

Conservation Management Plan Direl (Lake Tyrrell), Sea Lake

Frequently Asked Questions

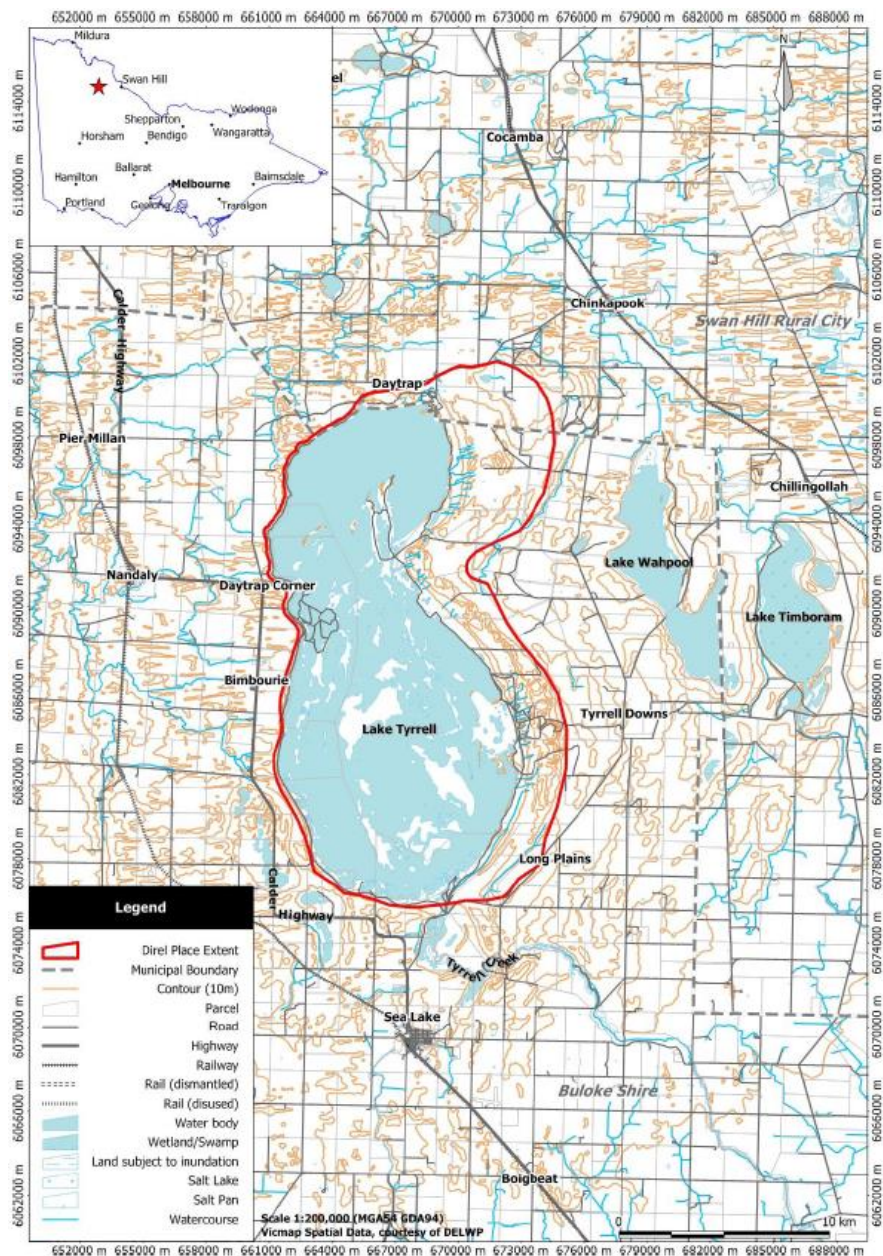
1. Who is the land manager of Lake Tyrrell?

Lake Tyrrell (Direl) is on Crown land. The Crown land managers are the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria.

Both Buloke Shire Council and Swan Hill Rural City Council are the relevant local government agencies with responsibilities for management of the roads, road reserves and infrastructure at the site.

Other agencies have responsibilities for management of assets on the site including water, infrastructure and environment (for example, Mallee Catchment Management Authority, Grampians Wimmera Mallee Rural Water Corporation).

2. What area does the Direl (Lake Tyrrell) Conservation Management Plan cover?



Map: Direl (VAHR 7427-0187) location and extent

(Dr Vincent Clarke & Assoc., Direl (Lake Tyrrell) Cultural Landscape Conservation Management Plan, 2021)

OFFICIAL

3. What is a Conservation Management Plan?

A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) gives information about heritage places to guide and help landowners, land managers and governments make sound decisions about managing the area the CMP covers.

It also spells out why the heritage site is important and the features at the site that are significant.

