National Parks Act
Annual Report 2010

Victoria
The Place To Be

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Notes

- During the year, the Minister responsible for administering
  the *National Parks Act 1975* was Gavin Jennings MLC,
  Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

- In this report

  – the legislation referred to is Victorian legislation

  – *Act* means the *National Parks Act 1975* unless otherwise implied

  – *Secretary* means the Secretary to the
  Department of Sustainability and Environment

  – *CMA* means Catchment Management Authority

  – *DSE* means Department of Sustainability and Environment

  – *DPI* means Department of Primary Industries.

Cover: River red gum, Barmah National Park (photo: Christian Pearson)

Foreword

This annual report on the working of the *National Parks Act 1975* for the year ended 30 June 2010 is provided to the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Gavin Jennings MLC, for the purpose of section 35 of the Act.

The Act establishes the statutory basis for the protection, use and management of Victoria's outstanding system of national and other parks, which now covers 3.4 million hectares. This includes areas which celebrated their centenary as national parks in October 2009: Wyperfeld National Park and the former Mallacoota and Wingan Inlet national parks, now part of Croajingolong National Park.

This diverse system was considerably enhanced during the year. The addition of the heritage-listed Quarantine Station to Point Nepean National Park on 8 December 2009 fulfilled a long-held vision of seeing the whole of Point Nepean protected in a national park.

The creation of new river red gum park areas in northern Victoria on 29 June 2010, including four new national parks and three new other parks, substantially increased the representation in parks of the iconic river red gum forests as well as the native grasslands of the northern plains. These splendid additions to the parks system will help protect the diverse natural and cultural values of these areas and will complement the programs to deliver environmental water at key sites along the Murray River.

The legislation to create the new river red gum park areas was accompanied by legislation which will enable Traditional Owner land management boards to be established over areas of public land, initially at Barmah National Park and Nyah-Vinifera Park. This partnership with Traditional Owners heralds an exciting new era for park management in Victoria.

Other legislation passed during the year provides for significant further additions to the parks system in East Gippsland and elsewhere to protect areas of old growth forest and other significant forest values.

In terms of park management, fire and fire recovery were again critical areas of activity. This included a significant program of planned burns and considerable recovery work in the parks affected by the devastating fires of 2009.

The Auditor-General's report on the management of invasive plants and animals in parks, released in May 2010, contained recommendations which will help to sharpen the focus of our management response to these key threats to the biodiversity in our parks.

A trend in park management is the increasing collaboration by a variety of agencies to deliver key park management outcomes across tenures, such as the Eden and Ark weeds and pests initiatives. The need to set the management of our parks in a broader landscape context was reinforced during the year by the release of *Securing our natural future – a White Paper for land and biodiversity at a time of climate change*, with its emphasis on a landscape approach to natural resources management.

More generally, the park management services delivered across the state, particularly by Parks Victoria, is reflected in the many projects and activities referred to elsewhere in this report. I thank all those who were involved in delivering the parks program over the past year.

Greg Wilson
Secretary to the
Department of Sustainability and Environment

Contents

Representative parks system

Areas managed under the Act

As at 30 June 2010, there were 138 areas with a total area of 3.4 million hectares managed under various provisions of the National Parks Act. Appendix 1 lists the areas and Appendix 4 shows their location.

The 138 areas comprised:

- 122 areas (3.4 million ha) listed in schedules to the Act
  - 45 national parks (Schedule Two)
  - 3 wilderness parks (Schedule Two A)
  - 25 state parks (Schedule Two B)
  - 5 coastal parks, 3 historic parks, 1 nature conservation reserve, 7 regional parks and Haining Farm (Schedule Three)
  - 3 marine and coastal parks, 2 marine parks, 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)
- 16 non-scheduled areas (4443 ha) to which particular provisions of the Act apply.

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

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

Changes to the parks system

There were significant additions to the parks system during the year. These involved the creation of four new national parks and three new other parks, as well as additions to seven existing parks.

Point Nepean National Park

On 6 December 2009, 105 hectares comprising nearly all of the heritage-listed Quarantine Station and the adjoining intertidal zone were added to Point Nepean National Park. This magnificent addition means that virtually the whole of Point Nepean is now protected in a national park.

River red gum parks

On 29 June 2010 four new national parks, three new other parks and additions to six existing parks were created under the Act, as summarised in Table 1. These areas, which total more than 100 000 hectares, are a key part of the government's response to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's *River red gum forests investigation final report*. Barmah and Warby Range state parks were incorporated into the new Barmah and Warby-Ovens national parks.

The new park areas substantially enhance the parks system by including additional representation of the river red gum communities along the Murray River and its tributaries, the Goulburn and Ovens rivers. They also increase the level of protection of significant remnants of the endangered northern plains grasslands.

Future changes to the parks system

Legislation passed during the year, but which was unproclaimed as at 30 June 2010, provided for the addition of approximately 39 930 hectares to the parks system and the excision of four areas (see *Legislation* and *Appendix 1*). This legislation:

- adds approximately 36 820 hectares containing old growth forest and other significant forest values to the parks system in East Gippsland through additions to Croajingolong, Errinundra and Snowy River national parks and the creation of Tara Range Park
- adds approximately 3110 hectares to 11 parks elsewhere in the state (Alpine, Brisbane Ranges, Grampians, Great Otway, Greater Bendigo, Kinglake, St Arnaud Range and Terrick Terrick national parks, Lerderderg State Park, Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park and Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park)
- excises 73 hectares from Croajingolong and Kinglake national parks, Lerderderg State Park and Beechworth Historic Park.

Table 1 – New river red gum park areas		
Park	Area (ha)	Summary description
New national parks		
Barmah NP	28 505	Barmah Forest (including Barmah State Park)
Gunbower NP	9 330	Part of Gunbower Forest
Lower Goulburn NP	9 310	Riverine forests of the lower Goulburn River north of Shepparton (including part of the Goulburn Heritage River)
Warby-Ovens NP	14 655	Warby Range State Park and riverine forests of the lower Ovens River (including part of the Ovens Heritage River)
New other parks		
Gadsen Bend Park	1 620	Forests and woodlands along the Murray River west of Robinvale
Kings Billabong Park	2 195	Kings Billabong Wildlife Reserve on the Murray River near Mildura
Nyah-Vinifera Park	1 370	Forests and woodlands along the Murray River near Nyah
Additions to existing parks		
Hattah-Kulkyne NP	5	Small area south of the Murray Valley Highway
Mount Buffalo NP	22	Two areas on the south-west and north-east boundaries
Murray-Sunset NP	32 135	Part of the Murray River floodplain (including Walpolla Island) and adjoining dryland areas
Terrick Terrick NP	2 045	Several nature conservation reserves containing native grasslands of the northern plains, and other Crown land
Leaghur SP	470	Areas of black box woodlands
Murray-Kulkyne Park	1 025	Forests and woodlands along the Murray River (including Tarpaulin Bend Reference Area)

NP   National Park
SP   State Park

Management planning

Management plans

As at 30 June 2010 there were approved management plans for all, or parts of, 42 national parks, 3 wilderness parks, 25 state parks, 17 other parks and reserves, 13 marine national parks and 11 marine sanctuaries.

During the year approved management plans were released for:

- Great Otway National Park and Otway Forest Park (December 2009)
- Paddys Ranges and Kooyoora state parks (April 2010).

The management plans for Alfred and Lind national parks, Lerderderg, Mount Granya, Mount Lawson and Werribee Gorge state parks and Wabba Wilderness Park were reviewed and extended for a further five years.

Work continued on the development of a draft management plan for the Greater Alpine national parks planning area, which includes the Alpine, Baw Baw, Errinundra, Mount Buffalo and Snowy River national parks and the Avon Wilderness Park as well as several areas not under the Act. This was assisted by input from the community via the online wePlan Alpine website as well as four advisory and reference groups: the Alpine Advisory Committee (which also forms the Greater Alpine National Parks Advisory Committee),

the Victorian Alpine Traditional Owner Reference Group, the Environment and Scientific Advisory Group and the Recreation and Tourism Advisory Group.

Agreement was reached with the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation on the process for the development of the first joint management plan for parks and reserves in far south-west Victoria. The planning area includes the national heritage-listed Budj Bim landscape comprising Mount Eccles National Park, as well as Cobboboonee and Lower Glenelg national parks and other parks and reserves.

Other plans

There was also work on several other plans during the year, including:

- a strategic directions plan for Tidal River, which was released in April 2010. The plan builds on the existing management plan and sets out directions for the area which will be implemented over five years
- a draft master plan to guide the future of visitor facilities in Kinglake National Park over the next 15 years, which was released for public comment in June 2010
- a draft master plan for Point Nepean National Park, including the Quarantine Station. The master plan is intended to provide clear directions for sustainable development in accordance with the 2009 park management plan.

Natural values management

Research

Research authorisations

Research, study or investigation in an area under the Act are authorised under section 20 or 21A of the Act, sometimes in conjunction with a permit under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, *Reference Areas Act 1978* or *Wildlife Act 1975*.

A total of 136 permits were issued during the year. These enabled research to be carried out in 76 parks (a permit may cover more than one park, project or field of study) or in all parks if required (7 permits). Those parks for which 10 or more permits were issued (in addition to the 'all parks' permits) were: Alpine (14), Grampians (17), Great Otway (15), Wilsons Promontory (14) and Yarra Ranges (10) national parks.

Adaptive experimental research

Research is a critical element of natural values management, providing reliable science to support park management. Parks Victoria's research program seeks to integrate science and management and apply an adaptive experimental approach to a range of issues.

Adaptive experimental research projects during the year included:

- additional high-level analysis of data from the box-ironbark ecological thinning trial, with a view to identifying priorities for ongoing monitoring
- ongoing research investigating the effectiveness of different techniques for controlling the highly-invasive English Broom, as well as the effects of this management on native vegetation in the Alpine National Park
- the establishment of a research program to examine the effectiveness of ecological thinning in maintaining and improving the health of river red gums in the new Barmah National Park
- further work to investigate the restoration of coastal grassy woodland that has been invaded by Coast Tea-tree at the Yanakie Isthmus in Wilsons Promontory National Park.

Research Partners Program

Parks Victoria's Research Partners Program seeks to improve environmental management through collaborative research partnerships with universities and other research institutions.

Twenty-one new projects were established during the year relating to areas under the Act. These projects included:

- the development of ecological conceptual models to describe relationships between values, threats and drivers associated with major ecosystems in parks across the state
- a PhD study to examine factors that influence the effectiveness of fox control in parks
- an analysis of Sea Search monitoring data collected by community volunteers in marine national parks and marine sanctuaries
- research to develop and implement techniques for detecting new populations of feral pigs, goats and deer in Victoria, with an initial focus on French Island and Warby-Ovens national parks and Discovery Bay Coastal Park
- research to enable development of a cost-effective surveillance and control program for weeds, focusing on Orange Hawkweed in the Alpine National Park
- field surveys to improve understanding of the distribution, abundance and habitat of the nationally-vulnerable Plains Wanderer and other fauna in grasslands of the northern plains of Victoria, including in Terrick Terrick National Park
- an examination of the costs and benefits of different approaches to monitoring kangaroo numbers in Wyperfeld National Park.

