations

Post event heritage evaluations have been undertaken across the Gunbower, Hattah-Kulkyne and Murray-Sunset national parks in response to recent flood, fire and storm events, and subsequent emergency response actions. In many instances, a range of Aboriginal cultural and natural values were significantly impacted. These impacts were assessed through engagement with Traditional Owners, resulting in the development of detailed condition reports of Aboriginal heritage and recommendations for remedial action. Remediation work at culturally significant places is underway and, in some cases, has been completed. A Cultural Heritage Permit, which included 9 Ancestral burial sites was acquired to enable this work to proceed.

Knowledge of these landscape values are being continuously strengthened during the evaluation process, with over 220 registration edits and 110 preliminary reports being updated and added to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register.

4.1.3 Rock art

In December 2024 and January 2025 devastating bushfires burnt more than 80%, or approximately 136,000 hectares, of the Grampians National Park, also known as Gariwerd cultural landscape. There are 106 known rock art sites within this landscape, representing 60% of all registered rock art in Victoria. The extent of damage and the recovery effort needed to restore cultural integrity in these places are still being determined.

Implementation of the first phase of Parks Victoria's Rock Art Action Plan concluded in July 2025. The objectives of the plan were to work in partnership with Traditional Owners to improve the knowledge and condition of rock art, while developing the tools, plans and systems to protect and manage these values into the future.

4.1.4 Ancestral Remains

The Parks Victoria Ancestral Remains Program is an important collaboration between the agency, Traditional Owners, the Ancestral Remains Unit within the Office of the Secretariat of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council and First Peoples State Relations (Department of Premier and Cabinet). The program focusses on protecting and managing burial places, particularly areas characterised by fragile dune systems along rivers and the coast; and supporting the repatriation of remains in parks across Victoria and under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. The demand for technical advice and support services in this area is increasing across Victoria.

During the year, a major focus of the program has been an ambitious on-ground rehabilitation program of dune systems along the Murray River in Murray-Sunset National Park. The work priorities were identified through the Ponnun Pulgi – Healing Country Together partnership project between the First People of the Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation, Parks

Victoria and People and Parks Foundation, established in 2019 following the corporation's appointment as a Registered Aboriginal Party. The aim of the project is to protect the ancient cultural landscapes of Northwest Victoria.

Other important work undertaken includes:

- engagement with Traditional Owners to identify appropriate locations for the repatriation of Ancestral remains in Wilsons Promontory National Park
- engagement with Traditional Owners on protection efforts in other areas under the Act in Far East Gippsland, the Southwest and parts of Western Victoria.

4.1.5 Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park

Work was completed with Barengi Gadjin Land Council as required under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, to detail the results of Aboriginal cultural heritage surveys that took place between November 2020 and February 2023.

The work involved conducting a desktop review of past land use, existing Aboriginal cultural heritage, and previous archaeological surveys; developing a predictive model to relocate Aboriginal places; document the field survey; and presenting recommendations about how Aboriginal places can be managed.

This project aimed to assess the impact of recreational activities on Aboriginal cultural sites in the Dyurrite (known as Mount Arapiles) and Mitre Rock portions of Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park. Dyurrite is located in Western Victoria on the Traditional lands of the Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wotjobaluk, Jupagulk and Wergaia peoples (collectively the Wotjobaluk Peoples), who are represented by the Barengi Gadjin Land Council. The Wotjobaluk Peoples have maintained a deep cultural, spiritual, and economic connection to the Dyurrite Cultural Landscape for tens of thousands of years. This connection has been recognised through various formal processes including a Native Title Consent Determination; appointment as the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the area; and negotiation of a Recognition and Settlement Agreement.

4.2 Non-Aboriginal historic heritage

Parks Victoria manages the largest and most diverse portfolio of heritage places on public land in Victoria. Monitoring and sensitive conservation repairs following storms, floods and fires are undertaken as well as major conservation works under the Heritage Icons Program.

In 2024–25, Parks Victoria worked with Heritage Victoria to secure relevant *Heritage Act 2017* approvals to enable works across multiple parks under the Act:

- planning and works at Barmah and Gunbower national parks and Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, funded through a $155,000 Heritage Victoria Grant
- essential conservation and repair works completed at the national heritage-listed Chalet within the Mount Buffalo National Park, funded through a $3 million Commonwealth Government Grant
- a further $1.8 million in works at the Mount Buffalo Chalet completed to enable the opening of the cafe under the new lease with Belgravia Education who will provide outdoor education to over 5,000 young people annually
- extensive investigations, assessment, planning and design work for the conservation and repair of the concrete Forts 5 and 6 at Fort Nepean in Point Nepean National Park, as part of the $6 million Heritage Icons Program. Delivery of works will take place in 2025–26
- assessment, design, planning and approvals to enable the repair and upgrade of the heritage listed Tramway Bridge over the Thomson River near Walhalla in the Baw Baw National Park. Works are scheduled for 2025–26
- planning and design work to ensure non-Aboriginal cultural heritage is managed across a wide range of projects at Wilsons Promontory National Park, including: the Coastal Hazard Adaptation and Resilience plan, Landscape Management Plan, Wilsons Promontory Sanctuary Program, and projects to be delivered in 2025–26 such as the Southern Circuit upgrade, the Tidal River campground and toilets, and the Sealers Cove boardwalk.

5. Fire and other emergencies

5.1 Bushfires

The bushfire season featured unusually high temperatures and significant fuel loads following dry spring conditions, especially across western Victoria. There were 3 parks under the Act impacted by major bushfire:

- Budj Bim National Park – experienced a lightning-ignited bushfire in March 2025 that resulted in a burn area of 2,200 hectares. The fire had a significant impact on manna gum canopy and koala habitat and welfare.
- Grampians National Park – experienced dry lightning which sparked multiple fires beginning mid-December 2024, primarily around Yarram Gap. Over the following 3 weeks, the fires consumed roughly 76,000 hectares. A second fire started in late January 2025 around Wallaby Rocks, resulting in a further 59,000 hectares of the park impacted.
- Little Desert National Park – experienced a large bushfire in late January 2025, with over 65,000 hectares burnt in a single day, reaching 70,900 hectares by containment after 5 days. Over the following week, flareups and high winds pushed the final burn area to approximately 95,000 hectares before full containment on 8 February 2025.

5.2 Planned burning

In 2024–25, a total of 109,938 hectares of fuel was treated on public land (including areas under the Act). This comprised 92,473 hectares of planned burns and 17,465 hectares of mechanical treatments, helping to reduce fuel driven bushfire risk on public land in Victoria.