4. What will a Conservation Management Plan do at Direl (Lake Tyrrell)?

The Direl (Lake Tyrrell) CMP will help decide the best way to manage activities at the Lake into the future. The CMP assessment identified heritage values, existing and potential impacts to natural and cultural values and the cultural heritage significance of the Lake.

It will be used by land managers and local government to inform decision making on appropriate management and protection measures, and to determine what future activities and uses should be allowed at Direl (Lake Tyrrell).

5. Does this mean I have to change how I work my farm and manage my land?

No. The CMP doesn't add to or change the responsibilities that private landowners already have. In general, you will be able to continue your regular activities and enjoy your land if you avoid harming Aboriginal cultural heritage while carrying them out.

The CMP will give you information about management and protection of Aboriginal places and objects that are already known to be present at the lake and surrounding areas so you can avoid damaging them.

The CMP will also give you steps for reporting new heritage discoveries and provide clear and easy rules that everyone can follow.

6. Will my farm be bought by the government?

No.

7. Will my farm be compulsorily acquired by the government?

No.

8. If the CMP doesn't affect me, why did I get a letter about it?

DELWP sent a letter to all landowners within and adjoining the CMP area to let you know what is happening in your local area and because we would like to hear your opinions and comments about the draft CMP.

9. Will the CMP affect how and when I visit Lake Tyrrell for recreation and sightseeing?

No. Locals and tourists will still be able to visit and enjoy Lake Tyrrell. However large-scale events will be required to apply for event permits from Parks Victoria.

10. When the Conservation Management Plan is complete, will the Mallee Rally be allowed to go ahead?

If the Sea Lake Off Road Club were to apply for a permit to hold the Mallee Rally event at Lake Tyrrell, it is unlikely it will be granted because of the impact it has on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

DELWP knows the Mallee Rally has a long and proud history and is important to the local economy. We also respect the rights and decisions of Traditional Owners to protect cultural and environmental values. The Victorian Government has a responsibility to make sure that Aboriginal cultural heritage and environmental values are protected and managed.

11. The Sea Lake Mallee Rally ran successfully for almost fifty years without an issue. Why stop it now?

The CMP field assessments carried out on sections of the Mallee Rally track clearly found negative impacts on Aboriginal places including artefact scatters and hearths at several locations. These objects and features are significant and part of the ancient occupation of the lake. Damage to these places will continue unless effective management is put in place to protect the lake's Aboriginal heritage and reduce ongoing erosion.

The CMP will help decide the best way to manage activities at the Lake into the future.

12. Were other sites considered for the Mallee Rally?

The area around Sea Lake was explored by officers from DELWP to see if there were any other suitable sites for the Mallee Rally could be found that did not damage Aboriginal heritage values.

One possible route along the rail reserve near Sea Lake township was investigated by both DELWP staff and a representative from Sea Lake Off Road Club but it was realised that a rally held on this site would damage native vegetation and impact other environmental values.

Due to the limited Crown land in the area, an alternative site for the Mallee Rally that would not impact environmental or cultural values could not be found.

The closest existing suitable track is approximately 150kms from Sea Lake near the township of Rainbow.

13. Why could the Sky Lounge and other visitor facilities be built at the lake, but the Mallee Rally cannot go ahead?

Over the last several years, Direl (Lake Tyrrell) has attracted more visitors who want to view and photograph the Lake Tyrrell. The Sky Lounge is a place that allows people to visit the lake with little impact on the site's environment and Aboriginal cultural heritage. By having a designated visitor centre, visitors will have a clear path for cars and avoid people creating their own tracks that could damage the environment and cultural heritage.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006 requires an approved Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) for this type of work to go ahead. The Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation provided their approval of this CHMP. This approval, along with a planning permit and other approvals, authorised the construction of the new facility.

The Mallee Rally route goes around the entire lake, including the southeast area, and this means that highly significant Aboriginal cultural heritage and the environmental values of Lake Tyrrell would be impacted if the rally is allowed to continue.

14. The Mallee Rally brings visitors and money into the local area. What is the government going to do to compensate for this financial loss?

The government will continue to work with the Sea Lake community to find other ways to attract visitors to the area that will support the local economy, including discussions about another event in town.

The Victorian Government has funded construction of a viewing platform, carpark and other facilities so visitors can visit the Lake with less impact to the environment. It also gave funding for the recently completed redevelopment of the Sea Lake streetscape and creation of the Sea Lake Visitor Information Centre to attract more visitors.

15. What will you do with my feedback?

All feedback on the CMP will be collected, reviewed and used to inform decisions made in the final plan.

16. How can I give feedback on the draft plan?

Go to www.forestsandreserves.vic.gov.au/initiatives/lake-tyrrell-direl or email laketyrrell@delwp.vic.gov.au by Monday 28 February.