The Research Partners Program also supported ongoing research including:

- projects aimed at improving understanding of the implications of fire regimes for flora and fauna in the Mallee (including Hattah-Kulkyne and Murray-Sunset national parks), far south-west Victoria (including Dergholm State Park) and the Grampians and Mount Buffalo national parks
- the further development of fertility control techniques for over-abundant native fauna, including koalas and kangaroos

- projects investigating the biology, ecology and the effect of humans on seals on the islands and waters of Wilsons Promontory National Park and Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park
- long-term research to improve knowledge and understanding of the ecology and condition of wet forest ecosystems in the Central Highlands, including Yarra Ranges National Park
- an investigation of the effects of climate change on flora and fauna in the Alpine National Park.

Monitoring

Parks Victoria's Signs of Healthy Parks monitoring program aims to provide an understanding of the health of parks, evaluate the effectiveness of Parks Victoria's conservation programs and provide early warning of emerging threats.

The first phase of the program was initiated in 2007–08 and has involved Brisbane Ranges, Grampians, Great Otway and Wilsons Promontory national parks and Yaringa Marine National Park. Draft monitoring plans prepared for those parks were refined during the year, and implementation commenced in the Grampians, Great Otway and Wilsons Promontory national parks. The second phase of the program also commenced, with the development of draft monitoring plans underway for the Alpine National Park and Corner Inlet Marine National Park.

Monitoring programs undertaken during the year included the monitoring of:
- threatened flora and fauna species in the Alpine, Chiltern-Mt Pilot, Cobboboonee, Great Otway, Mount Eccles, Terrick Terrick and Wyperfeld national parks
- pest animals in parks across the state, including
  - deer in the Snowy River and Yarra Ranges national parks
  - feral horses in the Alpine National Park
  - foxes in the Alpine, Chiltern-Mt Pilot, Cobboboonee, Croajingolong, Grampians, Great Otway, Lower Glenelg and Wilsons Promontory national parks, Bunyip State Park and Cape Conran Coastal Park
  - rabbits in Hattah-Kulkyne, Murray-Sunset and Wyperfeld national parks
- over-abundant kangaroo populations in seven parks including the Mallee parks and Reef Hills State Park, and over-abundant koala populations in Mount Eccles National Park
- the response of prey to fox control in parks across the state, including parks included in the Glenelg Ark and Southern Ark projects in far south-west Victoria and far East Gippsland
- the condition of native grasslands in Terrick Terrick National Park
- subtidal and intertidal reefs in Bunurong, Cape Howe, Discovery Bay, Point Addis, Port Phillip Heads, and Wilsons Promontory marine national parks and Eagle Point, Jawbone, Marengo, Merri, Point Cooke and Ricketts Point marine sanctuaries.

An ongoing program of larger-scale flora, fauna, habitat and fuel hazard monitoring commenced across the state in areas subject to landscape mosaic burning, including in Croajingolong, Great Otway and Wyperfeld national parks.

Work relating to monitoring protocols (standardised techniques) included:
- the application of weed monitoring protocols in eleven parks during the year, including in Chiltern-Mt Pilot, Cobboboonee, Grampians, Great Otway, Port Campbell and Wyperfeld national parks
- the application of flora and fauna monitoring protocols examining the response of key species to fire in parks across the state, including the Alpine, Burrowa-Pine Mountain, Chiltern-Mt Pilot, Dandenong Ranges, French Island, Grampians, Great Otway, Wilsons Promontory and Wyperfeld national parks, Barmah, Mount Lawson and Warby Ranges state parks and Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park
- projects to develop or refine existing monitoring protocols and techniques, including:
  - the refinement of protocols for monitoring small mammals, reptiles and amphibians
  - the testing of the statewide applicability of a vegetation monitoring protocol developed by DSE and DPI to measure trends in weed invasion and the condition of native vegetation
  - the development of a technique for the rapid monitoring of native grassland biomass
  - the development of a process for using data collected by Birds Australia
  - an investigation into the effectiveness of seagrass monitoring by community volunteer groups in marine sanctuaries
  - the development of a protocol for monitoring the condition of mossbeds in the Alpine, Baw Baw, Yarra Ranges and Mount Buffalo national parks and Avon Wilderness Park
  - the development of a grid-based mapping technique to monitor changes in weed invasion and the effectiveness of weed control in parks – the technique was implemented in the Dandenong Ranges, Grampians and Great Otway national parks
  - the development of a standard method to survey fauna of the northern plains grasslands, including in Terrick Terrick National Park
  - the finalisation of protocols for using remote cameras to monitor native fauna and pest animals – these protocols are being implemented in the Grampians, Great Otway and Wilsons Promontory national parks.

Environmental management

Information on the values of the parks system and the risks identified in *State of the Parks 2007*, together with Parks Victoria's Levels of Protection framework, provided a basis for setting strategic priorities. Parks Victoria's environmental management framework focuses on-ground works on protecting the highest values at greatest risk.

The on-ground environmental management program is categorised into the following eight program areas, with examples of projects in each given below:

- threatened species management
- native animal management
- catchment and water management
- marine protection
- pest plant management
- pest animal management
- grazing management
- ecological fire management.

Threatened species management

Projects undertaken in relation to threatened species management in areas under the Act included:

- the release of a further five captive-bred Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies in the Grampians National Park in October 2009. Twelve months on from the trial re-introduction of the species into the park, seven of the ten animals released have survived. Remote digital cameras monitor the colony and make sure its habitat remains fox-free. The first wild-born pouch young was recently discovered
- the release of 44 captive-bred Regent Honeyeaters in Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park in May 2010. Of the 44 birds, 32 were confirmed at home in the wild several weeks later and monitoring continued until July 2010. Parks Victoria, DSE, Birds Australia, Friends of Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park and other volunteers and community groups worked together on the project
- the release of 22 captive-bred Helmeted Honeyeaters in Bunyip State Park.

Native animal management

Programs to control kangaroo and koala populations have in the past been undertaken in parks where there is a demonstrable long-term impact on park values caused by excessive numbers. They are undertaken in accordance with established ecological rationales developed with the support of key stakeholders, including technical advisory committees.

There were no kangaroo programs this year because drought conditions had limited kangaroo populations to below target densities.

Projects relating to koalas included:

- on French Island (including the national park), the relocation of 256 adult koalas and 85 young to Bunyip State Park and the implanting of a further 96 female koalas with contraceptive hormones and their release back to the island. The contraceptive implant program is gradually replacing re-location practices
- in Mount Eccles National Park, the treatment of 361 koalas with the implanting of slow-release contraceptive hormones. Since 2004 this has seen koala numbers halved to approximately 6000. Modeling is being done to help determine the long term level of treatment required to achieve goals for forest health
- in the Great Otway National Park, the commencement of work to develop an ecological rationale for koala management.

Catchment and water management

This program area continued to focus on improving the condition of remnant vegetation and reducing priority catchment degradation risks. Particular initiatives included:

- the delivery of more than 25 000 million litres of environmental water to create and maintain a set of drought refuges and to keep areas of river red gums alive in parks along the Murray River

  This watering program, the biggest ever, saw environmental water pumped into several sites including Chalka Creek and the Hattah Lakes (Hattah-Kulkyne National Park) and Lindsay Island, Lake Wallawalla and Websters Lagoon (Murray-Sunset National Park). The program involved a partnership between DSE, CMAs and Parks Victoria, with additional water provided by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Australian Government. Watered sites attracted significant numbers of waterbirds, with bird breeding observed and new growth evident on watered river red gums.

  Pumping continues to fill Lake Wallawalla, a nationally recognised wetland near Lindsay Island in Murray-Sunset National Park which has been dry for approximately ten years.

- complementary management at Living Murray Icon Sites (Barmah, Hattah Lakes and Lindsay and Wallpolla islands), including the management of noxious weeds and grazers, such as kangaroos and rabbits, and the removal of cattle from Lindsay Island
- the cross-tenure Alpine Peatlands Restoration and Protection Program, which included weed control, maintenance of past restoration works, investigation of further rehabilitation requirements and monitoring
- small-scale revegetation projects supported by Friends groups, volunteers and CMAs at various sites including in the Alpine National Park.

Marine values protection

The management of marine values maintained a focus on integrated approaches to reducing threats to marine protected areas under the Act.

Statewide mapping of near-shore marine habitats across Victoria's marine environments, including many of the marine protected areas, was undertaken during the year.

In relation to marine pests:

- new species of marine pests were reported during the year within or adjacent to two marine sanctuaries and one marine and coastal park

  The pests included a new red algae species, first observed by community volunteers in Point Cooke Marine Sanctuary, and Japanese kelp (*Undaria pinnatifida*), found in the Apollo Bay Harbour next to the Marengo Marine Sanctuary. Government is working to assess their distribution, identify possible control measures where appropriate and actively engage and educate the community.

  Three marine pests (*Corbula gibba*, *Theora lubrica* and *Musculista senhousia*) found by the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria in Shallow Inlet Marine and Coastal Park were reported to Parks Victoria in July 2009. A subsequent survey found no specimens. Although the club has since found some other specimens, they appear to be present only in very low densities.

  There was a possible sighting of *Grateloupia turuturu* in Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary during the year but, following an extensive search, the report could not be confirmed.

- the cause of dieback of two species of seaweed in and near Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park is being investigated

- the abalone viral disease continued to spread along the west coast, causing high mortality in the abalone population. Parks Victoria promoted the importance of clean equipment and hygienic practices to visitors.

Improving the water quality in catchments continues to be an important goal in the protection of marine protected areas, particularly in marine areas at high risk from poor water quality, including the parks in Corner Inlet and Western Port and Merri Marine Sanctuary. At Jawbone Marine Sanctuary, a project was completed which involved diverting stormwater out of the sanctuary.

Building community stewardship for marine protected areas through community engagement continued to be a focus for Parks Victoria and its partner organisations. During the year:

- Marine Care Ricketts Point established a new marine education centre at Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary

- new marine publications were produced by a number of Friends groups across the state

- there was continued involvement in the multi-agency and community Two Bays Program for Port Philip and Western Port.

Pest plant management

The control of pest plants again was a major component of natural values management in areas under the Act. Appendix 2 lists the targeted species for those areas under the Act where more than five hectares was recorded as being treated for the purpose of controlling or eradicating that species.

Several control projects are integrated across tenures and involve multiple land management agencies and community groups. These include the two Eden projects and two programs in Gippsland, which provide a landscape-scale approach to weed control.

Cross-tenure projects included:

- the Glenelg Eden Project, which involved field surveys in 14 priority areas across the landscape, including Lower Glenelg and Mount Richmond national parks and Cape Nelson State Park, to gather information on the pattern of weed dispersal to assist in identifying the key weed hotspots

- the Otway Eden Project, which involved the treatment of a significant number of weed infestations in the Great Otway National Park in conjunction with other Crown land in the Otways

- the From the Highlands Down and Protecting the Best programs in Gippsland, involving a range of government and private partners

  From the Highlands Down focuses on the biodiversity threats to the Eastern Highlands and downstream catchments, with the aim of preventing the spread of priority pest plant and animal species. A major focus was on preventing Cape Broom from spreading down the Wonnangatta catchment and willows moving across the Great Divide into East Gippsland.