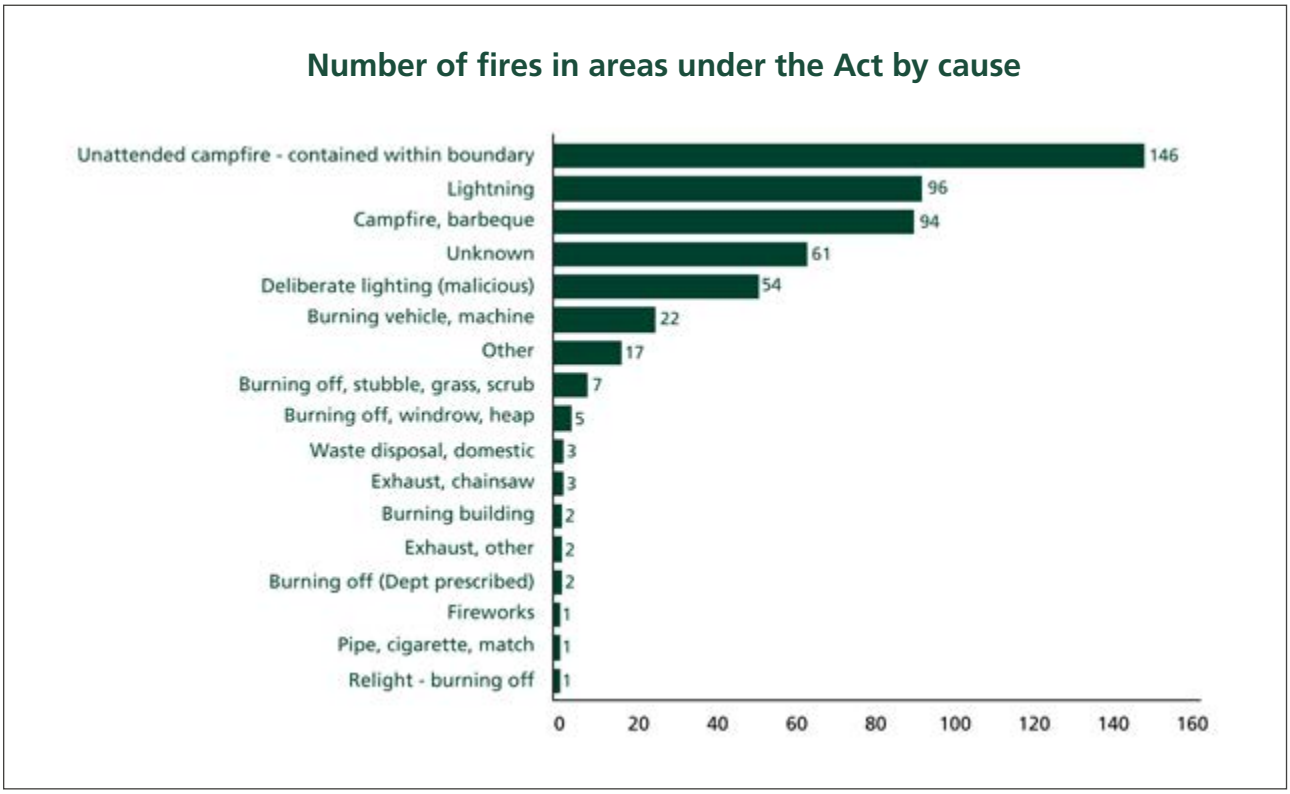
There were 56 burns completed in areas under the Act, treating an approximate total area of 16,340 hectares. These included burns in the Alpine (approx. 3,621 hectares), Mitchell River (approx. 1,859 hectares), Wilsons Promontory (approx. 2,932 hectares) and Yarra Ranges (approx. 1,718 hectares) national parks.

5.2.1 Ecological burning

Ecological burning at Wilsons Promontory National Park was delivered under the guidance of the park's Fire Management Strategy with burns delivered for a range of outcomes as specified in the 3-year Joint Fuel Management Program. One of the biggest threats to biodiversity, detailed in the WPNP conservation action plan, is the encroachment of woody shrubs such as coast tea-tree, into heathlands and native grasslands. A long running and highly successful adaptive management program on the Yanakie isthmus continues to restore the grasslands through mechanical pre-treatment (mulching) followed by burning, and sometimes supplementary reseeding. A very complex, high intensity planned burn targeting mature coast tea-tree was completed on Southwest Track in November 2024. The post burn landscape is showing promising results, with grassland species regenerating and endangered plants, such as the coast bitter bush, thriving. The grasslands on the Yanakie isthmus are a significant cultural landscape, rich with Aboriginal cultural heritage, and all works are undertaken in consultation with Traditional Owners.

The park's Fire Management Working Group have planned and delivered burns to achieve growth stage structure targets that were set for ecological vegetation classes under the park's Fire Management Strategy. A large unbounded, ecological burn was successfully completed in June 2025 in wet conditions within the wilderness zone in the remote north-east of the park. It is expected this will provide positive benefits to biodiversity and fire protection, by breaking up the single age class that was created following the widespread 2009 bushfire.

Heathlands are also under threat from woody species including coast tea-tree and white kunzea. Multiple ecological burning operations in the Vereker Heathlands area have reduced the threat of invasion following the 2009 bushfire. Through a Parks Victoria Research Partnership with La Trobe University, a master's student has monitored the effectiveness of the ecological burning methods at reducing coast tea-tree. One study site has shown a 97% reduction in coast tea-tree and no negative effects to the other floral species. This research assists burn planners to refine techniques and reaffirm the ecological burning methodology.



5.2.2 Cultural burning

Traditional Owners are the custodians of cultural fire, an important cultural land management practice that heals people and Country. Parks Victoria facilitates cultural burning by enabling Traditional Owners with access to parks to conduct burns, along with other cultural practices. Cultural burns are delivered by Traditional Owners, with support from agency staff from Forest Fire Management Victoria. Two cultural burns were conducted during the year, in Arthurs Seat State Park, led by the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Lower Goulbourn National Park, led by the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation.

5.3 Planning, monitoring and research

5.3.1 Planning

There continues to be considerable input from Parks Victoria regional fire ecology planners into DEECA-led strategic and operational bushfire management planning, which covers parks under the Act across Victoria. This includes preparation of fire ecology plans and strategies that support implementation of Parks Victoria's conservation action plans.

- Fire ecology strategies that are being implemented in collaboration with DEECA include Grampians, French Island, Murray-Sunset and Wyperfeld national parks.
- Some parks under the Act that presently do not have fire ecology strategies are using conservation action plans to guide the use of fire for ecological purposes, including the River Red Gum Conservation Action Plan (Barmah National Park, to manage encroachment of giant rush), and the Great Otway Conservation Action Plan (Great Otway National Park, to maintain and improve condition of heathland vegetation).

5.3.2 Monitoring

Monitoring programs continued to support improved fire response knowledge of species in parks under the Act including:

- ongoing pre and post burn monitoring of large arboreal mammals undertaken within Yarra Ranges National Park. The projects were part of DEECA's Port Phillip Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting program, supported by Parks Victoria
- monitoring in Wilsons Promontory National Park continued in partnership with La Trobe University, on the effectiveness of using different ecological fire treatments in limiting the invasion of coastal tea tree into heathlands

- continued monitoring of pookila (New Holland mouse) response to different fire regimes was undertaken at Wilsons Promontory National Park and Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park in collaboration with DEECA and Zoos Victoria
- continued small animal monitoring in Grampians National Park (with links to predator management) with research partners Deakin University
- smoky mouse pre and post planned burning in Yarra Ranges National Park, led by DEECA and supported by Parks Victoria
- pre and post fire vegetation surveys in Bunyip State Park to determine differences in species composition and abundance of different fire regimes.

5.3.3 Research

A number of research projects established in previous years continued, including the investigation of fire ecology and ecosystem restoration in wet forests and coastal grassy woodlands in the Wilsons Promontory National Park, fire refuges for small mammals in the Grampians National Park and investigation of plant recruitment after planned burning in heathlands in the Great Otway National Park. This builds on previous collaborations and helps to inform fire management in the park recovery programs.

5.4 Recovery programs

The statewide recovery program continues to address impacts due to the damage caused from natural emergency events including fire, flood and storm.

Insurable and grant funding resulted in the completion of key works in park areas under the Act including:

- Great Otways National Park - Delaney's Track
- Point Nepean National Park - cemetery fence Snowy River National Park - Balley Hooley campground and toilets
- Tarra-Bulga National Park - Tarra Valley Footbridge
- Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park - marine navigation replacement piles
- Arthurs Seat State Park - Seawinds Garden bollards, signage and shelter repairs and Kings Falls boardwalk repair
- Lysterfield Park - mountain bike trails.

The recovery program for the October 2022 state-wide flood event has continued tranches of grant funding for non-insurable activities. This has included contaminated lands (levees) and other recovery works with key projects completed including:

- Wilsons Promontory National Park - Mount Oberon car park
- Mount Buangor State Park - Dairy Maid Road.

A key focus of the flood recovery program is cultural heritage assessments in northern Victoria along the Murray River corridor. The grant funding program has progressed works significantly with works to continue over coming years to address the Grampians National Park fires and severe weather event in September 2024.

6. Visitors, tourism and the community

6.1 Enhancing visitor enjoyment and tourism

In 2024–25, Parks Victoria continued to play a leading role in supporting visitor access and nature-based tourism across Victoria's parks and reserves. Efforts focused on improving infrastructure, enhancing visitor experiences, and supporting regional communities through increased tourism activity. These initiatives were delivered while maintaining park values, protecting natural and cultural heritage, and managing environmental and safety risks. The following activities were achieved to enhance visitor enjoyment and increase nature-based tourism opportunities including:

6.1.1 Alpine National Park

Detailed design development, environmental and cultural heritage assessments, and statutory approval planning progressed for the Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing project, which will support the delivery of a hiking experience connecting Falls Creek and Mount Hotham.