  Protecting the Best targets new and emerging weed (and pest animal) species in high value ecosystems east of the Snowy River. During the year it targeted Blackberry, Blue Periwinkle, willow and other riparian weeds, as well as African Boxthorn, Beach Daisy, Dolichos Pea and Sea Spurge in coastal environments.

- the Good Neighbour Program, which focuses on controlling weeds on boundary areas between public and private land. Parks Victoria worked with private landholders to target established weeds such as Blackberry, Cape Tulip, Gorse, Paterson's Curse, Ragwort and Serrated Tussock.

Other pest plant control projects during the year included:

- projects in the Mallee parks focusing on Wheel Cactus in Wyperfeld National Park and Lake Albacutya Park and Caltrop in Hattah-Kulkyne National Park and Murray-Kulkyne Park

- projects in the box-ironbark parks to control weeds including Bridal Creeper in Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park, Paddys Ranges State Park and Beechworth Historic Park, Horehound in Greater Bendigo National Park and Kooyoora State Park, and Boneseed and Gorse in Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park

- a Caring for Our Country project targeting pest plants such as Briar Rose, Blackberry, Horehound, Paterson's Curse and other woody species in what is now Barmah National Park and involving the Goulburn-Broken CMA and the Yorta Yorta People
- the treatment of invasive pine wilding infestations in Cobboboonee National Park that survived fuel reduction burns, as well as Blackberry and Sweet Pittosporum
- the controlling of Dolichos Pea, Sallow Wattle and Sea Spurge in coastal ecosystems of Mornington Peninsula National Park, with weed mapping along the Main Creek and Lightwood Creek parts of the park
- the treatment of Myrtle-leaf Milkwort to help protect the Moonah Woodland community in Point Nepean National Park
- projects in the Alpine National Park, involving a range of organisations and volunteers
  - the ongoing effort to control English Broom, targeting the headwaters of the Mitta Mitta River with helicopter and ground spraying
  - the surveying and controlling of Grey Sallow across the Bogong High Plains (and also the western fall and plateau of Mount Buffalo National Park)
  - the monitoring and controlling of Orange Hawkweed over 1000 hectares of the park
- the treatment of more than 6000 hectares of Blackberry in parks including the Alpine, Burrowa-Pine Mountain, Coopracambra, Errinundra, French Island, Mitchell River, Snowy River and Yarra Ranges national parks.

Pest animal management

Extensive pest animal control programs in parks across the state were implemented. Appendix 3 lists the species and the areas under the Act that were targeted during the year in pest animal management projects.

In addition to projects carried out as part of fire recovery programs, projects included:

- the continuation of cooperative programs with private landowners to control pest animals threatening agricultural or ecological values as part of the Good Neighbour Program
- the removal of 60 feral cattle from Lindsay Island in Murray-Sunset National Park via the feed and trap method
- extensive rabbit control using baiting, warren destruction and fumigation in the Mallee national parks as part of the Mallee Bounce Back Project
- a range of fox control programs, including the three Ark projects which support the recovery of native mammals, birds and reptiles and which are unique in their large-scale, integrated and year-round approach to fox control
  - the continuation of fox control across south-west Victoria as part of the Glenelg Ark Project, which includes Cobboboonee and Lower Glenelg national parks and Discovery Bay Coastal Park
  - the expansion of the Grampians Ark Project to an area of 150 000 hectares, including Black Range State Park

- fox control and associated small mammal monitoring using remote cameras in the Great Otway National Park as part of the Otway Ark Project and Signs of Healthy Parks monitoring project
- the continuation of the Southern Ark Project in parks and forests in East Gippsland
- fox control in other parks where there are high numbers of fauna species susceptible to predation, such as Chiltern-Mt Pilot, Little Desert and The Lakes national parks and Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park
- goat control programs in Brisbane Ranges and Snowy River national parks
- pig control programs in the Alpine, Coopracambra, Croajingolong and Snowy River national parks. Eradication of the populations from these parks is difficult due to the difficult access for trapping or shooting programs and the risk of re-invasion from the north
- the removal of 165 wild horses from across approximately 15 000 hectares of the Alpine National Park. This included a trapping program to remove horses illegally introduced into the park near Mt Wellington and from the small population on the Bogong High Plains
- the continuation of the partnership between Parks Victoria and the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia in various feral animal control programs. At Murray-Sunset National Park, more than 2000 feral goats have been eliminated from the park since the program commenced in 2003.

Grazing management

Work commenced on the phase-out of grazing from the new river red gum park areas.

Grazing continued to be used in Terrick Terrick National Park as an ecological management tool to manage native grasslands, reduce biomass and maintain an optimal structure for the conservation of floral diversity and fauna such as the Plains Wanderer.

Ecological fire management

Fire ecology assessments for public land across Victoria were worked on during the year, including for the parks listed in Table 2.

Several new landscape-scale fire ecology research projects were commenced in the Otways and Central Highlands to complement existing landscape-scale research projects in far south-west Victoria and the Mallee. A research and monitoring plan is currently being developed for the new river red gum park areas.

The *Research*, *Monitoring* and *Planned burning* sections of the report also refer to projects relating to ecological fire management.

Table 2 – Fire ecology assessments	
Status of assessment	**Park**
Fire ecology assessments completed	Alpine, Baw Baw (part), Burrowa-Pine Mountain, Chiltern-Mt Pilot, Kinglake, Lake Eildon and Mount Buffalo national parks
	Wabba Wilderness Park
	Broken-Boosey, Cathedral Range, Holey Plains, Mount Granya, Mount Lawson, Mount Samaria, Reef Hills and Warby Range state parks
	Beechworth Historic Park
Fire ecology assessments updated	Alfred, Coopracambra, Croajingolong, Errinundra, Lind, Snowy River, Wilsons Promontory and Yarra Ranges national parks
	Cape Liptrap Coastal Park
Fire ecology assessments in development	Mornington Peninsula (including Mornington Peninsula National Park and Arthurs Seat State Park), Lerderderg State Park

Auditor-General's report on the control of invasive plants and animals in parks

In May 2010 the Victorian Auditor-General released his report *Control of invasive plants and animals in Victoria's parks* (see <www.audit.vic.gov.au>). The report contains findings in the key areas of coordinating invasive species management, planning to control the threat, and planning and control at a park level.

The report's seven recommendations relate to: responsibilities; using a landscape scale framework to identify statewide invasive species objectives and priorities; databases; planning frameworks and resource allocation; park planning; human resource systems; and monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Government welcomed the report and broadly agreed with its key conclusions and findings.

Fire management and fire recovery

Bushfires

The fire season predictions indicated potentially difficult fire weather conditions following continued record dry conditions throughout the state. The number of fires attended remained above the 30 year average from spring through to mid March, when rainfalls influenced by tropical weather systems affected much of eastern Australia.

During the season there were very few periods of extreme fire weather conditions, which enabled fires to be brought under control relatively quickly. Stable, cooler conditions between March to June with occasional localised rainfall assisted in achieving an increased area of planned burning operations across public land, including areas under the Act.

DSE recorded 90 fires in areas under the Act during the year, 34 of which were recorded as starting in those areas. The 90 fires affected approximately 8030 hectares in areas under the Act. Seventeen of the fires were less than 1 hectare in size. There were another 65 fires in areas under the Act reported to DSE but which subsequently were not located. The fires which burnt more than 50 hectares in parks are listed in Table 3.

Planned burning

As part of the 2009–10 statewide planned burning program, there were 96 planned burns in areas under the Act which treated approximately 55 765 hectares of land under the Act. These comprised 83 burns for fuel reduction purposes, which treated some 41 905 hectares, and 13 for ecological or other purposes, which treated some 13 860 hectares. The largest of the planned burns were in Wyperfeld (8000 ha) and Croajingolong (7900 ha) national parks. The *Environmental management* section of the report contains further information on ecological fire management.

Preparing for emergencies

Emergency management plans were reviewed to ensure that they remain current and effective. An emergency scenario is used to test the effectiveness of the plans. In parks with large numbers of visitors, like Wilsons Promontory and Port Campbell national parks, Victoria Police is involved in the test emergency scenario.

Table 3 – Fires burning more than 50 hectares in areas under the Act						
Park	Cause	Date fire started	Date fire contained	Area of fire (ha)	Area of park burnt (ha)	% of park
Cobboboonee NP	Lightning	20 Nov 09	20 Nov 09	218	218	1
Coopracambra NP	Lightning	22 Dec 09	25 Dec 09	88	88	<1
Grampians NP	Lightning	22 Jan 10	23 Jan 10	1715	1210	<1
Great Otway NP	Escaped planned burn	15 Mar 10	15 Mar 10	50	50	<1
Murray-Sunset NP	Lightning	31 Jan 10	1 Feb 10	270	270	<1
Wyperfeld NP	Lightning	11 Feb 10	11 Feb 10	202	202	<1
Mount Buangor SP	Escaped planned burn	17 Mar 10	21 Mar 10	1329	1020	43
Cape Conran CP	Relight of planned burn	2 Nov 09	14 Nov 09	4667	4667	40

CP   Coastal Park
NP   National Park
SP   State Park
Source of data for areas of fires: DSE Fireweb, Land and Fire Management Division GIS analysis.

Melbourne Bushfire Protection Program

In July 2009 the Victorian Government allocated $21 million over four years to help safeguard communities and assets on Melbourne's outer urban fringe. The program, which has a key focus on community information and engagement, has already delivered increased fire preparedness works on public land. The program includes the following areas under the Act: Churchill, Dandenong Ranges, Mornington Peninsula, Organ Pipes and Point Nepean national parks, Arthurs Seat and Warrandyte state parks, Lysterfield Park, Woodlands Historic Park and Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve.

Works completed this year in the parks in or around the metropolitan area included:

- mapping and spatial analysis of the existing fuel break network
- significant works on fuel breaks in eight areas under the Act
- the slashing of grass and undergrowth in five areas under the Act
- the installation of signage in ten areas under the Act informing visitors of fire prevention works and days of total fire ban
- the completion of flora and fauna assessments and the development of native vegetation assessment procedures
- the dissemination of community information about fire preparedness works via fact sheets, community meetings and media, and the establishment of community engagement networks between fire agencies.

Fire recovery – 2009 fires

Fire recovery works continued in the parks affected by the major 2009 fires, in particular Kinglake, Wilsons Promontory and Yarra Ranges national parks and Bunyip and Cathedral Range state parks.

Fire-affected licensed tour operators were contracted to help with a variety of these works, including four-wheel drive track assessments, track maintenance and heritage assessments. Volunteers and community groups also contributed valuable support to the fire recovery program. These included three Green Corps volunteer crews from Conservation Volunteers Australia who worked in Kinglake and Wilsons Promontory national parks and Bunyip State Park.

Natural values

Several projects aimed at protecting threatened species and controlling pest plants and animals commenced with funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country Program. The projects will run over two years.

In October 2009 the Victorian Government announced further funding for natural values recovery projects as part of the Rebuilding Together statewide recovery plan. The projects, to be delivered over two years, aim to help fire-affected plants, animals and ecological communities recover from the fires.

Projects relating to the management of natural values in the fire-affected parks during the year included:

- works to assist the recovery of threatened species

  These included, in the Yarra Ranges National Park, the protection of the endangered Shiny Nematolepis and, at Lake Mountain, targeted surveys for the Broad-toothed Rat and Eastern Pygmy Possum and actions to assist the recovery of Leadbeater's Possum (including a supplementary feeding program over winter)
- the monitoring of small mammal recovery in Wilsons Promontory National Park
- pest plant and pest animal control programs.

Cultural values

Post-fire cultural heritage surveys were conducted in various areas. These included:

- the re-assessment and documentation of the condition of 30 historic sites in Kinglake and Yarra Ranges national parks and Bunyip State Park, with the discovery of a further five new sites. Recommendations were made on the works needed to stabilise the sites and make them safe, which have largely been implemented
- detailed surveys at Wilsons Promontory National Park to assess the effects of the fire on both Aboriginal and European sites of significance

  Representatives of the Gunai/Kurnai, Boon Wurrung and Bunurong peoples who identify the Promontory as their Traditional Country worked with Parks Victoria to assess 45 known Aboriginal sites. Thirty-seven unknown sites were discovered, some extending over large areas and estimated to comprise thousands of artefacts. Eighteen new sites representing European history were discovered and three known but previously inaccessible sites were re-visited and assessed.

Visitor facilities

There has been substantial funding allocated to the reconstruction of visitor facilities in affected parks. This includes $2.5 million from the Australian Government's Jobs Fund, $0.6 million from the Victorian Government's Sustainable Small Towns Development Fund and other funding from DSE.

Initiatives relating to the visitor facilities in fire-affected parks during the year included:

Kinglake National Park

- the development and release of a draft master plan for the park's visitor facilities, to guide the replacement of visitor facilities, almost all of which were lost in the fires
- the progressive re-opening of specific areas, including the Frank Thomson Reserve, Mt Sugarloaf, Mt Sugarloaf Road, Mt Sugarloaf Ridge Track and many tracks in the Everard and Wombelano blocks
- the replacement of toilets at the Island Creek day visitor centre and the Gums camping area
- extensive community engagement in the rebuilding program, including an open day in October 2009 which enabled the community to witness the park's recovery and which attracted more than 200 local residents

Wilsons Promontory National Park

- the re-opening of the complete Lilly Pilly Gully circuit and walk to Mt Bishop and work on the walking track to Tongue Point

Yarra Ranges National Park

- the development of an action plan for the redevelopment of visitor facilities in the park

- the re-opening of various visitor facilities, including access trails to Mt St Leonard, Mt Monda and Dom Dom Saddle (Bicentennial Trial), Donnelly Weir picnic area, Cambarville and key adjacent walking tracks, including the Big Tree Walk and the Big Culvert Walk, and the Summit Walk at Lake Mountain

Bunyip State Park

- the rebuilding of toilets and visitors facilities at the Nash Creek camping area and work to redesign the Lawsons Falls picnic ground

- the re-opening of Dyers and Mortimer visitor sites, along with the extensive trail bike and 4WD tracks network

Cathedral Range State Park

- the re-opening of most of the park to the public in December 2009

- the progressive replacement of trail markers and trailhead and directional signage

- the installation of new decking and railing at the Cooks Mill heritage area

- work to redesign Sugarloaf Saddle.

Royal Commission

The 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission was established on 16 February 2009 to investigate the causes and responses to the bushfires which swept through parts of Victoria in late January and February 2009. The commission released an interim report on 17 August 2009.[1]

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1   The Commission delivered its final report on 31 July 2010.

Traditional Owner partnerships and cultural heritage management

Traditional Owner partnerships

The basis for partnerships with Traditional Owners in the management of parks was significantly strengthened during the year with the passage and proclamation of legislation which enables Traditional Owner land management boards involving majority Traditional Owner representation to be established for areas of Crown land, including areas under the Act (see *Legislation*).

The government is committed in the first instance to establishing such boards for the new Barmah National Park, involving the Yorta Yorta People, and Nyah-Vinifera Park, involving the Wadi Wadi People. Work to establish the boards progressed during the year.

Government continued to work effectively with Traditional Owner partners across the state:

- the Barengi Gadjin Land Council (Wotjobaluk, Jadawadjali, Jaadwa, Wergaia and Jupagulk Peoples), with respect to the management of parts of the Little Desert and Wyperfeld national parks as well as Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park and Lake Albacutya Park
- the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation through the Budj Bim Council, with respect to Mount Eccles National Park
- the Yorta Yorta People, including Parks Victoria employing five Yorta Yorta People as rangers for Barmah National Park and other parks in Yorta Yorta country.

The Victorian Alps Aboriginal Traditional Owner Reference Group, comprising representatives of the Bidawal, Dhudhuroa, Gunai/Kurnai, Jaimathang, Monero-Ngarigo, Mitambuta, Ngarigu-Currawaong, Taungurung and Waywurru Peoples continued to advise on the management of Indigenous cultural values in the Alps and on the preparation of the management plan for the Greater Alpine national parks planning area.

Indigenous cultural heritage

Cultural heritage works occurred in Croajingolong National Park and at the Mudagadgin Rock Art Place in the Black Range State Park. Parks Victoria also worked with Traditional Owners of the Grampians National Park to produce the Gariwerd Rock Art Action Plan, which will help to identify priorities for management works and assist in the allocation of funds for the coming years.

Cultural heritage management plans were commenced or approved under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* in respect of several parks. A cultural heritage permit was granted for the upgrading of the Dinner Plain Track in the Alpine National Park.

Non-Indigenous cultural heritage

Mount Buffalo Chalet

The Mount Buffalo Chalet celebrated its centenary in April 2010. Nearly 2000 people attended the celebrations held at the Chalet in May 2010.

An expression of interest process and subsequently a request for tender process seeking long-term investors in the chalet and the associated sites at Cresta Valley and Dingo Dell were conducted during the year. Legislation was passed in June 2010 to increase the maximum lease term for these sites to 50 years to provide greater security and encourage long-term investment in the chalet (see *Legislation*).

Point Nepean National Park

Work progressed on developing an interpretation program for the park that will convey the history of the area to park visitors. Comprising self-guided tours, interpretation signage and web-based oral histories, the program builds on the extensive conservation repair and maintenance works being implemented and the progressive opening of several of the historic buildings with interpretive displays for visitors.

A conservation management plan for the former army firing range was completed. Plans are also in place for the Point Nepean forts, the Quarantine Station and the South Channel Fort. Together, they provide guidance for the future conservation of the park's heritage values.

Conservation heritage works

Conservation heritage works included:

- the completion of the rebuilding of Ritchie's Hut in the Alpine National Park following its destruction in the 2006–07 fires, with great assistance from the Ritchie family, community volunteers and the Victorian High Country Huts Association. It is estimated that volunteers contributed some 2500 hours to the project
- the replacement of damaged weatherboards on the Church of England and of guttering on the courthouse in Steiglitz Historic Park.

Community involvement

Volunteers

Volunteers, including Friends groups, individuals, schools, corporate volunteers and special interest groups, continued to make a major contribution to the management of many areas under the Act and to provide invaluable support to Parks Victoria.

This year, volunteers dedicated nearly 85 000 hours to activities in 29 parks under the Act. Friends groups are the largest group type to volunteer, contributing almost half of all volunteer hours. Many volunteers have contributed years of valuable service to the environment. The Friends of the Dandenong Ranges National Park and Friends of Hattah-Kulkyne National Park both celebrated 25 years of volunteering.

Examples of the groups and the generous contributions by volunteers include:

- the Friends of Wyperfeld National Park, which conducted their 34th Queens Birthday weekend camp, undertaking activities such as tree planting and painting signs. This group also celebrated the centenary of the park in 2009
- the St Gwinear Ski Patrol group, which performed 900 hours of ski patrolling in Baw Baw National Park. This group is a voluntary cross-country ski patrol organisation that operates at Mt St Gwinear on weekends during the ski season
- Conservation Volunteers Australia, through which students and others performed 5704 hours during week-long projects in the Grampians National Park involving sallow wattle weeding, tracking and mammal trapping.

The Campground Host Program operated over the summer and Easter holiday periods in eleven parks, including Mount Buffalo and Mount Eccles national parks and Cathedral Range State Park. This year the program was extended to include a 'walk host' on the Great Ocean Walk. The Four Wheel Drive Club Host Program was expanded outside the Alpine National Park to include campgrounds in nine other parks, including Croajingolong, Grampians and Great Otway national parks.

Community group grants

Parks Victoria provides grants under its *Healthy Parks Healthy People* grants program to community groups to undertake projects in Victoria's parks. This year 57 grants were provided for projects relating to areas under the Act. They included grants to:

- the Australian Deer Association – to monitor deer in the Alpine, Burrowa-Pine Mountain, Mount Buffalo and Snowy River national parks
- the Friends of Eastern Otways – to conduct mammal surveys within the Great Otway National Park using hair tube analysis, scat collection and infra-red photography
- the Friends of Sherbrooke Forest – to control weeds in the Dandenong Ranges National Park
- the Friends of the Prom – to construct a viewing area and nature trail in Wilsons Promontory National Park.

Visitor and tourism services

Information, interpretation and education

Information

Information was provided to a wide range of visitors and others interested in parks across the state through:

- Parks Victoria's 24-hour Information Centre (13 1963), which again offered a comprehensive information service
- Park Notes, which were made available in both paper and electronic form, covering most national parks and other areas under the Act
- the Parks Victoria website <www.parkweb.vic.gov.au>, which continued to supply a growing range of park and visitor information, including management plans.

Interpretation

Education and interpretation programs were provided which aimed at motivating visits to parks through a range of enjoyable interpretive programs and experiences. The programs also aim to increase community knowledge and understanding of Victoria's parks and biodiversity.

Interpretive Junior Ranger Program activities were offered during school holiday periods at an increased number of parks, including the Dandenong Ranges, Mount Buffalo, Point Nepean and Wilsons Promontory national parks.

In addition to face-to-face interpretation, non-personal interpretive facilities, including interpretive signage, audio tours and self-guided children activities, were upgraded or installed at several sites.

Education

Education centres provided hands-on curriculum-based learning programs at Wilsons Promontory and Dandenong Ranges national parks. These programs receive financial support from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Programs at the Grampians National Park are delivered by the Brambuk National Park and Cultural Centre. Table 4 shows the number of students and teachers who participated in activities at the centres, including at Brambuk.

Parks Victoria also delivered regular education programs and conservation partnerships with schools on request in the Alpine, Baw Baw, Chiltern-Mt Pilot, Great Otway, Greater Bendigo, Mount Buffalo, Port Campbell and Tarra-Bulga national parks.