6.1.2 Cape Conran Coastal Park

Approvals were secured and work commenced on the office and retail building and activity centre at Cape Conran Coastal Park. Plans for new overnight accommodation at Cape Conran are complete and approvals are being sought prior to commencement of works in 2025–26. The project aims to provide modern, self-contained cabins and upgrades to campground facilities following the 2020 bushfires. Designs were completed and approvals progressed for the delivery of essential services (water and sewer) upgrades that will service the new overnight accommodation and other buildings at the park.

6.1.3 Croajingolong National Park

The Thurra River Bridge upgrade progressed with demolition complete and construction of the new bridge well progressed, paving the way for safe access and a staged reopening of the campground.

Around Mallacoota Inlet, cultural heritage assessments continued in close collaboration with Traditional Owners. These studies are supporting the planning and design of future upgrades to jetties and day visitor areas, ensuring improvements are respectful, sustainable, and aligned with cultural values.

Planning also progressed for the Croajingolong Coastal Wilderness Walk, with trail audits completed to guide future improvements. These efforts are focused on enhancing the trail experience while protecting the unique and remote character of the landscape.

6.1.4 Grampians National Park

The visitor facilities upgrade continued during the year to support growing tourism and improve access to the parks natural and cultural features. As part of the Grampians Peaks Trail project, trailheads at Halls Gap and other sites were completed, enhancing entry points and supporting hikers with improved signage, paths and infrastructure.

Rockfall safety works were successfully delivered at MacKenzie Falls, allowing for safer access to one of the parks most visited sites. Planning also progressed on broader precinct upgrades, including new pathways, expanded carparking, updated signage and a viewing platform at the base of the falls, all designed to improve the overall visitor experience.

6.1.5 Mount Buffalo National Park

Works to restore the historic façade of the Mount Buffalo Chalet were completed in May 2025. These improvements will support the future reopening of this iconic alpine site and give visitors a new place to relax, take in the scenery and enjoy the mountain experience.

6.1.6 Point Nepean National Park

Conservation works at the historic Point Nepean Forts moved into the next stage, with planning and procurement activities progressing. Key approvals were lodged, and site investigations carried out to inform upcoming stabilisation and restoration works that will keep this important site safe, accessible and welcoming for future visitors.

6.1.7 Port Campbell National Park

The new whale-inspired lookout at Loch Ard Gorge was officially completed and opened to the public in

Image: Poombeeyt Koontapool Lookout, Loch Ard Gorge, Port Campbell National Park

June 2025. Designed in partnership with the Eastern Maar community and named Poombeeyt Koontapool (Breath of the Whale), the new platform offers stunning views of the blowhole and creates a unique cultural and nature-based experience on Keerray Woorroong Country. (pictured)

6.1.8 Victoria's Great Outdoors Program

This state-wide investment continued to deliver improvements to camping, walking and 4WD experiences across Victoria. Highlights during the year included the delivery of the Dja Dja Wurrung Camping Village in Greater Bendigo National Park and upgrades to trails like Argyle Springs. Planning and procurement also progressed for campground upgrades and visitor facilities in several parks, including upcoming works at Tidal River in Wilsons Promontory National Park.

Work to improve access and visitor facilities across Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park progressed with detailed designs and approvals underway for new trails, carparks and lookouts. Interpretive signage and wayfinding features are also in development to enhance the storytelling and connection to this culturally and environmentally significant coastal landscape.

6.1.9 Wilsons Promontory National Park

The new wildlife walk at the Wilsons Promontory National Park was completed, creating an immersive new trail through native habitat. Construction began on major upgrades to the visitor centre, and planning progressed for a large predator-proof fence to protect the park's wildlife. These works are part of a broader revitalisation effort to enhance the visitor experience and support long-term conservation outcomes.

6.1.10 Yarra Ranges National Park

Construction began on upgrades to the popular Warburton Redwoods site. Works include new toilets, trail improvements, visitor shelters, signage, and expanded parking. Once completed in late 2025, these improvements will create a safer, more accessible and enjoyable experience for visitors exploring the towering Californian redwoods.

6.2 Licensed tour operators

Tour operators are licensed to run organised tours and recreational activities for profit on Victorian public land managed by Parks Victoria and DEECA. While the number of licensed tour operators in national, state, and marine parks grew to 397 by 2024–25, a significant increase since COVID-19, the recent trend shows a decline in active operators. This indicates that although the licensing count has risen, fewer operators are actively functioning in these areas compared to recent years.

Rising insurance premiums, increased cost of living, business expenses and ongoing staff shortages have made it increasingly difficult for operators to remain competitive and sustainable. In addition, natural environmental disasters such as storms, floods and bushfires have significantly disrupted tourism activity, particularly during peak visitor periods, leading to prolonged parks closures and restricted access for several months. These impacts have been most deeply felt by regional and small-scale operators, many of whom have been forced to close down or reduce operations.

6.3 Visitation

6.3.1 Visitor numbers

The most recent Visitor Number Monitor (VNM) was conducted in 2022–23. The Visitor Number Monitor is a broad-based telephone survey that aims to estimate annual visitation to national and state parks and Melbourne's metropolitan parks, bays, piers and jetties. The next monitor will be conducted in 2025–26 with a new online methodology. The new methodology will include visitor satisfaction indicators and continue to deliver overall estate visits, as well as national/state park visits. In 2022–23 there were 54.7 million visits to Parks Victoria national/state parks, a 9% increase in visits from 2020–21 (49.98 million).

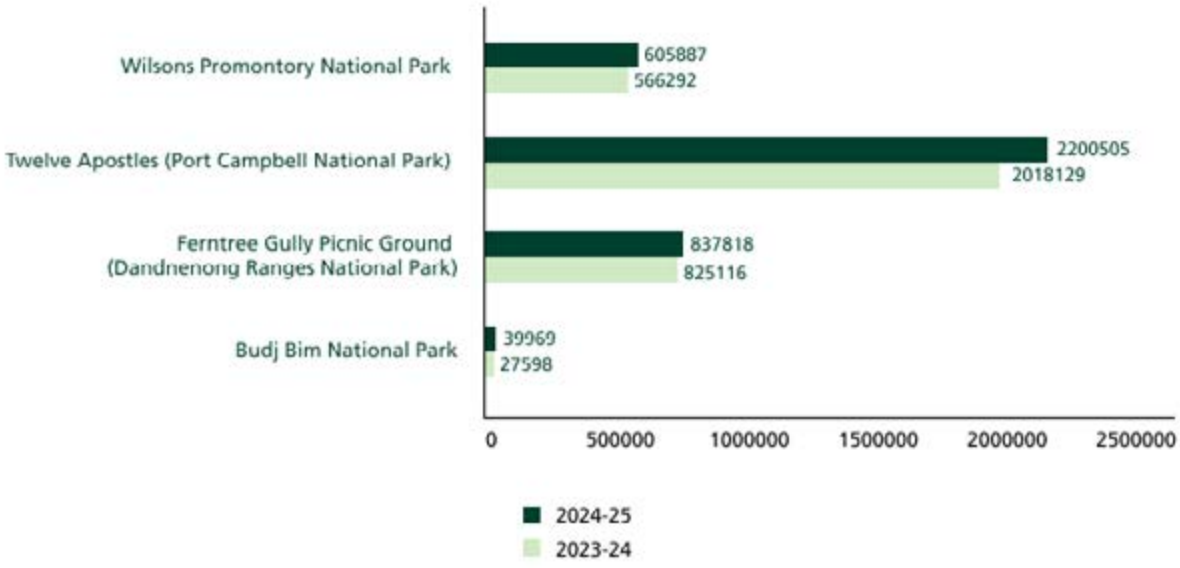
6.3.2 Park-based visitor monitoring

Park-based visitor monitoring was conducted in 2024–25 at a number of national parks. Visitation data was collected using predominately vehicle counters placed on roads at the entry to parks where appropriate to do so. Wilsons Promontory National Park recorded the highest visitation since recent monitoring began in 2017, with an estimated 605,887 visits, a 7% increase compared to 2023–24. The Twelve Apostles (Port Campbell National Park) remained one of the highest visited sites in Victoria, with approximately 2 million visits. A counter was installed in Budj Bim National Park in December 2024, with an estimated 39,969 visits for 2024–25.