Table 4 – Education centre programs		
Park	Students	Teachers
Dandenong Ranges NP	3 082	156
Grampians NP (Brambuk)	6 850	250
Wilsons Promontory NP	4 807	482
Total	**14 739**	**888**

NP   National park

Enhancing visitor facilities

Works on visitor facilities were carried out across the state to improve visitor and tourist access and enjoyment while maintaining park values and reducing risks (see also *Fire recovery*). Table 5 contains examples of projects worked on during the year. These included projects funded in the fifth year of the six-year program to renew and repair critical visitor facilities in parks and other projects funded under the government's four-year program 'Victorian tourism – a natural attraction'.

Road and track maintenance and upgrades were undertaken in parks across the state. These included the Four Wheel Drive Network Program, fire recovery programs and other programmed maintenance. In addition to works in fire-affected parks, works included:

- maintenance of four-wheel drive tracks under the Four Wheel Drive Program in the Alpine, Baw Baw, Burrowa-Pine Mountain, Croajingolong, Grampians, Great Otway, Hattah-Kulkyne, Lake Eildon, Mitchell River, Murray-Sunset, Snowy River, Wyperfeld and Yarra Ranges national parks and Bunyip and Lerderderg state parks
- road maintenance upgrades in the Grampians, Point Nepean and Port Campbell national parks
- the laying of the final seal of the Bogong High Plains Road (managed by the Alpine Shire).

Tour operators

As at 30 June 2010, there were 311 operators licensed to operate on DSE and Parks Victoria managed public land. A total of 260 were licensed to operate on areas managed under the Act. Legislation was passed to extend the maximum licence term under the Act for tour operations from 3 to 10 years (see *Legislation*).

Visits to parks

The Visitor Number Monitor is a biennial survey covering a sample of mostly Victorians but also interstate and overseas visitors. The statewide monitor was introduced in 2001 to monitor the number of visits to national and other parks and to report on change and trends in visitation numbers. The survey was not conducted in 2009–10 but will be conducted again in 2010–11.

The Visitor Satisfaction Monitor is an on-site survey conducted biennially during summer and, in winter or spring, in some Alpine areas. It is designed to provide a reliable quality measure of visitor experience. A comparison between the current and previous results for national and state parks shows that the Satisfaction Index improved from 66 in 2007–08 to 72 in 2009–10.

This significant increase was a result of several factors mostly outside management control, such as climate-related issues. There was a reduction in flies across most sites, but particularly in the Great Otway and Port Campbell national parks. Other improvements involved park services such as a new Great Ocean Walk campground in Port Campbell National Park and improved signage and toilets in the Dandenong Ranges National Park. On the other hand, there were declines in visitor satisfaction at some sites which involved issues including the chalet and lack of snow in Mount Buffalo National Park.

Table 5 – Visitor facility projects	
Park	**Project**
Alpine NP	Replacement and renewal of toilets at Bivouac, Edmonson, Fitzgeralds and Tawonga huts
Dandenong Ranges NP	Master planning for signage at Grants Picnic Ground
Mornington Peninsula NP	Replacement of access stairs and a lookout at Gunnamatta Ocean Beach
	Renewal of the Cape Schanck boardwalk
Mount Buffalo NP	Replacement of access ladders at Eagle Point Lookout and improvements to visitor safety at other lookouts
Point Nepean NP	Completion of the walking track linking London Bridge to the Quarantine Station
	Work on fitting out of Building 11 with public amenities
Port Campbell NP	Installation of a new kiosk at the Twelve Apostles, which opened on 17 December 2009
Snowy River NP	Work on a walking track and lookout at the edge of Tulloch Ard Gorge and completion of associated road upgrade and car park
Wilsons Promontory NP	Upgrading of the Tidal River cinema following storm damage and the Tidal River fire pump
	Refurbishment of the Tidal River general store
	Upgrading works on four lodges

NP   National Park

Supporting park management

Park management

Management arrangements

The Secretary is 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.

Parks Victoria, established under the *Parks Victoria Act 1998*, is responsible through a management services agreement for managing the parks and other areas under the Act on behalf of the Secretary. Various powers under the Act have been delegated to employees of Parks Victoria.

DSE, on behalf of the Secretary, works with Parks Victoria and provides strategic policy advice to the Minister and the Secretary. Under the Act, the Director of National Parks (who is the Chief Executive Officer of Parks Victoria) provides advice to the Minister and the Secretary on the operational elements of park management.

Parks Victoria's 2009–10 business plan described the park management services and strategic priorities to be delivered for the year. Its annual report for 2009–10 provides information on its operations for the year.

Finance

The estimated expenditure in relation to areas under the Act in 2009–10 was $102.6 million. This includes fire and fire recovery costs relating to areas managed under the Act and costs associated with establishing the new river red gum park areas, including forest worker assistance payments. Information about the DSE and Parks Victoria overall financial activities is contained in their respective annual reports.

Staff

Parks Victoria manages a wide range of areas, including all of the parks and other areas under the Act, as well as conservation reserves, regional and metropolitan parks and aspects of the bays and waterways in or near Melbourne. As at 30 June 2010, Parks Victoria had 1232 direct employees, comprising 947 full-time, 134 part-time and 73 fixed-term (both full-time and part-time) and 78 casual staff.

It is estimated that, as at 30 June 2010, 412 rangers (including 24 chief rangers) and 154 field service officers were engaged in managing areas under the Act.

These figures do not include the significant numbers of staff not normally involved in managing areas under the Act who are deployed for fire suppression activities as and when required. There were 69 ongoing and fixed-term Indigenous staff, including rangers, working in areas under the Act.

Twenty-nine seasonal rangers were recruited to run visitor services programs during the summer period across the state, including areas managed under the Act. These seasonal programs greatly enhance Parks Victoria's capacity to maintain visitor services during the peak fire period.

Staff from DSE, particularly the Forests and Parks Division, and DPI also contributed to the parks program.

Legislation

During the year, there were five bills passed to amend the Act. Two other Acts also amended the Act and one set of regulations was made.

Crown Land Acts Amendment (Lease and Licence Terms) Act 2009

This amending Act, which received the Royal Assent on 5 August 2009, includes provisions which will amend the National Parks Act and several other Acts to establish a uniform licensing regime for commercial tour operators operating on Crown land. This includes providing for licence terms of up to ten years. The amendments will also make it an offence for tour operators to operate on public land without a licence. These provisions are expected to commence on 1 July 2011.

National Parks Amendment (Point Nepean) Act 2009

This amending Act, which received the Royal Assent on 18 August 2009, came into operation on 6 December 2009, when it amended the National Parks Act to:

- add nearly all of the historic Quarantine Station area and the adjoining intertidal zone to Point Nepean National Park (105 hectares)

- enable the Minister, after consulting with the National Parks Advisory Council, to grant leases in relation to land at the Quarantine Station for a period of up to 21 years for purposes which the Minister considers are not detrimental to the protection of the park and, in certain circumstances, for a period of up to 50 years

- enable the Minister to grant licences at the Quarantine Station for specified purposes.

Parks and Crown Land Legislation Amendment (River Red Gums) Act 2009

This amending Act received the Royal Assent on 8 December 2009. The amendments to the National Parks Act principally:

- create new parks and park additions in the river red gum forests of northern Victoria
- enable the Secretary to enter into management agreements with Traditional Owner land management boards established under the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987*.

The amendments to the National Parks Act commenced as follows.

On 1 January 2010 the Act was amended to:

- enable the Secretary to enter into a management agreement with a Traditional Owner land management board for or relating to the management of any land in a park for which the board is appointed under the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987*, and for the carrying out of specified functions, duties or powers in relation to the management of any land in a park under the Act
- insert a definition of recreational fishing equipment that refers to the definition in the *Fisheries Act 1995*
- enable a notice under the Act to describe land by reference to a plan – this will assist in the designation of fossicking areas in specified parks where the activity is permitted.

On 29 June 2010 the Act was amended to:

- create four new national parks (Barmah, Gunbower, Lower Goulburn and Warby-Ovens) and three new other parks (Gadsen Bend, Kings Billabong and Nyah-Vinifera parks) and expand six existing parks (Hattah-Kulkyne, Mount Buffalo, Murray-Sunset and Terrick Terrick national parks, Leaghur State Park and Murray-Kulkyne Park)
- insert transitional provisions relating to the new park areas, including the saving of various licences, the phase-out of firewood collection from designated areas of Barmah and Gunbower national parks by 30 June 2011 and the phase-out of licensed grazing from the new park areas by 30 September 2014
- provide for the authorisation of water distribution works in various of the new park areas
- enable the granting of rights of access to adjoining landholders through several of the parks and for the movement of cattle through Barmah National Park to the Barmah Community Use Area
- revoke several spent or redundant provisions.

Parks and Crown Land Legislation Amendment (East Gippsland) Act 2009

This amending Act received the Royal Assent on 15 December 2009. As at 30 June 2010, it had yet to be proclaimed.[1] The amendments to the National Parks Act principally:

- expand the parks system in East Gippsland by approximately 36 820 hectares through additions to Croajingolong, Errinundra and Snowy River national parks and the creation of Tara Range Park
- add approximately 2320 hectares to seven parks elsewhere in the state (Alpine, Brisbane Ranges, Grampians, Great Otway, Greater Bendigo and St Arnaud Range national parks and Lerderderg State Park) and excise 0.7 hectares from Lerderderg State Park.

Parks and Crown Land Legislation (Mount Buffalo) Act 2010

This amending Act received the Royal Assent on 15 June 2010. As at 30 June 2010, it had yet to be proclaimed.[2] The amendments to the National Parks Act principally:

- enable the Minister, after consulting with the National Parks Advisory Council, to grant leases in relation to the Mount Buffalo Chalet, Cresta Valley and Dingo Dell for a period of up to 21 years for purposes which the Minister considers are not detrimental to the protection of the park and, in certain circumstances, for a period of up to 50 years, and to enable associated licences to be granted
- amend the offence and enforcement provisions relating to marine national parks and marine sanctuaries to permit boats carrying rock lobster, but not rock lobster pots, to anchor in those areas, to create an offence to use commercial fishing equipment in those areas and to apply an additional enforcement provision of the Fisheries Act to offences under the National Parks Act
- add approximately 790 hectares to six parks (Great Otway, Greater Bendigo, Kinglake, Terrick Terrick national parks, Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park and Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park) and excise some 72 hectares from Croajingolong and Kinglake national parks and Beechworth Historic Park.

Other Acts

Greenhouse Gas Geological Sequestration Act 2008 (GGGS Act)

On 1 December 2009 the GGGS Act amended section 40 of the National Parks Act so that the provisions applying to petroleum exploration and extraction in parks under the National Parks Act also apply to operations under the GGGS Act. The GGGS Act prohibits any greenhouse gas sequestration operations in a marine national park, marine sanctuary, wilderness zone or wilderness park under the Act or a reference area under the *Reference Areas Act 1978*.

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1   The Act commenced on 20 August 2010.

2   The provisions relating to leases in Mount Buffalo National Park and to marine national parks and marine sanctuaries commenced on 8 July 2010. The provisions altering the boundaries of various parks commenced on 21 August 2010.

Resources Industry Legislation Amendment Act 2009

On 1 January 2010 this amending Act repealed the *Extractive Industries Development Act 1995* and incorporated provisions relating to extractive industries in the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*. It also made consequential amendments to section 40 of the National Parks Act.

National Parks (Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulations 2009

These regulations, which came into operation on 17 August 2009, increased the fees payable for entry to the whole or parts of Baw Baw, Mornington Peninsula, Mount Buffalo, Point Nepean, Wilsons Promontory and Yarra Ranges national parks.

In April 2010, the government announced that the park entry fees provided for in these regulations would be abolished on 1 July 2010.

Management report

A report on the Cobboboonee National Park prepared under section 17(2B) of the Act was tabled in Parliament on 11 November 2009. The report set out the priority management actions for the park and the allocated funding.

Authorities granted under the Act

Licences and permits

Table 6 lists permits granted under various sections of the Act. In addition, apiary permits were granted under section 21(1)(b) and commercial tour permits under section 21(1)(c)(ii) (see *Tour operators*).

Consents to public authorities

Consents were granted under section 27 of the Act to public authorities (as defined in the Act) to carry out works, subject to conditions, in various parks, as shown in Table 7.

During the year Multinet Gas (DB No. 1) Pty Ltd and Multinet Gas (DB No. 2) Pty Ltd were declared to be public authorities under section 3 of the Act for the purposes of the Act.

Consent to earth resource activities

The Minister consented, subject to conditions, under section 40 of the Act to seismic exploration within the Bay of Islands Coastal Park as part of a larger exploration program for natural gas. The consent was tabled in Parliament on 27 May 2010. Notice of a resolution to revoke the consent was given in the Legislative Council on 23 June 2010.

Enforcement

There were 23 individuals successfully prosecuted during the year for committing 37 offences under the Act or associated regulations. The main group of offences related to fishing or possessing a priority species in a marine national park or a marine sanctuary (11) (one of which led to a term of imprisonment), followed by offences relating to the possession or use of a gun or other weapon (9) and dogs (6).

A total of 212 infringement notices were issued during the year in relation to prescribed offences against the Act (55), the National Parks (Park) Regulations 2003 (156) or the National Parks (Fees and Charges) Regulations 2003 (1). These included notices in relation to dogs (105), the use of recreational fishing equipment in a marine national park or marine sanctuary (53), lighting or maintaining a fire (18) and the use of vehicles (16). In addition, 43 warnings were issued for both infringeable and non-infringeable offences, including 19 in relation to dogs and 10 in relation to using recreational fishing equipment in a marine national park or marine sanctuary.

DPI fisheries officers continued to play a major role in enforcement in connection with the marine national parks and marine sanctuaries.

Table 6 – Licences and permits			
Park	**Section of Act**	**Licensee/permittee**	**Purpose**
Mount Buffalo NP	21(1)(c)(ii)	Black and White Professionals Pty Ltd	Provision of food, beverages and basic consumables
Point Nepean NP	30AAC	Sorrento Croquet Club Inc.	Use of land for club purposes
		Point Nepean Historical Society Inc.	Operating and maintaining a museum and providing related tours
Yarra Ranges NP	19(2)(b)	Melbourne Walking Club Inc.	Limited accommodation at Walter Briggs Hut
Bunyip SP	26A	Two individuals	Grazing/agistment
Cape Conran CP	21(1)(c)(ii)	Two individuals	Provision of management services for the Cape Conran accommodation precinct

CP   Coastal Park
NP   National Park
SP   State Park

Table 7 – Consents to public authorities		
Park	**Public authority**	**Consent purpose**
Alpine NP	Bureau of Meteorology	Installation of hydrographic stations at Snowy Range and High Ridge
Croajingolong NP	East Gippsland Water Corporation	Installation of a hydrographic station
Dandenong Ranges NP	Roads Corporation	Storage site at Janesleigh Dell
	Shire of Yarra Ranges	Installation and maintenance of a 23 000-litre concrete water tank for fire fighting purposes
Grampians NP	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Authority	West Wimmera State Observation Bore Refurbishment Program
Greater Bendigo NP	Coliban Region Water Corporation	Telemetry infrastructure
Mitchell River NP	East Gippsland Water Corporation	Installation of a hydrographic station
Yarra Ranges NP	Shire of Yarra Ranges	Installation of a TV black spot repeater on a Telstra Tower.
	Vodafone Network Pty Ltd	Operation and maintenance of a telecommunications facility

NP   National Park

Interstate cooperation

Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council

The National Reserve System Taskforce and the Marine Protected Areas Working Group, both under the auspices of committees of the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council, met during the year. The taskforce ceased operation during the year, now that *Australia's strategy for the national reserve system 2009–2030* has moved into the implementation phase. This strategy provides the future direction for the establishment and management of Australia's national reserve system.

Australian Alps Cooperative Management Program

The *Memorandum of understanding in relation to the cooperative management of the Australian Alps national parks* (MOU) covers eleven parks and reserves in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria. In Victoria, these are the Alpine, Baw Baw, Mount Buffalo and Snowy River national parks and Avon Wilderness Park. It aims to promote cross-border cooperation in the protection and management of this highly significant conservation area.

The Australian Alps Cooperative Management Program operates under the auspices of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee. The committee seeks to provide land managers with appropriate technical tools and sound scientific advice in management reports and strategies to assist in achieving the objectives of the MOU in delivering best practice land management across the region. Parks Victoria represents Victoria on the committee.

During the year:

Natural heritage

- a State of the Catchments report, funded by the Australian Government, was developed
- a successful IUCN science management forum on alpine and sub-alpine wetlands was held at Falls Creek
- the Alps program supported ongoing hawkweed surveys in Victoria, NSW and the ACT – these found new incursions (not in the ACT) which resulted in these plants being removed as well as adding to the knowledge base of the weed's distribution
- a Wild Dog Tracking Fact Sheet was completed and made available on the Alps website
- there was analysis of the data collected from 40 long-term plots across the Alps used to monitor flora responsiveness after fire. The Alps-wide data will inform future management and research on the effects of fire
- there was analysis of the growth rings of Mountain Plum Pine to help determine snow depths in the Alps dating back 500 years
- there was work on developing a Climate Change in the Alps Fact Sheet summarising the potential impacts of climate change on the Alps
- Dr Harry Biggs (Kruger National Park, South Africa) gave several presentations on adaptive management and the concept of limits of acceptable change

Cultural heritage

- the Australian Alps Traditional Owners Reference Group held three successful meetings
- the second Australian Alps First People's Gathering was held in Jindabyne
- an Historic Cultural Heritage Workshop was held, which enabled participants to get an appreciation of the principles and practice of historic cultural heritage conservation

- the biennial Australian Alps Walking Track stakeholder meeting was held in 2010 and brought together representatives from bushwalking, national parks and tourism interest groups to help agency staff shape the next two-year strategy and operational plan

Stakeholder engagement and communication

- a Frontline Workshop was held in Walhalla. The purpose of these workshops is to provide staff involved in providing information to visitors to the Alps with the information they need

- the Alps Intranet was developed, which will enable Alps agency staff to easily find information about various projects that are going on around the Alps

- an Alps image database was developed and arrangements made with the Federal Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts to develop a new component of its online database to include images of the Alps.

Advisory bodies

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 that administration on which its advice is sought by the Minister. It also provides advice on proposed excisions from parks and on the granting of certain leases and consents for earth resource activities. The council's 2009–10 annual report provides information on the council and its activities (including changes to its membership) during the year.

The council comprises the Secretary (or his or her nominee), the Director of National Parks (who is the Chief Executive Officer of Parks Victoria) and eight non-government members.

As at 30 June 2010, the membership of the council was as follows:

Convenor: Dr Charles Lane

Members: Mrs Heather Gee
           Mr John Gray
           Mr Gary Howell (Secretary's nominee)
           Mr Lance Jennison
           Mr Brian Martin
           Dr Philip Moors
           Dr Mary-Jane Rogers
           Associate Prof. John Sherwood
           Mr Mark Stone (Director of National Parks).

Alpine Advisory Committee and Greater Alpine National Parks Advisory Committee

On 29 October 2009 the Alpine Advisory Committee was reconstituted under section 32AE of the Act to assist with the development of a management plan for the Alpine National Park. Its members were also appointed to the Greater Alpine National Parks Advisory Committee under the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987* to assist concurrently with the development of the plan as it relates to Baw Baw, Errinundra, Mount Buffalo and Snowy River national parks and Avon Wilderness Park, as well as several other areas not under the Act.

As at 30 June 2010, the membership of the committee was as follows:

Convenor: Mr Richard Pickering

Members: Ms Trudy Anderson
           Ms Anne Casey
           Ms Eileen Clark
           Mr Michael Coldham
           Mr Gregg Cook
           Mr Graeme Dear
           Mr Will Flamsteed
           Mr Philip Ingamells
           Mr Ernest Innes
           Mr Charles Lovick
           Mr Jarrod Paine
           Mrs Deirdre Slattery
           Mr Glenn Tempest
           Mr Simon Turner
           Mr Philip Weigall.

Parks Victoria has also established several other non-statutory advisory groups to assist in its management of particular parks.

Appendixes

Appendix 1 – Areas managed under the National Parks Act

A	National parks (Schedule Two)		
	National park	**Area (ha) as at 30 June 2009**	**Addition (ha)**	**Area as at 30 June 2010**
1	Alfred	3 050		3 050
2	Alpine	660 550		660 550
3	Barmah	–	28 505	28 505
4	Baw Baw	13 530		13 530
5	Brisbane Ranges	7 718		7 718
6	Burrowa-Pine Mountain	18 400		18 400
7	Chiltern-Mt Pilot	21 560		21 560
8	Churchill	271		271
9	Cobboboonee	18 510		18 510
10	Coopracambra	38 800		38 800
11	Croajingolong	*87 790		*87 790
12	Dandenong Ranges	3 540		3 540
13	Errinundra	26 875		26 875
14	French Island	*11 050		*11 050
15	Grampians	168 110		168 110
16	Great Otway	*103 185		*103 185
17	Greater Bendigo**	17 004		17 004
18	Gunbower	–	9 330	9 330
19	Hattah-Kulkyne	48 000	5	#49 975
20	Heathcote-Graytown	12 700		12 700
21	Kinglake	22 430		22 430
22	Lake Eildon	27 750		27 750
23	Lind	1 370		1 370
24	Little Desert	132 647		132 647
25	Lower Glenelg	26 430		26 430
26	Lower Goulburn	–	9 310	9 310
27	Mitchell River	14 250		14 250
28	Mornington Peninsula	*2 680		*2 680
29	Morwell	565		565
30	Mount Buffalo	31 000	22	31 020
31	Mount Eccles	8 375		8 375
32	Mount Richmond	1 733		1 733
33	Murray-Sunset	633 000	^32 135	#664 810
34	Organ Pipes	153		153
35	Point Nepean	*470	105	*575
36	Port Campbell	*1 830		*1 830
37	Snowy River	98 700		98 700
38	St Arnaud Range	13 900		13 900
39	Tarra-Bulga	2 015		2 015
40	Terrick Terrick	3 880	2 045	5 925
41	The Lakes	2 390		2 390
42	Warby-Ovens	–	14 655	14 655
43	Wilsons Promontory	*49 049		*49 049
44	Wyperfeld	361 770		361 770
45	Yarra Ranges	77 190		77 190
	Total – National parks	**2 774 220**	**96 112**	**2 871 975**

*   Area includes the area of the national park located beneath a marine national park.
**   Parts of Greater Bendigo NP extend only to 100 metres below the land surface.
^   Excludes area of government roads added.
#   Area takes into account a re-calculation of the park area based on a new map base.