6.3.3 Volunteering in parks

Parks Victoria engaged with 95 groups across a wide range of activities, with volunteers contributing 50,433 volunteer hours across 998 planned activities in 52 parks under the Act. Although volunteering is slowly returning to pre-pandemic hours, there has been a small drop in volunteer groups and hours compared with last financial year. This can be attributed to a shift

Annual visits in select national parks



in volunteer expectations, the conclusion of a significant grant program and an increase in governance administrative requirements.

Habitat restoration, track maintenance and park management were the most common activities. Parks with the greatest volunteer activity were Dandenong Ranges and Lower Glenelg national parks, and Warrandyte State Park.

Parks Victoria's premier volunteering program, Campground Hosts, returned to Mount Buffalo National Park, Cathedral Range State Park and Cape Conran Coastal Park. The program delivered 5 activities across the parks, with volunteers contributing 705 hours and $36,244 of in-kind value. The program supported 7,600 bookable nights, enhancing the experience of 5,654 campers.

Park Walks, another statewide volunteering program, supported 486 visitors to get out into nature. 94 activities were recorded throughout Churchill and Dandenong Ranges national parks, and Lysterfield Park. Volunteers contributed 360 hours.

Bushwalking Victoria's, Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation Group, saw 80 volunteers significantly contribute 2,403 hours to helping maintain trails in the Alpine National Park. Overall, the group maintained 36 kilometres of trail, including the Australian Alps Walking Track.

6.3.4 Learning for nature

Interpretation and education services relating to areas under the Act were provided to encourage learning in, about and for nature. Through connection with culture and/or the natural environment, learning to understand park management and from participating in protective restoration, participants develop a stronger relationship with the nature and foster pro-conservation behaviours.

In 2024–25, 659 ranger-facilitated sessions were delivered in 25 parks to 9,159 adults and children. 49,683 teachers and students undertook self-guided excursions and field trips in 64 parks.

Image: Wheelchair Nature Scoot (Park Walk Program), Churchill National Park

Formal education institutes participated in 84 ranger-led education excursion sessions, delivered to 5,132 teachers and students across 11 parks. The main delivery locations included Barmah, Dandenong Ranges and Grampians national parks.

The Yorta Yorta Connection to Woka Education Activity Book was published, activating a resource for Barmah National Park. The resource will be distributed during education and interpretation sessions on Yorta Yorta Country. The Junior Rangers program was facilitated each school holidays for families. This included 159 face-to-face activities with 2,660 participants (children and adults) at 19 parks.

The Tertiary Placement program provided ranger-supervised conservation projects in 5 parks. 22 undergraduate students participated in project-based learning experiences and skill development in conservation and land management and provided 1,760 volunteer hours. Project-based work included habitat restoration and data collection and analysis at Mornington Peninsula and Yarra Ranges national parks, Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park and Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve.

Government reform processes to enable Aboriginal self-determination continued to advance throughout 2024–25, with the Yoorrook Justice Commission handing down its final report in June 2025 and development of the Public Land Bill progressing. As the first Statewide Treaty gets closer and individual groups prepare to commence negotiation of local Treaties, the recognition of rights and evolving land governance models will frame a new relationship between the state of Victoria and Traditional Owners in how national parks will be managed into the future. Parks Victoria has commenced a renewal of its Managing Country Together Framework with the aim of enhancing Traditional Owner self-determination through the strengthening of its partnership approach.

7. Partnering with Traditional Owners

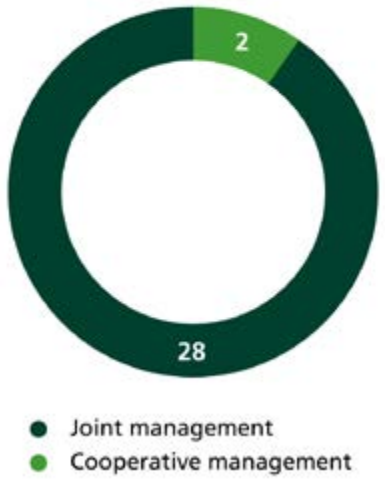
7.1 Joint Management

There are 4 Recognition and Settlement Agreements (RSAs) under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 in place across Victoria, covering a contiguous area from Gippsland to the South Australian border. Partnerships between the Victorian Government and Traditional Owner groups continue to be strengthened in this context, particularly in relation to parks that are under joint management arrangements. The current trend is for an increasing number of parks to be handed back and governed under this model, and for parks under existing cooperative management arrangements to be transitioned to joint management where greater Traditional Owner authority can be exercised.

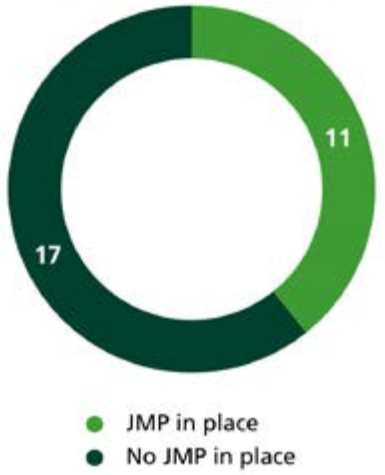
In 2024–25, the total number of parks and reserves across a range of tenures under joint and cooperative management in Victoria is 50 (42 under joint management and 8 under cooperative management). Of this total, the number of jointly managed parks under the Act is 28, and the number of cooperatively managed parks is 2 (Budj Bim and Lower Goulburn national parks). It is anticipated that the number of joint management parks will further increase in 2025–26.

Of the 28 parks in joint management under the Act, 11 are covered by current joint management plans. The 13 parks within Wotjobaluk and Taungurung RSA areas are awaiting establishment of Traditional Owner Land Management Boards (TOLMBs) before the preparation of joint management plans can commence. The additional 4 parks within the Gunaikurnai RSA area are subject to a review and update of the existing management plans, which has commenced in relation to the Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park.

No. of parks under the Act under joint and cooperative management



No. of parks under the Act under collaborative management with a joint management plan (JMP)



7.1.1 Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk

The Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk Peoples entered into an RSA with Victoria in 2022 that includes 12 areas designated for handback and joint management, 6 of which are parks under the Act. These are:

- Little Desert National Park
- Wyperfeld National Park
- Black Range State Park
- Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park
- Big Desert Wilderness Park
- Lake Albacutya Park.

Other areas that are not under the Act, but form part of the RSA include the Barrabool Flora and Fauna Reserve, Horsham Police Paddock Reserve, Lake Hindmarsh Lake Reserve, Red Rock Bushland Reserve, Ararat Regional Park (portion east of the Western Highway) and Wail State Forest (part only).

RSA implementation is underway, including recruitment of a new joint management ranger team to start working on the appointed lands.

7.1.2 Yorta Yorta

Barmah National Park is jointly managed by Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation (YYNAC) and Parks Victoria. The Yorta Yorta TOLMB, which oversees the implementation of the joint management plan, is comprised exclusively of Traditional Owners. New funding was secured in May 2025 to support the continuation of the Yorta Yorta ranger team, with the roles being made ongoing following the funding decision. The rangers continue to lead the development and delivery of joint management projects and provide support for delivery of broader park management operations, including weekend patrols, fire response and planned burning. The rangers inform the nomination of planned burns and support community aspirations for implementing cultural burning regimes. They also manage researchers and their interaction with the landscape in line with access agreements.

7.1.3 Taungurung

Taungurung Traditional Owners entered into an RSA with the State that includes 9 areas designated for handback and joint management, 7 of which are parks under the Act. These are:

- Alpine National Park (part)
- Heathcote-Graytown National Park
- Kinglake National Park (part)
- Lake Eildon National Park
- Mount Buffalo National Park
- Cathedral Range State Park
- Mount Samaria State Park.