B Wilderness parks (Schedule Two A)

	Wilderness park	Area (ha) as at 30 June 2009	Area (ha) as at 30 June 2010
1	Avon	39 650	39 650
2	Big Desert	142 300	142 300
3	Wabba	20 100	20 100
	Total – Wilderness parks	**202 050**	**202 050**

C State parks (Schedule Two B)

	State park	Area (ha) as at 30 June 2009	Addition (ha)	Removal (ha)	Area (ha) as at 30 June 2010
1	Arthurs Seat	558			558
–	Barmah	7 900		7 900	*
2	Black Range	11 700			11 700
3	Broken-Boosey	1 010			1 010
4	Bunyip	16 655			16 655
5	Cape Nelson	210			210
6	Cathedral Range	3 616			3 616
7	Dergholm	10 400			10 400
8	Enfield	4 400			4 400
9	Holey Plains	10 740			10 740
10	Kooyoora	11 350			11 350
11	Langi Ghiran	3 040			3 040
12	Leaghur	1 580		470	2 050
13	Lerderderg	20 180			20 180
14	Moondarra	6 330			6 330
15	Mount Arapiles-Tooan	7 470			7 470
16	Mount Buangor	2 400			2 400
17	Mount Granya	6 140			6 140
18	Mount Lawson	13 150			13 150
19	Mount Napier	2 800			2 800
20	Mount Samaria	7 600			7 600
21	Mount Worth	1 040			1 040
22	Paddys Ranges	2 010			2 010
23	Reef Hills	2 020			2 020
–	Warby Range	11 460		11 460	**
24	Warrandyte	686			686
25	Werribee Gorge	575			575
	Total – State parks	**167 020**	**470**	**19 360**	**148 130**

*   Included in Barmah National Park.
**   Included in Warby-Ovens National Park.

D Other parks (Schedule Three)

	Other park	Area (ha) as at 30 June 2009	Addition (ha)	*Area (ha) as at 30 June 2010
1	Bay of Islands CP	950		950
2	Beechworth HP	1 090		1 090
3	Cape Conran CP	11 700		11 700
4	Cape Liptrap CP	4 225		4 225
5	Discovery Bay CP	*10 460		*10 460
6	Gadsen Bend Park	–	1 620	1 620
7	Gippsland Lakes CP	17 600		17 600
8	Haining Farm	66		66
9	Kings Billabong Park	–	2 195	2 195
10	Lake Albacutya Park	8 300		8 300
11	Langwarrin FFR	214		214
12	Lysterfield Park	1 397		1 397
13	Murray-Kulkyne Park	3 530	1 025	4 555
14	Nyah-Vinifera Park	–	1 370	1 370
15	Steiglitz HP	425		425
16	Tyers Park	1 810		1 810
17	Woodlands HP	820		820
	Total – Other parks	**62 587**	**6 210**	**68 797**

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) as at 30 June 2009	Area (ha) as at 30 June 2010
1	Bunurong MP	*1 660	*1 660
2	Castlemaine-Diggings NHP**	7 560	7 560
3	Corner Inlet MCP	*18 000	*18 000
4	Deep Lead NCR (No. 1)**	1 120	1 120
5	Nooramunga MCP	15 000	15 000
6	Shallow Inlet MCP	2 000	2 000
7	Wilsons Promontory MP)		
8	Wilsons Promontory MR)	*10 000	*10 000
	Total – Other parks and reserves	**55 340**	**55 340**

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) as at 30 June 2010
1	Murray-Sunset	Sunset	126 900
2	Murray-Sunset	Minook	38 700
3	Murray-Sunset	Galpunga	35 700
4	Murray-Sunset	Mount Cowra	23 500
5	Wyperfeld	North Wyperfeld	97 900
6	Wyperfeld	South Wyperfeld	61 300
7	Wyperfeld	Chinaman Flat	29 800
8	Alpine	Mount Darling-Snowy Bluff	40 400
9	Alpine	Razor-Viking	15 700
10	Alpine	Indi	13 800
11	Alpine	Cobberas	10 000
12	Alpine	Buchan Headwaters	30 000
13	Alpine	Tingaringy	7 900
14	Snowy River	Snowy River	27 000
15	Snowy River	Bowen	17 500
16	Coopracambra	Genoa	19 400
17	Croajingolong	Sandpatch	15 600
18	Croajingolong	Cape Howe	7 100
19	Wilsons Promontory	Wilsons Promontory	21 800
	Total – Wilderness zones		**640 000**

*   No changes during the year.

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) as at 30 June 2010
1	Murray-Sunset	South Sunset	24 000
2	Wyperfeld	Hopping Mouse Hill	32 100
3	Little Desert	Little Desert	16 400
4	Grampians	Victoria Range	14 000
5	Grampians	Serra Range	11 200
6	Grampians	Major Mitchell Plateau	6 900
7	Baw Baw	Baw Baw Plateau	6 500
8	Alpine	The Governors	8 100
9	Alpine	Macalister	33 300
10	Alpine	Dandongadale	3 700
11	Alpine	Bundara-Cobungra	13 700
12	Alpine	Bogong	16 300
13	Alpine	Davies Plain	10 500
14	Alpine	Suggan Buggan	17 800
15	Alpine	Upper Snowy	11 800
16	Mount Buffalo	North Buffalo	6 500
17	Burrowa-Pine Mountain	Mount Burrowa	6 200
18	Errinundra	Brodribb	7 700
19	Coopracambra	Mount Kaye	8 100
20	Croajingolong	Rame Head	9 800
21	Wilsons Promontory	Wilsons Promontory Islands (12)	469
22	Wilsons Promontory	Southern Wilsons Promontory	14 400
	Total – Remote and natural areas		**279 469**

*   No changes during the year.

H	Marine national parks (Schedule Seven)	
	Marine national park*	**Area (ha) as at 30 June 2010
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**

* Marine national parks extend only to 200 metres below the land
surface. Some partly overlay parts of other parks under the Act.
** No changes during the year.

I	Marine sanctuaries (Schedule Eight)	
	Marine sanctuary	*Area (ha) as at 30 June 2010
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**

* No changes during the year.

J	Other areas (non-scheduled)		
	Area*	Section of Act	**Area (ha) as at 30 June 2010
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	Recreation Reserve, Otway	19B	1
11	Wychitella NCR	19B	3 780
12	Mt St Gwinear access road	19C	35
13	Commonwealth land adjacent to Woodlands Historic Park	19D	31
14	Picnic area at McKenzie's Flat (Lerderderg State Park)	19E	#
15	Blackwood Ranges Track (Lerderderg State Park)	19E	#
16	Glenample Homestead	32AA	8
	Total – Other areas		**4 443**

BR   Bushland Reserve
NCR Nature Conservation Reserve
PPR Public Purposes Reserve
SLR Scenic Lookout Reserve
*   Only specific sections of the Act apply to these areas.
** No changes during the year.
#   Area approximately 0.1 ha.

	K	Summary – areas managed under the National Parks Act			
		Category	No. as at 30 June 2010	Area (ha) as at 30 June 2009	Area (ha) as at 30 June 2010
	A	National parks (Schedule Two)	45	2 774 220	2 871 975
	B	Wilderness parks (Schedule Two A)	3	202 050	202 050
	C	State parks (Schedule Two B)	25	167 020	148 130
	D	Other parks (Schedule Three)	17	62 587	68 797
	E	Other parks and reserves (Schedule Four)	8	55 340	55 340
	H	Marine national parks (Schedule Seven)	13	52 900	52 900
	I	Marine sanctuaries (Schedule Eight)	11	876	876
	J	Other areas (non-scheduled)	16	4 443	4 443
		Total	**138**	**3 319 436**	**3 404 511**

	L	Unproclaimed additions and excisions

As at 30 June 2010 legislation provides for the following alterations to the parks system.

	Act / Park	Section of Act	Addition (ha)	Excision (ha)
	National Parks Act 1975			
1	Greater Bendigo NP	50K	*16	
	National Parks (Amendment) Act 1989			
2	Moondarra SP	29(3)	178	
	Parks and Crown Land Legislation Amendment (East Gippsland) Act 2009[1]			
3	Alpine NP	13(7)	825	
4	Brisbane Ranges NP	13(1)	1 200	
5	Croajingolong NP	13(2)	855	
6	Errinundra NP	13(6)	12 340	
7	Grampians NP	13(5)	37	
8	Great Otway NP	13(4)	0.8	
9	Greater Bendigo NP	13(8)	161	
10	Snowy River NP	13(3)	16 005	
11	St Arnaud Range NP	13(9)	91	
12	Lerderderg SP	14	3.9	0.7
13	Tara Range Park (new park)	15	7 620	
	Parks and Crown Land Legislation (Mount Buffalo) Act 2010[2]			
14	Croajingolong NP	11(2)		71
15	Great Otway NP	11(3)	13	
16	Greater Bendigo NP	11(5)	252	
17	Kinglake NP	11(1)	22	1
18	Terrick Terrick NP	11(4)	468	
19	Beechworth HP	12(1)		0.25
20	Gippsland Lakes CP	12(2)	10	
21	Castlemaine Diggings NHP	13	25	
	Total – unproclaimed areas		**40 123**	**73**

CP   Coastal Park
NHP   National Heritage Park
NP   National Park
SP   State Park
*   Area will become part of the park on surrender of title to the Crown.

1   The Act came into operation on 20 August 2010.
2   The relevant sections came into operation on 21 August 2010.

Appendix 2 – **Pest plant control projects**

Appendix 2 lists the targeted species for those parks where an area of more than five hectares was recorded as being treated for the purposes of controlling or eradicating that species. Areas of less than five hectares were also treated in various parks.