Other areas that are not under the Act but are also designated for handback and joint management are: Mount Wombat-Garden Range Flora and Fauna Reserve and Wandong Regional Park. While the TOLMB has yet to be established, the Taungurung Parks Ranger Program is in place and operating in priority areas across the area for which the Taungurung Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation has been appointed as the registered Aboriginal party (RAP). Taungurung led projects are taking place across the RAP footprint and the Taungurung Parks Ranger Program is in full operation, currently embedded in Parks Victoria.

7.1.4 Dja Dja Wurrung

A total of 6 areas, 4 of which are in parks under the Act, in north central Victoria have been handed back as Aboriginal title and are being jointly managed by DJAARA and Parks Victoria, with oversight from the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board (LMB).
The 4 parks under the Act are:

- Greater Bendigo National Park
- Kara Kara National Park (most of the park is subject to joint management)
- Kooyoora State Park (Guyura)
- Paddys Ranges State Park.

Other areas that are not under the Act but also under joint management arrangements are the Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve and Hepburn Regional Park.

Joint management governance and communication are being maintained between the partners with a strong focus on these areas. The Joint Management Plan Implementation Team meets quarterly and provides twice yearly Gapa Giya progress reports to the Dhelkunya Dja LMB. A review and update of the Partnership Agreement between DJAARA and Parks Victoria has been concluded which represents another step towards clarifying and strengthening the authorising environment over the RSA area, further enabling DJAARA to activate their rights and undertake their responsibilities as a joint management partner. The new Agreement includes a Deed for Park Management Services and Annual Program to streamline joint management delivery.

An expanded Dja Dja Wurrung Ranger Team implements a collaboratively developed plan of works that includes a range of caring for Country, park management, visitor education, cultural heritage identification and cultural initiatives, which are guided by the Dhelkunya Dja Joint Management Strategic Plan.

Goods and services continue to be procured from DJAARA, and its subsidiary DJANDAK, to deliver on-ground works in the parks including pest plant control, visitor facility upgrades, project delivery and track maintenance.

7.1.5 Gunaikurnai

The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) entered into an updated RSA with Victoria in 2022 which added 4 parks to the 10 already designated for hand back as Aboriginal title and joint management. Of these 14 parks, the 10 areas under the Act are as follows:

- Alpine National Park (part)
- Baw Baw National Park (part)
- Mitchell River National Park
- Tarra-Bulga National Park
- The Lakes National Park
- Avon Wilderness Park
- Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park
- Lake Tyers State Park
- New Guinea Cave (located within Snowy River National Park)
- Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park.

Other areas that are not under the Act but are also handed back as Aboriginal title and joint management are Buchan Caves, Corringle Foreshore, Gippsland Lakes (Raymond Island) and The Knob reserves.

Joint management planning for the new parks has commenced, informed by the 5-year review of current joint management outcomes that was led by the TOLMB.

A review and update of the Partnership Agreement between GLaWAC and Parks Victoria has been concluded which represents another step towards clarifying and strengthening the authorising environment over the RSA area, further enabling GLaWAC to activate their rights and undertake their responsibilities as a joint management partner.

7.2 Co-operative management

7.2.1 Gunditjmara

Budj Bim National Park is co-operatively managed by the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC) and Parks Victoria through the Budj Bim Council. As part of the broader Budj Bim Cultural Landscape UNESCO listed World Heritage site, the park has been recognised as having outstanding cultural significance.

The Budj Bim Council was in recess for the second half of 2024 while the process for appointing a new council was completed by DEECA. During this time, Parks Victoria continued to work closely with GMTOAC to ensure park operations were undertaken in alignment with objectives and aspirations of Traditional Owners. A new Council was appointed in early 2025 for a 3-year term expiring on 30 June 2027.

The Council's objectives in 2024–25 continued to focus on controlling threats to park values including deer control, feral pig control and targeted pest plant control. A focus was also placed on providing a high level of service to meet needs of park visitors and to complement service level standards provided by GMTOAC on Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) and at Tae Rak Aquaculture Centre. The overabundant koala population continues to threaten the Stoney Rises Woodland ecological vegetation class and the overall health of the koala species. There remains a challenge to identify appropriate resources to adequately manage these issues, and to work together with adjoining private property owners including plantation companies to ensure the koala population is sustainable within the limits of available habitat.

Image: Brambuk: The National Park and Cultural Centre, Grampians National Park

A major bushfire that started from lightening on 10 March 2025 impacted 40% of the park and adjoining areas of IPAs. As part of the emergency response, a wildlife welfare emergency resulted in a campaign effort to assess and treat wildlife including koalas impacted by the bushfire. The recently developed Budj Bim Emergency Management Principles provided a strategic and coordinated approach to respond which enables multi-agency efforts to be undertaken in a culturally sensitive manner, protecting values wherever possible. Post emergency, opportunities have been identified to improve operational readiness in the park and response procedures to mitigate impacts from future bushfire events. Parks Victoria together with GMTOAC is working closely with Forest Fire Management Victoria, the lead agency for bushfire preparedness and response on all public land. Parks Victoria is also working with GMTOAC to identify and respond to impacts from the bushfire and wildlife welfare incident on biodiversity and Aboriginal cultural heritage values. A recovery plan has been developed, although was unfunded at the time of writing.

The period included the continuation of a Project Officer (Gunditjmara Traditional Owner) funded through the Australian Heritage Grants program working for Parks Victoria to deliver a range of initiatives in the park. Improvements to wayfinding signage, camp site improvements, junior ranger programs in school holidays were some of the highlights. This was a wonderful example of offering an employment opportunity to a young Gunditjmara person to work on country, showcasing knowledge, skills and desire for protection of country and education of cultural heritage to the broader community.

7.2.2 Yorta Yorta

The Lower Goulburn National Park is co-operatively managed by the Yorta Yorta National Aboriginal Corporation and Parks Victoria.

7.3 Other Traditional Owner partnerships

Parks Victoria continues to work closely on business and master planning with the Barengi Gadjin Land Council, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation in relation to Brambuk: The National Park and Cultural Centre (Brambuk), which forms part of the Grampians National Park. As members of the Gariwerd Strategic Partnership Committee, the parties are working together to implement the Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan and to progress fire recovery activities.

Parks Victoria continues to support a Leadership Steering Committee with the Boon Wurrung Land and Sea Council, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation to focus on a range of strategic initiatives underway at Wilsons Promontory National Park.

8. Supporting park management

8.1 Management arrangements

Parks Victoria and the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) are variously responsible under the Act for ensuring that the parks and other areas to which the Act applies are controlled and managed in accordance with the Act. DEECA and other organisations also contribute to the parks program, and DEECA provides strategic policy advice to the Minister.

Statutory responsibility under the Act for the following parks in the Great Ocean Road coasts and parks was transferred from Parks Victoria to GORCAPA under section 16C of the Act as follows (with part of the Great Otway National Park transferring on 1 July 2025):

- 1 August 2024 – Port Campbell National Park
- 1 November 2024 – Bay of Islands Coastal Park
- 1 March 2025 – Point Addis and Twelve Apostles marine national parks and Eagle Rock, Marengo Reefs, Merri, Point Danger and The Arches marine sanctuaries.

8.2 Legislation

The 2 main sets of amendments to the Act during the year were as follows:

- on 19 December 2024, the *Energy and Public Land Legislation Amendment (Enabling Offshore Wind Energy) Act 2024* amended the Act to expand the definitions of 'public authority' and 'electricity company' to include an offshore wind energy generation company within the meaning of the *Electricity Industry Act 2000* and to clarify the intent of section 27A, which enables agreements to be made with electricity companies
- on 31 March 2025, Moondarra State Park was expanded by 178 hectares arising from the *National Parks (Amendment) Act 1989 (see Areas managed under the Act).*

On 30 August 2024, the National Parks Regulations 2024 commenced and replaced the National Parks Regulations 2013. They provide an updated set of regulations to support the management and control of parks and regulate or prohibit certain conduct in parks, as well as prescribe a range of other matters.

On 11 June 2025, the National Parks (Tour Operator Licence Fee) Regulations 2021 were amended to extend their operation until 30 June 2026.

8.3 Authorities under the Act

8.3.1 Consents, leases, licences and permits

Parks Victoria manages 284 public land authorisations (consents, leases, licences and permits) under the Act, as shown in the following table. These exclude tour operator licences of which there were 397 for 2024–25 (see Licensed tour operators on page 20).

Authority type	No. of authorities	No. of parks
Consent	235	56
Lease	23	19
Licence	16	12
Permit	10	8
Total	**284**	**95**

Section 27 of the Act enables consents to be granted to public authorities (as defined in the Act) to carry out works in parks, subject to conditions. One consent was issued during the year – to Barwon Water for the replacement of sections of pipes supplying town water to Colac through the Great Otway National Park.

There was also an agreement entered into between the Minister and Powercor under section 27A of the Act for works to reinstate power lines at Mount William in the Grampians National Park, following the bushfire event.

There were 7 authorisations granted under section 45A(4) of the Act to 5 individuals to permit particular commercial fishing vessels to transit Cape Howe Marine National Park.

8.3.2 Declaration of public authorities

In 2024–25, the New South Wales Government Telecommunications Authority, Telstra Limited and Waveconn Pty Ltd were declared to be public authorities for the purposes of the Act.

8.3.3 Consents to earth resource activities

There were no consents given or tabled under section 40 during the year in relation to earth resource activities in parks under the Act.

8.4 Enforcement

There were 9 individuals successfully prosecuted during the year for committing offences against the Act (11) or the Regulations (2).[1] The most numerous offences were in relation to possessing a gun in a park (5) and cutting or taking away more than 2 cubic metres of fallen or felled trees (4).

There were 202 infringement notices issued for prescribed offences against the Act (72) or the Regulations (130).[2] The most numerous offences related to recreational fishing in a marine national park or marine sanctuary (48), dogs or other animals (43), driving on a road or track where prohibited or restricted (38), camping other than in a designated area (22), cutting or taking away fallen or felled trees (18) and being in a prohibited or restricted area (12).

There were also 47 official warnings, and 15 warnings issued in relation to offences against the Act (48) or the Regulations (14).[3] The most numerous offences related to recreational fishing in a marine national park or marine sanctuary (27), possessing guns (13), camping outside a designated area (6), dogs (6), cutting or taking away fallen or felled trees (4) and possessing abalone in a marine sanctuary (4).

8.5 Advisory bodies

8.5.1 National Parks Advisory Council

The National Parks Advisory Council is appointed under section 10 of the Act. Its main functions are to advise the Minister generally in relation to the administration of the Act and on particular matters in relation to which its advice is required under the Act or is sought by the Minister.

As at 30 June 2025, the members were:

Convenor: Ms Anna Foley

Members: Associate Professor Ursula De Jong
Dr David Jones
Dr Marie Keatley
Dr Michael Looker
Mr Andy Meddick
Mr Mark Reeves.

The council's annual report for 2024–25 provides information on the council and its activities during the year.

8.5.2 Other advisory groups

Several advisory groups provided advice to Parks Victoria on the management of various parks.

1. The numbers of prosecutions refer to those for which successful results were obtained during the year regardless of when the offences occurred.

2. The numbers of infringement notices refer to those issued during the year, regardless of when the offences occurred, and include any that may subsequently be withdrawn following an internal review during this or the next financial year.

3. The numbers of official warnings refer to those issued during the year, regardless of when the offences occurred, and include any issued following an inter¬nal review of any infringement notices issued during this or the previous financial year.

Appendix 1: Areas managed under the National Parks Act

There were no changes to the areas managed under the Act during the year other than an addition of 178 hectares to Moondarra State Park and the removal of Glenample Homestead (8 hectares) from the list of non-scheduled areas.

A National parks (Schedule Two)

	National park	Area (ha) 30 June 2025
1	Alfred	3 050
2	Alpine	661 777
3	Barmah	28 505
4	Baw Baw	13 530
5	Brisbane Ranges	8 885
6	Budj Bim	8 565
7	Burrowa-Pine Mountain	18 400
8	Chiltern-Mt Pilot	21 650
9	Churchill	271
10	Cobboboonee	18 510
11	Coopracambra	38 800
12	Croajingolong	*88 525
13	Dandenong Ranges	3 535
14	Errinundra	43 090
15	French Island	*11 155
16	Grampians	168 235
17	Greater Bendigo**	17 586
18	Great Otway	*110 332
19	Gunbower	9 330
20	Hattah-Kulkyne	49 890
21	Heathcote-Graytown	12 700
22	Kara Kara	13 990
23	Kinglake	23 210
24	Lake Eildon	27 750
25	Lind	1 370
26	Little Desert	132 647
27	Lower Glenelg	26 430
28	Lower Goulburn	9 320
29	Mitchell River	14 395
30	Mornington Peninsula	*2 680
31	Morwell	565
32	Mount Buffalo	31 020

	National park	Area (ha) 30 June 2025
33	Mount Richmond	1 733
34	Murray-Sunset	665 400
35	Organ Pipes	153
36	Point Nepean	*578
37	Port Campbell	*1 830
38	Snowy River	114 600
39	Tarra-Bulga	2 015
40	Terrick Terrick	6 390
41	The Lakes	2 390
42	Warby-Ovens	14 750
43	Wilsons Promontory	*49 049
44	Wyperfeld	359 445
45	Yarra Ranges	77 185
Total – national parks		**2 915 216**

* Area includes the area of the national park located beneath a marine national park.
** Parts of Greater Bendigo National Park extend only to 100 metres below the land surface.

B Wilderness parks (Schedule Two A)

	Wilderness park	Area (ha) 30 June 2025
1	Avon	39 650
2	Big Desert	142 300
3	Wabba	20 100
Total – wilderness parks		**202 050**

C State parks (Schedule Two B)

	State park	Area (ha) 30 June 2025
1	Arthurs Seat	565
2	Black Range	11 700
3	Broken-Boosey	1 010
4	Bunyip	16 655
5	Cape Nelson	210
6	Cathedral Range	3 616
7	Dergholm	10 400
8	Enfield	4 400
9	Holey Plains	10 740
10	Kooyoora	11 350
11	Lake Tyers	8 680
12	Langi Ghiran	3 040
13	Leaghur	2 050
14	Lerderderg	20 185
15	Moondarra	6 510
16	Mount Arapiles-Tooan	7 470
17	Mount Buangor	2 400
18	Mount Granya	6 140
19	Mount Lawson	13 150
20	Mount Napier	2 800
21	Mount Samaria	7 600
22	Mount Worth	1 040
23	Paddys Ranges	2 010
24	Reef Hills	2 020
25	Warrandyte	689
26	Werribee Gorge	575
Total – state parks		**157 005**

D Other parks (schedule three)

	Other park	Area (ha) 30 June 2025
1	Bay of Islands CP	950
2	Beechworth HP	1 090
3	Cape Conran CP	11 700
4	Cape Liptrap CP	4 320
5	Discovery Bay CP	*10 460
6	Gadsen Bend Park	1 620
7	Gippsland Lakes CP	17 688
8	Kings Billabong Park	2 195
9	Lake Albacutya Park	8 300
10	Langwarrin FFR	214
11	Lysterfield Park	1 397
12	Murray-Kulkyne Park	4 555
13	Nyah-Vinifera Park	1 370
14	Steiglitz HP	430
15	Tara Range Park	7 620
16	Tyers Park	1 810
17	Woodlands HP	820
18	Yallock-Bulluk MCP	3 535
Total – other parks		**80 074**

CP Coastal Park
FFR Flora and Fauna Reserve
HP Historic Park
* Area includes the area of the park located beneath a marine national park.