Park	Target species
Alpine NP	Blackberry, Blue Periwinkle, Cape Broom, Crack Willow, English Broom, Grey Sallow, Himalayan Honeysuckle, King Devil Hawkweed, Musk Monkey-flower, Orange Hawkweed, Paterson's Curse, Soft Rush, St John's Wort, Slender Thistle, Sweet Vernal-grass, Sycamore Maple
Arthurs Seat SP	Blackberry, Sweet Pittosporum
Barmah SP	Blackberry, Briar Rose, Horehound, Paterson's Curse
Baw Baw NP	Blackberry, Gorse
Beechworth HP	Blackberry, Bridal Creeper
Brisbane Ranges NP	Gorse, Serrated Tussock, Variegated Thistle
Bunyip SP	English Holly
Burrowa-Pine Mountain NP	Blackberry, English Broom, St John's Wort
Cape Conran CP	Dolichos Pea, Sea Spurge
Cape Liptrap CP	Toowoomba Canary-grass
Castlemaine Diggings NHP	Boneseed, Gorse
Chiltern-Mt Pilot NP	Bridal Creeper
Churchill NP	Boneseed
Cobboboonee NP	Aarons Beard, Blackberry, Radiata Pine
Coopracambra NP	Blackberry, Blue Periwinkle, Wandering Tradescantia, Willow spp.
Croajingolong NP	African Boxthorn, Beach Daisy, Bitou Bush, Blackberry, Bluebell Creeper, Sea Spurge, Wandering Jew
Dandenong Ranges NP	Blackberry, Cestrum, Karamu, Ragwort
Dergholm SP	Bridal Creeper, Cape Tulip (one-leaf), Paterson's Curse
Discovery Bay CP	Bridal Creeper
Errinundra NP	Blackberry
French Island NP	African Boxthorn, Blackberry, Bridal Creeper, Cluster Pine, Couch, Dolichos Pea, Kikuyu
Gippsland Lakes CP	African Boxthorn, Sea Spurge, Sweet Pittosporum
Grampians NP	Arum Lily, Blackberry, Bridal Creeper, Sallow Wattle
Great Otway NP	Blue Periwinkle, Bluebell Creeper, Boneseed, Coast Wattle, Dolichos Pea, English Ivy, Montpellier Broom, Spanish Heath, Sweet Pittosporum, Wandering Tradescantia, White Arum Lily
Greater Bendigo NP	Horehound
Hattah-Kulkyne NP	Caltrop
Holey Plains SP	Radiata Pine, Ragwort
Kinglake NP	Capeweed, Gorse
Kooyoora SP	Horehound
Lake Albacutya Park	Wheel Cactus
Lake Eildon NP	St John's Wort
Langi Ghiran SP	Cape Broom
Langwarrin FFR	Boneseed
Lerderderg SP	Blackberry, Gorse
Little Desert NP	Horehound
Lower Glenelg NP	Bridal Creeper, Sweet Pittosporum

Park	Target species
Lysterfield Park	Boneseed, Pampas Grass, Spanish Heath
Mitchell River NP	Blackberry, Horehound, Sea Spurge, Variegated Thistle
Moondarra SP	Gorse
Mornington Peninsula NP	African Boxthorn, Blackberry, Cape Broom, Coast Tea-tree, Dolichos Pea, Panic Veldt Grass, Polygala, Ragwort, Reed Canary-grass, Sallow Wattle, Sea Spurge
Morwell NP	Blackberry, Ragwort
Mount Arapiles-Tooan SP	Horehound
Mount Buffalo NP	Grey Sallow, Himalayan Honeysuckle, Scotch Thistle, Yarrow
Mount Granya SP	English Broom, Paterson's Curse, Slender Thistle
Mount Lawson SP	Blackberry, English Broom, Paterson's Curse
Mount Samaria SP	Capeweed
Mount Worth SP	Blackberry, Ragwort
Murray-Kulkyne Park	Caltrop
Murray-Sunset NP	Horehound
Nooramunga MCP	Toowoomba Canary-grass
Organ Pipes NP	Artichoke Thistle
Paddys Ranges SP	Bridal Creeper, St John's Wort
Point Nepean NP	Polygala
Snowy River NP	Blackberry, Paterson's Curse
Steiglitz HP	Gorse
Tarra-Bulga NP	Blackberry
Warrandyte SP	St John's Wort
Werribee Gorge SP	Paterson's Curse, Serrated Tussock
Wilsons Promontory NP	Aarons Beard, Paterson's Curse, Slender Thistle
Woodlands HP	Serrated Tussock
Wyperfeld NP	Paterson's Curse, Wheel Cactus
Yarra Ranges NP	Blackberry, Ragwort, Willow

CP   Coastal Park
FFR   Flora and Fauna Reserve
HP   Historic Park
MCP   Marine and Coastal Park
NHP   National Heritage Park
NP   National Park
SP   State Park

Appendix 3 – **Pest animal control projects**

Appendix 3 lists the targeted species for those parks where an area of more than five hectares was recorded as being treated for the purposes of controlling or eradicating that species. Areas of less than five hectares were also treated in various parks.

Park	Target species
Alpine NP	Red Fox, Horse (feral), Pig (feral), Wild Dog
Avon WP	Horse (feral)
Bay of Islands CP	European Rabbit
Black Range SP	Red Fox
Brisbane Ranges NP	Goat (feral), Red Fox
Bunyip SP	Red Fox
Cape Conran CP	Red Fox
Cape Liptrap CP	Red Fox
Chiltern-Mt Pilot NP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
Cobboboonee NP	Red Fox
Coopracambra NP	Pig (feral), Red Fox
Croajingolong NP	Pig (feral), Red Fox
Discovery Bay CP	Pig (feral), Red Fox
Errinundra NP	Red Fox
French Island NP	Cat (feral), European Rabbit
Gippsland Lakes CP	Red Fox
Grampians NP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
Great Otway NP	Red Fox
Greater Bendigo NP	European Rabbit
Hattah-Kulkyne NP	European Rabbit
Heathcote-Graytown NP	Red Fox
Holey Plains SP	Red Fox
Kinglake NP	European Rabbit, Goat (feral), Red Fox, Sambar Deer
Kooyoora SP	European Rabbit
Lake Albacutya Park	European Rabbit
Lake Eildon NP	Red Fox
Leaghur SP	Red Fox

Park	Target species
Lerderderg SP	European Rabbit
Lind NP	Red Fox
Little Desert NP	Red Fox
Lower Glenelg NP	Pig (feral), Red Fox
Mitchell River NP	Wild Dog
Mornington Peninsula NP	Red Fox
Mount Arapiles-Tooan SP	European Rabbit
Mount Buangor SP	Red Fox
Mount Richmond NP	Red Fox
Mount Samaria SP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
Murray-Kulkyne Park	European Rabbit
Murray-Sunset NP	Cattle (feral), European Rabbit, Goat (feral)
Nooramunga MCP	Red Fox
Organ Pipes NP	Red Fox
Paddys Ranges SP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
Point Nepean NP	Red Fox
Snowy River NP	Goat (feral), Pig (feral), Red Fox
Steiglitz HP	Red Fox
Terrick Terrick NP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
The Lakes NP	Red Fox
Warby Range SP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
Warrandyte SP	European Rabbit
Werribee Gorge SP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
Wilsons Promontory NP	Cat (feral), European Rabbit, Red Fox
Wyperfeld NP	European Rabbit
Yarra Ranges NP	Red Fox

CP   Coastal Park
HP   Historic Park
MCP   Marine and Coastal Park
NP   National Park
SP   State Park
WP   Wilderness Park

Appendix 4 – **Location of parks and other areas**

National and other parks/areas

1 Murray-Sunset NP
2 Hattah-Kulkyne NP
3 Murray-Kulkyne Park
4 Big Desert WP
5 Wyperfeld NP
6 Lake Albacutya Park
7 Little Desert NP
8 Mount Arapiles-Tooan SP
9 Dergholm SP
10 Black Range SP
11 Grampians NP
12 Deep Lead NCR (No. 1)
13 Lower Glenelg NP and Cobboboonee NP
14 Discovery Bay CP
15 Lower Glenelg PPR & SLR
16 Mount Richmond NP
17 Cape Nelson SP
18 Mount Eccles NP
19 Mount Napier SP
20 Langi Ghiran SP
21 Mount Buangor SP
22 Paddys Ranges SP
23 St Arnaud Range NP
24 Kooyoora SP
25 Wychitella NCR
26 Leaghur SP
27 Terrick Terrick NP
28 Greater Bendigo NP
29 Heathcote-Graytown NP
30 Castlemaine Diggings NHP
31 Lerderderg SP and associated leased areas
32 Long Forest NCR
33 Werribee Gorge SP
34 Enfield SP
35 Moreep BR
36 Brisbane Ranges NP
37 Steiglitz HP
38 Bay of Islands CP
39 Port Campbell NP
40 Glenample Homestead
41 Recreation Reserve, Otway
42 Great Otway NP
43 Point Nepean NP
44 Collins Settlement HS
45 Mornington Peninsula NP

46 Arthurs Seat SP
47 Main Ridge NCR
48 Bald Hills BR
49 Flinders NCR
50 Flinders NIR
51 French Island NP
52 Langwarrin FFR
53 Churchill NP
54 Lysterfield Park
55 Bunyip SP
56 Dandenong Ranges NP
57 Warrandyte SP
58 Organ Pipes NP
59 Woodlands HP and adjacent Commonwealth land
60 Kinglake NP
61 Haining Farm
62 Yarra Ranges NP
63 Cathedral Range SP
64 Lake Eildon NP
65 Mount Samaria SP
66 Reef Hills SP
67 Broken-Boosey SP
68 Barmah NP
69 Warby-Ovens NP
70 Chiltern-Mt Pilot NP
71 Beechworth HP
72 Mount Granya SP
73 Mount Lawson SP
74 Burrowa-Pine Mountain NP
75 Wabba WP
76 Mount Buffalo NP
77 Alpine NP
78 Avon WP
79 Baw Baw NP and Mt St Gwinear access road
80 Moondarra SP
81 Tyers Park
82 Mount Worth SP
83 Bunurong MP
84 Cape Liptrap CP
85 Shallow Inlet MCP
86 Wilsons Promontory NP
87 Wilsons Promontory MP
88 Wilsons Promontory MR
89 Corner Inlet MCP
90 Nooramunga MCP

91 Tarra-Bulga NP
92 Morwell NP
93 Holey Plains SP
94 Gippsland Lakes CP
95 The Lakes NP
96 Mitchell River NP
97 Nyerimilang Park
98 Snowy River NP
99 Errinundra NP
100 Coopracambra NP
101 Lind NP
102 Alfred NP
103 Cape Conran CP
104 Croajingolong NP
105 Kings Billabong Park
106 Gadsen Bend Park
107 Nyah-Vinifera Park
108 Gunbower NP
109 Lower Goulburn NP

Marine national parks and marine sanctuaries

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

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

Areas managed under the National Parks Act
30 June 2010

National or other park greater than 1000 ha

National or other park/area less than 1000 ha

1 - 109

★ A - X

Marine national park greater than 1000 ha

▲ Marine national park or marine sanctuary less than 1000 ha

N

kilometres

0   50   100   150

Mildura
Swan Hill
Ouyen
Echuca
Bendigo
Maryborough
Ballarat
Ararat
Horsham
Hamilton
Warrnambool
Portland
Colac
Geelong
Lorne
MELBOURNE
Seymour
Shepparton
Benalla
Wangaratta
Wodonga
Corryong
Omeo
Dargo
Bairnsdale
Sale
Traralgon
Moe
Warragul
Dandenong
Orbost
Cann River

Vicmap
www.land.vic.gov.au/vicmap