E Other parks and reserves (Schedule Four)

	Other park or reserve	Area (ha) 30 June 2025
1	Castlemaine Diggings NHP**	7 590
2	Corner Inlet MCP	*18 000
3	Deep Lead NCR (No. 1)**	1 120
4	Nooramunga MCP	15 000
5	Shallow Inlet MCP	2 000
6	Wilsons Promontory MP	*10 000
7	Wilsons Promontory MR	
Total – other parks and reserves		**53 710**

MCP Marine and Coastal Park
MP Marine Park
MR Marine Reserve
NCR Nature Conservation Reserve
NHP National Heritage Park
* Area includes the area of the park or reserve located beneath a marine national park.
** Castlemaine Diggings NHP and Deep Lead NCR (No. 1) extend only to 100 metres below the land surface.

F Wilderness zones (Schedule Five)

Wilderness Zones are located within several national parks, as set out below. The areas of the Wilderness Zones are included in the areas of the relevant parks in Part A of this appendix.

	National park	Wilderness zone	Area (ha) 30 June 2025
1	Alpine	Mount Darling-Snowy Bluff	40 400
2		Razor-Viking	15 700
3		Indi	13 800
4		Cobberas	10 000
5		Buchan Headwaters	30 000
6		Tingaringy	7 900
7	Coopracambra	Genoa	19 400
8	Croajingolong	Sandpatch	15 600
9		Cape Howe	7 100
10	Murray-Sunset	Sunset	126 900
11		Minook	38 700
12		Galpunga	35 700
13		Mount Cowra	23 500
14	Snowy River	Snowy River	27 000
15		Bowen	17 500
16	Wilsons Promontory	Wilsons Promontory	21 800
17	Wyperfeld	North Wyperfeld	97 900
18		South Wyperfeld	61 300
19		Chinaman Flat	29 800
Total – wilderness zones			**640 000**

G Remote and natural areas (Schedule Six)

Remote and natural areas are located within several national parks, as set out below. The areas of the remote and natural areas are included in the areas of the relevant parks in Part A of this appendix.

	National park	Remote and natural area	Area (ha) 30 June 2025
1	Alpine	The Governors	8 100
2		Macalister	33 300
3		Dandongadale	3 700
4		Bundara-Cobungra	13 700
5		Bogong	16 300
6		Davies Plain	10 500
7		Suggan Buggan	17 800
8		Upper Snowy	11 800
9	Baw Baw	Baw Baw Plateau	6 500
10	Burrowa-Pine Mountain	Mount Burrowa	6 200
11	Coopracambra	Mount Kaye	8 100
12	Croajingolong	Rame Head	9 800
13	Errinundra	Brodribb	7 700
14	Grampians	Victoria Range	14 000
15		Serra Range	11 200
16		Major Mitchell Plateau	6 900
17	Little Desert	Little Desert	16 400
18	Mount Buffalo	North Buffalo	6 500
19	Murray-Sunset	South Sunset	24 000
20	Wilsons Promontory	Wilsons Promontory Islands (12)	469
21		Southern Wilsons Promontory	14 400
22	Wyperfeld	Hopping Mouse Hill	32 100
Total – remote and natural areas			**279 469**

H Marine national parks (Schedule Seven)

	Marine national park*	Area (ha) 30 June 2025
1	Bunurong	2 100
2	Cape Howe	4 050
3	Churchill Island	670
4	Corner Inlet	1 550
5	Discovery Bay	2 770
6	French Island	2 800
7	Ninety Mile Beach	2 750
8	Point Addis	4 600
9	Point Hicks	4 000
10	Port Phillip Heads	3 580
11	Twelve Apostles	7 500
12	Wilsons Promontory	15 550
13	Yaringa	980
Total – marine national parks		**52 900**

I Marine sanctuaries (Schedule Eight)

	Marine sanctuary	Area (ha) 30 June 2025
1	Barwon Bluff	17
2	Beware Reef	220
3	Eagle Rock	17
4	Jawbone	30
5	Marengo Reefs	12
6	Merri	25
7	Mushroom Reef	80
8	Point Cooke	290
9	Point Danger	25
10	Ricketts Point	115
11	The Arches	45
Total – marine sanctuaries		**876**

* Marine national parks extend only to 200 metres below the land surface. Some partly overlay parts of other parks under the Act.

J Landscape conservation areas (Schedule Nine)

	Landscape conservation areas	Area (ha) 30 June 2025
1	Yellingbo	1 790
	– Beenak NCA	(125)
	– Hoddles Creek NCA	(283)
	– Sheep Station Creek NCA	(87)
	– Warramate Hills NCA	(499)
	– Yellingbo NCA	(605)
	– Wright Forest BA	(129)
	– Haining Farm	(59)
Total – landscape conservation creas		**1 790**

BA Bushland Area
NCA Nature Conservation Area

K Other areas (non-scheduled)*

	Area	Section of Act	Area (ha) 30 June 2025
1	Bald Hills BR	19B	1
2	Collins Settlement Historic Site	19B	1
3	Flinders NCR	19B	1
4	Flinders Natural Interest Reserve	19B	4
5	Long Forest NCR	19B	283
6	Lower Glenelg PPR and SLR	19B	24
7	Main Ridge NCR	19B	64
8	Moreep BR	19B	10
9	Nyerimilang Park	19B	200
10	Wychitella NCR	19B	3 780
11	Mt St Gwinear access road	19C	35
12	Commonwealth land adjacent to Woodlands Historic Park	19D	31
13	Picnic area at McKenzie's Flat (Lerderderg State Park)	19E	0.1
14	Blackwood Ranges Track (Lerderderg State Park)	19E	0.1
Total – Other areas			**4 434**

* Only specific sections of the Act apply to these areas

L Summary – Areas managed under the Act

	Category	No. of Areas 30 June 2025	Area (ha) 30 June 2025
A	National Parks (Schedule Two)	45	2 915 216
B	Wilderness Parks (Schedule Two A)	3	202 050
C	State Parks (Schedule Two B)	26	157 005
D	Other Parks (Schedule Three)	18	80 074
E	Other Parks and Reserves (Schedule Four)	7	53 710
H	Marine National Parks (Schedule Seven)	13	52 900
I	Marine Sanctuaries (Schedule Eight)	11	876
J	Landscape Conservation Areas (Schedule Nine)	1	1 790
K	Other areas (non-scheduled)	14	4 434
Total		**139**	**3 468 055**

M Unproclaimed additions

As at 30 June 2025, legislation provides for future additions to several parks as follows.

	Park	Act	Provision of Act	Area (ha)
1	*Dandenong Ranges National Park*	*National Parks Act 1975*	Schedule One clause 10	*<1
2	*Greater Bendigo National Park*	*National Parks Act 1975*	Schedule One clause 12	*31
3	*Great Otway National Park (2 areas)*	*National Parks Act 1975*	section 79	*219
Total – Unproclaimed areas				**250**

* Area will become part of the park when the rights over the land are surrendered to the Crown.

Appendix 2: Location of parks and other areas

National and other parks and areas	Map ref
Alfred NP	102
Alpine NP	77
Arthurs Seat SP	46
Avon WP	78
Bald Hills BR	48
Barmah NP	68
Baw Baw NP and Mt St Gwinear access road	79
Bay of Islands CP	38
Beechworth HP	71
Big Desert WP	4
Black Range SP	10
Brisbane Ranges NP	36
Broken-Boosey SP	67
Budj Bim NP	18
Bunurong MP	83
Bunyip SP	55
Burrowa-Pine Mountain NP	74
Cape Conran CP	103
Cape Liptrap CP	84
Cape Nelson SP	17
Castlemaine Diggings NHP	30
Cathedral Range SP	63
Chiltern-Mt Pilot NP	70
Churchill NP	53
Collins Settlement HS	44
Coopracambra NP	100
Corner Inlet MCP	89
Croajingolong NP	104
Dandenong Ranges NP	56
Deep Lead NCR (No. 1)	12
Dergholm SP	9
Discovery Bay CP	14
Enfield SP	34
Errinundra NP	99
Flinders NCR	49
Flinders NIR	50
French Island NP	51
Gadsen Bend Park	106
Gippsland Lakes CP	94
Grampians NP	11
Great Otway NP	42
Greater Bendigo NP	28
Gunbower NP	108
Hattah-Kulkyne NP	2
Heathcote-Graytown NP	29
Holey Plains SP	93
Kara Kara NP	23
Kinglake NP	60
Kings Billabong Park	105
Kooyoora SP	24
Lake Albacutya Park	6
Lake Eildon NP	64
Lake Tyers SP	110
Langi Ghiran SP	20
Langwarrin FFR	52
Leaghur SP	26
Lerderderg SP and associated leased areas	31
Lind NP	101
Little Desert NP	7
Long Forest NCR	32
Lower Glenelg NP and Cobboboonee NP	13
Lower Glenelg PPR and SLR	15
Lower Goulburn NP	109
Lysterfield Park	54
Main Ridge NCR	47
Mitchell River NP	96
Moondarra SP	80
Moreep BR	35
Mornington Peninsula NP	45
Morwell NP	92
Mount Arapiles-Tooan SP	8
Mount Buangor SP	21
Mount Buffalo NP	76
Mount Granya SP	72
Mount Lawson SP	73
Mount Napier SP	19
Mount Richmond NP	16
Mount Samaria SP	65
Mount Worth SP	82
Murray-Kulkyne Park	3
Murray-Sunset NP	1
Nooramunga MCP	90
Nyah-Vinifera Park	107
Nyerimilang Park	97
Organ Pipes NP	58
Paddys Ranges SP	22
Point Nepean NP	43
Port Campbell NP	39
Reef Hills SP	66
Shallow Inlet MCP	85
Snowy River NP	98
Steiglitz HP	37
Tara Range Park	41
Tarra-Bulga NP	91
Terrick Terrick NP	27
The Lakes NP	95
Tyers Park	81
Wabba WP	75
Warby-Ovens NP	69
Warrandyte SP	57
Werribee Gorge SP	33
Wilsons Promontory MP	87
Wilsons Promontory MR	88
Wilsons Promontory NP	86
Woodlands HP and adjacent Commonwealth land	59
Wychitella NCR	25
Wyperfeld NP	5
Yallock-Bulluk MCP	83
Yarra Ranges NP	62
Yellingbo LCA	61

Marine national parks and marine sanctuaries	Map ref
Barwon Bluff MS	I
Beware Reef MS	V
Bunurong MNP	R
Cape Howe MNP	X
Churchill Island MNP	Q
Corner Inlet MNP	T
Discovery Bay MNP	A
Eagle Rock MS	F
French Island MNP	P
Jawbone MS	L
Marengo Reefs MS	E
Merri MS	B
Mushroom Reef MS	N
Ninety Mile Beach MNP	U
Point Addis MNP	G
Point Cooke MS	K
Point Danger MS	H
Point Hicks MNP	W
Port Phillip Heads MNP	J
Ricketts Point MS	M
The Arches MS	C
Twelve Apostles MNP	D
Wilsons Promontory MNP	S
Yaringa MNP	O

BR	Bushland Reserve
CP	Coastal Park
FFR	Flora and Fauna Reserve
HP	Historic Park
HS	Historic Site
LCA	Landscape Conservation Area
MCP	Marine and Coastal Park
MNP	Marine National Park
MP	Marine Park
MR	Marine Reserve
MS	Marine Sanctuary
NCR	Nature Conservation Reserve
NHP	National Heritage Park
NIR	Natural Interest Reserve
NP	National Park
PPR	Public Purposes Reserve
SLR	Scenic Lookout Reserve
SP	State Park
WP	Wilderness Park

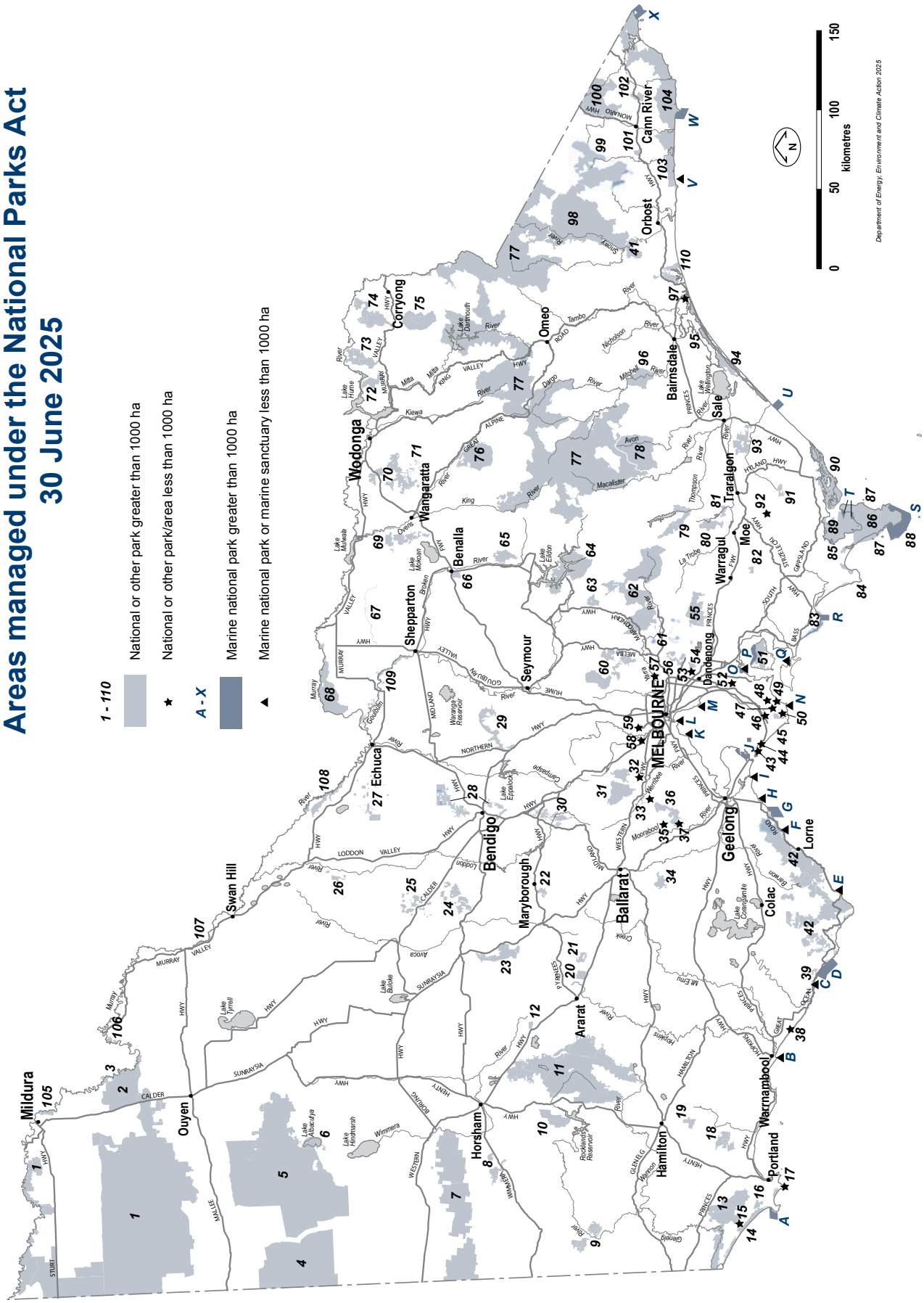

Areas managed under the National Parks Act
30 June 2025
1 - 110
National or other park greater than 1000 ha
National or other park/area less than 1000 ha
A - X
Marine national park greater than 1000 ha
Marine national park or marine sanctuary less than 1000 ha
0
50
100
150
kilometres
N
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action 2025
Mildura
Swan Hill
Ouyen
Echuca
Wodonga
Corryong
Omeo
Cann River
Orbost
Bairnsdale
Sale
Traralgon
Moe
Warragul
Wangaratta
Benalla
Shepparton
Seymour
Dandenong
MELBOURNE
Bendigo
Maryborough
Ballarat
Geelong
Lorne
Colac
Ararat
Horsham
Hamilton
Portland
Warrnambool

Image: Rangers, Cemetery Bight, Mallacoota Inlet, Croajingolong National Park

Parks Victoria
300 La Trobe St, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
parks.vic.gov.au or call 13 1963